

Untitled David Elliot – Danny Strong Pilot

“Pilot Episode”

Written by

David Elliot

Revisions by Danny Strong

20<sup>th</sup> Century Studios  
Danny Strong Productions

DRAFT:  
02/26/18 WHITE PRODUCTION DRAFT  
03/10/18 FULL BLUE REVISION  
03/12/18 PINK REVISION  
03/17/18 YELLOW REVISION  
03/18/18 GREEN REVISION  
03/20/18 GOLD REVISION  
03/21/18/ SALMON REVISION  
03/26/18 TAN REVISION

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**Untitled David Elliot – Danny Strong Pilot**

**“Pilot”**

**Tan Revision  
March 26, 2018**

**CAST LIST**

MADELINE SCOTT	FRANK PARKER
YOUNG MADELINE	JUDGE – M&L TRIAL
EZEKIEL “EASY” BOUDREAU	OLD TIME FIREFIGHTER
VIOLET PRICE	THE CHIEF FIREFIGHTER
GORE BELLOWS	JOE WELCH
BODIE QUICK	MUNICIPAL JUDGE
LEVI SCOTT	LOCAL NEWS ANCHOR
YOUNG LEVI	TOBEY KISSEL
LUCIA RINCON	EDUARDO
ROSEMARY LYNCH	DETECTIVE
DYLAN PIERCE	REPORTER
ERIN “WREN” REYNOLDS	DETECTIVE WISE
YOUNG ERIN (WREN)	PROTESTER
JUDGE JANET SPEER	
BRIAN HUSBAND	
GRETA BELLOWS	<u>V.O. CALLS</u>
HARVEY BIRKBECK	911 OPERATOR
DAMIAN RINCON	CALLER (PODCAST)
HEATHER HUSBAND	FEMALE VOICE (PODCAST)
YOUNG HEATHER (DUPINSKI)	
JACK SCOTT	
HELEN SCOTT	
DEPUTY SHERIFF	
DR. LIONEL TURNER	
CALEB GREEVES	
JUSTICE (BIRKBECK)	

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**SET LIST**

**INTERIORS**

INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP  
VIOLET'S REC STUDIO  
HALLWAY  
MADELINE'S OFFICE  
CONFERENCE ROOM  
KITCHENETTE  
EASY'S OFFICE  
SITTING AREA  
COURTROOM (M&L TRIAL)  
CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURT  
COURTROOM  
ROTUNDA  
LOBBY  
BACK OF COURTROOM  
MADELINE'S APARTMENT  
BEDROOM  
LIVING ROOM  
SCOTT FAMILY HOME  
MADELINE'S BEDROOM  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
STAGE  
BELLOWS' OFFICE  
LOGAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
CELL BLOCK  
ATTORNEY/CLIENT  
VISITATION ROOM  
HALLWAY OUTSIDE-  
VISITATION ROOM  
CENTER TOWER WALKWAY  
MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE  
HALLWAY  
COURTROOM  
LOBBY  
DR. TURNER'S OFFICE  
FIREHOUSE – LUNCHROOM  
NEWS ROOM  
LEVI'S TRUCK  
SUV

**EXTERIORS**

ALLEYWAY CENTRAL ILLINOIS  
DILAPIDATED ROW HOUSE  
CAMPSITE  
BOTTOM OF A CLIFF  
CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE  
STEPS  
LOGAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER  
INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP  
SCOTT FAMILY HOME  
SOCCER FIELD (CHICAGO SUBURB)  
SOCCER FIELD PARKING LOT  
MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE  
STEPS  
TRANQUIL URBAN PARK  
ALLEYWAY – SOUTHSIDE  
HOPE PARK

**EXT/INT**

CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURT LOBBY/STEPS

**ACT ONE**

1 OMITTED 1

A1 EXT. ALLEYWAY - CENTRAL ILLINOIS - NIGHT A1

A black Jeep drives down a derelict alley.

2 EXT. DILAPIDATED ROW HOUSE - URBAN CHICAGO - NIGHT 2

The Jeep parks in front of a dilapidated house. MADELINE SCOTT (35), tough, a cool exterior that hides a sadness underneath, steps up 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 Birkbeck.

There is a slight beat. His hostility fades.

GREEVES (O.S.)

Harve still up over at Statesville?

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 can'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

You're Madeline Scott.

3

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

3

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.

4

EXT. DILAPIDATED ROW HOUSE - NIGHT - **PRESENT DAY**

4

Madeline stares back at him, totally calm.

MADELINE

That's right.

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

People know I'm here. You take me out there's gonna be ten more 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 (V.O.)

911. What is your emergency?

She looks at the dead body, not sure what to say.

MADELINE

What happens to a dog when the owner dies?

911 OPERATOR (V.O.)

Ma'm? 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.

5 EXT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE - STEPS - MORNING

5

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

VIOLET (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!

VIOLET (O.S.) (CONT'D)

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

GORE BELLOWS (58) leads an entourage of heavy-hitting STATE'S ATTORNEYS up the courthouse steps. The crowd jeers.

6 INT. VIOLET'S RECORDING STUDIO - SAME

6

Headphones on, VIOLET PRICE, early 40s, sharp and funny in an NPR kinda way, livestreams her podcast.

VIOLET

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.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

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

(To Madeline)

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

MADELINE

Yes it is.

VIOLET

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

7 INT. MADELINE & LEVI TRIAL - COURTROOM - DAY - **FLASHBACK**

7

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 sex  
and hedonistic greed. This is a  
about a teenager who with her whole  
life ahead of her was murdered by  
her supposed best friend.

8 INT. VIOLET'S RECORDING STUDIO - DAY - **PRESENT DAY**

8

Madeline looks filled with anger at the painful memory.

VIOLET

Are you nervous going up against  
the man who put you away?

MADELINE

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

VIOLET

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.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

And that is your law partner Easy Boudreau who I guess doesn't understand what the word 'live' means. He's giving us the warning it's time for you to go to court where we will continue our podcast.

9

INT. INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP - HALLWAY - DAY

9

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

Was it really necessary to antagonize Bellows?

MADELINE

It's always necessary.

EASY

Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end. Proverbs.

MADELINE

I'm a sinner I'm a saint, I do not feel ashamed. Meredith Brooks.

EASY

I'm your hell I'm your dream--

MADELINE AND EASY

--I'm nothing in between.

They fist bump, partners in crime. Standing at the end of the hall is BODIE QUICK, mid-30's, sharp with a nerdy edge.

BODIE

I hate to break up this amazing rendition of late 90's feminist alternative rock, but I think we have to get to court.

Just then the dog from the opening walks down the hall, Atticus. Easy shakes his head at Madeline.



MADELINE

What was I supposed to do?!

