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SUSPICION

“Pilot”

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ACT ONE

EXT. ASPEN MOUNTAINS - DAY

A COLD WINTER WIND HOWLS across the jagged, snow covered mountaintops. A BEAUTIFUL MANSION sits in the distance, the only sign of life on the otherwise barren terrain. As we PAN the landscape of powder white, we hear the voice of our reluctant hero, DANNY GOODMAN, 40's, *(because the tale you are about to see is in the vein of a Hitchcock suspense thriller, imagine a voice like Hitchcock's favorite everyman, Jimmy Stewart.)*

DANNY (V.O.)

They call it the course of history,
but I call it the noose of
inevitability. I'm talking about the
chain of events and small decisions,
that change a life forever...

We zero in on a mountaintop where a black ESCALADE dots the landscape, moving in a slow circle...

DANNY (V.O.)

Abe Lincoln's bodyguard decides to
stay for another drink at the bar at
Ford's theater...

We MOVE IN CLOSER and realize the Escalade is dragging what looks like a heap of rags tied to its rear fender. The bundle leaves a trail of dark red stain in the snow.

DANNY (V.O.)

You finally listen to your know-it-all
brother in law and invest with some
guy called Bernie Madoff...

The vehicle stops and A MAN, face obscured by his North Face and winter hat, gets out of the Escalade. He walks to the pile of rags. That's when we realize, the rags aren't rags--

DANNY (V.O.)

This is the course of events, the
story of the simple decision that
turned my life into a nightmare I'd
never wake up from...

But a body. Still alive. The man takes out a gun to shoot, but before we can get a good look at either face we--

SMASH TO--

EXT. BROOKLINE, MASS - NIGHT

A bright moon sits in the sky above this picturesque street of middle class homes. We land on Danny Goodman's simple duplex with iron fence cordoning off a small front yard.

A CHYRON READS: Three months earlier...INT. DANNY GOODMAN'S HOUSE, BEDROOM

The warm glow of the moon fills a small bedroom where LUCY FLETCHER, 40, pretty and down to earth, sits on the bed in her silk robe, blindfolded. *The feeling is of giddy happiness--*

LUCY
(calling off)
Danny? Come on, what's the surprise?

From off the MALE VOICE we heard in the voice over-

DANNY (O.S.)
One sec, just be patient, I know
that's hard for you--

LUCY
Yeah, well, and I'm blindfolded, which
is weird. Unless you suddenly became
a Fifty Shades fan?

Enter DANNY GOODMAN, (our Jimmy Stewart), 40's, handsome. He's got a plate of cake in his hands, and a Golden Retriever at his heels. He tries to scoot the dog away from the cake-

DANNY
Come on Rosie, this isn't for you,
don't ruin my moment-

But Rosie jumps up on the bed-

LUCY
Danny, just tell me what's going on!

DANNY
Okay-okay- taste this-

He holds a slice of vanilla cake to her mouth, she opens it tentatively, and tastes it. Her lips are so darn sexy-

DANNY (CONT'D)
What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCY
Pretty great-

DANNY
Okay, pretty great won't do, try this--
This time a piece of chocolate cake, she tastes--

LUCY
Wow, well, that is amazing, you know I
love chocolate--

DANNY
Then chocolate cake it is.

LUCY
What are we celebrating?

DANNY
Our wedding.

She freezes. So does he, waiting with hopeful anticipation. Lucy pushes up the blindfold, and we can see tears in her luminous brown eyes. Danny gets on his knee-

DANNY (CONT'D)
After Carla passed I didn't believe
I'd ever love another woman besides my
daughter again... Frankly, I didn't
believe I'd ever get my life together
again... But meeting you, falling in
love with you, being loved by you made
me want to be a better father and man.
A man worthy of a future with you...

He opens a ring box with a dazzling ring, simple but elegant.

DANNY (CONT'D)
Will you marry me, Lucy Fletcher?

LUCY
...Yes! Of course, yes!

They grasp each other-

DANNY
Here, try it on-

He slips the ring onto her finger-

LUCY
It's so beautiful, are you sure we can
afford it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY
(joking, but not really)
No.

She smiles through her tears-

LUCY
Have you talked to Ellie about it?

DANNY
(yes)
She helped me pick the ring.

And then, gently, lovingly, he kisses her, their passion grows, and as they fall onto the bed, filled with the promise of their new life together...

WE DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DANNY GOODMAN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - MORNING

ELLIE, 16, smart as a whip, but innocent for her age, (Danny's daughter), looks at the ring on Lucy's finger-

ELLIE
Dad wanted to get you a ruby but I told him to go classic and tasteful, that's Lucy.

LUCY
(moved)
You were right, I love it so much.
(then)
I know I'll never replace your mom, Ellie; but I'm here if you ever need someone for any of the mom stuff. Plus my degree in Psychology can be helpful, at least that's what some of my patients say.

Ellie laughs-

ELLIE
I will keep you in mind for any mom-related issues-

They hug, as Danny comes into frame, this image of family stops him-

ELLIE (CONT'D)
What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

I'm just... the happiest man in the world right now. Let me take the two of you to dinner tonight to celebrate?

ELLIE

But Tatiana's family invited us to their thing-

DANNY

Oh right, some sort of fundraiser?

ELLIE

Can we please go? They always invite us, and you never want to-

LUCY

I am sort of dying to see the inside of their house.

