

FOUND

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TEASER/ACT ONE

EXT. RURAL FARMLAND - ESTABLISHING - DAY

Quiet, rural, neighborhood where privacy is inevitable. Barely any traffic on what passes for a main street. A long dirt path leads us up to an old, boarded up, house.

CHYRON: 2006

PUSH INSIDE through a crack in a boarded up window --

INT. UNDISCLOSED BOARDED UP HOUSE - DAY

-- FIND TEEN GABI MOSELY (15, black) eating a canned lunch. In her eyes a war wages, one she currently seems to be losing. The room is sparse. A mattress on the floor. A solitary lamp. A small bookcase filled with everything from Shakespeare to alternative energy to cognitive psychology.

CLICK, CLICK, CLICK -- the door unlocks. Gabi stares, frozen, as a terrified LITTLE GIRL (8, ethnically ambiguous) is pushed inside. The door shuts, immediately relocked. The girl starts to cry, snapping Gabi out of her vacant haze.

TEEN GABI

God, please no. No. Please.

Gabi rushes over to the shaking little girl.

TEEN GABI (CONT'D)

You're okay. You're okay.

LITTLE GIRL

I want my mommy. I want to go home.

(screams)

Mommy! Mommy! Please!

TEEN GABI

Shhh. It's okay. Don't scream. I'll get you back home to your mom. I promise. What's your name?

LITTLE GIRL

Bella.

TEEN GABI

Okay, Bella. You gotta stop crying.

BELLA

Is this your house?

Gabi looks away. Bella eyes Gabi. Wise beyond her years.

(CONTINUED)

BELLA (CONT'D)

The man took you too, didn't he?

(beat)

How long have you been here?

Gabi finally looks back at Bella, a new fire in her eyes.

TEEN GABI

Too long.

SMASH TO:

EXT. DC STREET / WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Dirty, cold, abandoned. Streetlights are few and far between.

CHYRON: PRESENT DAY.

Adult GABI (28) looks around, petrified. She's dressed in hole-y fish nets, an indecently short skirt and a much too revealing top. Her face could be beautiful if it weren't for the heavy-handed make-up and insecurity plastered all over it. Life appears to NOT have been good to Gabi in the years since we've seen her. She uncontrollably scratches her arms, searching for something. Help? Maybe a fix? Gabi stumbles up to a warehouse with a light on. She bangs on the door.

GABI

I need some help! Please! I just need a phone! Hello?!

(bangs again)

Hello?! Please. I need help!

Gabi is about to bang again. The door opens a crack. An average, MIDDLE AGED MAN, weathered face, appears in the gap. Uninviting is an understatement.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

What do you want?

GABI

Hey. Hi. Can I use your phone?

(off his silence)

My Uber driver was an ass and thought it would be cool to get a little hands-y so... Whatever. I jumped out the car and he left with my phone, my coat, my money. Please. I'm having a really shitty night and just need to call a friend for a ride.

He leers at Gabi. Opens the door wider. Offers a smile. It's off-putting. Gabi's just grateful to be off the street.

(CONTINUED)

MIDDLE AGED MAN

You can use my cell.

Gabi walks in, takes in the cold, dirty warehouse. PAN OVER to the man as he closes the front door. Locks it with a definitive CLICK. He turns back toward Gabi and --

-- WHAM! BRASS KNUCKLES to his face sends the man sprawling to the ground. He writhes in pain. Blood squirting everywhere from his broken nose. Gabi stands over him. Like a chameleon, gone is the shaky, addict-looking, scared woman. In her place, a confident, badass and unapologetic QUEEN.

GABI

(intense, rapid fire)

Here's how this is going down. Make sure you're paying attention cause I'm only saying this once. You will tell me where Marqui Evans is. You will sit quietly holding your pathetic face together while I retrieve him and leave. And when the cops get here, you'll give them nothing short of a full confession. Otherwise the next twenty minutes of your life -- which is exactly how long it's going to take the cops to get here -- will have you praying for death.

In dire pain, he stares at Gabi. Spits blood at her.

MIDDLE AGED MAN

I'm gonna fucking kill you, bitch.

Gabi smiles.

GABI

I was hoping you'd say that.

(then)

He's all yours.

The man looks at her confused until his front door bursts open. That's the moment we clock that Gabi has an earpiece. JOHAN LAWRENCE(30s), Quantico grad turned private investigator, walks through the broken door. He's handsome in a dangerous sort of way. Demons constantly wage war inside him. And sometimes they win. He vibrates with controlled rage as he sweeps the man off the floor and pins him to the wall.

JOHAN

They never learn.

GABI

Just means more fun for us.

(CONTINUED)

JOHAN

Perez is gonna be mad as hell.

GABI

Then he's just gonna have to be mad.

The unmistakable sound of A DRONE fills the air.

GABI (CONT'D)

Zeke, talk to me. Where am I going?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ZEKE'S TOWNHOUSE - PLAYROOM - SAME

A basement that's more of a high-tech playroom. Expensive gizmos and gadgets everywhere. ZEKE WALLACE (30), the walking visual of a bougie black hipster, analyzes the thermal imaging from the drone at his bay of monitors. A technologically gifted agoraphobe, his expensive, trend-setting, clothes are a waste since these monitors are the closest he gets to the outside world.

ZEKE

Stairs are back and to the left.

Gabi races toward the steel stairs.

GABI

So how was the date with Shelby?

ZEKE

It was Shelly. And I cancelled.

GABI

You mean you panicked.

Gabi's at the top of the stairs.

GABI (CONT'D)

Left or right?

ZEKE

Right, some kind of room in the corner. And for the record since I get panic attacks and pass out every time I try to leave my house, I'm allowed to be picky about who I let in.

GABI

Your lonely ass has been picky for the two years I've known you.

(CONTINUED)

Gabi races through the bathroom door. Cowering in the corner is MARQUI EVANS (6), covered in dirt. Gabi crouches to his level and approaches with care.

GABI (CONT'D)

Hi Marqui. My name is Gabi. I'm friends with your parents. They sent me to find you. You're safe.

Off the stirring of hope in Marqui's eyes --

EXT. WAREHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Gabi carries Marqui out to safety as Detective MARK PEREZ (30s, Latino) arrives on the scene with backup. Perez is the perfect blend of cockiness and charm. A passionate cop that right now is plain old PISSED. Perez jumps down from his SUV.

PEREZ

Nice outfit.

GABI

The occasion called for it.

PEREZ

Do I even want to know how many laws you just broke?

GABI

Nope.

PEREZ

What part of you and your team not being cops and standing down isn't clear?

GABI

First of all, you guys would've never received this tip if it wasn't for me and my team...

PEREZ

Yeah, remind me we need to talk about how yet again you figured out the location before us...

GABI

And second, I knew you'd have to get a warrant and whatever other legal B.S. And frankly time wasn't on our side. So just say thank you.

Perez is ready to argue, but not with Marqui present.

(CONTINUED)

PEREZ

We'll take it from here.

Perez reaches for Marqui. Gabi angles out of reach just as her intern, LACEY QUINTANILLA (21) shows up. A ball of blunt, youthful, energy. Gabi hands Marqui over to Lacey.

LACEY

Hi, my love. You wanna come with me. We'll get you a blanket and maybe some juice? You like juice?

As Lacey walks away with Marqui --

PEREZ

Gabi --

GABI

You know the drill. I was hired by Marqui's family. I arrived on the scene first. I'll cooperate with whatever you guys legally need to do, but one of my team stays with Marqui until he's reunited with his parents. Non-negotiable.

PEREZ

Lacey is just an intern. She's been with you less than a month.

GABI

Lacey I'd trust with my life.

ON Lacey facing off with an OFFICER. Gabi and Perez approach.

LACEY

Any time you're ready to move out of my way would be great. Marqui needs to be examined by a doctor.

The officer looks to Perez for his marching orders. BEAT.

PEREZ

Escort Ms. Mosely and Ms. Quintanilla to the hospital. They'll be seeing to Marqui.

The officer and Lacey lead the way. Before she joins them --

GABI

Johan has your kidnapper pinned up inside.

PEREZ

He needs to be breathing for us to prosecute.

GABI

(zero fucks)

Then let's hope he is.

As Gabi walks away --

PEREZ

You are such a pain in my ass.

GABI

You wouldn't have it any other way.

Off Perez -- damned if he doesn't admire her.

INT. HOSPITAL - MARQUI'S ROOM / HALLWAY - NIGHT

A COP stands outside Marqui's room. Inside, Lacey sits with Marqui while the NURSE checks him out.

IN THE HALLWAY: Gabi, now dressed stylish but casual, ends a call on her cell. The elevator across from her opens. Perez steps out with Marqui's anxious parents, LARRY and GRACE (40s). As soon as they see Gabi, Larry breaks down in tears.

LARRY

Thank you. Thank you so much.

Unable to control himself, he hugs her.

GABI

It was my pleasure.

GRACE

You guys cared when no one else did. You looked for Marqui when no one else was looking. For that, we can never repay you.

Gabi squeezes their hands. No repayment necessary.

PEREZ

Marqui is this way.