10 EXT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE - STEPS - DAY 10

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

A CHORUS OF CHEERS

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

11 INT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURT - COURTROOM - DAY 11

A JUDGE sits on the bench. Madeline, Easy and Harvey Birkbeck sit together. Gore Bellows and his team enter from the back. Madeline glares at him as we MATCH CUT TO:

12 INT. MADELINE & LEVI TRIAL - COURTROOM - DAY - **FLASHBACK** 12

A much younger Bellows stares at a terrified Young Madeline and Young Levi.

DEPUTY SHERIFF

All rise.

As Young Madeline and Levi rise to their feet, we MATCH CUT BACK TO:

13 INT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURT - COURTROOM - DAY - **PRESENT DAY** 13

Madeline. She looks slightly bothered by the memory, not expecting it to happen. Then she quickly stands up in front of the JUDGE, a little rattled, she opens her mouth to make an opening statement, but Bellows takes her hesitation as perfect moment to interrupt her.

BELLOWS

Your honor, may it please the  
court, the state withdraws its  
objection to Mr. Birkbeck's  
petition to vacate his conviction  
of murder in the second degree.

There is a stunned gasp in the courtroom. Madeline looks really confused.

BELLOWS (CONT'D)

In consideration of the new DNA evidence presented by Petitioner, 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.

Big laughter. The Justice bangs his gavel. Madeline and Easy look at Bellows with suspicion as he continues:

BELLOWS

Very good, Miss Scott. An injustice has occurred. A man has spent his life wrongfully imprisoned and now it is time for that man to return home.

JUSTICE

Congratulations, Mr. Birkbeck, you are now a free man. Case dismissed, the defendant is discharged.

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.

14 INT. MADELINE & LEVI TRIAL - COURTROOM - DAY - **FLASHBACK** 14

The jury has just delivered its guilty verdict. Young Levi and Madeline are stunned. She starts to yell at the JUDGE:

YOUNG MADELINE

NO! We're innocent! We're innocent, your honor! We're INNOCENT!

15 INT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURT - COURTROOM - DAY - **PRESENT DAY** 15

Madeline is brought out of her memory as she glances at Bellows who walks over to her.

BELLOWS

Nice seeing you again, Maddie.  
(Whispers in her ear)  
Give my best to your brother.

He then gives her a phony pat on the shoulder as if he's congratulating her and smiles for the cameras.

16 EXT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE - STEPS - MOMENTS LATER 16

Easy and Madeline step out of the courthouse.

MADELINE

So what does the Bible say about lying scumbags?

EASY

'False prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive.'

MADELINE

An oldie but a goodie.

EASY

Bellows wanted to save the humiliation and be the hero. Pretty clever, actually.

MADELINE

The cleverest. I guess the real question is 'why'?

There is a podium set up in front of reporters. Bellows steps up to it, but then grabs Harvey who is nearby and brings him to the podium as if they're old friends.

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.

He shakes a stunned Harvey's hand who shakes it back. Flash bulbs pop! Madeline stares at him with a fierce calculation.

MADELINE

What's this snake up to?

17 INT. MADELINE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY 17

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. Defeated she stares forward in the mirror, she looks upset.

A17

INT. SCOTT FAMILY HOME - MADELINE'S BEDROOM - DAY - **FLASHBACK**

A17

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 which Rosemary helps zip up.

YOUNG MADELINE

I look so lame.

ROSEMARY

No, you don't. You look super cute. I bet Deray would totally hook up with you in that dress.

YOUNG MADELINE

He wouldn't be into me.

ROSEMARY

Yes he would. Come on, Maddie, you wanna be a virgin in college?

Maddie stares at her, the whole concept makes her nervous.

18

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

18

In her living room which is even more sparse, it looks like she never moved in, a frustrated and sad Madeline is on the phone. We see a totally different side of Madeline - her coolness gone she's tearing up like an self pitying 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 little black dress experience and I didn't know the stupid zipper wouldn't go all the way up.

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 (V.O.)

Love you, dear.

Madeline stands in front of a mirror staring at herself. Still looking disturbed. Somethings going on with her and she's not sure what. Then Atticus comes over and brushes up against her. She pets him, her new friend.

19-A20 OMITTED

19-A20

21 INT. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - STAGE - NIGHT

21

The stage has been turned into a live podcast as Violet sits with Madeline and Easy. The audience is filled with housewives and hipster NPR type fans that love the podcast.

VIOLET

This weeks episode of 'Until Proven Innocent' is broadcasting live from the first annual Injustice Defense Group fund-raiser. Now the whole world knows the story of how Madeline and her brother Levi Scott were wrongfully convicted and released ten 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

Nope. Re-insurance regulation.

VIOLET

So what happened? Mid-life crisis, but instead of buying a sports car you decided to switch fields in an infamously un-winnable case?

EASY

I was actually in my 30's when I took the case.

VIOLET

You've aged great. Hasn't he folks?

The audience laughs and gives him a round of applause.

EASY

Thank you, I'll take it where I can get it.

(MORE)

21

EASY (CONT'D)

(Then)

Truth be told, I thought Madeline and Levi were guilty like everyone else did. Then she sent me a letter.

21

VIOLET

To a re-insurance lawyer? You must've been pretty desperate.

MADELINE

Really desperate. Like, really desperate.

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

EASY

The letter said 'please don't look away without at least hearing my story.' I'd never received a letter like it before. It was 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 behind bars who weren't famous?

This gets a huge round of applause.

VIOLET

Now Rosemary Lynch was brutally murdered and yet her killer was never found.

MADELINE

That's correct. When someone goes to prison for a murder they didn't commit, it means the real murderer is still out there.

VIOLET

You've never publicly stated who you think the real killer is.

22 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT - **FLASHBACK** 22

Madeline and Rosemary are laughing together, best friends.

23 INT. PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - DAY - **PRESENT DAY** 23

Madeline looks haunted at the memory.

MADELINE

That's because I truly don't know who did it.

24 OMITTED 24

25 CUT TO - Friends of the POD after-party. Dozens of fans and friends mingle. Madeline talking to DYLAN PIERCE, mid-30's, a bearded edgy reporter, handsome with a Mark Ruffalo vibe. 25

MADELINE

Hey Dylan, how's Becky doing?

DYLAN

You didn't hear? She dumped me.

MADELINE

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

DYLAN

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.

26

INT. BELLOWS' OFFICE - DAY

26

Bellows is in front of a mirror tying his tie. He looks tense, nervous, he can't get the tie right. His wife, GRETA, 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.

GRETA BELLOWS

This is your destiny. You're gonna change the world.

He nods, then kisses her.

BELLOWS

I love you.

But she's all business.

GRETA BELLOWS

Big smile, dear.



27 INT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE - ROTUNDA - DAY 27

CUT TO - Bellows big charming smile as he 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 Illinois!

28 INT. INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP - SITTING AREA - DAY 28

The entire team - Madeline, Easy, Violet, Bodie - watch on a TV as Bellows makes his speech. Madeline looks enraged.

A28 BELLOWS (FROM THE TV) A28

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

28 CT EASY 28 CT

So that's what he was up to.

VIOLET

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

Madeline's rage is growing.