ON DANNY, he's feeling pretty great about life right now.

DANNY

Why not? Anything for my girls.

EXT. LYMAN ACADEMY - MORNING

The grand East Coast institution looks like Oxford against the dappled fall horizon. Danny's Ford Explorer pulls up to the sidewalk, he's on the phone-

DANNY

The Structural Engineer should be there around 8:30-

INT. DANNY'S EXPLORER - CONTINUOUS

DANNY

Then I have landscaper at 10--

Ellie's PHONE DINGS.

ELLIE

Tati just got here, pull down the block-

DANNY

Why?
(into phone)
Let me call you back-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLIE

She has a driver, Alexi, you know- the guy who drives me home from her house? He brings her to school. She thinks it's embarrassing, so she has him drop her around the block.

DANNY

When I was a kid my Dad drove us to school in a beat-up pickup, and I thought that was embarrassing.

He pulls down the block where a BLACK ESCALADE, exactly like the one we saw on the mountain top in Aspen stands against the curb. ALEXI, a big GOON of a man in black, opens the back door and TATIANA CANTER, 16 and so pale it looks like she's never seen the sun, gets out.

ELLIE

Bye Dad-

She gets out of the car, as Tatiana comes running up-

TATIANA

Hey Mr. Goodman-

Danny waves through the window, as his cell starts to go off again. It's just gonna be one of those days-

EXT. BOSTON - CONTINUOUS

Danny drives through the thriving historical city. He pulls into the parking garage of a commercial building.

INT. BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Danny rides the elevator to the 7th floor, he gets out-

EXT. GOODMAN REAL ESTATE - CONTINUOUS

And enters the small, but tasteful, office with carefully curated pictures of Boston apartments and condos. Three eager employees litter the bullpen, (most we'll get to know through the series), greet him with "Morning Mr. Goodman."

DIANA

I'm heading out to show some clients the new place on Spring-

DIANA 30's, single mom and hungry to sell, whisks past-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

Great, I saw there's another two
bedroom coming up on Lancaster, let me
see if I can get you in there-

DIANA

You're amazing, I need this sale-

And she's gone. Danny turns to his receptionist, SUSIE
GOLDFARB 64, three generations of Boston behind her accent-

DANNY

What else is going on Susie?

SUSIE

Just keeping my finger on the trigger
Danny, ready to buy my dream home-

She shows him her computer-- a beautiful retirement community
in Florida called, "THE PROMISE LAND."

DANNY

By the time you are 65 you will have
your place at the Promise Land and
then some. I was looking at prices on
Condos in South Bay the other day,
some of them are going for a half a
million dollars-

SUSIE

That's sick. But great. Which
reminds me, your Engineer called, he's
at the building, he said to get down
there, it's important.

EXT. SOUTH BAY CONDOS

A beautiful old building under construction, a big Goodman
Real Estate Banner stakes it's claim on the grounds, while
dozens of construction workers are busy at work.

INT. SOUTH BAY CONDOS, UNIT

The bones of what will be a sophisticated condo with views of
the city, Danny stands with the STRUCTURAL ENGINEER and his
FOREMAN looking at a busted open wall.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

The tests came back positive for
asbestos-

DANNY

Let's not touch anymore walls, then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FOREMAN

It's not so simple, Danny, it's not just the walls, it's everywhere, your pipe and attic insulation, even in the floor tiles-

DANNY

But isn't it only harmful if we disrupt it?

FOREMAN

You're gonna have to disclose it to prospective buyers. Nobody's gonna want to move into a building that's a death trap.

DANNY

(fuck)

So this explains why I got such a good deal.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

I don't think you have any choice but to remove it.

DANNY

(starting to sweat)

How much is it gonna cost me?

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER

Depends how bad it is when we call in the experts, but I'd estimate a few hundred thousand.

DANNY

A few hundred?! We still have to replace the electrical-

FOREMAN

And treat for termites.

DANNY

Okay guys, thank you, I'll uhm, get back to you-

He shakes their hands, and they head off. As soon as they are gone, Danny fights an urge to punch a wall, or cry. He is so fucking screwed! His house of cards is about to crumble.

INT. DANNY'S EXPLORER, TRAVELLING - NIGHT

Danny drives, Lucy shotgun and Ellie in the backseat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCY

You sure you're okay? You seem a little off since you got home tonight.

DANNY

(definitely not okay)
I'm fine.

ELLIE

You really don't want to go to this party, do you Dad?

DANNY

No, I do, I can't wait for this party!

LUCY

By the way, I called my parents to tell them the good news, they're coming into Boston next month and they want to take us out to lunch.

DANNY

(this is so not great)
Great, that's so great-

EXT. CANTER ESTATE - CONTINUOUS

They pull through the wrought iron gates, past the manicured grounds stretching in all directions. Tennis court. A pool. Up ahead, the grand house rises out of the mist. Elegant guests get out of cars, and we PRE-LAP MUSIC--

INT. CANTER HOME, PARTY ROOM - NIGHT

A 12 piece band plays as guests in glittering attire, sip glittering cocktails, and share in glittering conversation.

DANNY

Is that the real thing?

He's staring at Picasso's Blue Guitar, hanging on the wall-

ELLIE

Everything is real!

Danny takes in the tastefully furnished home that shows a love for art and antiques.

VOICE

Mr. Goodman!

