

INFAMY

Pilot Episode

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ACT ONE

EXT/INT. CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA / MADELINE'S CAR - DUSK

A lone car winds through a labyrinth of pump houses and steel mills that crumble into the streets. No sign of life for miles. Even the sky looks dead.

Behind the wheel, MADELINE SCOTT (35), tough, a cool exterior that hides a sadness underneath, glances at the G.P.S. on her phone. No use. Google hasn't even bothered.

EXT. DILAPIDATED ROW HOUSE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Madeline finds a house in the shadow of a condemned Gothic Cathedral. She parks and walks onto the creaky porch. As she raps on the door, a barking dog SLAMS into it! Madeline doesn't even flinch from the dog, she's got ice in her veins.

MADELINE

Caleb Greeves!? I need you to leash your dog and open the door.

We see the shadow of someone large through the door, he has an ominous presence as the dog continues to violently bark.

GREEVES (O.S.)

Who the hell are you?

MADELINE

I represent Harvey Birbeck.

There is a slight beat. His hostility fades.

GREEVES (O.S.)

Harve still up over at Frackville?

MADELINE

Going on twenty-seven years. Long time to serve for a murder you and I both know he didn't commit.

(Then)

I have a court order authorizing me to collect a sample of your DNA.

The door opens, revealing CALEB GREEVES, he holds a chrome .44. Madeline stays cool, not rattled by the gun. He looks her over. Jeans, surplus army jacket over a t-shirt.

GREEVES

You come here alone?

MADELINE

Yep.

Greeves grins, digs her.

GREEVES

Harve and me were pals, but that's different than trading places with him. No, ma'am, I cain't handle no prison.

MADELINE

We have no idea what we can handle until we're forced to find out.

Her comment triggers a dim memory for Greeves. It clicks.

GREEVES

I'll be damned. You're that girl.

EXT. BOTTOM OF A CLIFF - **FLASHBACK**

We catch a glimpse of a TEENAGE GIRL, her face covered in blood, her eyes wide open. Dead from a brutal murder. This is ROSEMARY LYNCH.

EXT. DILAPIDATED ROW HOUSE - DAY

Madeline stares back at him, totally calm.

MADELINE

That's right, pal. I'm that girl.

GREEVES

Bad idea coming here by yourself, don't ya think?

He thumbs back the hammer of the revolver as he lifts the gun up. Madeline still remains totally calm.

MADELINE

You take me out there's gonna be ten more people here tomorrow and another ten the next day. It's the end of the road, Caleb, your time is up. You can't kill your way out of this one.

GREEVES

Says you lady.

He puts the gun up to his own head and pulls the trigger! BAM! Blood and gray matter hits Madeline like a slap to the face! Ears ringing, Madeline dials her phone. As she waits for 911, the dog whimpers, his paw tapping his owner's chest.

911 OPERATOR

911. What is your emergency?

MADELINE

What happens to someone's dog when they die? Is it put to sleep?

911 OPERATOR

Ma'am? Is there an emergency?

She takes out a small vial and gets what she came here for - his blood and DNA sample.

MADELINE

Not anymore.

EXT. COURT OF COMMON PLEAS - MORNING

Philadelphia's August courthouse is surrounded with news vans, reporters and people everywhere. A chaotic scene. We hear a popular crime podcast, 'Until Proven Innocent'.

KISA BELL (O.S.)

Imagine, you're a 23 year old Petty Officer in the Navy charged for a murder you didn't commit.

Hundreds of SPECTATORS cheer the sole passenger of a prison bus, HARVEY BIRKBECK (54), bald and gaunt, beaten by the world but a smile as he sees signs that read: FREE HARVEY!

KISA BELL (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Despite the lack of evidence, you are convicted by a ruthless prosecutor who has a dubious relationship with the truth.

COLE BELLOWS (58) leads an entourage of heavy-hitting state PROSECUTORS up the courthouse steps. The crowd jeers.

INT. KISA BELL'S RECORDING STUDIO - SAME

Headphones on, KISA BELL, late 20s, Asian American, hipster in an NPR kinda way, livestreams her podcast.

KISA

On this week's episode of 'Until Proven Innocent' I'm here with our regular guest, wrongful conviction attorney Madeline Scott...

We see Madeline is seated across from her wearing a headset.

KISA (CONT'D)

...who in one hour will litigate the post conviction relief hearing of Harvey Birbeck.

(MORE)

KISA (CONT'D)

(To Madeline)

This is the first time you'll be facing off against Cole Bellows since you became a lawyer, correct?

MADELINE

Yes it is.

KISA

To the two people in the entire world that don't know, Cole Bellows is the very prosecutor that wrongfully convicted Madeline and her brother Levi Scott of first degree murder of her best friend Rosemary Lynch.

INT. COURTROOM - **FLASHBACK**

Bellows is making an opening argument where we see a scared 18 year old Madeline seated at the defense table next to her brother, LEVI (20), terrified and gaunt from the ordeal.

BELLOWS

This is a case about deviant sexual obsession and hedonistic greed. This is a case about a teenage girl with her whole life ahead of her sacrificed on the alter of lust!

INT. KISA BELL'S RECORDING STUDIO - **PRESENT DAY**

Madeline looks filled with anger at the painful memory.

KISA

Are you nervous about going up against the same lawyer that unjustly put you in prison all those years ago?

MADELINE

His approach in my case was so stunningly dishonest, that any opportunity I get to show the world our District Attorney is a corrupt liar is an opportunity I'm eager to take.

KISA

So tell us how you really feel.

There is a knocking at the window, standing on the other side of it is EZEKIEL 'EASY' BOUDREAU (Black, 55), normally calm and wise, but right now he looks pretty pissed off.

KISA (CONT'D)

And that is your law partner Easy Boudreau giving us the warning that it's time for you to go to court where we will continue our podcast.

INT. HALLWAY - LAW OFFICE - DAY

Madeline walks out of the recording studio into the hallway where a pissed off Easy waits for her. We see that the recording studio is actually in their law office.

EASY

What was up with that?

MADELINE

Just a little pre-game razzing.

EASY

Unnecessary.

MADELINE

But therapeutic.

Right then they hear a dog barking from down the hall. It's the Rottweiler from the opening of the pilot.

EASY

What the hell is that?

MADELINE

That's Atticus.

Atticus comes running down the hall and jumps up on Madeline and starts licking her face.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

This is the most action I've gotten in years.

EASY

Please don't tell me he's staying.

MADELINE

Police said he'd get put to sleep. You wanna take him? He's sweet.

EASY

You should. You need a friend.

MADELINE

What are you saying?

EASY

That you have no friends.

A door marked **Bodie Quick. Investigator** swings open as, BODIE QUICK, 30, odd and nerdy in a Star Wars mega-fan kinda way, walks out in response to the commotion.

BODIE

What the hell is that?

Madeline looks at him as Atticus keeps licking her face.

MADELINE

Our new dog. You wanna take him?

BODIE

I'm allergic.

EASY

To dogs?

BODIE

No. Death.

EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS - DAY

Heading up the courthouse stairs, Madeline and Kisa are mobbed by fans. Bodie and Easy try to clear a path.

A CHORUS OF CHEERS

We love you, Madeline! Answer my
DM, Kisa! Save Harvey, Madeline!
Sign my sign! I sent my resume!
I'll work for free! We love you!

INT. COURTROOM - PENNSYLVANIA SUPERIOR COURT - DAY

THREE JUDGES are on the bench. Madeline, Easy and Harvey Birkbeck sit together. Cole Bellows and his team enter from the back. Madeline glares at him as we MATCH CUT TO:

INT. COURTROOM - **FLASHBACK**

A much younger Bellows stares back at a terrified Young Madeline who is now at the defense table in her own murder trial. Her hands are shaking.

BAILIFF

All rise.

As Young Madeline rises to her feet, we MATCH CUT BACK TO:

INT. COURTROOM - **PRESENT DAY**

Madeline standing up in front of the Judges.

CHIEF JUSTICE
Ms. Scott, opening statement?

Madeline's face is filled with fire as she opens her mouth to speak, but Bellows interrupts, his pompous nature oozes out.

BELLOWS
Chief Justice, let me save us all time by stating the commonwealth asks to withdraw its objection and join in the Appellant's motion to vacate Mr. Birkbeck's conviction of murder in the second degree.

Half the reporters bolt out of the room to file reports.

BELLOWS (CONT'D)
In consideration of the new evidence presented by Appellant, it is clear a mistake was made. Contrary to what Ms. Scott might have the public believe, we prosecutors are also human beings.

MADELINE
Objection. Assumes facts not in evidence.

A huge peel of laughter. The Chief Justice bangs his gavel.