Perez leads the parents into the room. Lacey slips out and joins Gabi. Together they watch the heartbreaking reunion through the window for a beat. Then Gabi collects herself.

GABI

On to the next.

(CONTINUED)

As Gabi and Lacey head out --

PRELAP: LOUD APPLAUSE.

INT. GOOD MORNING AMERICA STUDIO - MORNING

In front of an applauding, studio audience, ROBIN ROBERTS sits at the GMA DESK with FBI AGENT SAM DONAHUE (50). On the big screen next to them is Gabi via video conference. The crawling news ticker display around the studio highlights the name of this GMA Segment: **MISSING IN AMERICA.**

CHYRON: ONE MONTH LATER

Gabi and Donahue are mid-argument.

GABI
...I'm not being
inflammatory, I'm stating
facts. That's why they're all
clapping.

AGENT DONAHUE
...Yes you are. That's
exactly what you're doing.

ROBIN ROBERTS
Agent Donahue, you had your turn.
Let Gabi finish her point.

GABI
Look you're talking to a woman who
thirteen years ago had to rescue
herself from her kidnapper because
no one was looking...

AGENT DONAHUE
And I'm sorry that happened to you
but it doesn't change the fact that
you and your team aren't cops...

GABI
You're right. We're not. We're a
crisis management firm made up of
former PR specialists, like myself,
and lawyers, and tech experts,
private investigators...

AGENT DONAHUE
...Vigilantes.

GABI
Our clients prefer the term heroes.

ROBIN ROBERTS
Alright, I think...

(CONTINUED)

GABI

We find missing people that have slipped through the cracks, your cracks, and we bring them home.

The studio breaks out in loud applause.

AGENT DONAHUE

With over 600,000 active missing persons cases, we can't look for them all...

Robin attempts to ease the tension.

ROBIN ROBERTS

I think we can all agree that the dedication both of you share for the cause leaves us with hope.

(then)

Turning now to a missing person case that has grabbed America's attention...

A photo of a cute, 5 year old, blonde, SARAH HOLDEN pops up on the screen next to Gabi.

ROBIN ROBERTS (CONT'D)

Senator Holden's 5 year old daughter, Sarah, was taken in DC 36 hours ago while playing in a park with her brother. Gabi, Agent Donahue, thoughts on the investigation thus far?

AGENT DONAHUE

Robin, the first 48 hours in any kidnapping are the most important. It's all hands on deck at DCPD and the FBI. Everyone is doing what they're supposed to be doing.

GABI

Agreed. The Senator even smartly hired a PR firm to keep Sarah at the forefront of all media coverage. There isn't a person in America who hasn't seen Sarah's face, which highly increases her chances of being found. Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the DaSheka Watsons and Jerome Maxwells of the world.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GABI (CONT'D)

Both are missing teens of color from the DC area in the last three weeks and no one is talking about or looking for them. I sincerely pray Sarah Holden is found quickly. I just want the same outcome for DaSheka and Jerome.

ROBIN ROBERTS

Agent Donahue, why the discrepancy in how these cases are being handled by local police?

AGENT DONAHUE

I'm not part of either case so...

GABI

Really? Let me help.

Gabi holds up a photo of young Sarah Holden.

GABI (CONT'D)

Agent Donahue, what do you see when you look at this?

AGENT DONAHUE

I see a young girl... I see my daughter.

Gabi nods then holds up a photo of DASHEKA WATSON.

GABI

And this? Do you see your daughter in her too?

Donahue hesitates... Silence descends on the studio. Gabi turns to Robin.

GABI (CONT'D)

And that is why my team and I exist. Until people can look at the DaSheka Watsons of the world and see their daughter in her too, there will always be a need for what I do.

(to Agent Donahue)

So you can keep prioritizing missing, high profile, blonde girls. My team and I will gladly continue to pick up the slack on the rest. Next question, Robin.

Mic drop. Off the images of Sarah and DaSheka.

TITLE CARD: FOUND

INT. MOSELY & ASSOCIATES (M&A) OFFICES - MORNING

Large, open floor plan. Frosted glass walls separate office spaces. Gabi sweeps into the conference room where Lacey and Johan devour baked pastries from a gift basket.

GABI

I miss a birthday?

Final team member, MARGARET TATE (late 40s), the hyper-observant, mother figure of the group, stares pointedly at crumbs gathering in front of Johan. She slides him a plate.

MARGARET

Dasheka Watson's grandmother sent them over. A thank you for mentioning her granddaughter's name, yet again, on national tv...

JOHAN

Right before you eviscerated Agent Donahue and the rest of the FBI.

LACEY

He showed his ass. What was she supposed to do?

GABI

You can't handle me, don't come for me.

ZEKE (O.C.)

It worked though.

Reveal Zeke, there via video-conference on a large monitor.

ZEKE (VIA VIDEO) (CONT'D)

Hashtags and mentions using Dasheka's name have jumped 130% in the last two hours. I'll...

(beat, notices something)

Hey, guys, incoming...

Zeke pulls up security footage of their office lobby. A YOUNG BLACK BOY (12) looks around, very out of place.

INT. M&A OFFICES - MOMENTS LATER

Gabi and Johan step into the lobby.

GABI

Can we help you?

(CONTINUED)

DERON, the young boy, looks from Johan to Gabi, nervously.

DERON

You're that chick Gabi Mosely,
right? You were on that news show
with Robin Roberts this morning.

GABI

Woman. Lady. Queen. I'll even take
sis. Never chick. Understand?

DERON

Yes ma'am.

GABI

Good. I'm listening.

DERON

You really take free "pro-bo-
whatever" cases and find missing
people?

JOHAN

Someone missing?

DERON

My foster sister. Camilla. She only
14 and been gone over a day. My
foster parents think she's just
taking time to cool off...

GABI

Cool off from what?

DERON

They fight all the time 'bout her
new boyfriend. But on God, I'm
telling you this time is different.
They wrong. I don't think she just
run off. She'd never leave me
behind. And, yeah, she's run away
before. But this ain't that.

Gabi and Johan share a look.

DERON (CONT'D)

You don't believe me, do you?

INT. M&A OFFICES - CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Margaret places a glass of water and a bowl of fruit in front
of Deron. She studies him as he stares at the photos on the
wall. "**FOUND**" is written in bold, block, print on the wall.
Under that are over a dozen 8x10 photos.

(CONTINUED)

Former missing people of all ages and ethnicities - including the most recent addition, Marqui.

INT. M&A OFFICES - GABI'S OFFICE - SAME

Gabi, Lacey and Johan watch Deron and Margaret. Johan holds a photo of CAMILLA (14), Latina, a lot of life lived already. Zeke is on the big screen on the wall, next to a muted TV playing the news.

GABI

Lacey, tell me why she's offering him food.

LACEY

She has some weird mom compulsion about feeding people?

Gabi shoots her a look -- not funny.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Sorry. Um.... okay. Foster kid.... If he wolfs down the food like he hasn't eaten in a long time, likely an indicator of trouble at foster home.

GABI

Good. You're learning.

ZEKE (VIA VIDEO)

Based on my initial search, Camilla is definitely a wild child... Six foster homes in as many years. At some point in time she ran away from each one. Social media accounts are private but shouldn't take me long to hack through those.

LACEY

Can we not say that out loud in case we need to protect Gabi's plausible deniability later.

ZEKE (VIA VIDEO)

Someone has Plausible Legality class on the law school curriculum this semester.

LACEY

(winks at Zeke)
Aced last week's exam too.

(CONTINUED)

ZEKE (VIA VIDEO)

Atta girl.

JOHAN

I'm just gonna say it 'cause I
can't be the only one thinking
it...

They all turn to Johan.

JOHAN (CONT'D)

He's not giving us much to go on.
And you've been running nonstop
since you started this firm a year
ago. You're going to burn out. Not
every case is a forgotten one,
Gabi.

LACEY

I know I'm the relatively new kid
here, but aren't we the ones
that're supposed to look when no
one else does?

JOHAN

Sometimes people aren't looking
'cause there's nothing to look for.

GABI

I imagine people said that about me
when I went missing. I too was a
fourteen year old girl that was a
little... impulsive.

Margaret joins the team.

MARGARET

The kid's not lying. Strong eye
contact. No verbal-non verbal
mismatches. Proper response delays.
He believes what he believes.

ON THE TV: The news plays a recent interview of SENATOR
HOLDEN (50), his wife EMILY (early 40s) and their son, DAVID
(18). Gabi unmutes the TV.

SENATOR HOLDEN (ON TV)

...anything at all. No tip is
insignificant. Please, we just want
our daughter back. Please...

GABI

If Camilla really is missing, she
deserves to have that.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GABI (CONT'D)

She deserves to have the whole
country praying for her return.

(to Johan)

Camilla is worth at least a
preliminary inquiry.

JOHAN

Okay. Then let's get to it.

GABI

Johan get to Zeke's. You two gather
everything you can on Camilla.
Everyone has a footprint. Find
hers. Build a profile.

(to Lacey and Margaret)

Ladies. With me.

Gabi's on the move.

INT. CHAPMAN HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gabi, Margaret and Lacey sit with Deron's foster parents,
CHARLES and PAULA CHAPMAN (40s). Sweet. Middle class.