A beautiful woman, CELINA CANTER, 40's, rushes to greet him--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CELINA

Celina Canter, Tatiana's mother, it's so wonderful to finally meet you! Ellie is like one of the family.

DANNY

Nice to finally meet you too.

CELINA

And you must be Ms. Fletcher.

LUCY

Lucy, please, thank you for having us. You have a beautiful home.

CELINA

We have a ridiculous home, but I appreciate the compliment. I love your dress, by the way.

LUCY

The Rack- Nordstrom.

CELINA

I love the Rack-

Tatiana appears in a pajama-ish looking outfit.

CELINA (CONT'D)

Look at you!

TATIANA

You hate my outfit.

CELINA

No! It's fabulous, very Factory meets People's Republic of China-

A few strapping young men, appear next to Celina.

CELINA (CONT'D)

And here is the rest of the clan, my oldest, Brendan-

BRENDAN CANTER, 21, extends his hand.

BRENDAN

Nice to meet you, I don't think I've seen Tati alone since she met Ellie.

CELINA

And this is Brendan's boyfriend, Marco-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARCO, also 21 and bookish-

MARCO
Pleasure.

And ROBERT CANTER 19, edgier than his brother, and dreadfully good looking.

ROBERT
We're grateful to anyone who can put up with our sister.

Robert glances at Ellie, and her knees grow weak.

TATIANA
You're an ass Robert-

CELINA
Robert is my middle child, in case you couldn't tell-

DANNY
It's great to meet you all.

TATIANA
(grabbing Ellie's arm)
Let's hit the dessert table-

Ellie wrests her gaze from Robert to follow Tatiana. Celina turns back to Danny and Lucy.

CELINA
I've wanted the opportunity to tell you what a wonderful father you are. You have such a grounded daughter, especially when I hear from Tati that she lost her mom at such a young age.

DANNY
Thank you, I wish I could take credit, but she really has her mother's spirit.

CELINA
It was Cancer?

DANNY
Breast cancer. She was diagnosed when Ellie was 10, and died a couple of years later.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CELINA

Poor, poor girl. I lost my mother when I was a teenager, I still don't think I'm over it.

(brightening)

But Tati tells me you're engaged?

LUCY

(showing the ring)

Yes, last night-

CELINA

It's so beautiful- a man with good taste, that's a rare commodity. You must come for dinner and allow us to toast you appropriately.

LUCY

That would be lovely-

And that's when we hear a knife on a champagne glass. The room quiets and turns their attention TO THE LANDING WHERE--

TOM

Good evening. I want to thank you all for coming out tonight for Senator Haskell-

Meet TOM CANTER, on the edge of 50, and charming as sin. ON DANNY as he takes in the cut of Tom's well tailored suit and Daytona Rolex on his wrist-

TOM (CONT'D)

A man wise enough to always say NO to fracking, and yes to a dirty martini-

Tom flashes a smile, and the room breaks into APPLAUSE. We watch from DANNY'S POV-- the crowd of adoring guests: the men want to be him, their wives want to fuck him. Just then, Danny's phone goes off in his pocket, he looks at it-

DANNY

(to Lucy)

Excuse me for a sec, I need to get this-

Lucy nods, but watches after him concerned, as he steps out of the room and onto the veranda...

EXT. CANTER HOME, VERANDA

PICK UP WITH Danny in the midst of an intense conversation--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

...I'm so screwed, my entire business is riding on this thing! All my employees are counting on me, Lucy's parents invested their retirement money in this deal! Everyone I know invested. You invested! Not to mention Ellie's tuition is due at the end of the month and I have no idea how the hell I'm gonna pay for it?

(shit, he's so fucked)

I don't want to have to foreclose, Jay, help me here, you're my lawyer and my best friend... I've worked so hard for this, I could lose everything.

(listens)

Okay, thanks, call me back.

Danny hangs up, and tries to collect himself before going back in to the party, when he hears-

TOM

Danny Goodman, there you are, Tom Canter, we have yet to be introduced.

Danny turns to face Tom-

DANNY

(covering)

Nice to finally meet you, sorry I missed the speech. I had to take a business call.

TOM

Oh please, you've heard one of these speeches, you've heard 'em all. You a whiskey drinker?

INT. CANTER HOME, TOM'S STUDY - NIGHT

Lynyrd Skynyrd's FREE BIRD blares. It's Tom's iPhone.

DANNY

(amused)

Love your ring tone.

TOM

I'm a sucker for Skynyrd. It's my secret fantasy one day I'll break free and fly away from it all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tom silences his phone, and pours them whiskeys. Danny looks around the office: A framed picture of Tom on the cover of Forbes, as well as various awards in business and philanthropy line the walls.

DANNY

What exactly is it that you do Mr. Canter?

TOM

Tom, please. I'm the low sort of man who creates nothing, only makes his fortune off the creations of others.

(then)

I invest on behalf of a very wealthy family. You?

DANNY

I guess I could say the same: real estate.

He hands Danny a whiskey, raises his to toast-

TOM

That's the second thing we have in common then.

DANNY

What's the first?

TOM

Ellie says you're a Southie, I'm from Quincy.

DANNY

Quincy- no way?! Wait a second, you're not Canter plumbing?

TOM

My father and his father before him, they fixed every toilet south of Boston.