BELLOWS
An injustice has occurred. A man has spent his life wrongfully imprisoned for a crime he did not commit, and now it is time for that man to return home.

CHIEF JUSTICE
Congratulations, Mr. Birkbeck, your conviction is hereby vacated...

Harvey hugs Madeline and begins to weep. Behind him, his two GROWN SONS start to cry as Harvey hurries over to them and holds them tight as they all weep in joy and sadness.

INT. COURTROOM - **FLASHBACK**

Young Madeline is crying as she has just been told she's been found guilty. She starts to yell at the JUDGE:

YOUNG MADELINE
 NO! I'm innocent! I'm innocent,
 your honor!

The Judge starts banging his gavel as she keeps screaming:

YOUNG MADELINE (CONT'D)
 I'M INNOCENT!

INT. COURTROOM - **PRESENT DAY**

Madeline is brought out of her memory as she glances at Bellows who is glaring at her. He clearly isn't moved at all by the scene, he did this because he had no choice. With a complete coolness Madeline glares right back at him.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Easy and Madeline step out of the courthouse.

MADELINE
 Bellows is up to something. He
 could have presented a case.

EASY
 We had him crushed. He wanted to
 save the humiliation and be the
 hero. Pretty clever, actually.

MADELINE
 But why? No way Bellows does this
 without playing an angle.

There is a podium set up in front of a crowd of reporters where Bellows steps up to it to make a speech:

BELLOWS
 Though the arc of history is long,
 it bends towards Justice. An
 innocent man will return home which
 makes today a very good day.

Madeline stares at him with a fierce calculation.

MADELINE
 What's this guy up to?

Easy shakes his head, doesn't know but it makes him nervous.

INT. BEDROOM - MADELINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Madeline is in her sparse bedroom - no pictures on the walls, just a bed and drawers with blank brick walls.

She's trying to zip up the back of her dress but can't do it, only able to get the zipper so high. Keeps trying to reach for it but she can't get it. Her head drops in frustration.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MADELINE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

In her living room which is even more sparse, it looks like she never moved in, a frustrated Madeline is on the phone. We see a totally different side of Madeline - her coolness gone she's tearing up like an angry teenager.

MADELINE

I can't zip it up, mom!

MADELINE'S MOM (V.O.)

Zip what up?

MADELINE

This stupid dress. I don't have a lot of gown experience and I didn't know the stupid zipper wouldn't go all the way up. Why can't they make a dress that a person can put on with out a freaking lady's maid!

MADELINE'S MOM (V.O.)

Honey, lift it from your shoulder so you can reach the zipper.

Madeline lifts the dress from her shoulder which makes it easy for her to zip it all the way up. She wipes a tear away.

MADELINE

Okay, thanks, mom.

MADELINE'S MOM

Love you, dear.

Madeline stands in front of a mirror staring at herself.

INT. MADELINE'S BEDROOM - SCOTT RESIDENCE - **FLASHBACK**

Young Madeline stands in front of a mirror with ROSEMARY LYNCH, 17, her quirky best friend (the murdered girl from the first flashback). Madeline is in a dress that looks a touch awkward, Rosemary a little more dolled up.

YOUNG MADELINE

I look so lame.

ROSEMARY

No, you don't. You look super cute. If DeRay Johnson talks to you, you should totally blow him.

YOUNG MADELINE

No! Gross!

ROSEMARY

Why not? He's a hottie. Have a couple drinks and then you'll totally hook up with him.

YOUNG MADELINE

Alcohol makes me want to vomit.

ROSEMARY

You're, like, never gonna get your V card punched, are you?

Young Madeline looks unsure, the concept makes her nervous.

INT. LIVING ROOM - MADELINE'S APARTMENT - **PRESENT DAY**

Still staring in the mirror, Madeline looks disturbed. Clearly is still haunted by the past.

EXT. KIMMEL CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS - NIGHT

Waiting for Madeline in front of the beautiful Gehry-esque building, Easy looks as cool as James Bond in a midnight blue tux. Madeline walks up, completely calm, you would've never known she just had a little break down.

EASY

You look like a million bucks.

MADELINE

I feel like a used one dollar bill.
Is Irene coming?

Easy shakes his head, no. Madeline knows that's not good.

EXT. VALET STAND - KIMMEL CENTER - SAME

Sporting a burgundy crushed velvet tux jacket with a faded Empire Strikes Back T-shirt underneath, Bodie hands his keys to a VALET. He spots Kisa approaching in a skin-tight gown that nearly knocks him out of his socks.

BODIE

You look amazing.

KISA

If I can't get laid in this dress I need to become a nun and retire with those Sound of Music bitches.

She hurries off as he watches her go, clearly has a big crush. The Valet attendant shakes his head.

VALET

Never gonna happen, bro.

Bodie nods, knows its true.

INT. KIMMEL CENTER - TEN MINUTES LATER

The stage has been turned into a live podcast as Kisa sits with Madeline and Easy all with microphones in front them. The audience is filled with rich housewives and nerdy hipster NPR type fans that love the podcast.

KISA

This weeks episode of 'Until Proven Innocent' is broadcasting live from the first annual Wrongful Conviction Project fundraiser with the famous Madeline Scott and the lawyer that got her out of prison, Easy Beaudreau. Now the whole world knows the story of how Madeline and her brother Levi Scott were wrongfully convicted and then released seven years later, but what most people don't realize is that their lawyer wasn't even a criminal defense lawyer when he took the infamous case.

EASY

No. I specialized in re-insurance regulation.

KISA

So what happened? Were you obsessed with Madeline Scott like the rest of the country?

EASY

No, not really.

MADELINE

Hey!

A big laugh from the audience.

EASY

I thought Madeline and Levi were guilty like everyone else did.

KISA
So what changed?

EASY
She sent me a letter.

KISA
To a re-insurance lawyer?

MADELINE
I was desperate.

This gets another laugh. Feels almost like a schtick they do.

KISA
And what did the letter say?

EASY
It said 'please don't look away without at least hearing my story.' I'd never received a letter like it before. It was so out of the blue that she wrote me, so surprising, that I thought perhaps this was the one case *meant* for me. And so I decided to follow the Lord's guidance and not look away. After a few months of working together, I asked about the number she'd written at the bottom of my special letter-- 2,736. Turns out that was the number of other letters she'd sent before mine.

MADELINE
It took me a while to get to the re-insurance lawyers.

Another big laugh.

EASY
I realized right then that I had found my destiny. Because if 2,735 trained lawyers would ignore this innocent girl who's case was famous, who was going to fight for all the innocent people serving life sentences who weren't famous?
(More applause)
It has become my life's mission to exonerate the innocent and it is the greatest honor of my life to go on that journey with the exact woman who changed my life when she asked me to not look away.

Madeline takes his hand, they are both very close as the audience jumps to its feet and loudly applauds.

CUT TO - LATER. The event is in full swing as everyone is mingling. Bodie spots Kisa talking to a TERRENCE, 28, African-American, dreads, total cool hipster in a Lenny Kravitz way. Jealous, Bodie hurries over with a cocktail.

BODIE

Hey, you wanna drink?

Kisa looks at him, like WTF.

KISA

Yeah, I'm all good, Bodie.

Then, Kisa turns to Terrence.

KISA (CONT'D)

You want to get out of here and go to my place?

Terrence looks almost speechless.

TERRENCE

Sure.

They walk away as a dumbstruck Bodie watches them go.

CUT TO - Madeline talking to DYLAN KEENAN, mid-30's, a bearded edgy reporter, handsome with a Mark Ruffalo vibe.

MADELINE

How's Becky?

DYLAN

You didn't hear? She dumped me.

MADELINE

What!? That's crazy. You're like a rom-com character.

DYLAN

(Laughs)

What do you mean?

MADELINE

You're all handsome with a beard and you got the sexy reporter job.

DYLAN

She didn't like the job. Too much travel and she hated I was always going into war zones.

MADELINE

Crazier! If my boyfriend was covering the Middle East, I'd be in Heaven. Right when you start annoying me you leave town. Dreamy.

DYLAN

Then we should go out sometime.

Madeline's face drops in fear. She becomes incredibly nervous and incredibly awkward. Has no idea how to do this.

MADELINE

Oh. Oh. Um. Sure. Yeah. Ha. That's hilarious. I got to get a drink.

DYLAN

I thought you didn't drink.

MADELINE

But now I'm gonna start.

And with that, she hurries away from him, almost terrified. He watches her go, amused but ever so slightly disappointed.

INT. BELLOWS OFFICE - DAY

Bellows is in front of a mirror tying his tie. He looks tense, nervous, he can't get the tie right. His wife, LISA, 40's, shrewd and sexy, comes over to help him.