MADELINE

We can't let that happen.

BODIE

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

MADELINE

Not if I do it in court.

VIOLET

What are you talking about? You're gonna sue him?

MADELINE

No expose the truth. Harvey Birkbeck and I aren't the only innocent people he threw in jail.

EASY

And there will be a heck of a lot more if he's the chief law enforcement official in the state.

MADELINE

Exactly. We need to sink his AG campaign before it begins. Let's find another one of his wrongful convictions, something really high profile and jam it down his throat.

EASY

You sure you wanna poke the bear?

MADELINE

No, I wanna rip its heart out. How many innocent lives has he destroyed? This man cannot be Attorney General.

Easy shrugs with ease.

EASY

Then let's find a case.

BODIE

Let's find a case.

VIOLET

Let's find a case.

Madeline grins at her team. Thrilled they're with her.

MADELINE

Let's find a case.

29-30

OMITTED

29-30

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

31 INT. INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP - MADELINE'S OFFICE - DAY 31

A31 ON THE TV SCREEN: A31

31CT Appears the demented face of LUCIA RINCON (26) leans 31CT  
uncomfortably close to the camera lens, clearly stoned, dark  
black eyeliner is smudged across her face. DETECTIVE WISE is  
heard off camera.

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

LUCIA  
Because my little Angel told me to.  
He said he was ready to go to  
Heaven!

31 CT She starts giggling maniacally. Madeline pauses the video on 31 CT  
Lucia's freakish face. All the excitement from the previous  
scene is totally deflated.

BODIE  
You seriously want to defend the  
Wicked Witch of West Pullman. The  
woman who murdered her own child by  
setting her house on fire? And then  
confessed to it?!

VIOLET  
We'd have a better shot exonerating  
the ghost of Charles Manson.

MADELINE  
I know it's not a great case, but  
her PC hearing is in less than two  
months, the timing is perfect and  
it's high profile enough that we'll  
get a lot of press.

EASY  
This is a disaster waiting to  
happen. Everyone loved hating her.

MADELINE  
Just like they loved hating me.

B31 OMITTED

B31

C31 INT. INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP - MADELINE'S OFFICE - **PRESENT DAY** C31

Madeline points at the TV.

MADELINE

Lucia Rincon was convicted because of this image of her. The demented goth queen.

EASY

Correct.

MADELINE

Now what if I told you she was really a preacher's wife who was never into goth.

Everyone looks at her confused. Violet points at the TV.

VIOLET

She was a preacher's wife? Then what's with all the goth make up?

MADELINE

It wasn't make up. It was soot from the fire. They didn't clean her up before they filmed the confession.

VIOLET

Are you kidding me?

MADELINE

Nope. It's buried in the police report that I spent all last night reading. The entire world believed she was into goth when it was really soot.

Bodie is reading over her report.

BODIE

Eye witness accounts say she was given an injection at the scene.

D31 INT. AMBULANCE - **FLASHBACK**

D31

Lucia's face is covered in soot, she looks scared, clearly has been crying, but she's not 'deranged' at all. A FEMALE PARAMEDIC gives her a shot.

E31 INT. INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP - MADELINE'S OFFICE - **PRESENT DAY**

E31

BODIE

Maybe whatever they gave her is what caused her to act so crazy.

EASY

And let me guess, her toxicology report has disappeared.

MADELINE

Vanished in the wind.

The team exchanges glances.

EASY

So we have a woman that was convicted as a goth queen who was really a preacher's wife that was given a mysterious injection before she gave one of the most famous whacko confessions in the history of whacko confessions.

VIOLET

I think we found our case.

32 EXT. LOGAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER - CHICAGO, IL - DAY

32

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

33 INT. LOGAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER - CELL BLOCK - DAY - **FLASHBACK** 33

Madeline's POV of a wide, two-story corridor lined with cells. Every INMATE stands at their bars, jeering, cat-calling, laughing. REVEAL a terrified eighteen-year old Madeline. A **FLASHBACK** of the worst day of her life.

34 INT. LOGAN CORRECTIONAL CENTER - CELL BLOCK - DAY - **PRESENT DAY** 34

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

EASY

You good?

MADELINE

Oh yeah. Best years of my life.

35 INT. LOGAN C.C. - ATTORNEY/CLIENT VISITATION ROOM - DAY 35

Lucia Rincon (now 41) looks normal. No weird make up. Normal hair. Madeline goes right for the jugular.

MADELINE

So, Lucia, did you start the fire?

35

LUCIA

No. I didn't. I don't know why my baby was taken from me, and I don't know why God hates me. I still love God. Even though he's turned on me. I don't even know why, but I do.

EASY

Because he's always with us.

LUCIA

Was God with you in prison?

MADELINE

He lost interest in me a long time ago.

EASY

Madeline and I have different spiritual points of view. But we are both warriors for the innocent.

LUCIA

To this day I still don't know why I confessed. I play it over in my head. Why did I do that?

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 confess to a crime they didn't commit. So you're far from the only one.

EASY

What happened that night?

LUCIA

I don't remember anything. Not even that crazy confession. I was never into goth--

MADELINE

We know. Bellows did the same thing to me. The night Rosemary died was the first night I ever got drunk.

LUCIA

What?! I thought you were a crazy party girl.

35

MADELINE

Behind every media caricature is a  
real life human being.

LUCIA

That man is a monster.

MADELINE

And unfortunately, he's a really  
clever monster. You have a hearing  
in six weeks in which your lawyers  
will have only thirty minutes to  
present your case. We'd like to be  
your lawyers at this hearing.

Lucia starts to cry, tears pour down her cheek.

EASY

What's wrong?

LUCIA

No one's ever cared before.

Madeline takes her hand as Lucia continues to weep.

36

INT. LOGAN C.C. - CENTER TOWER WALKWAY - MOMENTS LATER

36

Madeline and Easy are buzzed through the opened gate.

MADELINE

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

EASY

Ohhhh, nostalgic. Is that what the  
kids are calling it these days?

Easy gives a knowing grin, he knows what's up.

37

INT. LOGAN C.C. ATTORNEY/CLIENT VISIT ROOM - DAY

37

Madeline sits at a table, nervous, as ERIN "WREN" REYNOLDS  
enters in a tight tank-top. She looks hurt.

WREN

Where have you been?

MADELINE

I'm sorry.

WREN

Have you missed me?



MADELINE

Of course I have.

WREN

Then why has it been months?

Wren closes in on her. After all these years she still has a power over her.

WREN (CONT'D)

Are you dating anyone yet?

MADELINE

Of course not. I don't know how to date. I don't know how to do anything.

WREN

That's not true. I taught you everything I know.

Wren starts kissing her. Madeline kisses her back. Both girls tear up as they kiss each other, it's so painful for them.

WREN (CONT'D)

Please don't forget me.

They kiss harder as they try to kiss their pain away.

A37 OMITTED A37

38 OMITTED 38

AA38 EXT. SCOTT FAMILY HOME - NIGHT AA38

Establishing shot of the Scott family home.