DANNY

I'm Goodman Construction. My Dad was Sandy Goodman, built every deck east of Four Point Channel. You've done very well for yourself.

TOM

(darkening)

Depends on your definition of "well."

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TOM (CONT'D)
 (changes the subject)
 Where'd you go to school?

DANNY
 East Bay High, then BU-
 I'm guessing Quincy High then...
 Harvard?

TOM
 Right on Quincy. Couldn't afford
 Harvard, though I did get in. Boston
 College. You play sports?

DANNY
 No. But I did excel at squash.

TOM
 Hah. Me too. I thought if I played
 squash no one would know my father
 fixed toilets for a living. We'll
 have to play sometime.

Danny smiles, yes they will, they down their drinks. This is
 the beginning of a beautiful bro-mance.

TOM (CONT'D)
 I couldn't help but overhear you out
 on the veranda, asbestos...

DANNY
 (embarrassed)
 Oh- yeah, that was-

TOM
 I've invested in quite a bit of real
 estate myself, it starts to feel like
 a bad joke with all the things they
 find you need to spend more money on.

DANNY
 I wish I was laughing.

TOM
 Where's the building?

DANNY
 South Bay.

TOM
 Very up and coming.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DANNY

Beautiful old building, high ceilings,
great views. I've had my eye on it for
years.

TOM

Sounds like you found your nest egg.

Danny nods, but he can't mask the pain...

TOM (CONT'D)

Whaddya' need? To finish the
renovation?

DANNY

(puzzled)

Uhm, I'd have to go over my records-

TOM

Half a million?

ON DANNY, where is this going?

TOM (CONT'D)

I'll come by with my guy in the
morning to take a look, say after drop
off?

DANNY

That is very generous Mr. Canter, but
you don't even know me.

TOM

Tom. Please. And this has nothing to
do with generosity, it's what I do for
a living, Danny.

DANNY

Our daughters are such close friends,
I don't know that Ellie would feel
comfortable-

TOM

I agree. The girls don't need to know.

DANNY

Half a million dollars is a lot of
money-

TOM

(makes it clear)

Not for me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

That sits. Tom has made his point. Danny struggles, then--

DANNY

If you do- decide you want to invest in the building- perhaps we could keep it between us-- and our lawyers of course. I wouldn't want to alarm my other investors.

TOM

Oh no-

DANNY

Sure- of course, I understand-

TOM

No, no you don't understand, I wouldn't be investing in the building. I'd be investing in you. You pay me back when you start selling the units.

DANNY

With interest?

TOM

No interest. I like you, Danny, and I like your daughter. She's been a great friend to my Tati, and Tati has needed a great friend. It would be devastating for her if Ellie had to go to another school.

Danny realizes Tom heard way more of his conversation on the phone than he thought.

TOM (CONT'D)

I know, it sounds too good to be true, but I also know that sometimes all you need in life is that one little break to get started. I wouldn't be standing where I am now if I didn't get mine.

AND OFF DANNY, wanting to believe it all adds up-

INT. DANNY GOODMAN'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT

Danny sits at the table going over figures on his computer, wracked with worry. Lucy comes in--

LUCY

Hey, can't sleep?

Danny, no. She comes to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCY (CONT'D)

Tonight was really fun. Ellie seemed so happy in the car.

DANNY

Yeah, I'll talk to her about that tomorrow, I think she was drunk.

LUCY

Drunk? How did I not notice that? I'm the psychologist.

DANNY

You were drunk.

Lucy smiles, puts her arms around him. He loves her so much, he's gotta let her in on this...

DANNY (CONT'D)

Lucy... I should tell you, there were some problems with the building today, it's gonna be a little more complicated than I expected-

LUCY

It's always more complicated.

She sees he's struggling.

LUCY (CONT'D)

I know you feel like you have so much to prove to Ellie, to me, to my parents- (whom you should not worry about)-

DANNY

To myself--

LUCY

Yes. But look what you've already accomplished. You kept Ellie in that school when things were falling apart. You drained your savings to pay for Carla's treatments. You deserve this. And there will be set backs, sure, but it's nothing you can't handle anymore.

She faces him, looks into his eyes...

LUCY (CONT'D)

I am so proud to be marrying you Danny Goodman.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

OFF DANNY, wanting to be the man she thinks he is, and knowing he could lose it all in an instant-

EXT. SOUTH BAY CONDOS - MORNING

The building sits against the pale sky. Beautiful and ominous at the same time. WE PULL AWAY to discover we're looking at the building from TOM AND DANNY'S POV--

TOM

My guy says this place is a winner.

Danny looks at him, relief washing over him--

DANNY

So what happens next?

TOM

Say yes, and I'll wire you the money this afternoon.

And as we wait for Danny to answer, his VOICE OVER fades back in, and we PUSH IN ON HIS TROUBLED FACE--

DANNY (V.O.)

It's trite to say, but history can be trite: If only I could have known then what I know now...

BLUR TO WHITE--

FLASH FORWARD. EXT. ASPEN MOUNTAINS - DAY

BLUR OF WHITE fades back into the snow covered mountains of Aspen. The camera hovers behind the MYSTERY MAN with the gun, staring down at the body, obscured by the snow.

DANNY (V.O.)

...The trail of lies that would come next, the blood that would be spilled, and the lives that would be destroyed...