BELLOWS

I haven't been this nervous since high school.

She easily ties the tie, smooth. She looks him right in the eye with a focused influence not unlike Lady Macbeth.

LISA BELLOWS

This is what you were meant for.
This is your destiny.

He nods, then kisses her.

BELLOWS

I love you.

But she's all business.

LISA BELLOWS

Big smile, dear.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

With a big charming smile, Bellows stands at a microphone in front of a dozen reporters.

BELLOWS

It is with great pride and great humility that I am announcing my candidacy for the Attorney General of the great state of Pennsylvania!

INT. LAW OFFICES - LIBRARY - DAY

The entire team - Madeline, Easy, Kisa, Bodie (and now Atticus) - watch in front of the TV as Bellows makes his speech. Madeline shakes her head in fury.

BELLOWS (FROM THE TV)

"If elected I will ensure that law and order will be enforced and that no crime will go unpunished."

EASY

So that's what he was up to.

KISA

Our last two A.G.'s became governor. He'll be next if he wins.

Madeline's rage is growing.

MADELINE

No way in hell we can't let that happen.

BODIE

If you go after him it'll come across like revenge.

MADELINE

Not if I do it in court.

KISA

You're gonna sue him?

MADELINE

No expose the truth about him. Me and Harvey Birbeck aren't the only innocent people he threw in jail. Lets find another of his wrongful convictions so we can show the world exactly how corrupt Cole Bellows is.

EASY

You sure you wanna poke the bear?

MADELINE

No, I wanna rip its heart out and
shred it to a thousand pieces.

She points to the TV in a fiery rage.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

This man can not be Attorney
General.

Easy shrugs with ease.

EASY

Then let's find a case.

KISA

Let's find a case.

BODIE

Let's find a case.

Madeline grins at her team, she loves they're all in with
her. She stares back at Bellows on the TV with a determined
focus, she's finally gonna take this guy down.

MADELINE

Let's find a case.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT/INT. UNKNOWN SUBURBAN HOME, DOYSLETOWN - NIGHT

A family dinner is taking place where Madeline sits with her parents, HELEN SCOTT (57), sweet and quiet and CHUCK SCOTT (62), salt of the earth, blue collar. Seated across from her is her brother LEVI (37), a shell of a man. There is a sadness with the whole family as they eat in painful silence. Madeline finally breaks it as she turns to Levi:

MADELINE
How's the job hunt going?

LEVI
Bad. There isn't much of a market
for ex-oxy addicts who went to
prison for murder.

HELEN
Stop it.
(To Madeline)
Levi's been coaching AYSO.

MADELINE
Really? That's great.

LEVI
The kids are awesome. It's been
cool.

CHUCK
How you doing, honey? We never see
you anymore.

HELEN
Ever.

MADELINE
I've been slammed with some cases.
It's why I wanted to see you all.

HELEN
What is it?

MADELINE
I'm gonna be taking on Bellows
again and it's gonna get hot. I'm
sure our case is going to come up.

This lands like a ton of bricks. Then Helen starts to cry.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
Mom, please.

But Helen can't even talk, she gets up and walks out. Levi stares daggers at her.

LEVI
It's not just you. It's me too.

MADELINE
I have to do this.

LEVI
Why?

MADELINE
So he doesn't do to anyone else
what he did to us.

LEVI
You go be a big hero while the rest
of us deal with the wreckage. God,
you're so selfish.

He storms out leaving her alone with her dad who whispers.

CHUCK
Take that prick down.

INT. PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE - DAY

Madeline and Easy sit in front of BARBARA JONES, 50's, a tough but eccentric Southern public defender.

BARBARA JONES
You what?!

MADELINE
We want one of your wrongful
conviction cases against Bellows.

EASY
We figured there must be dozens
here in the public defenders
office. Any up in the pipeline?

BARBARA JONES
Oh my darlings, I got a PCR against
him in six weeks. But I don't think
you'll want it...

CUT TO - TIGHT ON A TV SCREEN:

LUCIANNA RINCON (26) leans uncomfortably close to the camera lens, clearly stoned, dark black eyeliner is smudged across her face. DETECTIVE WISE is off camera.

DETECTIVE WISE (O.S.)
Lucianna? Why did you set the fire?

LUCIANNA
Because my little Angel told me to.

DETECTIVE WISE (O.S.)
But you said he was already asleep.

LUCIANNA
He spoke from the Ouija Board. He
said he was ready to go.

DETECTIVE WISE (O.S.)
Ready to go where?

Lucianna starts laughing with a giddy joy.

LUCIANNA
To heaven of course! Where else
would a little boy go when he dies?

The TV power cuts off, and the screen falls to black,
reflecting Kisa, Bodie, Easy and Madeline at the...

INT. LAW OFFICE - LIBRARY - DAY

All of last night's enthusiasm is gone, just like that.

KISA
We're gonna defend Lucy the Killer
Goth Queen?

BODIE
The woman who set her house on
fire, killing her kid, and then
confessed to it. She was a national
villain. Everyone loved hating her.

EASY
It's a miscalculation. Donors will
want their money back once they
hear we're defending her.

MADELINE
Lets just meet her. Maybe we'll
find out there's a real human being
behind the story we think we know.
(To Easy)
Don't look away without hearing her
story.

EASY
Oh dear Lord I walked right into
that one.

EXT. STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION - MUNCY, PA - DAY

Easy's car pulls into the visitor lot at Pennsylvania's max security prison for women. Madeline takes a deep breath as they step out, and head for the main gate.

INT. MUNCY PRISON - **FLASHBACK**

Madeline's POV of a wide, two-story corridor lined with cells. Every INMATE stands at their bars, jeering, cat-calling, laughing. It's an incredibly intimidating greeting.

REVEAL a terrified eighteen-year old Madeline. A **FLASHBACK** of the worst day of her life.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - **PRESENT**

The hallway is exactly the same, except the INMATES pay no attention to Easy and Madeline as they pass.

EASY

You good?

MADELINE

Oh yeah. Best years of my life.

INT. ATTORNEY/CLIENT VISITATION ROOM - PRISON - DAY

Lucianna Rincon (now 41) looks totally normal. Nothing like her confession video. No weird make up. Normal hair. Madeline goes right for the jugular.

MADELINE

So, Lucy, did you start the fire?

Lucianna recoils. Surprised she came at her so fast.

LUCIANNA

No. Absolutely not.

MADELINE

Then why did you confess to it?

LUCIANNA

That question's been in my head every day for fourteen years. I still don't have an answer.

Lucianna looks down. A tear hits the cracked linoleum table.

EASY

We deal with false confessions all the time. Your son had just died.

(MORE)

EASY (CONT'D)

That's the most catastrophic trauma a person can experience.

MADELINE

Since the advent of DNA evidence, about 2000 inmates have been proven innocent and freed. More than 500 of them had been coerced into falsely confessing by the police. That's twenty-five percent of all people unjustly convicted confessed to a crime they didn't commit.

LUCIANNA

I don't care if I ever get out of here, my soul died when I lost my boy. Why couldn't God have taken me instead of him? He didn't do anything wrong. He was a good boy.

In this moment, Madeline knows she's innocent. So does Easy. They exchange a nod.

MADELINE

Lucianna, you have a hearing in six weeks which will be very different than your trial. We'd like to be your lawyers at this hearing.

LUCIANNA

What about Barbara?

MADELINE

She's a public defender with hundreds of cases a year. You would be our sole focus. We will have exactly thirty minutes to convince Judge Rovner to disregard the key pieces of evidence against you.

LUCIANNA

Only thirty minutes?

EASY

That's all we're given in a post conviction relief hearing.

MADELINE

And if a shred of evidence remains intact, you'll stay in prison, most likely for the rest of your life.

LUCIANNA

You don't sugarcoat, do ya?

EASY

No she does not.

LUCIANNA

Neither do I. Lets do it.

MADELINE

Good. Now the first thing we need to do is change your image before the hearing. Do your folks have photos of you without black eye-liner and hair dye?

LUCIANNA

You mean like in my mug shots? Ahhh, Chica, that wasn't eye-liner. It was soot. From the fire. The whole goth thing isn't even true.

EASY

Wait? You weren't into Goth?

LUCIANNA

Nope. I married a preacher in high school. My cellmate in county had to tell me what 'Goth' even meant.

Madeline shakes her head as she turns to Easy.

MADELINE

Behind every media caricature is a real life human being.

INT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE VISITATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Madeline and Easy head towards the exit. The guard buzzes the gate open.

MADELINE

You go ahead. I think I'll stick around. Feeling a little nostalgic.

Easy gives a knowing grin, he knows whats up.