CHARLES CHAPMAN

We understand why Deron is worried,
but Camilla is not a missing
person. She does this all the time.

PAULA CHAPMAN

She gets upset about... anything,
this time it's a boyfriend, she
takes off, and is usually back in a
day. Profusely apologetic.

Margaret zones out. Instead studies every detail of the
Chapmans and their beautiful home.

LACEY

You don't worry while she's gone?

PAULA CHAPMAN

Of course we do, but we let it play
out because this is an established
pattern of behavior for her.

MARGARET'S POV (SLOW-MO): CLOSE UP on family photos.

CHARLES CHAPMAN

She's untrusting and angry at a
life and a foster care system she
believes betrayed her. And we don't
blame her. She's had a rough go of
it bouncing from home to home.

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET'S POV (SLOW-MO): the doors, windows, locks...

GABI

Until now, right? She's been with
your family for six months?

PAULA CHAPMAN

Yes, and we just keep showering her
with love despite her resistance.
Eventually she'll get that we're
here to love her for as long as
she'll let us.

MARGARET'S POV (SLOW-MO): Paula's eyes, mouth, hands.

Margaret zones back in. Gives Gabi a look and a barely
perceptible nod. Gabi gets up and shakes their hands.

GABI

Thank you for indulging us.
Hopefully we didn't waste too much
of your time. It was just important
to Deron that we at least check in.

(then)

May I use your restroom before I go?

As Paula leads the way, off Gabi... up to something.

EXT. CHAPMAN HOUSE - DAY

Gabi, Lacey and Margaret head to their car.

LACEY

It's possible Deron overreacted,
right? I mean teenage girls...

GABI

Something isn't adding up. If
there's one thing we've perfected
in public relations, it's spin. I
can spot a bad spin job a mile
away. The Chapmans are hiding
something. Margaret I know you
agree.

MARGARET

Let's start with the fact that
their house is a mini prison home.

Gabi and Lacey stop and turn to face Margaret.

LACEY

You did your super focus thing.

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET

You say that like it's a super power.

LACEY

It might as well be.

MARGARET

I just pay really close attention to detail. Anyone can train their brain to do it.

LACEY

And when are we taking this party trick to Vegas?

GABI

The house. Margaret. Go.

MARGARET

Every door to every room inside that house had a small dead bolt lock on the outside.

LACEY

That's to forcibly keep people in not out.

MARGARET

Exactly. The photos on the mantel, the ones with the Chapmans and their foster kids, Camilla's body language was always in protection of Deron.

GABI

The kid was right. She wouldn't leave him behind. Her disappearance is suspicious, which means Deron just officially became our client.

Gabi pulls out her cell, dials three digits.

OPERATOR (ON THE PHONE)

9-1-1 what's your emergency.

GABI

We need to report someone missing.

Off Gabi, taking control.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. UNDISCLOSED BOARDED UP HOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Teen Gabi helps Bella put on her "new" frilly dress.

BELLA

Why am I dressed like a princess?

TEEN GABI

'Cause you are one. Duh.

(smile slipping)

...And Sir likes us to dress nice for dinner.

BELLA

It's been like a day. Can I go home now? I don't want to see that man.

TEEN GABI

I know, sweetie. I know. Just think of dinner like playing pretend. Sir likes to play pretend. At dinner, we pretend to be his smart, princess, friends and sometimes read from scripts... like a play.

Bella eyes Gabi's dress. She smiles for the first time.

BELLA

You look pretty.

In that moment, Bella is a little girl just playing dress up. What Gabi wouldn't give to keep the smile on Bella's face. Gabi spins in her dress.

TEEN GABI

Princess twirls.

Bella copies her, laughing.

BELLA

Princess twirls.

CLICK, CLICK, CLICK -- the door unlocks. They stop laughing immediately. Bella tenses and grabs a hold of Gabi. SIR (mid-20s) steps into the room, carrying an air of upper middle class charm and confidence. He's attractive. Rivals Bill Gates in intelligence. A man you'd feel safe passing on the street without a second thought. He smiles at Gabi and Bella.

(CONTINUED)

SIR
Who's ready to eat?

Gabi takes a barely perceptible step placing herself between Sir and Bella. Sir stares at her. A brief flicker of anger.

GABI (PRE-LAP)
It's about a high profile missing person...

INT. M&A OFFICES - CONFERENCE ROOM - PRESENT DAY

Margaret and Lacey review packets on Camilla's foster parents. Gabi finishes up a call.

GABI (ON THE PHONE)
... That's all I can say. 3pm.
Trust me, it's a press conference
you don't want to miss.

Gabi hangs up.

MARGARET
They're going to think this press
conference is about the Senator's
missing daughter.

GABI
I didn't say that.
(to Lacey)
Did you hear me say that?

Margaret points to the social media deck on the screen.

MARGARET
Number one trending hashtag right
now is #FindSarahHolden. That's
about as high profile as it gets.

Gabi offers a cunning smile.

GABI
What's rule 101?

LACEY
Whatever gets the media to show up.

Gabi turns to the large smart screen on the wall.

GABI
Other than the foster parents,
where are we on suspects?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GABI (CONT'D)

I need her family, Camilla's
friends, their parents, this new
boyfriend, teachers... Anyone
regularly in her life. Go.

Photos start to fly across the screen as --

ZEKE (ON SPEAKERPHONE)

The Chapmans were the last to see
Camilla alive...

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. ZEKE'S TOWNHOUSE - PLAYROOM - SAME

Zeke sits at his bay of monitors. Johan stands behind him.
Over the following, documents and photos appear
simultaneously on both Zeke's monitors and the smart screen
back at the main office --

ZEKE

... That was almost 48 hours ago. I
finally got into her social media...

JOHAN

Basically the timing coincides with
her last post. She's been a ghost
since then.

ZEKE

(sotto)
I was getting to that.

The tension between Zeke and Johan is palpable. Gabi and
Margaret share a knowing look, used to this dynamic.

GABI

Let me see her last post.

A PHOTO of Camilla with her middle finger up slides across
the screen. The caption under it reads: "*The days of taking
advantage of me are done. No cap.*"

ZEKE

As for the new boyfriend...

A nondescript photo of a man with his face hidden by a
baseball cap appears on screen.

LACEY

That could be anyone.

GABI

Whoever it is, he's not a teen.

(CONTINUED)

ZEKE

Try twenty. At least that's what he claimed in her DMs, which is where they met. He goes by just Eric.

LACEY

A twenty-something sliding into a fourteen year old's DMs is beyond gross. Who wants to bet this perv has done this before?

Johan takes over the clicker, invading Zeke's personal space.

ZEKE

Can you not?

JOHAN

You're taking too long.

Johan proceeds with pulling up more photos. Lacey mutes the phone. Turns to Margaret and Gabi.

LACEY

I'm also taking bets on how long till they kill each other.

GABI

They'll be fine.

MARGARET

It never ends well and yet you keep forcing them to work together.

GABI

They're good for each other. Trust.

LACEY

A blue blood, overly sensitive, agoraphobe and an emotionally distant GI Joe. Yeah. Okay.

Johan centers a photo of an early 30's Latina woman. She's seen better days. Lacey unmutes the phone.

JOHAN

Rosario Mendez. Found her lurking in Camilla's DMs too. Recent parolee, served time in Philly for possession and....

MARGARET

...She's Camilla's birth mother.
(off Lacey's look)
Familial facial traits.

(CONTINUED)

ZEKE

She's been trying to make contact
with Camilla since she got out.

Gabi checks her watch. Time to move. On the go --

GABI

Zeke, I need a last name and
location on the boyfriend. Johan
track down the birth mother. Lacey,
Department of Children and Family
Services. I need everything on
Camilla's foster history.

LACEY

On it.

MARGARET

I got DCPD covered. See if I can't
light a fire under that missing
persons report.

GABI

As for me....

EXT. LIBRARY STAIRS - DAY

Across from the police station, cameras flash. Gabi stands in
front of a mic. Reporters buzz, hanging on every word.

GABI (V.O.)

...It's showtime.

Deron stands with her, holding her hand, nervous. Next to
them - an easel with a blown-up photo of Camilla in a unique
"OK BOOMER" zip up hoodie.

GABI

... She was last seen wearing the
hoodie in this photo. Remember, the
first 48 hours are the most
critical and our Camilla is quickly
coming up on that 48th hour. This
family needs your help. Camilla
Serrano, a fourteen year old girl
who should be worrying about
nothing more than softball practice
and hanging at the mall... she
needs your help.

Several reporters look restless. The vibe, slight
disinterest. Gabi clocks a reporter, DALIAH, scrolling on her
phone, whispering to her colleague next to her.

(CONTINUED)

GABI (CONT'D)
Are we boring you, Daliah?

Gabi's words hit like the dart she intended. A hush settles over the press. Daliah steps up, embarrassed.

DALIAH
We were lead to believe this press conference involved a high profile missing person case. Are you saying Camilla's disappearance is somehow connected to another case?