THE CAMERA DOES A 180, so we are looking into the face of the MYSTERY MAN, we reveal-- Danny Goodman. Our reluctant hero. He raises a gun to shoot the BODY in the snow. He cocks the trigger, a look of terror on his face, but before he shoots--

DANNY (V.O.)

I never would have taken the money.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWOINT. CANTER ESTATE, DINING ROOM - A FEW NIGHTS LATER

WE COME IN ON the midst of a lively dinner. Brendan, Robert, Marco, Celina, Lucy, Tom, Tatiana, Ellie and Danny sit around the dining room table enjoying a delicious meal-

BRENDAN

The worst thing about my mother's pulled pork night is that it is so good, we all trek home for it-

MARCO

Even I, who thought I'd never be caught dead eating anything that involves simmering a pig for 6 hours, am addicted.

DANNY

The food really is amazing. I may show up for dinner every Friday now too-

TOM

The calories do add up though, it'll get you back on the squash court-

Danny laughs, as Celina pours more wine-

CELINA

Now, tell me how you two met? I love the story of a good romance after dinner-

TOM

Celina-- she's so nosy-

LUCY

No, it's fine, unfortunately it's not that exciting, we met in college-

DANNY

Only she was out of my league then, and in love with someone else.

CELINA

What happened to this lucky man?

LUCY

I married him, then caught him cheating-

(aware of the girls)

Sorry-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TATIANA

Please, we're 16, we love stories of heartbreak and infidelity-

ELLIE

I didn't know your ex-husband cheated?

CELINA

It's terrible- there should be no secrets or lies in a marriage-

She looks at her husband, pointed, he holds her gaze.

LUCY

I agree. It's what I love about Danny, we tell each other everything.

She smiles at him, and Danny feels a pang of guilt.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Anyway, to add insult to injury, the woman in question was not only my colleague but my cousin. We all worked in the psychology department at Harvard Medical. I left the husband and the job. Then... Danny and I bumped into each other about a year and a half ago at Starbucks. The rest, as they say, is history.

Danny smiles at her. Ellie takes it in.

LUCY (CONT'D)

How about you guys? How did you meet?

TOM

You don't want to hear that old saga-

DANNY

Sure we do.

MARCO

I'd like to hear the story, we've done so much work educating you about our relationship Mr. Canter-

TOM

(explains)

I had some work to do when Brendan came out- but I'm good now, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BRENDAN

For a straight white man from Southie,
you're doing okay, Dad.

Laughter. Gosh, you can't not love this family's openness.

MARCO

So please, do tell-

TOM

Okay, well, I was fresh out of Boston
College-

CELINA

He was so handsome and ambitious.
He had his first job at a small
investment firm. He impressed one of
their biggest clients- I forget how?

TOM

Boring, investment stuff-

ROBERT

So the client invites our Dad to
dinner-

TOM

And there was the most beautiful woman
I'd ever seen-

TATIANA

The client was our Grandfather!

TOM

(looks at his wife)
And I have been madly in love ever
since.

MARCO

Awww...

Tom holds his wife's gaze until, the sound of **FREE BIRD**
interrupts the moment. Alexi (the driver) enters with Tom's
iPhone-

ALEXI

It's the call you were waiting on-

Tom takes the phone-

TOM

It pains me to leave your charming
company, but I have to take this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CELINA
 But it's dinner-
 (going after him)
 I'll be right back.

BRENDAN
 My mother has a rule: no phones at the
 table.

TATIANA
 She wants us to be the Cleavers, she
 doesn't realize that ship sailed a
 long time ago.

DANNY
 I thought Alexi was the driver?

TATIANA
 Oh, he does all sorts of stuff for my
 parents, they've known him forever.

Celina comes back into the room.

CELINA
 I'm sorry, Tom was called away on
 business.

Lucy clocks that she looks upset, and her mascara is smudged.

EXT. DANNY'S EXPLORER - NIGHT

They drive home from the dinner. Danny checks the rearview,
 Ellie's passed out.

LUCY
 (quietly)
 Do you think Tom's having an affair?

DANNY
 What gives you that idea?

LUCY
 Her reaction to my story about Cameron
 cheating-- and the way she went after
 Tom when he took that call. When she
 came back she looked like she'd been
 crying.

DANNY
 I didn't notice any of this.

LUCY
 That's because you're a guy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

I'd be shocked, he seems like such a dedicated father and husband.

LUCY

So did Cameron, I'm just saying. But they really are lovely, and I could even see Celina and I being friends.

DANNY

I wonder what a double date on the town with them looks like.

They giggle at the prospect, as Danny pulls onto the darkened block outside their duplex.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Wake up kid, we're home.

EXT. DANNY GOODMAN'S DUPLEX - NIGHT

As they open the gate, Rosie (the dog), HOWLS on the stoop. Danny looks at Lucy confused--

DANNY

How did Rosie get outside?

ELLIE

(cuddling the dog)

Did you leave her out, Dad?

DANNY

Of course not.

Danny goes up to the front door, puzzled. He checks it, it's locked. He unlocks it, and goes inside.

INT. DANNY GOODMAN'S DUPLEX - NIGHT

Danny walks into the darkened house, turning on lights--

LUCY

Everything okay?

DANNY

Nothing seems touched.

(confused)

I've never left the dog out.

OFF THIS EERIE feeling that something is amiss.