A38 INT. SCOTT FAMILY HOME - CHICAGO - NIGHT A38

A family dinner is taking place where Madeline sits with her parents, HELEN SCOTT (57), sweet and quiet and JACK 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 silence. Then:

MADELINE

How's the job hunt going?

LEVI

Bad.

A38

HELEN

Levi's been coaching youth soccer.

A38

MADELINE

Really? That's great.

LEVI

Yeah, the kids are awesome.

JACK

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

HELEN

Ever. Are you dating anyone?

MADELINE

You know I'm not, mom.

HELEN

Maybe it's time to start, you're not gonna be young forever--

MADELINE

--I'm too busy with my cases.

HELEN

You've been out of prison for seven years and you still can't put on a dress. Come on, Maddie, maybe it's time you try to have some fun instead of burying your whole life in work.

MADELINE

I don't have time for fun. It's actually why I'm here. There's a case coming up we need to talk about. 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.

JACK

Your mother lost her job last time--

MADELINE

--I know.

A38

JACK

It was years before anyone would  
even speak to us again.

Crying so deep, Helen gets up and walks out.

MADELINE

Mom, please.

Levi stares daggers at her.

LEVI

It's always about you, isn't it.

MADELINE

I have to do this 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.

JACK

I'm worried about you, Maddie. You  
really want to re-live your case  
over again?

MADELINE

In the last week I can't stop  
thinking about Rosemary. I spent  
all these years trying to forget  
about it all--

JACK

--and now your paying the price.

MADELINE

If I do this, if I take down  
Bellows, then maybe I can finally  
end it. For all of us.

Jack nods. He gets it.

JACK

Then take him down.

A38

39-41

OMITTED

39-41

42 INT. MADELINE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - MORNING 42

Sleeping on the floor next to her bed, Atticus asleep with her, Madeline bolts up from her nightmare. She can't sleep in an actual bed, even though she still keeps one. She looks energized, she's got an idea!

A42 CUT TO - LATER A42

Madeline opens a dusty old box of EVIDENCE. It's filled with pictures of Rosemary Lynch, Young Madeline, Young Levi, photos of other TEACHERS, A JANITOR, several newspaper articles. She looks at a picture of TOBEY KISSEL, 17.

B42 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT - **FLASHBACK** B42

A high school camp outing where TEENAGERS hang around the bonfire drinking. Young Madeline is with Rosemary, they are talking to - TOBEY KISSEL, 17, and DERAY MEADOWS, 18.

TOBEY

Come on, one drink. That's it.

Madeline looks nervous, unsure.

ROSEMARY

Just do it.

Madeline takes the canteen and takes a sip, she starts coughing it up.

YOUNG MADELINE

That's so gross.

The guys are laughing, but charmed. Watching, YOUNG HEATHER DUPINSKI, (17) mean girl, fumes.

YOUNG HEATHER

Game. On.

Her mean girl FLUNKIES all nod.

C42 INT. MADELINE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS - **PRESENT DAY** C42

It's a few hours later and we see Madeline is making a 'MURDER BOARD' on the wall of her studio. At the top is a photo of Rosemary Lynch with pictures of all the different STUDENTS and TEACHERS at school underneath it. She stares at the pictures - all the suspects. She then sees a photo of a POLICE OFFICER and a FIREFIGHTER at the crime scene.

We PUSH IN ON THE FIREFIGHTER - it gives her an idea.

43

INT. INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP - KITCHENETTE - DAY

43

Bodie twirls around a Japanese sword like an expert as Violet shows him pictures of guys on Bumble.

BODIE

He looks like he's gonna need to borrow money from you.

Violet swipes right.

VIOLET

As the days go by, the standards drop. This guy is pretty cute.

BODIE

Or a eunuch.

She swipes right again.

VIOLET

Sometimes it's preferable.

Madeline sticks her head in the room.

MADELINE

Am I interrupting?

BODIE

No, we were just analyzing Violet's reckless post breakup behavior.

MADELINE

Says the guy holding a sword.

BODIE

A replica of a 16th century Katana.

MADELINE

What got you into this stuff?

BODIE

Kill Bill Part II.

MADELINE

Is that what got you into Wrongful Convictions?

BODIE

No. Kill Bill Part I.

Madeline grins, holds out an ad for recruiting firefighters.

43

MADELINE

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.

43

BODIE

Yeah. Perhaps there's a perfectly logical explanation besides arson.

VIOLET

Ohhhh, those firemen are gonna eat you alive.

He then spins and slices an apple. Bad ass.

VIOLET (CONT'D)

I'd be more impressed if I didn't think it was super weird.

BODIE

You have no idea.

VIOLET

Hey Maddie, I've been working on something for the blog.

She shows her pictures of Lucia Rincon in her goth confession, next to pictures of Lucia as the preachers wife with the headline - MEDIA MANIPULATION.

EASY

It's perfect.

Easy has poked his head into the room.

VIOLET

And I want to juxtapose these pics with these...

She clicks her mouse and up pops up pictures of DRUNKEN PARTY GIRL YOUNG MADELINE next to PHOTOS OF NERDY YOUNG MADELINE.

MADELINE

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

VIOLET

But we have to make it about you.  
You're a living breathing example  
of what Bellows did Lucia.

EASY

She's right. You're our best asset

BODIE

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

Madeline looks torn, but then nods in agreement.

MADELINE

Okay, lets do it.

44

EXT. CHICAGO SUBURB - SOCCER FIELD - DAY

44

A postcard perfect town of 8,000 just north of Chicago. 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!

HEATHER HUSBAND, (36) (Heather Dupinkski from the flashback) and her husband, BRIAN (36) approach Levi, they do not look happy. Levi immediately knows something is up.

HEATHER

Hey Levi, I see your sister is  
defending that psycho who set her  
kid on fire.

LEVI

Yeah, you gotta talk to her about  
that.

HEATHER

She's using Rosemary to free  
another killer. It's disgusting.  
What's wrong with you people?

Levi sees that some of his KIDS are starting to notice. It's really embarrassing for him.

LEVI

Can we talk about this later? I'm  
trying to coach soccer here.

Heather gets louder to dig in the needle.

HEATHER

No, we can't talk about it later!  
We're never gonna forget what you  
and your sister did Rosemary! Ever!

She storms off. Brian follows her out, leaving a humiliated Levi behind who sheepishly turns to his kids that are all staring at him with shame and sadness. Levi wants to die.

45

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - PARKING LOT - DAY

45

Levi walks back to his Ford Pick-up, still looking really down. He gets in his truck, right as he starts the engine -

A Mustang SKIDS behind him blocking his truck from exiting. From out of the car steps Brian holding a baseball bat in full white trash glory. Heather gets out of the car looking like the angry bitch that she is.

BRIAN

Time for a little payback, Scott.