GABI
I'm saying Camilla IS the high-profile case.
(off murmurs from crowd)
Four hundred twenty four thousand and sixty six. That's the number of missing kids in our country, currently. Fifty-seven percent of those kids are Hispanic or black. If that doesn't say epidemic of the highest priority, what does?
(looks out over the crowd)
Any more points of clarification needed? No? Good.

Now that she has their full attention, Gabi squeezes Deron's hand. Steps back from the mic.

GABI (CONT'D)
It's your turn, sweetie. Just do exactly what I told you.

Gabi falls in next to Margaret, who's now joined them on the steps. Deron takes a shaky breath and steps up to the mic. He can barely reach it. His voice trembles with nerves.

DERON
I... I just really want Camilla to come home...

Margaret leans into Gabi.

MARGARET
That's a powerful image. Him trembling up there, barely able to reach the mic.

GABI
(exactly)
It'll be the top story on every news broadcast within the hour.

BACK ON Deron at the mic.

DERON

... She'd never leave me. I dunno
why someone's keeping her from me.
(tears overwhelm him)
Whoever it is, I need my sister.
Please.

Deron steps away from the mic and into Gabi's arms.

INT. DC POLICE DEPARTMENT - SAME

Busy squad room. Perez, DETECTIVE SHAKER (40s) and others
watch Gabi's press conference on a monitor.

REPORTER (ON THE MONITOR)

Any update from the police? Have
they officially opened a case?

Gabi looks dead in the camera, as though talking directly to
the squad room.

GABI (ON THE MONITOR)

A missing person's report was filed
earlier today. I'm sure the police
are working overtime to find
Camilla, as they would any child...
Although, I've yet to see an Amber
Alert. Have you?

Murmurs among the officers. Shaker playfully staggers back.

SHAKER

Damn. Shots fired. First she holds
the press conference in our
backyard and now this.

Captain JOE MALLORY (late 40s), enters, pissed. His clothes
war with his oversized belly. He pops what is probably his
tenth antacid of the day already.

JOE

That chick is the biggest pain in
my ass. Now I got the Chief calling
me for an update on this Camilla
kid. Like we're not busy enough
without tracking down runaways that
don't want to be found.

PEREZ

Of course you'd assume she's a
runaway.

(CONTINUED)

Mallory shoots Perez a look. No love lost between these two.
ON THE MONITOR: Gabi winds down the press conference.

GABI (ON THE MONITOR)

... At the end of the day, you
America, are Gabi's best chance of
making it home.

(re: her photo)

Study that face, those eyes, that
outfit. Commit them to memory. And
help us bring her home...

JOE

You're up Perez. Find out when that
missing person report was filed.
Get up to speed, fast.

As Mallory leaves ---

JOE (CONT'D)

And keep that Gabi woman in check
and outta my hair.

PEREZ

Can't make any promises.

Shaker pats Perez on the back.

SHAKER

He already demoted you once. Keep
messing with him and the fact that
you're third generation cop at this
precinct won't save you from
parking meter duty.

PEREZ

Hey, at least I look good in
uniform blue.

INT. ZEKE'S TOWNHOUSE - PLAYROOM - DAY

Zeke pours over social media trends. Johan finishes a call.

ZEKE

Press conference is working.
#CamillaMattersToo is already
trending.

JOHAN

Camilla's birth mother missed her
parole check-in this week in
Philly. According to my buddy at
the FBI, pings from her cell
indicate she's back in the DC area.

(CONTINUED)

ZEKE

You didn't have to go to your old Quantico colleagues. I could've got you that same info.

Johan ignores Zeke and transfers over to his laptop.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

Why are you here? In all these months of working together, you've never come here alone.

JOHAN

It's where Gabi wants me.

Something in Johan's tone tips Zeke off.

ZEKE

Is that what this stupid tension is about? It bothers you that Gabi brought me into the family.

JOHAN

Where'd you two meet again? Some online therapy group a couple years ago? Gabi picks up lots of strays. Using your family's money to bank roll this firm doesn't make you family, it makes you useful.

ZEKE

But my years of friendship with Gabi and our shared passion for saving lives does. Why do you have a problem with that?

JOHAN

I don't have time for this.

ZEKE

I ain't got nothing but time.

JOHAN

Yeah, I'd have time too if I chose to hide in my house all day instead of facing the world.

ZEKE

Chose? You think this is a choice? You think I wanted to be taken by an uncle when I was seven? You don't think, after all this time, I want to trust the world enough to be able to leave my house?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZEKE (CONT'D)

This ain't no choice, man. I'd rather be out actively looking for our victims. I'd rather be able to attend my nephew's 5th birthday party this weekend with my family.

JOHAN

Then do it. You're not the only one who's been through some crap. Man up.

Zeke's taken aback. More surprised than hurt.

ZEKE

You're married to a shrink, right?

Johan shoots Zeke a warning look. His marriage is off limits.

ZEKE (CONT'D)

I'm just sayin' you'd think you of all people would get it.

Tension builds. Finally interrupted by a video call from --

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. M&A OFFICES - CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME

Gabi, Margaret and Deron settle into the conference room. Lacey brings everyone up to speed.

LACEY

Camilla asked to meet with her DCFS social worker the morning she went missing. She never showed. But I'll give you two guesses who'd been at DCFS all week making threats.

ZEKE

The birth mother.

JOHAN

The birth mother.

LACEY

And here I was thinking I was dropping something new.

DERON

Did Camilla's birth mom take her?

GABI

Right now we're looking at everyone.
(beat)
That includes your foster parents.

(CONTINUED)

DERON

I don't think they hurt her. They mostly just ignore us, like all my other foster families.

MARGARET

What about the locks on the bedroom doors? They ever lock you in?

DERON

They ain't used them on my door.

PEREZ (O.S.)

What about Camilla's?

The team turns surprised to see Perez walking in. Deron looks to Gabi for guidance. She nods. It's okay to answer.

DERON

Sometimes they lock Camilla in her room to stop her from running away.

Perez and Gabi share a look.

INT. M&A OFFICES - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

As soon as Gabi and Perez clear the door --

GABI

Where is my amber alert?

PEREZ

I reclassified her as a suspected kidnapping so it's coming. I'm on my way to interrogate the Chapmans now. Anything else I should know?

Gabi smiles then swings around and heads to her office. Perez is left with no choice but to follow.

INT. M&A OFFICES - GABI'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Gabi and Perez watch live hidden camera footage from the Chapman's house. POV from the hallway by the bathroom.

PEREZ

You planted a hidden camera in their house?

GABI

Of course I did.

(CONTINUED)

PEREZ

I can't use anything we find on here. Minor detail called fruit of the poisonous tree.

GABI

Only we know that camera is there. Go interrogate them after this, then you can just say you peeped "whatever" while you were there.

PEREZ

Not everyone is so blase about breaking the law.

GABI

Sounds like a personal problem. I just want to find Camilla the fastest way possible.

PEREZ

There's not a single rule you're not willing to break, is there?

GABI

Okay, don't act like you know me.

Perez's sexy smile is instantaneous and loaded. Gabi rolls her eyes.

GABI (CONT'D)

That doesn't count, Perez. That was just a mutual scratching of an itch. One time. Before we ever worked together.

PEREZ

I mean, technically we still don't work together so...?

Gabi's smile is almost involuntary. But whatever she was about to say next is interrupted by --

PAULA CHAPMAN (O.S.)

Charles, you need to calm down.

ON THE SCREEN: a panicked Paula Chapman follows her irate husband. Gone is the picture perfect couple from earlier.

CHARLES CHAPMAN (ON THE SCREEN)

That... woman brainwashed Deron into saying whatever, so she could have her two minutes of fame.

(CONTINUED)

PEREZ
Making fans everywhere you go.

GABI
And proud of it.

CHARLES CHAPMAN (ON THE SCREEN)
We've done nothing but love that
ungrateful girl...

Perez turns off the monitor.

GABI
What the...

PEREZ
This is not only illegal, it's a
violation of their privacy.

Gabi wrestles her remote control out of Perez's hand.

PEREZ (CONT'D)
I'm surprised you're letting Deron
go home to them.

GABI
DCFS tends to frown upon random
people taking kids from their
foster homes. Shockingly they call
it kidnapping. But Margaret plans
on camping out there once she drops
him off. She's not really willing
to let him out of her sight.

PEREZ
She still go to Union Station every
night?

GABI
Hasn't missed one in 13 years.

PEREZ
And you don't see that as a cry for
help?

GABI
People survive trauma differently.
If canvassing that station every
night is what keeps her glued
together, who am I to judge?

Gabi turns her monitor back on --

PAULA CHAPMAN (ON THE SCREEN)

...and if you hadn't been so damn adamant about sending her back to a group home, maybe Camilla wouldn't have overheard and run off....

PEREZ

Nope. I'm out. I'm gonna talk to the Chapman's *legally*.

GABI

Go for it. But you just heard her. They believe she ran off. They didn't physically hurt Camilla. Emotionally, that's another story.

Perez's phone RINGS. As he goes to answer it, Gabi mutes the monitor. Just then, Lacey bursts through the door.

LACEY

Johan found Camilla's birth mother.

GABI

Great. Where is she?