INT. CANTER HOME, MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Celina moisturizes her long legs getting ready for bed. Tom comes into the room, he takes her in, then eases himself onto the bed kissing her. She brushes him off, upset--

CELINA

You're in a good mood.

TOM

(shrugs)

I had a nice night, I enjoy hanging out with *real* people. And I like Danny, he reminds me of the man I used to be.

CELINA

Who called? At dinner.

TOM

I told you, it was work, there's a hotel in Panama we want to get in on.

CELINA

Why don't I believe you?

TOM

I don't know, Celina? Why don't you?

CELINA

This marriage has survived for one reason: we're completely honest with each other. So if there is anything you are not telling me...

He takes that in.

TOM

There is one thing... I leant Danny Goodman 500,000.

CELINA

Why?

TOM

He was in trouble with a building he bought... I wanted to help him out.

CELINA

Are you sure that was a good idea? We barely know him?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOM

You know I'm a great judge of character.

She rolls her eyes.

TOM (CONT'D)

And, I happened to over hear him on the phone, he wasn't going to be able to pay Ellie's tuition for school. We both know that Tati is doing so much better since she met Ellie. She's happy, social, getting good grades...

CELINA

(it's true)

That friendship has been a saving grace...

TOM

Danny did ask me to keep the loan between us, though. I don't think he wants Lucy to know.

Celina can't believe it!

CELINA

Is that what you guys do when you get together? Decide what secrets you'll keep from your wives?

And OFF THE TENSION BETWEEN THEM, something is very broken in their seemingly perfect marriage--

INT. DANNY GOODMAN'S EXPLORER - MORNING

Danny drives, Boston passing outside the window, he's talking to his lawyer Jay on speaker (his car doesn't have Bluetooth).

JAY (ON SPEAKER)

He just gave you half a million dollars?

DANNY

Wired it into my account last week- I haven't told Lucy- or anyone, but the first unit I sell, he gets paid back.

Danny's suddenly distracted by the car behind him, a Prius, a MAN behind the wheel, a WOMAN shotgun, driving way too close-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY (CONT'D)

What the hell?

He slows to send a message, and the car lurches behind him. Danny gestures out the window- *too close*. The car speeds up passing him, Danny clocks the man and woman in DARK SUITS through the window, there's something menacing about them.

DANNY (CONT'D)

What the-?

JAY (ON SPEAKER)

Danny, you there? Danny?

DANNY

Sorry, crazy drivers. Look, I know it sounds too good to be true, but our daughters are friends, and I think he related to me, we're from the same part of the world-

JAY (ON SPEAKER)

I'm googling him now- he has all the right credentials, it's just, next time you take half a million dollars from someone, let me in on it, that's why I'm your lawyer.

Danny, okay, he hangs up as he pulls into the parking garage.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Danny gets out of the car, and sees the Prius-- exactly like the one that just passed him on the road. He shrugs it off, and gets into the elevator.

INT. GOODMAN REAL ESTATE DOOR

A few minutes later he gets to the office to discover the door is locked. That's odd. He looks at his watch, where the hell is Susie? Danny takes out his keys and lets himself in--

INT. GOODMAN REAL ESTATE

The office is quiet. He approaches Susie's desk, her computer is on, THE PROMISE LAND CONDOS as her screen saver. She's left a hand scrawled note on the desk: *"Had an Emergency at home, back later."*

ON DANNY, puzzled. He heads to his office and opens the door, and nearly jumps out of his skin--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The MAN and WOMAN in black suits are standing there!

DANNY
How did you get in here?

WOMAN
(flashing badges)
Agent Peters, my colleague Agent
Yaeger, FBI.

DANNY
What's this about?

She SHUTS the door-

DANNY (CONT'D)
Excuse me--

AGENT PETERS
I thought you might prefer privacy-
Peters is pretty, 30's, with a calm demeanor.

AGENT YAEGER
We didn't think you'd want your
colleagues to know what you've been up
to.

Yaeger is the opposite, big brash and cliché.

DANNY
What have I been up to?

AGENT YAEGER
Really?

DANNY
I have no idea what you're talking
about?

Peters removes a paper from her briefcase.

AGENT PETERS
How about this? Do you remember this,
Mr. Goodman?

Danny looks, it's a copy of the wire transaction in the
amount of 500,000. From Tom Canter.

DANNY
(starting to get nervous)
It's a wire transaction, why? What's
this about?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AGENT PETERS
We've had Thomas Canter under
investigation for two years-

DANNY
Under investigation? For what?

Peters and Yaeger look at each other, growing impatient.
Yaeger shakes his head annoyed, Peters continues--

AGENT PETERS
Money laundering, securities and
investment fraud, and illegal campaign
contributions-

DANNY
...Wait- wait- slow down, you're
making it sound like Tom Canter is in
the mafia?

AGENT YAEGER
He is. Bratva.

Danny doesn't understand.

AGENT PETERS
The Russian mafia.

DANNY
What? The Russian mafia? That's
insane! He's a family man, he grew up
next to me in South Boston-

AGENT YAEGER
Is that where you met him? Have you
been working for Tom Canter for a long
time?

DANNY
I don't work for Tom Canter! Our
daughters go to the same school, I
literally hung out with him for the
first time last week.

AGENT YAEGER
Last week? Five hundred thousand
dollars is an awful lot of money to be
giving a guy you met last week.

ON DANNY, holy fucking shit-

DANNY
You think I'm involved?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

AGENT YAEGER

Were you laundering the money for him?