Levi pops the clutch and hurtles his truck backwards. Brian and Heather leap out of the way as Levi's rear bumper CRUSHES the Mustang! 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**

A45 EXT. MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE - STEPS - DAY A45

Madeline runs up the steps to the courthouse. She's late.

46 INT. MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY 46

Pissed and late, Madeline rushes down the hall to the elevator. Madeline sees Heather, her high-school tormentor. Madeline slightly regresses to awkward high school girl.

MADELINE

Heather? Oh. Hey. Why are you here?

HEATHER

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

MADELINE

He's been clean for years. Wait? Brian Husband is your husband? So your name is now 'Heather Husband?'

HEATHER

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

MADELINE

Sometimes I miss lock up. It was kinda cool to beat the hell out of a dumb bitch that looked at you wrong.

She moves in on Heather.

MADELINE (CONT'D)

You know, I always thought maybe you were the one that killed Rosemary.

HEATHER

What?!

MADELINE

You may have been the queen bee  
back in the day, but you always  
knew you were never getting out of  
La Grange. You should've seen your  
face the day you found out Rosemary  
was accepted to Stanford.

HEATHER

Looks like she didn't quite make  
it, now did she.

Madeline can't believe she said that, Heather's face drops a  
touch, like she's just been caught. Then she walks away.

HEATHER (CONT'D)

See you in court.

48 OMITTED 48

49 INT. MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE - COURTROOM - A MOMENT LATER 49

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, accepts her apology. Madeline turns to the Judge.

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.

Dylan is in the back row eyeing the proceedings with his notepad.

50 INT/EXT. MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE - LOBBY/STEPS - DAY 50

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

MADELINE

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

LEVI

Yeah, you're the big hero once again.

MADELINE

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

LEVI

No, I want you to think about how your actions effect your family. Because while you're off being famous, we're the ones that have to deal with the Lynch Mob.

He walks away. Madeline watches him go, filled with guilt. She hears from behind her -

DYLAN

Can we talk about Rincon?

MADELINE

So that's why you're here.

DYLAN

We got a lotta readers that love the Goth Killer. I'm metro now so I guess 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.

DYLAN

Oh. I didn't know.

MADELINE

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

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

51

INT. DR. TURNER'S OFFICE - DAY

51

Easy sits across from his therapist, LIONEL TURNER, 50's, he's kind and understanding.

LIONEL TURNER

Divorce proceedings can often get ugly, but it sounds like Irene has been handling it pretty well.

EASY

We only fight when it's about money. Or when I tell her I don't want her to go.

LIONEL TURNER

And what does she say?

EASY

What she always says, that my job ruined the marriage, I'm never present or emotionally available.

LIONEL TURNER

And have you tried to be more present with her?

EASY

I have, but these cases, man. I have one right now where a woman confessed to killing her own son when she didn't really do it.

(Then)

Would you mind taking a look at her confession with me?

(MORE)

EASY (CONT'D)

I can't get a single forensic psychiatrist in the state to consult on the case because of who she is.

LIONEL TURNER

This is exactly what Irene is talking about. You're here to discuss your failing marriage and you want me to look at a tape.

EASY

I know, I know, you're right. But will you look at it?

52

INT. VIOLET'S RECORDING STUDIO - DAY

52

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

VIOLET

Welcome to a special 'Hive Mind' episode of Until Proven Innocent. Our investigation is spinning out on this one detail on Lucia Rincon's crazy confession. And that's where we need your help.

EASY

Right after the fire, a paramedic gave Lucia an injection. I showed Lucia Rincon's confession video to a psychologist friend of the firm who confirmed that the injection may have caused the crazy behavior in the video which would lead to a false confession.

VIOLET

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?

53

INT. FIREHOUSE - LUNCHROOM - DAY - SAME

53

Bodie is in a firehouse with other exhausted candidates eating lunch. Bodie notices a local news station reporting on Lucia's case - we see pictures of Madeline Scott and Rosemary Lynch intercut in the story. Bodie points to the TV.

53 CT

BODIE

53 CT

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

OLD-TIMER

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

THE CHIEF

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?

54

INT. VIOLET'S RECORDING STUDIO - DAY

54

Violet 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--

The Caller starts giggling. Violet cuts him off.

VIOLET

And thank you King Reefer for your ridiculous opinions. Come on, people, a woman's life is at stake, please try to take this seriously.

She presses a button as they hear a FEMALE VOICE -

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

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.

EASY

Can I ask how you know all that?

FEMALE VOICE (V.O.)

I was the paramedic that did the draw.

Easy and Violet sit up at attention. Holy fuck! Then Easy and Violet high five!

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

55 INT. INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP – CONFERENCE ROOM – DAY 55

Madeline, Easy and Violet sit at the conference table. Easy holds up a lab report.

EASY

The bad news is it was just a blood draw, Lucia wasn't administered any nefarious drug that night.

VIOLET

So when you started with 'the bad news', I'm hoping this means that there's good news?

EASY

No. Great news. The Paramedic is a fan of the podcast and hunted down Lucia's lab report which shows she was suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning.

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

MADELINE

So her entire satanic public image was in reality a woman who was poisoned.



55

EASY

And Bellows buried the blood test  
that would prove it.

55

VIOLET

We just destroyed Lucia's  
confession.

Then Bodie enters -

BODIE

Alright, so I got good news and bad  
news.

MADELINE

--oh Lord are we playing this  
again.

BODIE

Yes! Cuz I love it! What do you  
want first?

MADELINE, EASY, VIOLET

The bad news.

BODIE

I'm not going to be a fireman at  
Engine Company 93.

VIOLET

Shocking.

MADELINE

And the good news?

BODIE

Fire fighters know everything about  
arson. Who knew?

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. They called  
it Charcoal Christmas. It looks  
like Lucia's fire was an accident  
from faulty Christmas lights.

EASY

Can we prove she owned them?

55

BODIE

Probably not--

55

MADELINE

--but we have a logical explanation for how the fire started. I'll amend our petition to include Bellows' suppression of the toxicology report and file it-

EASY

--we can't file anything yet. Bellows could cut a deal to keep this off the record.

MADELINE

But hiding a damaging blood test is enough to show how corrupt his case was and blow up his AG campaign.

EASY

I know you want to humiliate him but what matters is Lucia. Just us having this information could get him to release her.

VIOLET

I hate Bellows too, but we have an obligation to protect our client above all else.

Madeline nods, she knows they're right.

MADELINE

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

56

OMITTED

56

57 EXT. TRANQUIL URBAN PARK - DAWN

57

Bellows runs on the deserted pedestrian path. He slows when he sees Easy leaning against a low wall, waiting.

EASY

Nice spot for a jog. Especially this early, before all the carbon monoxide chokes the oxygen out of the air...

Bellows stops, knows that something is up.

EASY (CONT'D)

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

58 INT. TRANQUIL URBAN PARK - LATER

58

Seated on a park bench, Bellows sits working his jaw as he reads over the toxicology report. He slides it back to Easy.

BELLOWS

I know you all think I'm the villain in your story. But let me ask you, have you ever taken a statement from a mother who's child was just murdered? I have.