INT. ATTORNEY/CLIENT VISITATION ROOM - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Back in the visitation room, Madeline unpacks a contraband picnic from her briefcase, including a pint of Irish Whiskey. A sexy, tough inmate covered in tattoos, ERIN "REY" REYNOLDS enters, she does not look happy.

REY

Where have you been?

We see a different side of Madeline, the tough girl melts away as she becomes the 18 year old that first came here.

MADELINE

I'm sorry. It's been busy.

REY

Are you dating someone? A guy?

MADELINE

I'm not dating anyone. I spent my twenties in this place, I don't know how to date. I don't know how to do anything.

Rey stares at her for a minute, still mad.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

I'm sorry.

REY

Come here.

Madeline walks over to her. Then Rey starts kissing her, hard. Madeline kisses her back.

REY (CONT'D)

Please don't forget about me.

MADELINE

I won't. I promise.

The kissing gets more passionate as the girls try to kiss away their painful relationship.

INT. LAW OFFICES - LIBRARY - DAY

Madeline stands in front of the team. She points to a video monitor with a freeze framed image of Lucy's goth confession.

MADELINE

First thing we got is an airtight confession that also convicted Lucy in the court of popular opinion.

Madeline holds up a photo-copied statement.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Number two: a statement from her ex-husband in which he claims Lucy regretted having children and aborted their second pregnancy.

EASY

Thus her motive. That she never wanted children.

Easy points to photos of the burnt down house.

EASY (CONT'D)

And lastly we have a fire that we don't know how it started.

MADELINE

So we got six weeks to destroy the confession, the spouse's statement and find the truth behind how the fire really started.

EASY

So basically mission flipping impossible.

KISA

Jesus knows what you really mean when you say 'flipping'.

EASY

He knows all about you too.

KISA

With pride.

BODIE

Too much pride.

(To Madeline)

So where do we start?

MADELINE

If Lucianna was convicted in the court of public opinion, that's where we'll begin. Lets show the world that the Killer Goth Queen was really a preacher's wife.

KISA

I've already been working on that.

She taps the space bar on her computer. Each of Lucianna's ghoulish booking photos is set against innocent pictures from her past. Suddenly, the ghoul becomes a loving mother, a teary bride, a Sunday school teacher.

MADELINE

It's perfect.

KISA

I thought we could even give some context from a more famous case.

Kisa toggles to a second photo array: happy photos of nerdy Young Madeline next to grainy drunken snapshots from her senior trip: dancing like a drunken party girl, making out with a random teenager, taking bong hits.

MADELINE

No. Definitely not. I don't want to make this case about me.

EASY

I disagree. It's a perfect comparison. Bellows' character assassination was identical in both your cases. You were a nerdy, shy girl who got drunk one night like any other high school student--

Easy points to the raunchy pictures of Madeline.

EASY (CONT'D)

Showing the court your false character assassination will give them a living, breathing example of what Bellows did to Lucy.

KISA

You're our best asset.

BODIE

As of right now, you're our only asset. It's a terrible case.

Off of Madeline weighing that reality, cut to...

INT. KISA'S RECORDING STUDIO - MOMENTS LATER

Kisa sits across a table from Madeline and Easy interviewing them for the next episode of her podcast.

KISA

Today on the blog we juxtaposed the Evil Dead pics of Lucianna Rincon you've all seen with family photos of how she really looked. It's infuriating. Lucianna is literally nothing like how she was portrayed in the media during her trial.

MADELINE

She was arrested the night of the fire, and almost immediately the prosecution was poisoning the jury pool against her. It's straight up media assassination.

KISA

Which is what happened to you, right, Madeline?

Madeline pauses a beat, not sure yet she wants to go there. Easy nods at her that she needs to do it.

MADELINE

Yes. It's exactly what happened to me. The prosecution leaked lurid snapshots of me taken on the last night of my senior trip to make me look like a drunken party girl.

KISA

And we're you?

MADELINE

No, I was a total nerd.

INT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT - **FLASHBACK**

We are at a high school camp outing where a group of TEENAGERS hang around the bonfire, drinking, smoking pot. Young Madeline is with Rosemary wearing the dresses they tried on in the last flashback. Nearby is BRANDY DUPINSKI, (17) a mean girl, with her MEAN GIRL FRIENDS.

BRANDY

Check out their clothes, it's like they shop at Salvation Army.

The girls laugh. Mortified, Madeline and Rosemary hear them.

ROSEMARY

Lets go.

They start to walk away when Rosemary sees DERAY JOHNSON, 17, jock boy handsome, talking to a 19 year old Levi.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

Such a hottie.

YOUNG MADELINE

My brother?

ROSEMARY

No. Gross. Deray.

Deray glances at them and nods at Madeline.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

That seriously just happened.

YOUNG MADELINE

It did, right?

ROSEMARY

You have to hook up with him.

But Madeline looks super nervous. Rosemary holds out her red party cup.

ROSEMARY (CONT'D)

Liquid courage. Just have one drink, prude, it'll make you totally loosey goosey.

Madeline isn't sure. But then she reaches for the drink sealing her fate, a FLASH BULB POPS!

INT. KISA BELL'S RECORDING STUDIO - CONTINUOUS

Madeline stares forward, still rattled by the memory.

KISA

What was it like being publicly portrayed as the opposite of who you really are?

MADELINE

At first I thought no one would believe it. But then once the image started to take hold I'd shift from rage to devastation. To think people really believed I was that person, especially at 18 years old, it shatters you, totally destroys all your self worth. And then to be convicted of a murder, of someone you love, that you didn't commit by a person creating an image of you that is false...it...well it's something you never get over.

KISA

So you're still angry about it all these years later?

MADELINE

Not angry. Enraged. But that's why I do this for a living, so I can channel that rage into helping other people who went through what I why went through.

KISA

Do you think the rage will ever go away?

Madeline stares at her, almost a little desperate.

MADELINE

I hope so, I really do. But I fear
it never will.

INT. MADELINE'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Madeline is sleeping on the floor next to her bed. She can't sleep in an actual bed, even though she still keeps one. She bolts up awake with some energy, she's got an idea!

INT. LAW OFFICES - LIBRARY - DAY

Bodie is talking to an annoyed Kisa who tries to work.

BODIE

You seriously liked Phantom Menace?

KISA

Yup. Best movie ever.

BODIE

Well, maybe we can watch it
together and I can change my mind.

KISA

Nope.

Just then - Madeline sticks her head in.

MADELINE

Bodie, I need to speak to you.

Kisa bolts out of the room to leave them alone.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

She's doesn't like Phantom Menace,
she's just trying to piss you off.

The reality of this hits Bodie. Madeline holds out an advertisement for recruiting firefighters.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Engine Company 93 is having an open
enrollment for new firefighters.
I want you to go undercover to a
firehouse to dig into how the fire
started. They'll be much more open
to a recruit asking questions.

Bodie nods, he's on it.

EXT. DOYLESTOWN - SOCCER FIELD - EVENING

A postcard perfect town of 8,000 just north of Philly. Levi coaches Under-12 boys, looks totally different with the kids then at home. Alive and enthusiastic, he's a great coach.

LEVI
Come on, guys! Keep hustling!

Across the field, BRANDY HUSBAND, (36) (Brandy Dupinski from the flashback) sees Levi and jabs her husband, BRIAN (36).

EXT. PARKING LOT - EVENING

Brian and Brandy startle Levi, yelling at him from their truck as he's loading soccer balls into his Ford Pick up.

BRANDY
Hey! It's not enough you don't have the decency to move to some other town, now your sister's using the girl you two murdered to spring another psycho killer?!

Levi ignores them, climbs into his truck. But Brian pulls his car up, blocking his exit. Brian and Brandy step out of the car, red-faced with rage. Brian holds a crow bar.

BRIAN
You people are sick.

LEVI
Please get out of the way.

BRIAN
Why don't you come out here and make me.

Levi pops the clutch and hurtles his truck backwards. Brian and Brandy leap out of the way as Levi's rear bumper CRUSHES the driver's door! The huge pickup truck shovels the car sideways across the asphalt lot!

Then, Levi sticks his head out the window.

LEVI
We didn't kill anyone. Sorry about the car.

And with that, he peels away.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. DOYLESTOWN MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE - ELEVATOR - DAY

Pissed and late, Madeline rushes into the elevator. The doors glide closed behind her before Madeline recognizes Brandy, her high-school tormentor, in the elevator. Madeline slightly regresses to awkward high school girl.

MADELINE

Brandy? Oh. Hey. Sorry, I didn't recognize you at first.

BRANDY

Well, I'm not parading around the tv all the time, am I?

MADELINE

No. I guess not. Why are you here at a court?