PEREZ

(hanging up the phone)
Corner of 16th and K street.

Gabi clocks the looks on both Perez and Lacey's faces. Something is very wrong.

EXT. DOWNTOWN K STREET - NIGHT

Gabi, Lacey and Perez pull up to heavy police presence, a growing crowd and the sounds of fire trucks descending on them. They get out of the car and immediately look up --

PAN UP and REVEAL -- A devastated, broken, ROSARIO MENDEZ (30s, Latina) standing on the edge of the roof, poised to jump. Off Rosario, as tears fall --

ROSARIO MENDEZ

This is all my fault. It's all my fault. It's my fault...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. BUILDING - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Gabi and Perez race up the stairs toward the roof.

PEREZ
Suicide prevention officer is still
10 minutes out.

GABI
If guilt over harming her daughter
is what drove Rosario up there, ten
minutes is too long. She'll jump.

PEREZ
You don't know that.

GABI
We're talking about potential
filicide here, either accidental or
as a result of some kind of
psychosis. Either way once the
guilt sets in, it can be almost as
powerful and as dangerous as
whatever prompted them to kill in
the first place...

Perez shoots her a look. *Why does she know these things?*

PEREZ
I thought your degree was in public
relations.

GABI
What? I read a lot. One day you'll
stop questioning my brilliance.

EXT. BUILDING - ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Gabi and Perez slip on to the roof. They immediately stop
short at the sight of -- Johan climbing over the ledge to
stand next to Rosario.

PEREZ
Goddamnit, what is he doing?

Perez starts to move forward. Gabi stops him.

GABI
Give him a minute.

(CONTINUED)

ON JOHAN AND ROSARIO on the narrow ledge. Johan looks down at the long drop. *FUCK!* Rosario shakes, tears falling.

ROSARIO MENDEZ
It's over. I don't need anyone
trying to talk me out of this.

JOHAN
If you really mean that, then I
won't try.

Rosario looks over at Johan. He's really close to the edge.

ROSARIO MENDEZ
I don't want no cops.

JOHAN
I'm not a cop. I'm just a guy who's
been right where you are. On the
edge, ready to jump, convinced my
sins were unforgivable.

ROSARIO MENDEZ
But you didn't jump.

JOHAN
(shakes his head no)
And I promise, if I can be brought
back from the edge given the things
I've done, so can you.

BACK ON GABI AND PEREZ: Watching the two figures on the ledge
unable to hear them.

PEREZ
Johan isn't trained for this. If
she jumps...

GABI
I promise you, if there's anyone
who can get her down, it's him.

BACK ON JOHAN AND ROSARIO: She sobs quietly.

ROSARIO MENDEZ
I hurt my daughter. The only good
thing in my life.

Johan takes that in. He waits. Listens.

ROSARIO MENDEZ (CONT'D)
I wasn't a good mother. If I'd been
around, if I'd chosen my daughter
over drugs, Camilla would've been
with me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ROSARIO MENDEZ (CONT'D)

I didn't protect her and now she's gone. God knows if she's even alive.

(beat)

I can't live in a world without my Camilla.

JOHAN

I was missing once. For three years. Abandoned and betrayed by people who were supposed to look out for me. And despite those odds, I still eventually made it back home. My friends and I are looking for Camilla. We won't rest until we have answers. Rosario, look at me.

Rosario focuses on Johan, hanging on to his every word.

JOHAN (CONT'D)

The world can be a horrible place. That's just a fact. But sometimes, the good guys win. My gut is telling me this might be one of those times. And if I'm right, Camilla will need her mother.

Johan holds out his hand to her.

JOHAN (CONT'D)

So what do you say?

EXT. DOWNTOWN K STREET - NIGHT

Perez helps the medics load Rosario into the Ambulance. He falls back to join Johan, watching the ambulance drive away.

PEREZ

What'd you say to get her down?

JOHAN

The truth.

Johan turns to leave. Perez realizes Gabi is gone.

PEREZ

Hey, Gabi left?

JOHAN

The work here was done.

Johan leaves. Off a curious Perez --

INT. GABI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A very orderly house. Yet another open floor plan. One room flows seamlessly into the other. No confined spaces.

PASS THROUGH the living room. Walls lined with BOOKSHELVES filled to capacity. Nonfiction books on every subject matter imaginable.

FIND Gabi in the kitchen, meticulously preparing a food tray. She places Camilla's case file on the tray. Subconsciously, she straightens her clothes and smooths out her hair. As she lifts the tray -- her DOORBELL startles her. On her security monitor, she's surprised to find Perez. She answers the door.

GABI

It's kinda late for house calls.

Perez takes her in. She's tense, uninviting.

PEREZ

So much for wanting to make sure you're okay. You left without a word.

GABI

Once Rosario was down, you had it handled. I needed to get back to the case.

(moves to close the door)

I'll see you tomorrow.

Perez stops the door. He's sensing a hint of... fear?

PEREZ

Are you sure you're okay?

GABI

You mean other than a man showing up at my door uninvited in the middle of the night?

A BEAT. Perez curses himself. Takes a step back, remembering Gabi's history.

PEREZ

Hey, I'm sorry. I forgot... Look I wasn't thinking... I didn't mean to make you feel unsafe.

Gabi shakes it off. Gets her shit together.

GABI

No, I'm sorry. That was rude of me and unfair.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GABI (CONT'D)

It came out harsher than I
intended. I'm fine. It's fine.
Seriously. I'm just tired.

Gabi squeezes his arm in reassurance.

GABI (CONT'D)

I'll see you in the morning, okay?

Perez nods, Gabi shuts the door. Off Gabi, shaking as she
leans back against the door, closes her eyes.

INT. M&A OFFICES - CONFERENCE ROOM - EARLY MORNING

Perez and Lacey stare at a photo of a Caucasian white male in
his twenties. Zeke's with them via the monitor.

PEREZ

...89% accurate is about as good as
the department software is going to
get. This is our guy.

Gabi walks in, surprised to see Perez already with HER team.

GABI

You're up early.

PEREZ

Don't sleep much. Lacey let me in.

Gabi shoots Lacey a look. There better be a good reason.

GABI

You don't sleep now, either?

LACEY

You're always working. I'm learning
from the best. Anyway, Zeke started
it. He asked for Perez's help.

PEREZ

He needed access to the PD's facial
recognition software.

ZEKE (VIA MONITOR)

We present to you the pervy older
boyfriend.

Zeke enlarges the photo Perez and Lacey were just looking at.

ZEKE (VIA MONITOR) (CONT'D)

Eric Desmond. Twenty-two. Makes a
habit of dating underage girls off
the internet.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ZEKE (VIA MONITOR) (CONT'D)
Landed himself on the sex offender
registry a couple years ago.

GABI
Real catch, that guy.

PEREZ
He's still M.I.A. but I put out an
APB. He'll pop up sooner or later.

GABI
Camilla may not have that long.
Zeke, Lacey, I want everything and
I mean everything on Eric Desmond.
I want siblings, parents, pets,
allergies, favorite porn...

PEREZ
I'm walking away before I find out
what illegal thing you're going to
do with all that info.

GABI
If I get Eric's coordinates before
you, you'll be my first call...
maybe second.

Gabi heads to her office, calling Johan on her cell.

GABI (ON THE PHONE) (CONT'D)
Rise and shine. I need you ready to
move at my signal...

INT. JOHAN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

A home radiating warmth. Throw pillows, accent walls, unique
artwork from third world countries hung with pride. Nothing
quite matches and yet everything goes together perfectly.

Johan sits on the side of his rumbled bed. Cell in hand.
LANCE DANIELS (early 40s), a unique blend of nerdy and
charismatic, walks in with two cups of coffee.

JOHAN
I gotta head in. Zeke ID'd the
boyfriend.

LANCE
You know every time you say his
name, your face does a thing.

JOHAN
Who, Zeke?

(CONTINUED)

LANCE

Did it again.

JOHAN

My face doesn't have a thing.

LANCE

It has a thing. It's a cute thing.
Like an "I ate moldy cheese" thing,
but definitely a thing.

JOHAN

It's nothing.

LANCE

Zeke reminds you of you when you
first came to me for help.

JOHAN

(beat)

Don't shrink me right now.

LANCE

No one is shrinking you. I'm
husbanding you, babe.

(beat)

You're never going to be that man
again. Don't worry about that. But
Zeke may never stop being that man
unless someone reaches out a hand.
Someone who understands his pain.
Someone who has a very smart,
handsome, shrink husband.

Lance hands Johan his coffee and after a kiss, heads out.

INT. RANCH HOUSE - DAY

ILENE DESMOND (early 50s) is on the phone with Eric, her son.
She's panicked.

ILENE DESMOND

... Baby, please, you need to
hurry. My insulin doesn't seem to
be working and... yes, my left eye
is completely blurry again, that's
what I'm saying. I think it could
be another diabetic attack. I don't
know..... Okay. Okay. Thank you.

Ilene hangs up. Just like that fake tears and panic are gone.

ILENE DESMOND (CONT'D)

He should be here in less than 20.

(CONTINUED)

REVEAL Gabi sitting across from her. She hands Ilene an envelope of money.