(MORE)

BELLOWS (CONT'D)

At least hundred times. You never forget the look in their eyes. The look that their lives are now over too. It haunts me for days, even months sometimes. It's never the crying or the screaming, it's that look of emptiness that says they have nothing to live for anymore. The only thing I can do to be able to sleep again, is to punish the killer of their child.

58

EASY

What about when you get it wrong?

58

BELLOWS

I don't believe I have. Madeline Scott is guilty and so is Rincon. You may be able to get her released with this report, but that doesn't mean she didn't kill her kid.

EASY

She didn't kill him, but the fact that you suppressed this report will certainly kill your campaign.

BELLOWS

She pleads to manslaughter, I'll reduce her sentence to time served. The blood test stays buried.

EASY

She pleads to child endangerment.

BELLOWS

If in your crusade, you end up getting someone released who is actually guilty, then who's the real villain in this story?

He gets up to walk away.

BELLOWS (CONT'D)

You got a deal.

A58

INT. INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP - MADELINE'S OFFICE - DAY

A58

Violet is getting coffee, looks tired. Madeline comes in.

MADELINE

How did the date go last night?

VIOLET

Whatever.

MADELINE

That good?

VIOLET

They ghost if you hook up with them, they ghost if you don't. Even the eunuchs.

MADELINE

And that's why I'm in a relationship with an incarcerated felon.

VIOLET

Going that well with Wren?

MADELINE

We're sorta fooling ourselves it can ever be what it was. And I don't know if I'm even still into girls. Or what I'm into.

VIOLET

You can like both. Are you attracted to men?

MADELINE

Sure. There's a cute reporter that keeps texting me.

VIOLET

How cute?

MADELINE

Rom-com cute. With a beard.

VIOLET

And he's chasing you? OMG, you have to go out with him.

MADELINE

Really?

VIOLET

Yes! It's ugly out there, Maddie, if you got one on the hook you gotta reel him in.

(Then)

Look, I know it had to be awful beyond anything I can imagine to be seventeen years old and have the whole world talking about your diary entries, and who you had a crush on, but you're not that girl anymore. You can handle it. It's called life, you're entitled to live it.

59

INT. LOGAN C.C.- ATTORNEY/CLIENT VISITATION ROOM - LATER

59

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

EASY

You were suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning from the smoke. That's why you confessed.

LUCIA

I always believed it was my fault. My husband, he left me because he thought I killed our baby. I lost everything, my child, mi amor.

MADELINE

Maybe your husband will take you back when he finds out the truth.

LUCIA

I don't want him back, he made a statement against me in court. He said I didn't want children and that's why I killed Angel.

MADELINE

Was that true?

LUCIA

No. I wanted another baby. I'll never know why he said that.

MADELINE

It may not matter anymore. We have a way to get you out.

59

LUCIA

59

What?

EASY

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.

LUCIA

I could go home?

59

MADELINE

That's right. 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.

59

LUCIA

But then everyone would still think I'm the goth killer when this paper shows why I said those crazy things. Won't the judge believe me?

EASY

We can try, but it's not guaranteed.

LUCIA

What do you think I should do?

MADELINE

I was offered a plea in my case and turned it down. I would rather have stayed in prison than the world think I was murderer.

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

LUCIA

And then you won in court?

MADELINE

Yup. My conviction was overturned.

LUCIA

If that happens they can't re-try me because of the Double Jeopardy thing?

EASY

Double jeopardy only applies if you're found not guilty at trial or "actually innocent".

MADELINE

Bellows cares too much about his political ambition to risk another loss. I would be stunned if he tried you again.

Lucia thinks about it, a big decision. Then -



LUCIA

I wanna go to court. The world  
needs to know I didn't kill my son.

A59

EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

A59

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

FRANK PARKER

Hey Levi, look, I hate to do this,  
but we're gonna have to let you go.

LEVI

What!? Why!?

FRANK PARKER

That thing with Brian Husband  
pushed a lot of people over the  
edge. I tried to fight it, but with  
the prison thing and the drugs--

LEVI

--I've been off oxy for years. Come  
on, Frank, you know this is all I  
got. I love these kids.

FRANK PARKER

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

Levi stares at him, truly devastated.

60-62

OMITTED

60-62

63

INT. LOGAN C.C. - ATTORNEY/CLIENT VISIT ROOM - DAY

63

Madeline and Wren are making out in the visitation room, but Madeline is distracted. Wren notices.

WREN

What's up? You're somewhere else.

MADELINE

There's something I wanna talk about.

WREN

You wanna start dating other people? Finally. Go ahead. You should've started years ago.

MADELINE

Really?

WREN

I never expected you to be faithful to me. That was on you.

MADELINE

I did it for you.

WREN

No, you did it because you're scared. I was your excuse.

MADELINE

Maybe.

(Then)

I love you, but it feels like we're just trying to re-live the past.

WREN

So you gonna date guys now? Gay for the stay, straight at the gate.

MADELINE

If that was true then why would I still be seeing you after all these years.

WREN

I get it. It's cool. Little girl is growing up. See you around, Maddie.

She turns to leave.

MADELINE

Can I still visit you?

WREN

No, you can't. You don't get to  
have it all.

Wren walks out of the room leaving a stunned Madeline alone.  
She doesn't know what to feel.

A63 OMITTED

A63

64 INT. LOGAN C.C. - HALLWAY OUTSIDE VISIT ROOM - DAY - **PRESENT DAY** 64

Wren walks down the hall, her face stone. Then she stops and  
starts crying. She catches a hold of herself and then  
continues walking, her face transforming back to stone.

A64 EXT. SOCCER FIELD - DAY

A64

Levi sits in his truck watching the kids play soccer in the  
distance, devastated he can't be coaching them. Then we see -  
he is holding a bottle of pills. He doesn't want to take one,  
but he can't help it. He opens the bottle and pops a pill.

65 INT. MADELINE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT 65

Madeline sits on the floor in her bedroom, she looks nervous, Atticus by her side. Then, she takes out her cell phone and makes a call.

DYLAN (V.O.)

Well, well, well, about time.

MADELINE

I was thinking about your offer.

66/65 INT. NEWS ROOM - NIGHT - INTERCUT 66/65

Dylan sits at his desk in a crowded newsroom.

MADELINE

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

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

Find a new angle and you'll get  
great placement.

DYLAN

I'm all over it.

67 OMITTED 67

68 OMITTED 68

69 INT. INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP - EASY'S OFFICE - DAY 69

Madeline walks in with Bodie, he's holding a file.

MADELINE

I can't stop thinking about Lucia's  
husband. Why would he give a  
statement saying she didn't want  
children when it wasn't true?!

Bodie pulls out Rincon's police statement from his file.

69

BODIE

I looked through Rincon's original statement he gave the police, it's written in flawless English.

69

EASY

And?

BODIE

And the report said he only spoke Spanish. Therefore his statement wasn't a transcription, it was a translation.