BRANDY

Because your drug addict brother nearly killed me and my husband. I take it you're defending him?

MADELINE

Brian Husband is your husband? So your name is now 'Brandy Husband?'

BRANDY

You have a problem with that?

MADELINE

Absolutely not. It is godlike in its perfection.

Ding! The elevator rings open and Madeline steps out.

BRANDY

I'm glad you've recovered enough from Rosemary's death to make everything into a big joke. Most of us in town think you two killed her and we always will.

The door shuts on sucker punched Madeline.

INT. CAMPSITE - **FLASHBACK**

Young Madeline is totally drunk, dancing around the party, the opposite of the nerdy girl we've seen, we see a STUDENT taking those fateful pictures. Brandy comes up to her.

BRANDY
 Hey Maddy, I knew there was fun
 girl deep down.

Madeline throws up her arms and yells with Brandy:

YOUNG MADELINE AND BRANDY
 SENIOR TRIP!!!!

Then Brandy whispers to her.

BRANDY
 Deray is waiting for you in his
 tent if you wanna hook up with him.

YOUNG MADELINE
 Are you serious?

Brandy nods and takes her over to a tent. She opens it up to
 reveal Deray is getting a blow job from another GIRL.

BRANDY
 Ooops! Guess not!

Then Madeline sees that the girl is...Rosemary Lynch.

INT. CRIMINAL COURTROOM - A MOMENT LATER

Levi Scott is about to be arraigned when Madeline steps in.
 Levi gives her a look of anger, we see blame in his eyes. She
 takes this in, knows he's mad at her. Then whispers:

MADELINE
 Sorry, bud.

He nods, accepting her apology. Then Madeline turns to the
 Judge, all business.

MADELINE (CONT'D)
 Madeline Scott, counsel for the
 defendant, your honor.

JUDGE
 And how do you plead?

MADELINE
 As always in our family, not
 guilty, your honor.

INT. COURTHOUSE LOBBY - DAY

They hurry out of the courtroom, but Levi still looks pissed
 as he hurries away, Madeline keeps up with him.

MADELINE

Come on, assault charges dropped
and all you have to do is pay for
the damages, this is a big win.

He turns to her, a deep frustration in his pained face.

LEVI

It's always about you. Every thing
is about what you want, what
happened to you, your trauma. Well
what about the rest of us?! Every
time you're on TV someone sneers in
my face, calls me a murderer. Did
you ever think about what your
crusades do to mom and dad?

MADELINE

What do you want me to do? Crawl in
a hole and die?

LEVI

No, I want you to think about how
your actions effect your family.

He nods to Brandy and Brian who glare from down the hall.

LEVI (CONT'D)

Because while you're off being
famous, we're the ones that have to
deal with the Lynch Mob.

And with that he leaves her behind. Madeline watches him go,
filled with guilt. Then she hears from behind her -

DYLAN

Is your brother okay?

MADELINE

No.

DYLAN

Think we talk about Rincon? I'm
metro now. Your international dream
guy scenario is over.

MADELINE

You're still dreamy on this
continent, but I can't discuss it.

DYLAN

How about I take you to dinner and
give the story to someone else.

MADELINE

You'd lose a story for a date?

DYLAN
With you? Yes.

MADELINE
I can't. I have...I'm with someone.
Off the record.

DYLAN
Oh. I didn't know.

MADELINE
Don't worry, you're not missing
much. I'm terrible in bed.

She walks away. Dylan watches her go, even more charmed.

INT. DR. MACARTHUR'S OFFICE - DAY

A confused DR. MACARTHUR (65) holds a DVD labeled "Rincon Confession" up to Easy.

DR. MACARTHUR
I don't understand. I'm not trained
in forensic psychiatry, I'm a
marriage counsellor.

EASY
I know, I know, but every forensic
psychiatrist on the East Coast
refuses to look at Lucy's whack-a
doodle confession. She's too toxic,
no one will come near this.

DR. MACARTHUR
But this isn't appropriate for me--

EASY
A woman's life is at stake and I'm
running out of time. I just need
help making sense of her behavior.
If you could just watch it once,
then we can talk about Irene, my
unpaid mortgages and every other
part of my life that's spiraling
out of control. I need your help.

INT. KISA'S STUDIO - DAY

A new type of podcast. Kisa and Easy are crowd sourcing.

KISA
Welcome to a special 'Hive Mind'
episode of Until Proven Innocent.
(MORE)

KISA (CONT'D)

Our investigation is spinning out on this one detail. And that's where we need your help. Easy?

EASY

So, right after the fire, Lucy remembers a paramedic giving her an injection, but there's nothing about this in the file. Which bumped a little for me and Madeline, but wasn't a huge red flag until I showed Lucianna Rincon's confession video to a psychiatrist friend of the firm.

KISA

I'm sure you all remember that infamous video. Lucy's antics are unforgettably crazy.

EASY

The psychiatrist told me it was clear Lucy was suffering from some kind of physical brain injury or trauma - not a psychotic episode which the prosecution claimed. This brought me back to the mystery injection that police gave Lucy. I wondered if the injection somehow created the craziness in the video.

KISA

So scary to even contemplate. So let's hear it from you guys. Anybody have a clue what they might have injected her with? Is this normal? Sinister? Neither? Any doctors or medics out there? What could this mystery shot have been? If you care about justice, then help us with this injustice.

INT. BROADSTREET MISSION - DAY

The mission's dining hall bustles, doling out hot meals to the homeless. DAMIAN RINCON, 40's, intense and wiry, directs the volunteers in Spanish. Madeline walks up to him.

MADELINE

Mr. Rincon? You're not an easy man to find. I'm your wife's new lawyer. I'd like to speak to you--

But he sprints through a door into the kitchen! Madeline takes off running after him as she vaults over the chrome serving table!

EXT. ALLEY - A MOMENT LATER

Madeline catches up to Rincon, who's making a b-line for a street car that's about to take off.

MADELINE

Rincon! Lucy is in prison because
of what you told the police!

He harangues her in Spanish but doesn't slow down. Then hops up onto the steps of the street car. She steps on behind him, but Rincon SHOVES Madeline hard!

She crashes down onto the asphalt, knees first. Ouch! She watches the streetcar take off as she fishes her phone out of her pocket. The voice memo app is open and recording.

INT. FIREHOUSE LUNCHROOM - SAME

Bodie sits in a firehouse with a bunch of other exhausted candidates eating lunch. Bodie notices a local news station reporting on Lucianna's case. He points to the TV.

BODIE

What do you guys think about that
Luciferina deal? Arson? Not Arson?

He might as well have tossed a match into a puddle of gas. Every one gives an opinion.

OLD-TIMER

They wouldn't know a deliberate
from an accidental combustion if
you lit his robe on fire!

THE CHIEF (O.S.)

That fire was 2004, wasn't it?

BODIE

Yes it was, Chief. December 2004.

THE CHIEF

So there you have it.

BODIE

What happened in 2004?

THE CHIEF

Charcoal Christmas, son. Charcoal
Christmas.

INT. KISA'S STUDIO - DAY

Kisa and Easy are still taking calls on the injection, a STONED CALLER weighs in:

CALLER (V.O.)
 Maybe they were trying to
 administer the death penalty right
 then and there--

The Caller starts giggling. Kisa cuts him off.

KISA
 And thank you King Refer for your
 ridiculous opinions. Come on,
 people, a woman's life is at stake,
 please try to take this seriously.
 We have another caller.

She presses a button as they hear a FEMALE VOICE -

AIRPARA (V.O.)
 Hello? Ah, sorry, but you guys have
 it wrong. There was nothing
 nefarious at all because Rincon
 didn't get a shot. She had her
 blood drawn. But she was shook up,
 so I could see her misremembering.

Easy sits up, this is interesting.

EASY
 Can I ask how you know all that?

AIRPARA (V.O.)
 I'm the one who did the draw.

Easy and Kisa sit up at attention. Holy fuck!

EASY
 We'll call you right back on a
 private line.

Then Easy and Kisa high five!

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. PRIVATE MEDICAL LAB - EVENING

Easy is in a upscale medical lab meeting up with AIRPARA, the paramedic who called in. They're in a small waiting area.

EASY

You sure this is where you brought the blood sample?

AIRPARA

Absolutely. After I did the draw I brought the sample straight here.

A young LAB TECHNICIAN appears, shaking her head grimly.

LAB TECHNICIAN

Bad news, we did receive a blood sample on that date, but it was destroyed in 2011. Protocol.

Finger to her lips, she slides a document across the counter. It's the lab report, marked DO NOT COPY.

LAB TECHNICIAN (CONT'D)

Please, tell Kisa I love her podcast and wish I could've been more helpful.