DANNY

No! It was a friendly loan! My life was falling apart, I owed money, he overheard me on the phone-

Danny stops, something else-

DANNY (CONT'D)

Unless... He used me, to launder his money?

Jesus, fuck. He's so fucked.

AGENT PETERS

That may be the case, but this is how it looks to us: conspiracy to commit money laundering which is a Federal crime, no parole. You're gonna need to start cooperating.

Danny is reeling... Suddenly has an idea!

DANNY

Can I give the money back? I'll get the money back from my contractor and-

AGENT YEAGER

There is no going back. This isn't gonna go away.

DANNY

So, what? Are you arresting me?

AGENT YAEGER

That's your choice.

Danny looks at them, confused.

AGENT YAEGER (CONT'D)

It's your lucky day, Mr. Goodman-

AGENT PETERS

It's a unique time in our investigation, and we could use someone close to Tom Canter to help us.

DANNY

But I'm not close to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

AGENT YAEGER

Then make him your new best friend.

DANNY

You mean you want me to be a- a- I don't even know what they call it? An informant?

AGENT PETERS

A confidential source. You can help provide information we need to make our case.

Danny sits back, stunned. Peters hands him her card.

AGENT PETERS (CONT'D)

I know it's a lot to think about. Take a couple of hours. Come to this address at noon.

She heads for the door, Yaeger follows--

DANNY

And what happens if I don't come?

AGENT YAEGER

Then we come for you. With handcuffs.

OFF DANNY, trying to wrap his head around all of this. The harrowing reality starting to sink in, *he's a trapped man!*

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREEINT. FBI FIELD OFFICE - DAY

Danny sits in the reception area with JAY DIETZ, 40's, his best friend (and the lawyer we've heard him on the phone with).

DANNY

... Now they're saying I have to work for them or go to jail... Why didn't I call you?

They keep their voices down as FBI employees move past-

JAY

(he should have)

I don't know that I would have told you not to take the money, but at least you'd have some kind of contract, something in writing-

DANNY

Tom is just so charming, and he's from Southie, and it didn't feel like taking the money from a stranger, it felt like taking it from a friend... Maybe I should just go talk to him?

JAY

Are you insane? If Tom really is working for the Russian mob, your life could be in jeopardy.

Danny looks at him, what the fuck? He never thought about that.

JAY (CONT'D)

Google Russian mobster assassinations, it's like the movies-

ON DANNY, Jesus Christ!

DANNY

... But Tom Canter? He can't be a part of that? He's just the money guy, right?

JAY

No one is just the money guy. He probably has some big heavy who follows him around?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

... Alexi, his driver-- *Russian Driver-*

JAY

I bet Alexi does a lot more than drive.

ON DANNY as this sinks in-

RECEPTIONIST

Agents Yaeger and Peters will see you now.

INT. FANCY RESTAURANT - DAY

Lucy and Celina are in the midst of lunch.

LUCY

Once a week I work with kids in juvenile hall, that's the hardest, but most rewarding part of my job.

CELINA

You really are a saint Lucy.

LUCY

Far from it. But thank you.

CELINA

And thank you for meeting me for lunch on such short notice.

LUCY

No! I was so glad you called.

CELINA

Female friends are so important, they always try to paint women on TV as backstabbing, but I cherish my relationships with women more than anything.

LUCY

I couldn't agree more.

Celina looks at her new friend, growing contemplative, there's something she wants to say to her--

CELINA

Please tell me if I'm overstepping here...

Lucy leans in...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CELINA (CONT'D)

But I wanted to ask, were there signs that your ex-husband was cheating?

LUCY

In hind-sight, yes: odd phone calls in the middle of the night, weird flare-ups of anger, and we stopped having sex, which should have made it completely obvious. But I didn't want to believe my perfect life, wasn't perfect.

Celina takes that in. Lucy watches her-

LUCY (CONT'D)

Now I don't mean to overstep, but is there something you want to talk about? I'll keep it between us of course.

Celina wavers, then-

CELINA

No. I just think it's important for us to remember never to take those signs for granted.

(then pointed)

And not to tolerate any omissions or lies in a marriage.

LUCY

I couldn't agree with you more.

Celina looks at her, *will she tell her?* But then she smiles broadly-

CELINA

Good. You're a wonderful woman Lucy, and you deserve all the happiness in the world. Now should we order dessert?

And OFF LUCY, wondering what's really going on here?

INT. FBI OFFICE, INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny and Jay sit across from the agents at a small table. There's an intensity in the air.

AGENT PETERS

This is the confidential source form, once you sign it, you'll work for us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Danny stares at the simple form awaiting his signature.

JAY

And if my client chooses not to sign?

PETERS

Federal sentencing guidelines for money laundering given the amount of money involved - five hundred thousand dollars, puts your client at about 324-400 months in prison.

DANNY

Thirty three years?! This is insane. My daughter is just getting over losing her mother, I can't do that to her. I can't.

He looks at Jay, help me here, and we HARD CUT TO--

EXT. FBI FIELD OFFICE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Danny and Jay are huddled in the hall-

JAY

Look Danny, I've been your friend since freshmen year, I know you're innocent, and I'd bet my degree the FBI knows it too. We could try to build a case to beat them in court, but it will undoubtedly bankrupt you.

Danny takes that in...