GABI
Thank you.

Ilene looks at the money, conflicted. Shakes her head.

ILENE DESMOND
Who traps her own son?

Ilene looks up at Gabi, unable to read her.

ILENE DESMOND (CONT'D)
I'm not a bad mother. It's just...
insulin is expensive and my
insurance only covers a fraction of
the cost. I really need the money.

Gabi nods. No judgement here.

ILENE DESMOND (CONT'D)
So what happens next?

EXT. RANCH HOUSE - LATER

ERIC DESMOND (22) races up in his car. He jumps out of the driver's seat.

ERIC DESMOND
Mama! Mama!

He goes to close the car door, but it closes for him. He turns and finds himself face-to-face with an unmoving Johan.

JOHAN
Let's talk.

INT. M&A OFFICES - CONFERENCE ROOM

Lacey and Margaret review everything they have on Camilla. News plays on the muted TVs in the background. Margaret focuses on Camilla's Instagram feed studying the faces.

LACEY
Can I ask you something about your
non-super power super power?

MARGARET
You're going to ask anyway.

(CONTINUED)

LACEY

Did you develop it looking for your son?

Margaret looks over at Lacey. Sees the question is genuine.

MARGARET

Thirteen years of looking for Jamie's face in the crowd. One day I'll find it. Till then I use my... non-super power super power to find other faces in the crowd.

Lacey sits, in awe of Margaret's strength. She's a little choked up.

LACEY

Your son's very lucky to have you.

Margaret takes in Lacey, surprised at how hard this is hitting her.

MARGARET

Thank you.

Gabi and Johan enter.

GABI

The boyfriend is a little bitch ass, but he didn't do it.

JOHAN

Had an alibi. An underage alibi.

LACEY

Where is he now?

GABI

Learning that Perez has quite the temper.

JOHAN

He did tell us Camilla was going to DCFS to petition for emancipation. She also wanted custody of Deron.

GABI

Get Zeke.

Gabi stands hands on her hips, studying the smart screen with their case info. As Lacey dials in Zeke--

(CONTINUED)

GABI (CONT'D)

Time to shift focus to the possibility we're looking at a stranger kidnapping.

MARGARET

We haven't finished ruling out suspects Camilla might have known.

GABI

I know and we'll get back to them. I'm just putting myself in her shoes for a minute... trust me.

LACEY

Every time you say that, you're somehow right.

Zeke joins via video.

ZEKE (VIA VIDEO)

Hey. I got your text. I pulled the data on disappearances of young girls in the DC area over the last couple months...

A MAP pops up on the smart screen. It's littered with dozens of red dots representing the disappearances.

LACEY

Jesus. That can't be right.

GABI

Unfortunately, it is.

ZEKE

If we narrow it down to the locations of alleged Camilla sightings based on the tip line...

The red dots on the map shrink by half.

GABI

How about alleged sightings from the exact day she went missing?

Something on the TV catches Johan's attention.

JOHAN

Gabi.

He grabs a remote and unmutes the TV as everyone turns to see what's going on. ON THE TV: live footage of Senator Holden, his wife and son, shielding 5-year old Sarah Holden from the media as they get in a police van.

(CONTINUED)

REPORTER 2 (ON THE TV)
...Again, in what is nothing short
of a miraculous turn of events,
Sarah Holden has been found. The
Senator's daughter was discovered
disoriented, wandering near a gas
station off Waterside Drive....

GABI
Oh thank God.

ON THE TV: The cameraman changes his angle, finally catching
a glimpse of SARAH. Gabi freezes. She immediately pauses the
TV. The frozen image of Sarah reveals her wrapped in an
oversized, multi-colored, OK BOOMER ZIP UP HOODIE. The whole
team turns to Camilla's photo in the room -- Camilla in the
exact same sweater the day she disappeared.

MARGARET
What are the chances?

GABI
She's wearing Camilla's hoodie.
Those girls crossed. But when? How?

Zeke zooms in on the map to Garfield Park.

ZEKE
This is the park we know Sarah was
snatched from. One of the tips on
the tip line placed Camilla on the
green line that morning...

JOHAN
The green line runs right through
the northeast corner of that park.

Zeke narrows the map to just that area. They all study it. A
BEAT then Gabi runs up on the screen.

GABI
Wasn't Camilla headed to see DCFS
that morning?
(hits the spot on map)
The DCFS office is here. Right
across the street from Garfield
park. These girls were taken
together.

Off this shocking turn in the case --

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. DC POLICE DEPARTMENT - CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - DAY

Gabi and Perez are mid-argument with Captain Mallory.

GABI

We just need two minutes with the
Senator's daughter.

JOE

My hands are tied.

PEREZ

The only person who knows what
really happened, that can lead us
to Camilla, is that little girl.

JOE

I understand that, which is why
I'll speak to the Senator
personally at an appropriate time.

GABI

That's now. One of the victims
already got away. The kidnapers
are going to panic. Camilla is out
of time.

JOE

I'll assign additional men to sweep
the area where Sarah Holden was
found...

GABI

Not good enough...

JOE

That little girl is in shock. She's
been through a lot. There is no way
anyone is going to agree to
subjecting her to badgering by you
or anyone. This conversation is
over.

PEREZ

How do you sleep at night?

JOE

I don't. That's why I have ulcers.

Before Mallory can blink, Gabi is in his face.

(CONTINUED)

GABI

If we don't find Camilla alive,
that's on you now. And I'll make
sure the media never forgets it as
long as you draw breath. Let's see
how that works for you when you
lobby for Chief of Police.

PEREZ

Gabi we should leave...

JOE

Did you just threaten me?

GABI

Not a threat, Joe. A promise.

Gabi walks out.

EXT. DC POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Gabi yanks her arm away from Perez as they exit the building.

PEREZ

Gabi...

GABI

Don't even think about telling me
to calm down. Jesus, don't you ever
get tired of being a damn yo-yo?
One minute you're all thin blue
line, the next you're in my office
pretending to care. Stop straddling
the line, Perez. Pick a damn side.

PEREZ

There's only one side. I'm on
Camilla's side.

GABI

Then act like it.

Gabi walks away. Off Perez --

INT. METRO - DAY

Gabi rides the metro, staring vacantly through the other
passengers. She's frustrated, feeling powerless - a feeling
she swore she'd never succumb to again.

INT. UNDISCLOSED BOARDED-UP HOUSE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Gabi and Bella are mid-uncomfortable dinner with Sir.

SIR

... The answer to fighting climate change is in nuclear energy. Low carbon. No greenhouse gas emissions.

TEEN GABI

Yes, decarbonizing the power sector is key, but we're talking about something that needs to be deployed on a large scale to replace fossil fuels.

Sir smiles proud.

SIR

I'm glad you've been reading the books I left you.

TEEN GABI

You didn't exactly make it optional.

Angered, Sir forces a smile as he hands his plate to Bella.

SIR

I'd like more of the beef stew.

Bella hesitantly takes the plate. She looks to Gabi who nods that it's okay. Sir clocks this. Bella goes to the stove.

SIR (CONT'D)

I do not appreciate being chall...

TEEN GABI

Why'd you take Bella? She's a baby.

SIR

These questions are not part of the script for tonight.

TEEN GABI

Screw your script. I'm done being your human puppet. Why her?

SIR

Watch your mouth!

Sir takes a breath. Calms down. Smooths out his hair.

SIR (CONT'D)

We needed to grow the family. Now we have a little girl to take care of. End of discussion.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SIR (CONT'D)
*And don't you ever challenge me
like that again. Understood?*

*A CRASH from behind them. Bella screams as the hot pot scolds
her arm on its way to the ground. Angry, Sir jumps up.*

SIR (CONT'D)
*Is it too much to ask for a decent
meal and decent company!*

*As Sir approaches the little girl, Gabi jumps into action.
She grabs the hot, fallen, pot from the ground and whacks Sir
over the head as hard as she can. He hits the ground, hard.
Gabi shoves Bella toward the door.*

TEEN GABI
Run, Bella! Run!

*Gabi grabs Sir's keys from his belt and with one last look at
him, bolts from the room. Off Sir, out cold.*

INT. M&A OFFICES - EVENING

BACK IN THE PRESENT DAY: Margaret and Johan stand in the
conference room watching Gabi and Lacey in her office.

MARGARET
*Gabi's barely moved in the last
hour. You ever seen her like this?*

Johan shakes his head. They're concerned.

IN GABI'S OFFICE: Gabi sits motionless at her desk, thinking.
Lacey watches her. A BEAT. Lacey steps into Gabi's eyeline.

LACEY
*Alright. Time's up. Run some water
or get out the tub.*

Gabi cracks a small smile. Lacey nods. Mission accomplished.

GABI
*You can't use my words on me.
Besides you were actually in an
empty bathtub, fully dressed,
melting down.*

LACEY
*So your tub's more metaphoric and
your meltdown is less spectacular,
point is you've had your moment.
Now it's time to act.
(MORE)*

(CONTINUED)

LACEY (CONT'D)

Screw the cops. We can find Sarah Holden's hospital ourselves, right?

GABI

Zeke's already on it. It might take a while and Camilla is out of time.