A thrilled Easy gives her a grateful nod.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - LAW OFFICE - DAY

Madeline, Easy and Kisa sit at the conference table, stunned by the buried lab report that Easy holds up.

EASY

So this is unbelievable. Her labs show she was suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. She's lucky to be alive.

Madeline points to pictures of Lucy's demented mug shot.

MADELINE

Her entire satanic public image was in reality a woman who was poisoned after the death of her son.

EASY

It's exactly what Bellows did to you.

KISA

The good news is I think we just destroyed her confession.

All business, Madeline points to a picture of Damian Rincon.

MADELINE

So this leaves the other largest piece of evidence against Lucy, the statement of her ex-husband.

EASY

How did your meeting go with him?

MADELINE

He wouldn't talk, I think Bellows' goons scared him into silence. Fortunately, he only half-ass complied and I taped it.

EASY

That's illegal, counsellor.

MADELINE

I know, I feel terrible.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Google translate stumbled a little with the slang, but I got the gist:
(reads from her notes)
'It's all garbage. Leave me alone.'

EASY

What's garbage?

Madeline pulls out Rincon's police statement from her file.

MADELINE

I looked through his original statement he gave the police, it's written in flawless English. This wasn't a transcription, it was a translation.

EASY

So he couldn't have even read it to know what he was signing. The 'translator' could have written anything for his statement.

MADELINE

Exactly. We need to confirm that this is actually what he said in his statement, and if it's not we need him on the record refuting it.

KISA

How do we get him to do that if he
won't even talk to us?

From behind them, they hear -

BODIE

Let me try.

They all turn to see Bodie standing in the doorway.

BODIE (CONT'D)

The bad news is I'm not going to be
a fireman at Engine Company 93. The
good news is Madeline sent me right
to the guys who know everything
about arson. Everything.

He passes around copies of a brief he's drawn up.

BODIE (CONT'D)

Early in 2005, a Jersey based
importer was hit with a class
action suit claiming its cheap
string-lights caused over sixty
Christmas tree fires. It looks like
Lucy's fire was an accident from
faulty Christmas lights.

EASY

Can we prove she owned those
lights?

BODIE

Probably not--

Madeline jumps up, getting excited.

MADELINE

--but we have a logical explanation
for how the fire started. We got a
real case, people!

(To Bodie)

Track down Rincon again while I
draw up an amended petition and get
him to admit his original testimony
was inaccurate--

EASY

Wait, wait, we can't file this yet.
Once it's public record, Bellows
has nothing to lose so he won't cut
a deal.

MADELINE

But it's the perfect way to shove
this whole thing up his ass.

(MORE)

MADELINE (CONT'D)
 Destroying damaging blood tests
 alone will show how corrupt his
 case was and blow up his campaign.

EASY
 But it's not in Lucy's best
 interest. We have to go to Bellows
 first and see if he'll make a deal.

MADELINE
 But then he can pull what he did
 with Harvey Birbeck and turn this
 into him playing the good guy.

EASY
 I know you want to humiliate him
 but what matters is Lucy. Just us
 having this information could get
 him to release her. We have to try
 that first or we're putting
 ourselves ahead of our client.

KISA
 I hate Bellows too, but we have to
 protect Lucy first.

Madeline nods, she knows they're right.

MADELINE
 Lets do it. Go to Bellows and see
 if he'll cut a deal.

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Levi coaches a soccer practice when the AYSO Administrator,
 DOUG PARKER, blue collar, heavy, comes over to Levi.

DOUG PARKER
 Hey Levi, I gotta talk to you.
 Look, I hate to do this, but we're
 gonna have to let you go.

LEVI
 (Stunned)
 What? Why?

DOUG PARKER
 That thing with Brian Husband
 pushed some people over the edge. I
 tried to fight it, but with the
 prison thing and the drugs--

LEVI
 --I've been clean for years. This
 is all I got. I love these kids.

DOUG PARKER

My hands are tied. I'm sorry, Levi.

Levi stares at him, truly devastated.

EXT. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BRIDGE - DAWN

The Benjamin Franklin Bridge is shrouded in fog. Bellows runs on the deserted pedestrian path. He slows when he sees Easy leaning against the rail, waiting for him.

EASY

Nice spot for a jog. Up above all that carbon monoxide.

Bellows stops, knows that something is up.

EASY (CONT'D)

Lucy Rincon's confession. She was suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning when she gave it. And I have the blood test to prove it.

INT. BELLOWS' OFFICE - AN HOUR LATER

Bellows sits working his jaw as he reads over the toxicology report. He slides the report back to Easy across the table.

BELLOWS

We've been down this road before, this isn't enough to free her.

EASY

Not quite the same road. More like a campaign trail. Imagine you're a reporter who finds out that two state police detectives took advantage of a young mother's smoke addled state of mind to convince her she murdered her own son then destroyed the blood test that proved her confession was false. That story would turn any boring Attorney General race into a blockbuster, don't ya think?

Easy slides file back across the table to Bellows.

BELLOWS

Alford Plea. Time served for manslaughter. The blood screen stays buried. Announced at a joint press conference with Madeline Scott, smiling for the cameras.

EASY

She pleads to child endangerment.
And no guarantees on the smiling.
Madeline can be moody.

EXT. PRISON PARKING LOT - DAY

Madeline and Easy pull into the lot at almost exactly the same moment and take side-by-side spaces.

MADELINE

So bad news. The Pfeiffer's want
their donation back.

EASY

That's the fifth since we took this
case. This is bad. We're bleeding
money on this case.

MADELINE

Don't worry, they'll all come back.

He stares at her deeply worried they won't.

INT. ATTORNEY/CLIENT VISITATION - LATER

Easy and Madeline sit with Lucy who reads the blood test.

EASY

You were suffering from severe
carbon monoxide poisoning from
smoke inhalation.

LUCY

What happened to my Angel?

EASY

Smoke inhalation impacts children
faster. Angel died in his sleep.

MADELINE

I'm so sorry.

LUCY

I was so ashamed, I always believed
it was my fault. Thank you. Even if
I stay in prison for ten lifetimes
I already won.

EASY

You may not have to go back at all.
You've been offered what's called
an Alford Plea. If you plead guilty
to child endangerment, they'll
release you based on time served.

LUCIANNA
I could go home?

EASY
With a \$310,000 settlement check.

LUCIANNA
They would pay me? Why?

MADELINE
To buy your silence. And ours. This scandal could end Bellows' career which I would love to see happen, but what I want more than that is for you to finally go home.

LUCIANNA
But then nobody would know? Everyone would still think I'm that psycho goth queen when this paper shows why I said those crazy things. Can't we do it normal? Won't the judge believe me?

EASY
We can try but that's far from guaranteed.

LUCIANNA
What do you think I should do?

EASY
Neither of us can answer that. This is not a legal question, it's a value judgement.

MADELINE
But I can tell you I was offered an Alford plea in my case and turned it down. I would rather have stayed in prison than have the world think I was murderer.

Easy subtly cringes in frustration. Knows what she's doing.

LUCIANNA
And then you won in court?

MADELINE
Yup. My original sentence was vacated.

LUCIANNA
And if that happens they can never try me again, right? Cuz of the Double Jeopardy thing?

EASY

Double Jeopardy only applies if you're found, 'Actually Innocent', which Madeline wasn't. It doesn't apply to vacated rulings.

MADELINE

But if an appeals court throws out a wrongful conviction, the cases are never tried again. Never. You don't need an 'Actual Innocent' ruling to feel you're name is cleared. The act of throwing out the ruling cleared my name.

EASY

To most people.

Lucianna thinks about it, a big decision. Then -

LUCIANNA

I wanna go to court. The world needs to know I didn't kill my son. They need to know who I really am.

Easy can barely hide how pissed he is.

INT. BELLOWS HOME - GARAGE - NIGHT

In a home gym in his garage, Bellows is doing 'speed-work' on a heavy canvass punching bag - throwing very fast punches. His wife opens the door, she looks nervous, has bad news.

LISA BELLOWS

Your office just called. They're rejecting the plea deal.

Bellows looks sucker punched. Lisa knows what this means.

LISA BELLOWS (CONT'D)

You're gonna need to punch back.

Bellows nods. Knows she's right. She walks back into the house as Bellows turns back to the bag and unleashes dozens of punches, ripping his knuckles on the canvass. CLOSE ON: the punching bag - Dried blood from top to bottom.

INT. KISA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Kisa in her hip pad having sex with STEWART SPEERS, 30's, a British bad boy with spiky hair, it's pretty hot and heavy.

STEWART
Will you talk to me?

KISA
What?

STEWART
I love your voice from the show.