MADELINE

He probably couldn't even read what he was signing. The 'translator' could have written anything.

EASY

We need to confirm this is actually what he said and if it's not we need him on the record refuting it.

MADELINE

But first we have to find him.

BODIE

On it.

He bolts out the door. Easy barrels in on Madeline.

EASY

How could you get her to reject the plea?! You bet our client's life on a long-shot appeal over a personal vendetta with Bellows.

69

MADELINE

I don't see it that way. I'm the only one who's been through what Lucia's been through.

69

EASY

Which does not give you the right to manipulate her into risking her own freedom so you can continue to grind your ax on Bellows.

MADELINE

I didn't manipulate her, I empathized with her.

(then)

I used to stare up at the razor-wire coils on the perimeter fence for hours, like they were the most beautiful things I'd ever seen. For the first few years, it never felt like they were keeping me in. They were keeping the hatred out. In prison, no one's spitting on Lucia. Do you want her to go through that all again? Who will hire a woman who murdered her own child? Who will love that woman? No one. Because that's the world that will be waiting for her if she takes a plea that admits *any* wrongdoing. That's the life sentence that terrifies me.

EASY

She'll be free. Isn't that the  
entire point of this firm?

MADELINE

Lucia's not fighting to get her  
freedom back. And neither am I.  
She's fighting for her *innocence*.

The distinction makes him smile.

EASY

And so are we.

70

EXT. ALLEYWAY - SOUTH SIDE - DAY

70

Money flows freely in a dice game with hardcore GANGBANGERS  
tossing dice on the ground. Out of place with a now fake  
tattoo on his neck is Bodie. He loses a big wad of cash. His  
dice pal, EDUARDO, 20's, shaved head, pats him on the back.

EDUARDO

Dang, you on a cold streak, Bodie.

BODIE

Dice roll how they roll. Yo homie,  
do me a solid? You know a guy named  
Damian Rincon?

He slyly holds out a hundred dollar bill. Eduardo takes it.

EDUARDO

Give me an hour.

71

EXT. HOPE PARK - CHICAGO - DAY

71

In a vibrant, but dangerous urban park, DAMIÁN RINCON,  
delivers a fiery street corner sermon in Spanish. Bodie lurks  
nearby in a hoodie watching Rincon. He makes a call.



71

BODIE

Hey, I found Rincon. He's a street preacher in the middle of Hope Park screaming the world's about to end.

71

VIOLET (V.O.)

You're in Hope Park alone? There are armed drug crews there. They'll eat you alive.

BODIE'S POV: scans the armed hardcore crowd.

BODIE

Yeah, that's an obstacle. I'll figure something out.

He hangs up on her. Bodie summons a deep, booming voice:

BODIE (CONT'D)

FIVE-O!

The nearest ten-year old LOOK OUT parrots the warning, setting off chain reaction that echoes through the park.

HUSTLERS AND LOOKOUTS

FIVE-O! FIVE-O! FIVE-O! FIVE-O!

Every THUG and GANGBANGER splits. Bodie strolls up to Rincon.

BODIE

Damián, I need to speak to you.

DAMIÁN RINCON

No speak with policia.

BODIE

That's good cuz I'm not a cop. I work for your ex-wife's lawyers. Did you ever read the statement you signed for the police, because I don't think what you said and what they wrote are the same thing--

But Damian takes a candle and SMASHES it into Bodie's face!

72

INT. INJUSTICE DEFENSE GROUP - MADELINE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

72

Papers are scattered everywhere when Madeline's phone rings.

MADELINE

Hey big brother.

73/72

INT. LEVI'S TRUCK - NIGHT - INTERCUT

73/72

Levi sits in his parked truck, higher than a kite.

LEVI  
Heeeeeeeey sis.

Madeline cringes, knows he's high, it's devastating for her.

MADELINE  
You promised, Levi.

LEVI  
Promises, promises, promises. I  
love you, sis. I love you so much.

MADELINE  
Why, Levi? You were doing so well.

LEVI  
I can't help it. I miss her.

MADELINE  
She was my best friend and I'm not  
a drug addict.

LEVI  
We were more than friends.

MADELINE  
What?

LEVI  
I never told you. I never told  
anyone. We were together.

MADELINE  
You and Rosemary?! You swore to me  
you two never hooked up. You lied  
to me.

LEVI  
It was our secret. She didn't want  
you to know. No one knew. I was  
crazy about her.

MADELINE  
If this gets out then the whole  
world will think we're guilty  
again. This could destroy us.

LEVI  
Destroy you, sis. I'm already gone.

74

INT. MADELINE'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

74

Madeline stares at the suspect board of potential killers with a deep intensity. She takes a photo of Heather Husband and moves it closer to Rosemary. Then with a deep pain, she takes a photo of Levi and moves it closer to Rosemary.

**END OF ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

75 EXT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE - MORNING 75

Establishing shot of the courthouse.

76 INT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURTROOM - DAY 76

Madeline stands at a podium in front of JUDGE JANET SPEER.  
Easy sits at a table at her side. Violet is in the gallery.

MADELINE

If it may please the Court,  
Madeline Scott for Petitioner.  
Lucia Rincon was convicted of arson-  
homicide based on an out-dated, out-  
moded fire-investigation methods--

JUDGE SPEER

I remember her trial, Ms. Scott, I  
presided over it. I've also read  
your brief detailing this spat of  
Christmas tree fires which all took  
place *before* Mrs. Rincon's trial.

MADELINE

The fires' themselves were before  
the trial. But the--

JUDGE SPEER

The statue is clear: innocence  
claims must be based on newly  
discovered evidence.

MADELINE

The cause of the fires wasn't  
discovered until six years later.  
The determination is the evidence.

JUDGE SPEER

-Nice try, Ms. Scott, but I'll  
stick with my interpretation.

MADELINE

It's not my interpretation, it's  
settled precedent.

JUDGE SPEER

You say tomato...I say next issue.

76

MADELINE

There is no next issue, your--

JUDGE

Tomato, Ms. Scott. Next issue.

MADELINE

It's a one issue case: if there's no arson, there's no arson homicide.

JUDGE

Clock is ticking. Should we keep spinning our wheels? Or should we move on down the road?

Madeline knows she's got a big problem. Bellows can barely hide his smile.

MADELINE

Happy to move on, your honor.

Lucia leans over to Madeline, terrified.

LUCIA

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

Violet is in the corner of the courtroom texting to Bodie - 'It's bad. Where are you?'

Easy stands, holding the toxicology report.

EASY

Your honor, if I could draw the court's attention to the toxicology report submitted with our petition. In violation of Brady vs. Maryland, Ms. Rincon's blood test was hidden from defense council--

JUDGE SPEER

The state is only obliged to turn over evidence that might exonerate the defendant. So before we cast aspersions, let's discuss how this blood test would've impacted the trial.

EASY

It clearly undermines Mrs. Rincon's confession, your honor. She has no memory of the fire or its aftermath.