LACEY

(snaps)

Stop it. You haven't failed her.

Gabi looks up, surprised at Lacey's tone. She takes her in.

GABI

Why are you here? Why do you want to work for me?

LACEY

What? This was always the plan. Learn at the feet of the master.

GABI

You don't want to be like me.

LACEY

Girl, try again. People respect you. You overcame crazy odds and took over your destiny. You save lives. And I don't just mean the forgotten ones. Take a look at everyone on your team, you found them at their worst, picked them up and gave them purpose. You turned their trauma into something positive. You're amazing, Gabi.

GABI

I'm a mess. A mess that's really good with a contour brush and lip gloss. Lacey, you're brilliant. That's why I got you into law school. So you could be free to be anything.

LACEY

Nooooo. I agreed to law school, so I can keep your rule breaking ass outta prison. Which, I can't wait to do. Now, is this pity party over? Can we get back to being... what did Donahue call us?

(with pride)

Oh yeah, vigilantes.

(CONTINUED)

Gabi's phone vibrates -- a TEXT from Perez. It's the address for where Sarah Holden is being kept for observation.

GABI
(reading aloud)
...You didn't get this from me.

Gabi smiles slowly. Texts back -- *"One more favor. Need Holden case file... Please."* Gabi's already on the move.

GABI (CONT'D)
We have a location. Now I just need my ace in the hole.

INT. PETERSON HOSPITAL - LATER THAT NIGHT

Gabi and Margaret walk out of the elevator. Senator Holden stands outside Sarah's hospital room. His teenage son, David Holden sits slumped in a chair, rapidly texting. Margaret hangs back while Gabi approaches the Senator.

GABI
Senator Holden. I'm Gabi...

SENATOR HOLDEN
I know who you are. How'd you find us?

GABI
I'm sorry to intrude. I'm so happy your daughter made it home.

SENATOR HOLDEN
Thank you. But you need to leave...

GABI
I will, but I need your help, sir. It's a matter of life and death...

SENATOR HOLDEN
I just heard about the other missing girl...

GABI
Her name is Camilla.

SENATOR HOLDEN
Well, I'm sorry for Camilla. I wish we could help you but right now Sarah is traumatized...
(fights back tears)
She's barely talking. I need to protect my daughter.

(CONTINUED)

Margaret clocks the Senator's pain.

GABI

I know I'm asking a lot...

SENATOR HOLDEN

The answer is no.

BEAT. Finally, Gabi reaches into her purse. Pulls out a large envelope.

GABI

Please don't make me do this. Your family has been through more than enough... But I will speak with Sarah. Tonight. Whatever it takes.

Off the Senator's confusion, Gabi goes to hand him the envelope. Margaret steps forward and takes it. Gabi stares at her. *WTF?* Margaret leans in to Gabi.

MARGARET

You don't need to blackmail him. Manipulation doesn't always have to be the answer.

Margaret turns to Senator Holden.

MARGARET (CONT'D)

Senator, I'm Margaret Tate. I'm a crisis manager at Mosley and Associates with Gabi...

SENATOR HOLDEN

I don't...

MARGARET

My son was kidnapped thirteen years ago at Union Station. He was only a year older than your Sarah. I understand your instinct to protect her. I have a very personal relationship with the gut-wrenching pain you felt every second Sarah was missing. And I can only dream of the relief you must feel having her back safe. There's another family out there dreaming of the same relief. You and Sarah can help them get it.

Gabi eyes the Senator. Did Margaret's plea work?

INT. PETERSON HOSPITAL - SARAH'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Gabi, Senator Holden, his wife, and David Holden watch as Margaret colors on the bed with a subdued Sarah.

SARAH HOLDEN

... Yeah, Camilla is my new friend.
She's pretty but her eyes are sad.

MARGARET

How did you and Camilla become
friends? Was she at the park?

SARAH HOLDEN

Not at first. But when the bad man
took me, she came running and tried
to fight him. He took her too.

The enormity of what Camilla did hits the Holdens.

MARGARET

That must have been scary. But
you're back home safe now.

SARAH HOLDEN

Yeah. Camilla helped me.

MARGARET

How did she help you?

SARAH HOLDEN

(shrugs)

She started making a lotta noise...
hitting things. The bad man got mad
and grabbed her. That's when she
told me to run. I ran super fast.
Should I not have run?

MARGARET

No, honey you did great. You did
exactly the right thing. Can I ask
you just a couple more questions?

SARAH HOLDEN

Sure. I like you.

MARGARET

I like you too. Do you know where
Camilla is? Do you remember
anything about the bad man?

SARAH HOLDEN

He had drawings on his neck. Spider
webs and scary things. Yuck.

(CONTINUED)

MARGARET
Spiderwebs on his neck? Like
tattoos?

SARAH HOLDEN
Lots of them.

Gabi turns to the Holdens.

GABI
Does that ring a bell for any of
you? Maybe someone who's done some
work on your house, anything?

SENATOR HOLDEN
No. Not at all.

EMILY HOLDEN
We'd remember someone like that.

Gabi looks to David. He shakes his head "no," but Gabi clocks
him nervously biting his lips. The intensity of which seems
to increase the more Sarah talks.

GABI
Sweetie, do you remember anything
else? Was he skinny? Bigger?

SARAH HOLDEN
Scarecrow skinny.

MARGARET
(smiles)
Scarecrows are skinny, aren't they?

SARAH HOLDEN
Yeah. But his hair was spike-y. Not
like straw...

Gabi studies an increasingly nervous David. Finally --

GABI
Who is he, David?

Everyone in the room freezes, shocked.

DAVID HOLDEN
(petrified)
What? How... How would I know?

GABI
Do you know why you keep biting
your lip?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GABI (CONT'D)

Why you're now wringing your hands?
They're called deceptive
indicators...

SENATOR HOLDEN

What the hell do you think you're
doing?

GABI

Your anxiety is spiking, David,
which in turn triggered your
automatic nervous system to
immediately try to dissipate the
anxiety by draining blood from
extremities like your lips, hands,
making them feel cold and itchy.
Hence the biting and wringing. I
know this cause they used to be my
tells too. That's caused by guilt.

MARGARET

He's also high. Pupils are dilated.

EMILY HOLDEN

High? David, you swore you were
staying clean this time.

GABI

Your sister is traumatized and
another little girl could die. You
need to say what you know.

David looks from his dad to his mom, both staring at him in
horror. He finally breaks.

DAVID HOLDEN

I'm so sorry... I owed him a lot of
money and I couldn't pay him off...

Off an inconsolable David as he starts to confess.

INT. PETERSON HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Gabi is on the run. Cell phone to her ear.

GABI

His name is Aaron. Aaron Nevin.
He's the son's dealer. And Perez
you have to hurry. Aaron took Sarah
to try and force money from David.
Now that she's home, he has no
reason to keep Camilla alive.

EXT./INT. AARON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Flashing lights. Swarm of police. Full raid in progress. Gabi and Margaret arrive just as AARON NEVIN (mid-20s) is led away in handcuffs. Gabi rushes forward as Perez and other cops exit the house. Her face drops at the look on his.

GABI

What? What is it? Is she hurt?

PEREZ

We searched the whole house,
Camilla's not in there.

MARGARET

Are you saying he didn't take her?

PEREZ

She was definitely here at some
point. She's just not here anymore
and Aaron is refusing to talk.

Gabi descends on the cop car Aaron's in. BANGS on the window.

GABI

Where is she you bastard?! Where is
she?!

Gabi continues to beat on the glass. Perez unsuccessfully
tries to hold her back. Off Aaron, cold, unflinching... smug.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. DC POLICE DEPARTMENT - LATE NIGHT

On a mission, Gabi charges over to Perez at his desk.

GABI

We need to go back to Aaron's house, now.

PEREZ

Where've you been? I've been trying to reach you for over an hour.

GABI

My gut is telling me that Camilla is still there.

PEREZ

Your gut? Okay. Look, the house has been processed top to bottom. She's not there. And Aaron is refusing to talk without his lawyer, so....

GABI

Check again.

PEREZ

Gabi...

GABI

Check. Again.

Perez takes Gabi's hand. Surprisingly gentle.

PEREZ

Hey. I'm scared for Camilla too. But we won't stop looking. Eventually Aaron will open his damn mouth and give us what we need.

A BEAT. Gabi eyes Perez. Stone cold. She starts walking away.

GABI

Okay.

Shit! Perez knows that okay. He hates that okay.

PEREZ

Gabi don't do it. Aaron's house is still an active crime scene.

Too late. Gabi's out the door.

(CONTINUED)

PEREZ (CONT'D)

Damn it.

Perez grabs his jacket and follows Gabi out.

EXT. AARON'S HOUSE - LATE NIGHT

Armed with flashlights, Gabi, Perez, Johan, Lacey, Margaret, and a couple uniform cops all fan out. Zeke's drone soars over the scene.

INT. ZEKE'S TOWNHOUSE - PLAYROOM - CONTINUOUS

Zeke monitors the drone footage looking for any sign of life.