She finds it odd, but then starts whispers in his ear -

KISA
On this weeks episode of 'Until
Proven Innocent' we find a man
convicted of murder--
(She stops)
Okay, out.

STEWART
What?

KISA
Get out.

STEWART
Are you serious?

KISA
Yes. Consider it payback for the
war of 1812.

He looks even more confused.

KISA (CONT'D)
Out!

He then hurries out holding his clothes. Kisa looks dejected and annoyed. She grabs her phone and makes a call, gets a VM -

BODIE V.O.
This is Bodie and I'm currently on
the planet Mustafar searching for
Darth Vader's original sanctuary.

BEEP! Kisa thinks for a minute, then hangs up.

INT. PRISON - ATTORNEY CLIENT VISITATION - SAME

Madeline is once again waiting for Rey after seeing Lucy.
This time when she comes in, Rey has a black eye.

MADELINE
What happened?

REY

Couple of guards cornered me
yesterday. They mentioned you.

MADELINE

It's intimidation. Bellows is
trying to get to me through you.

REY

Why does everything you touch get
hurt? It's like you're blessed with
some magical gift of destruction.

MADELINE

I'm just trying to help people who
are going through the same
nightmare I went through.

REY

What about me? How are you helping
me?

MADELINE

You're not innocent.

Rey grins at her.

REY

And that's why you like me.
Are you innocent?

MADELINE

What?

REY

You're the most selfish person I
ever met. I wouldn't be surprised
if you really did kill Rosemary.

Madeline can't believe she said that, she walks to the door.

MADELINE

I'm leaving.

REY

And don't come back.

Madeline stops at the door and stares at her.

MADELINE

You really mean that?

Rey doesn't answer. Madeline leaves. Rey sits there alone,
her bravado falls away as she sits there in pain.

INT. PRISON - HALLWAY - DAY

Madeline stands outside the door her eyes shut in pain. She looks back at the room, deciding if she wants to go back in.

INT. PRISON LIBRARY - **FLASHBACK**

Young Madeline walks into the prison library, looks around, she seems nervous. Rey is in their stacking books.

REY

You need some help?

YOUNG MADELINE

Where are the legal books?

Rey grins at her, she's not the first prisoner who wants to study law. Rey takes her to a stack of legal books. Madeline stares at them, nervous, not sure she wants to do this.

REY

Don't be scared. A little knowledge never hurt anyone. Except for Adam, but Eve was a manipulative vixen.

Rey grabs a book and holds it out to her.

REY (CONT'D)

Start with this, it's law 101.

Young Madeline grins at her new friend as she reaches for her first law book...

EXT. PRISON - PARKING LOT - DAY

Madeline sits in her car, staring forward, still caught up in the past. She then takes out her cell phone and makes a call.

MADELINE

I was thinking about your offer.

INT. NEWS ROOM - DAY - INTERCUT

Dylan sits at his desk in a crowded newsroom.

DYLAN

My offer?

MADELINE

Dinner. I can't promise I won't be awkward, but if you still want to--

DYLAN

Yes. I'd love to. Saturday night?

Madeline grins, maybe even blushing a little.

MADELINE

Okay, lets do it.

Dylan hangs up and then turns to his passing by editor, JOE WELCH, male, 50's, old school crass.

DYLAN

Got a line on Madeline Scott.

JOE

Everyone loves a Madeline Scott story. Find something new and you'll get great placement.

DYLAN

I'm on it.

INT. LEVI'S STUDIO APARTMENT - DAY

Levi sits in his bleak empty apartment, similar to Madeline's, like a prison cell. He is holding a bottle of pills, staring at them. He doesn't want to take one, but he can't help it. He opens the bottle and pops a pill.

EXT. INNOCENCE PROJECT/LAW FIRM - EVENING

Easy warily heads up the stairs toward the front door.

IRENE BOUDREAU

Ezekiel! Daniel! Boudreau!

His soon-to-be ex wife, IRENE BOUDREAU (45), is closing ground waving a bank statement as if it were a flag of war.

IRENE BOUDREAU (CONT'D)

Fifty thousand dollars!? Are you out of your goddamn mind?

EASY

I had no choice, Irene. The firm is running out of money. We needed a short term cash infusion.

IRENE

Oh, how lovely, I see you found another Madeline Scott to bankrupt our family over.

INT. MADELINE'S OFFICE - A MOMENT LATER

Madeline and Bodie sort through Lucy's medical records.

BODIE
So what are we looking for exactly?

MADELINE
I wanna go through all of Lucy's medical records pre-fire to affirm her mental state was not that of someone who would murder her child.

Bodie nods, they start going through the papers. Then -

BODIE
Do you think Kisa hooks up with so many guys because she's scared?

MADELINE
Of what?

BODIE
That her love for me won't be reciprocated.

MADELINE
Seriously, Bodie, you don't have a shot.

BODIE
I don't have a shot yet.

Then Bodie finds something in one of the files -

BODIE (CONT'D)
Lucy had a miscarriage.

Madeline bolts up, knows exactly what this means:

MADELINE
Her husband's statement against her was motivated by the fact that she had an abortion, he didn't know it was a miscarriage. Show this to Rincon. Maybe he'll cooperate now.

Bodie jumps to his feet, he opens the door which lets in the sounds of Easy and Irene arguing.

EASY
Take it out of my half of the equity in the damn house!

IRENE
Your equity is long blown, Zeke!

Easy slams into his office.

INT. EASY'S OFFICE - DAY

Easy stares forward, frustrated, as Madeline comes in.

MADELINE
You okay?

EASY
She still wants to get a divorce.

MADELINE
Do you?

EASY
No. But she'll only take me back if I leave the firm. She says this place is killing our marriage.

MADELINE
And are you considering it?

EASY
I shouldn't be. It should be a simple no. But with you as a partner, *nothing* is simple. I gave up my whole life for this. And you're trying to burn it down over a vendetta with Bellows. You manipulated our client into rejecting the plea deal even though it was best for her. People get disbarred for less!

MADELINE
Half-a-life time later, when I hear people still believe I killed Rosemary Lynch, I wanna puke and cry at the same time. Angel was Lucy's child. That kid was her world, and he's gone forever. All she has left is her name. I want to get it back for her the way you got me back mine. She can't truly be free if the world thinks she's a killer.

EASY
And she's not gonna get her name back if she ends up in jail for the rest of her life.

(MORE)

EASY (CONT'D)
I want to take down Bellows too,
but I won't sacrifice a woman's
life to do it.

MADELINE
We're going to win this. And then
the donors will come back and
everything will be fine.

EASY
And if they don't come back, then
we're done. Doors closed for good.

Madeline stares at him, terrified it came to this.

EXT. BROADSTREET MISSION - NIGHT

Rincon gives a fiery street corner sermon for his homeless
congregation. Bodie watches from the shadows.

DAMIÁN RINCON
(Spanish, subtitles)
He is the minister of God, if thou
do that which is evil, be afraid!

CUT TO - LATER. Bodie approaches Rincon as he packs up.

BODIE
Rincon, I need to speak to you.

Rincon blows out two dozen 99cent Store candles, each glass
cylinder is painted with Biblical images. They've been
burning so long, the wax has melted to clear liquid.

BODIE (CONT'D)
I think you want to see this.

Bodie sets a document on top of the remaining candles. We see
it's a hospital discharge record.

BODIE (CONT'D)
Lucy didn't have an abortion, it
was a miscarriage.

Rincon reaches to pick up the paper, but instead...

...he flings a jar full of the molten wax in Bodie's face! He
screams and stumbles back as Rincon grabs a glass candle jar
and shatters it right into Bodie's face!

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

EXT. CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE - MORNING

Madeline, Easy and Kisa walk up the steps toward the courthouse. It's game time. Bellows and his team also hurry up the stairs, hostile glances are exchanged.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

As JUDGE GAYLE ROVNER takes the bench, Madeline and Easy huddle with Kisa, who's numb with fear.

MADELINE
Anything from Bodie yet?

KISA
Not a text. Not a call. Nothing.

Before Madeline can interject -

JUDGE ROVNER
Morning, Counselors. As I am very familiar with Mrs. Rincon's original trial, having presided over it, if there's no objection, I will dispense with your openings and direct traffic from the bench.

BELLOWS
The Commonwealth does not object.

JUDGE ROVNER
That was a rhetorical question.
Bailiff, the tweeter.

The judge signals her BAILIFF by dragging a finger across her neck and points at Kisa. He marches directly over to her.

BAILIFF
I need you to gather your belongings and exit the courtroom.

As Kisa gathers her belonging, Lucianna whispers to Madeline, eyeing Judge Rovner warily.