(MORE)

76

## EASY (CONT'D)

Among the key symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning is 'Confabulation' - the fabrication of imaginary events to compensate for total memory loss. I.e., Detectives repeated what they believed happened over and over until Lucia believed it, too.

76

JUDGE SPEER

I'm not sure I'm convinced the evidence of carbon monoxide poisoning is material enough to have changed the jury's verdict.

76

MADELINE

Your honor, they goaded Lucia into believing she murdered her own son. It's a forced confession.

JUDGE SPEER

I'll consider it, but I'm not gonna lie, I've heard better. What else do you got?

MADELINE

What else do we got?!

(Then)

Is there something funny about a woman serving a life sentence for a crime that didn't even happen!

JUDGE SPEER

Excuse me?

Madeline is about to speak when they see Bodie hurry down the aisle, his face bandaged and bruised. He whispers something we can't hear to Easy, who springs up.

EASY

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

JUDGE SPEER

My lord, you look like Hell. Adjourned for thirty minutes. Miss Scott, I hope you're a bit cooler when you come back into this room.

Bellows can't hide it anymore as he grins wide.

77-80

OMITTED

77-80

81

INT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURTROOM - BACK OF COURTROOM - DAY

81

Easy looks over Bodie's documents as Madeline paces in rage.

MADELINE

It's happening again. It's all happening again.

(MORE)

MADELINE (CONT'D)

Another innocent woman is going to stay in jail and Bellows is going to win. Everything is upside down, the villains are in charge and the innocents get punished. There's no justice in this world, Easy. There's no justice.

81

EASY

I know, Madeline, but we got you out and now we're gonna get her out too.

81

He shows her the document. Madeline looks stunned. Turns to Bodie.

MADELINE

How'd you get this?

BODIE

Don't worry about it.

Violet cleans up Bodie's face with a tissue.

VIOLET

You're still bleeding.

BODIE

I'm more of a lover than a fighter.

VIOLET

Of course you are.

Bodie nods to the documents.

BODIE

So what do you think?

MADELINE

It's worth a shot.

EASY

And it's our only shot.



82

INT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURTROOM - DAY

82

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

MADELINE

Petitioner submits a sworn affidavit from Mr. Damián Rincon in which he swears that he not only didn't read the type written statement police put in front of him to sign, but he could not have read it, as he does not read English. I have made copies for the court.

Again, the clerk passes one to the judge and one to Bellows.

BELLOWS

Your honor, Counsel's claims are preposterous and obviously driven by a personal vendetta against myself, and most importantly, impossible to verify.

MADELINE

(waggles another doc.)  
I'm not done yet. There's this one too. Appellant submits a letter from the Attorney General of Indiana detailing a plea bargain of the translator used to translate, or should I say, fictionalize Damián Rincon's statement.

As Judge Speer reads, the court room falls silent as a tomb.

82

JUDGE SPEER

82

Mr. Bellows, this is a letter warning the translator admitted to evidence tampering in dozens of cases, seven of which he remembered by name - including one I am certain you are familiar with - State of Illinois vs. Rincon.

Bellows has gone deep blue in the gills.

BELLOWS

Your honor, I have never seen this letter, but I will investigate each of these cases--

MADELINE

How many are already under investigation?

BELLOWS

I am under no obligation to answer questions posed directly by opposing Counsel.

JUDGE SPEER

You are, however, under obligation to answer questions from this bench, Mr. Bellows.

MADELINE

(to Bellows)

You say tomato...I say tom-mah-to.

Some big laughs from the gallery, but Easy tenses, worried that Judge Speer is going to be offended, but instead...

JUDGE SPEER

You stole my line, Ms. Scott, so I'll take yours...

(turns to Bellows)

Mr. Bellows, out of the 7 cases listed here as likely corrupted by the translator, how many are already under internal review by your conviction integrity unit?

BELLOWS

(finally)

Six, your honor.

82

MADELINE

82

So Mr. Bellows was aware of evidence tampering in six of seven cases, but claims to not know about the Rincon evidence tampering. Your honor, this is preposterous--

BELLOWS

Obviously, the present case slipped through the cracks, but I assure you, I will order an investigation--

MADELINE

If there is an investigation, your honor, it should be of Mr. Bellow's handling of the case.

JUDGE SPEER

I am in agreement. I plan to formally request the Department of Justice handle that investigation into your offices actions on this issue so that it's not compromised.

Madeline and Easy exchange muted, but elated smiles, Bellows is now under investigation. The Judge turns to Lucia:

JUDGE SPEER (CONT'D)

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

LUCIA

I've gotten used to it, your honor.

JUDGE SPEER

Let's see what we can do about that. Based on the totality of evidence presented, Petitioner's motion for Post Conviction Relief is granted and the court hereby declares that the defendant is 'actually innocent'. Ms. Rincon, you are free to go.

The rest of the judge's order is drowned out by the roar. Lucia throws her arms around Madeline. They hold each and cry, two victims that escaped injustice.

83

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

83

A bleary-eyed Young Madeline walks around an isolated part of the campsite, she's looking for her friend.

YOUNG MADELINE  
Rosemary?! ROSEMARY?!

Then she sees Young Levi up ahead, kneeling over a girl's body. She runs over!

YOUNG MADELINE (CONT'D)  
Levi! Is she okay?  
(Then)  
Oh my God!

HER POV: Levi holds Rosemary's bloody dead body. He's literally covered in blood. Off Maddie's awful SCREAM...

84 EXT. CHICAGO CRIMINAL COURTHOUSE - MORNING - **PRESENT DAY** 84

Reporters are yelling as they pour out of court, they swarm Madeline and Easy who are beaming with pride. It's a huge win and they are loving every moment of it.

85 INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS 85

An angry Bellows stewes with his even angrier wife as he stares at Madeline and Easy through his car window.

BELLOWS  
I'm dead. And I'm not just talking about the campaign, they're gonna open an investigation. I gotta make the move.

GRETA BELLOWS  
If you do this you'll set the international press on fire.

BELLOWS  
Which will change the story. She asked for it when she made this case about herself. That lying bitch deserves everything she's gonna get.

GRETA BELLOWS  
Then change the story.

Bellows picks up his phone and quick dials a number.

BELLOWS  
We're a go.

86

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

86

Lucia cowers from a mob of reporters that greet her.

SEVERAL REPORTERS

Lucia! Lucia! How do you feel?

LUCIA

I don't want to sound ungrateful,  
but mostly I feel cold.

Everyone laughs and Lucia's suddenly buried under a pile of colorful fabrics as people strip off their own coats, hats, gloves. Madeline grins at Easy, moved by the crowd's gesture.

VIOLET

Madeline!

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

DETECTIVE

Madeline Scott! You are being  
placed under arrest! Remove your--

EASY

For what charge!?

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

DETECTIVE

For the murder of Rosemary Lynch.

The press goes crazy as BULBS POP on Madeline's stunned face!

**END OF PILOT**