INT. AARON'S HOUSE - SAME

LIVING ROOM / DINNING ROOM: Johan and Perez comb through what looks and feels like a frat house. They bang on the walls, the floors, hoping for a secret room. Something.

 JOHAN PEREZ
Camilla?... Camilla? Camilla!

UPSTAIRS BEDROOMS: Lacey and a cop move through the mess.

 LACEY
Camilla?.... Camilla?

DOWNSTAIRS: Margaret and another cop move through the cramped basement.

 MARGARET
Camilla honey?... Camilla? Make any
kind of noise if you can hear us.

Silence -- only the echoes of Camilla's name from the other members of the search party.

EXT. AARON'S HOUSE - SAME

Gabi stares out intently at the vast backyard leading into a dense wooded area. She turns back, faces the house. Takes in the architecture, molding, the columns. Pulls out her cell.

INT. ZEKE'S TOWNHOUSE - PLAYROOM - LATE NIGHT

Zeke paces like a caged animal. His phone RINGS. He answers.

(CONTINUED)

ZEKE
You guys find her?

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. AARON'S HOUSE - SAME

Gabi lies on the ground, examining the bottom of the house.

GABI
Not yet...

ZEKE
Damn it.

Zeke swipes his desk sending several of his precious electronic crashing to the ground.

GABI
Don't lose it on me Zeke.

ZEKE
I should be out there looking with y'all in person. How the hell am I helping trapped here?

GABI
Actually, can you access old plans for this house?

Zeke jumps into his chair and gets to work on his computer.

ZEKE
Pulling it up now.

GABI
This house was built in the 60s. DC was big on fallout shelters then. We're looking for any hidden cellars or military style bunker...

ZEKE
Okay... okay.... Not on these plans. Wait, let me check....
(finds what he needs)
Got it. It's on the original plans. Along the south side of the house.

Gabi takes off running.

GABI
I need some help out here! Hey!

Johan and Perez race outside.

(CONTINUED)

GABI (CONT'D)
We're looking for a hidden bunker.
Runs along this side of the house.

There's nothing but grass, trees, and leaves. Gabi is already on her knees, digging through the leaves with her bare hands.

GABI (CONT'D)
Start digging.... Camilla! Camilla!

Perez and Johan start digging. Shortly everyone else is outside, on their hands and knees doing the same.

GABI (CONT'D)
Wait a minute...

Gabi finally feels something. It's a ROPE.

GABI (CONT'D)
Help me dig it out. Help me!

They dig out the rope and finally pull it, revealing the trap door to the hidden cellar. Gabi immediately goes to climb down but Perez pulls her back.

PEREZ
Just wait.

He pulls his gun and begins his slow descent into --

INT. CELLAR - CONTINUOUS

Perez sweeps a flashlight across the darkness a couple times, before he finally sees her - CAMILLA, weak, dehydrated, barely conscious on a small mattress on the ground.

PEREZ
I got her. She's alive.

In mere seconds, Gabi is down in the shelter too. She crawls over to Camilla.

GABI
Camilla. Camilla, look at me
sweetie. Open your eyes, c'mon.

As Camilla's eyes flutter, Gabi cradles her in her arms.

GABI (CONT'D)
You're safe, honey. You're safe.

INT. HOSPITAL - GABI'S ROOM - LATE NIGHT

Camilla rests in bed, hooked up to an IV, groggy. Gabi sits beside her. In the corner of the room, Lacey and a SOCIAL WORKER whisper quietly. The door opens. Camilla stirs and looks over. Tears fill her eyes. Slowly a smile spreads across her face. REVEAL Deron standing in the doorway, Perez by his side. Deron races to his sister. As they desperately hold on to each other, an emotional Gabi catches Lacey's eye.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

Covered in dirt and scratches, teen Gabi sits stoic in front of A DETECTIVE. Wrapped in a blanket next to her is Bella.

DETECTIVE

You're safe now. You both did great. And we'll find him, the guy you call Sir. That's a promise.

TEEN GABI

You can't promise us that. If he was really gone by the time you got to the house, then it means the man who took me from my family.

(re: Bella)

Took us... Is still out there.

Bella starts to cry, shuddering at the thought. Her blanket slips off. REVEALING the small burn mark on her arm from the pot earlier. Slowly MATCH CUT to:

INT. M&A OFFICES - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

-- The same burn mark, just several years faded, on an adult arm in PRESENT DAY. PAN UP and REVEAL **that arm belongs to Lacey**. She's Bella, all grown up. Lacey adds Camilla's 8x10 to the FOUND WALL. She steps back, joining Gabi, Johan, Margaret and Zeke (via video). Holding vodka filled shot glasses, they all take in the wall of photos that is slowly growing. All victims they've saved. Finally, they raise their shots in a quiet, heartfelt, toast to Camilla's photo.

ALL

Welcome home.

Off the team as they down their shots.

INT. M&A OFFICES - GABI'S OFFICE - LATER

Gabi packs up for the night. Lacey enters, offering a flash drive and new file to Gabi.

(CONTINUED)

LACEY

This is everything we have thus far
on the new case.

GABI

Thank you.

LACEY

I can pull an all-nighter with you,
get a jump on everything?

GABI

Lacey Isabella Quintanilla, go
home. Better yet, go out, meet up
with some friends. Go be 21 so I
can live vicariously through you. I
got the case covered.

LACEY

Of course you do. You're gonna go
home, sleep on it, and come back in
with all these brilliant ideas. I
have no idea how you're so damn
good at this. Anyway, see ya
tomorrow. Love you.

Off Gabi lost in thought as Lacey heads out.

BEGIN MONTAGE:

EXT. GATED COMMUNITY - NIGHT

Lacey drives through her gated community, waving at the
PRIVATE SECURITY as she passes them.

INT. LACEY'S APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Lacey enters her place, where she's greeted by the biggest,
happiest, RESCUE DOG. It's clear from his scars that he's a
survivor like Lacey. As he lovingly jumps all over her --

LACEY

I know, buds. I know. One sec...

Lacey turns and locks not one, not two, but over a dozen
locks on her door. Double-checking each one along the way.

INT. ZEKE'S TOWNHOUSE - NIGHT

Familiar sound of a crowd singing "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" floats
through the house.

(CONTINUED)

The source: An iPad on the kitchen counter where Zeke's nephew's extravagant birthday party is underway. FIND Zeke, out of view of the iPad, head bowed, painfully gripping the kitchen counter in front of him as he tries not to let his heartbreaking loneliness overcome him.

ZEKE'S MOM (V.O FROM IPAD)
Zeke, where are you baby? Zaire's
about to blow out his candles.

Zeke wipes at his tears. Tries to sound normal.

ZEKE
I'm coming. Just grabbing a juice
box so I can toast with y'all.

Door bell RINGS. Zeke makes his way to the foyer. He's surprised to find Johan at his door, uncomfortably holding a small box. Zeke eyes him.

JOHAN
I know it's your nephew's birthday
and you can't.... My husband
thought maybe...

Fuck finding the words. Johan shoves the box at Zeke.

JOHAN (CONT'D)
It's cake.

The dam of tears Zeke was fighting to hold back, cracks. A long BEAT. Finally:

ZEKE
Thank you.

So much wrapped up in those two words. Johan nods and leaves.

INT. UNION STATION - NIGHT

Move through the beautifully arched halls and FIND Margaret sitting on a bench. She shakes out a blanket to place over her legs as she unpacks her dinner from her son's old lunch box next to her. An employee, FEDERIC (30s), from a coffee kiosk that's closing up for the night waves at Margaret. He walks over with a thermos. Margaret smiles.

FEDERIC
It's a new blend I'm trying out. I
want only honest feedback when I
get back in the morning.

MARGARET
Have I led you wrong, yet?

(CONTINUED)

Margaret accepts the thermos. Federic playfully salutes her and leaves. Margaret settles in, pulls out her iPad. ON THE SCREEN are two photos -- One of her son at 6 years old and one, a computer generated image of what he would look like now at 19 years old. As Margaret begins her nightly routine of scanning the crowd for her son in the place she lost him --

INT. GABI'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Gabi whistles to herself as she meticulously prepares a food tray. If this feels familiar -- it should. As we've seen her do before, she places her new case file on the tray next to the food. Subconsciously, she straightens her clothes and smooths down her hair. Finally, she picks up the tray and heads downstairs to her locked basement. She balances the tray and unlocks the door -- CLICK. CLICK. CLICK.

IN HER BASEMENT in a caged room is.... **SIR!** Gabi's kidnapper. From the look of him, he's been here a while. He sits up in his bed, bars separating him from Gabi.

SIR

Was she in a hidden room like I guessed?

GABI

Camilla is home safe.

A quick flash of something on Sir's face. Was that -- *relief?*

SIR

We make quite the partnership, don't we?

GABI

We're not partners.

She places the tray down, keeping the food out of his reach, and slides the new case file to him.

GABI (CONT'D)

You know the drill. A trans woman was taken in broad daylight outside Crystal City Shops eleven hours ago. Where would you have taken her first?

A BEAT. Sir eyes Gabi. Finally, he opens the file. Off this unsettling image of our unstable heroine and her kidnapper -- the most unlikely of partnerships.

END OF PILOT