LUCIANNA
She's even meaner then she was on my first trial.

Madeline gives Easy a look, this is gonna be tough.

INT. DUNKIN DONUTS - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Headphones on, Kisa sits in a red plastic booth at Dunkin Donuts, griping into her portable podcasting setup.

KISA (INTO MIC)

Some jackass spotted me tweeting and got me booted. Oh, and Bodie disappeared and at this point I'm pretty sure he's dead. On an up note, the manager of the Dunkin Donuts let me set up here, so looks like it's sugar, fat, and sorrow for breakfast. Not unlike the guy on my last Bumble date. Minus the sugar.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Judge Rovner flips through Madeline and Easy's brief.

JUDGE ROVNER

And how do we know Mrs. Rincon used this brand of Christmas lights?

MADELINE

A class action suit bankrupted the manufacturer, but we confirmed the Wal-Mart a mile from Mrs. Rincon's home did carry them. Exclusively.

JUDGE ROVNER

Did the Wal-Mart burn down too?

BELLOWS

Agreed, your honor. Commonwealth objects to this line of reasoning based on its failure to satisfy the unavailability of evidence.

JUDGE ROVNER

I'm inclined to agree with Mr. Bellows. The statute is unequivocal: evidence available but not presented at the time of trial cannot be later introduced during post conviction relief proceedings.

EASY

Your honor, the determination of the fire's cause was not made until six years later, after an exhaustive investigation by the Consumer Protection Department.

(MORE)

EASY (CONT'D)

The defense wasn't able to admit evidence at the original trial that didn't exist for another six years.

JUDGE ROVNER

Nice try, Mr. Boudreau, but I'll stick with my interpretation.

A pissed off Madeline jumps to her feet.

MADELINE

That was not our interpretation, it is settled precedent.

JUDGE ROVNER

You say tomato...I say next issue.

Madeline sits back down as Bellows tries not to smile. Tries. Lucianna whispers, panic rising in her voice.

LUCIANNA

She don't care about none of that? None of it counts?

INT. DUNKIN' DONUTS - SAME

Kisa is still holed up in the back booth of her new HQ.

KISA

Whenever I get on Bodie for risking his life, he says, what do you want me to do, call 911 and say 'Hey I got a hot tip on a 1996 murder you already solved, can you send SWAT out?' He cares more about our clients' than he does his own safety. And I love him for that.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

The judge's brutal tone has set the entire courtroom on edge.

JUDGE ROVNER

Appellant suggest this newly discovered toxicology report impeaches Mrs. Rincon's confession. What was the strange behavior?

BELLOWS

The record doesn't indicate, I can--

MADELINE

She was 'walking funny,' your Honor. Per the officers' activity report.

(MORE)

MADELINE (CONT'D)
 'Disturbance of gait' is a text
 book symptom of carbon monoxide
 poisoning along with confusion,
 bizarre behavior, visual
 disturbances and confabulation.

BELLOWS
 Terms too broad to have any--

MADELINE
 Confabulation is defined as the
 fabrication of imaginary
 experiences and events, especially
 to compensate for total memory
 loss. I find this to be exceedingly
 relevant, your honor.

INT. DUNKIN DONUTS - DAY

Bodie steps into the donut shop. He cowers when he sees Kisa charging at him, pissed. She crashes into him with a hug.

KISA
 Goddamn you! Don't ever do that!

She notices both his eyes are black and swollen, and the bridge of his nose is split and oozing blood.

KISA (CONT'D)
 Oh my Go--

BODIE
 I'm fine, I'm fine. Rincon admitted
 everything! It was all made up! His
 entire statement was false!

KISA
 Don't tell me! Tell them! Go!

BODIE
 I know, I know!
 (bolts but turns back)
 Driving over, I heard what you
 said. It was really nice--

KISA
 I meant most of it. Like 40%.

Bodie grins, he'll take it, then he runs across the street.

INT. COURTROOM / HALLWAY - A MOMENT LATER

As Bodie approaches, it sounds like a full-fledged riot in the courtroom.

He opens the door, stunned to find a raging three-way argument between Bellows, Madeline and Rovner. As Bodie approaches Easy, the only word he can make out is...

JUDGE ROVNER
Tomato! Tomato! Tomato!

EASY
My God, Bodie. Are you okay?

BODIE
I'm great. We got him.

Bodie opens a cardboard folder to reveal an affidavit from Damián Rincon. Easy's gears shift instantly, he jumps up.

EASY
Your honor, our investigator was assaulted. May we have a recess?

Bodie starts to say 'I'm fine,' but Easy shoves the file hard into Bodie's gut, instantly shutting him up.

JUDGE ROVNER
Jesus, you look like Hell.
Adjourned for thirty minutes.

INT. HALLWAY - COURTROOM - DAY

Madeline and Easy are both looking over the documents as Bodie continues to bleed. Madeline grins at Bodie.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Madeline and Easy stand before Judge Rovner. Bellows eyes them, really worried they've got something good.

MADELINE
We move to submit a sworn affidavit from Damián Rincon in which he repudiates his entire inculpatory statements against the defendant.

BELLOWS
Objection! Your honor, as the court well knows, recantation evidence is highly disfavored and unreliable.

MADELINE
Mr. Rincon has repudiated, not recanted. It appears that entire paragraphs of his statement were fabricated by the translator.

BELLOWS

These are unsubstantiated
allegations against--

JUDGE ROVNER

Nope. I'm intrigued. Continue.

MADELINE

Appellant would submit Exhibit 'P'.
A plea bargain in which the
translator admits to obstruction of
justice and perjury in dozens of
cases. He couldn't recall every
case, only the memorable ones, like
Commonwealth v. Rincon.

The murmur of excitement edges towards an outright roar.

JUDGE ROVNER

Mr. Quick, can I ask who did that
to your face?

BODIE

Mr. Rincon, your honor.

JUDGE ROVNER

So he drove with you to a notary to
admit his statements were
fabricated then attacked you?

BODIE

No, your honor. He attacked me and
then we drove to the notary. He was
more helpful after I was bleeding.

Judge Rovner turns on Bellows. She looks really unhappy.

JUDGE ROVNER

Mr. Bellows. Did you receive notice
from the Attorney General that the
Rincon case was compromised?

BELLOWS

A general notice might have been
sent, but I will fully investigate--

JUDGE ROVNER

No need, sir. I plan to formally
request the Department of Justice
handle that investigation so that
it's not compromised.

(turning to Lucy)

Mrs. Rincon, you must feel like you
got lost in the shuffle.

LUCIANNA

I've gotten used to it, your honor.

JUDGE ROVNER

Let's see if we can do something about that. Based on the totality of the evidence, this court hereby declares that Lucianna Rincon is 'actually innocent' and shall be released from custody immediately.

Lucy throws her arms around Madeline and gives her a huge hug as she starts crying. Madeline cries too as they hold each other. Two victims that escaped injustice.

EXT. CLIFF - CAMPSITE - DAY - **FLASHBACK**

A hungover Young Madeline is taking a hike when she stops and sees Levi is holding a bloody body. He's literally covered in blood as Madeline runs over to him.

MADELINE

What happened?!

Then she sees that it's Rosemary. Right as she screams...

INT. COURTHOUSE LOBBY - A MOMENT LATER

Reporters are yelling as they pour out of court.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

Watching all this from inside an SUV is an enraged Bellows with his even angrier wife, Lisa.

LISA BELLOWS

If you don't change the story, you're dead. And I'm not just talking about the AG campaign.

BELLOWS

It'll set the international media on fire if I do this.

LISA BELLOWS

And that's a bad thing? She asked for it when she made this case about herself. Change the story.

Bellows lifts his cell phone and makes a call.

BELLOWS

We're a go.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - AT THE TOP OF THE STEPS - SAME

Lucy cowers from a mob of reporters that greet her.

SEVERAL REPORTERS
Lucy! Lucianna! How do you feel?

LUCY
I don't want to sound ungrateful,
but mostly it feels cold.

Everyone laughs and Lucy's suddenly buried under a pile of colorful down fabric as fans and reporters alike strip off their own coats, hats, gloves. Madeline elbows Easy.

MADELINE
Already got texts from three
donors, they're giving their money
back.

EASY
Thank the Lord.

They spot Kisa, her face is stricken as she points urgently.
They turn as eight COPS smash through the crowd.

LEAD OFFICER
Madeline Scott! You are being
placed under arrest! Remove your
hands from your pockets and--

EASY
For what charge!?

The cops shove Easy aside as they grab and handcuff Madeline.

DETECTIVE
For the murder of Rosemary Lynch.

The press loses its mind as FLASH BULBS POP on Madeline's
stunned face!

END OF PILOT