JAY (CONT'D)

But let me be frank: they want you, and they're gonna make your life miserable until you cooperate.

DANNY

So I have no choice?

JAY

There are always choices...

Danny looks at his friend, but the answer is clear, there is only one choice, and WE CUT BACK TO--

INT. FBI FIELD OFFICE, INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny picks up the pen to sign the confidential source form, his hand shakes, he stops, puts the pen down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Yaeger and Peters watch him. And then, Danny picks the pen up again, and he signs.

AGENT PETERS

Good. Now, here's what we want you to do.

Agent Yaeger puts a small gadget on the table.

AGENT PETERS (CONT'D)

This is a MobilXtract. All you have to do is plug it into Tom's iPhone, follow the prompts, it'll download the contents of his phone.

DANNY

You're kidding me?

Yaeger looks at him, what?

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm a real estate agent, not 007! And the man's phone is practically glued to him. How am I gonna get it? I barely know the guy-

AGENT YAEGER

You knew him well enough to take half a million dollars-

JAY

My client has explained the circumstances of the wire transfer!

Agent Peters looks at him, okay. Then back to Danny.

AGENT PETERS

I understand it sounds complicated, but believe me, we've worked with many civilians before and we wouldn't give you anything to do we didn't think you could handle.

Danny wants to punch something.

DANNY

What about my daughter? She practically lives at the Canter's, is she safe?

AGENT PETERS

The Canters are well protected.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DANNY

Why? What makes them so well protected?

JAY

Which raises the question: how will you protect Danny's family? His daughter Ellie, his fiancée, Lucy?

AGENT PETERS

As long as your client doesn't talk, they're protected.

DANNY

But how?

AGENT PETERS

You're just going to have to trust us.

DANNY

You won't tell me anything and I have to trust you?

He looks towards Jay, Jay may be out of his league here--

AGENT PETERS

This is a confidential relationship. It's for your own protection--

AGENT YAEGER

That way if you get caught--

DANNY

If I get caught?

(Jesus Christ!)

What happens if I get caught?

AGENT PETERS

(without a hint of irony)

Don't get caught.

OFF DANNY--

INT. DANNY GOODMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Danny comes storming into the house, Lucy looks up from her case files and glass of wine.

LUCY

You're late tonight, everything okay?

DANNY

Where's Ellie?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCY
Tatiana's I assume.

DANNY
I called her an hour ago, I told her I
wanted her home now.

LUCY
What's going on?

DANNY
She spends too much time there.

LUCY
Danny?

Danny looks at his fiancée, the weight of what is happening
hits him like a freight truck! Ellie comes in the door-

DANNY
There you are!

ELLIE
This is so messed up, why is it
suddenly a problem that I hang out at
Tatiana's?

DANNY
It's not a problem, you just hang out
there too much.

LUCY
Danny-?

ELLIE
She's my best friend, you like her
parents, I don't get it?

DANNY
It was great you had Tatiana while you
were adjusting to Lucy moving in last
year, but we're your family now, and I
want us to start doing family stuff
together.

ELLIE
Family stuff?

DANNY
And I think it's unhealthy that since
Tatiana showed up you dropped all of
your other friends--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELLIE

I didn't drop my other friends! I just got sick of the way they looked at me like I was their worst nightmare!

DANNY

What are you talking about?

ELLIE

Come on Dad, I'd been going to that school since kindergarten! They all knew mom, they saw me crying all the time, and none of them knew what to do. Tatiana just sees me as me, not as some sad pity case, and I like that!

Ellie storms into her room. Danny stands there, his daughter's words hit home, he feels for her.

LUCY

I hate to get involved, but this is rather a 180?

DANNY

I know, I just- I want her with us. And I was thinking about dinner at the Canters' the other night, there is something off about them. I bet you're right. I bet Tom is having an affair, and I'm worried about that around Ellie.

LUCY

I had lunch with Celina today-

DANNY

You had lunch with Celina!? Why?

LUCY

(confused)
She invited me-

Holy shit! Everyone he loves is getting pulled into this crime family!

DANNY

What happened at lunch?

LUCY

Nothing. It was nice. They're a good family, I don't think you need to worry that they'll be a bad influence on Ellie-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DANNY

I'll worry about my daughter, if I
want to, Lucy!

Lucy steps back, surprised by Danny's behavior, suddenly her
conversation with Celina ringing in her ears...

LUCY

What is really going on here? You're
not acting like yourself.

Danny stops, he loves this woman, so much.

DANNY

I'm sorry- I'm just- tired, it was a
long day-

LUCY

Is it the building?

DANNY

No- no- everything is fine-

LUCY

You can tell me-

(then parroting Celina)

I can't tolerate any omissions or lies
in our relationship. Not after what I
went through in my last marriage-

He pulls her into a tight embrace.

DANNY

I love you Lucy, and I will never let
you get hurt- I promise you that, I
won't let you get hurt.

AND OFF THE TWO of them, holding each other in the dark, and
Danny wondering if the hole of lies is so deep, how will he
ever find his way out--

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUREST. EXT. GOODMAN REAL ESTATE - MORNINGINT. DANNY'S OFFICE - MORNING

ON THE MOBIL XTRACT. Danny turns it over in his fingers. Just then his phone RINGS, the caller ID reads, TOM CANTER. Danny nearly jumps-

DANNY

Hello?

We hear Tom's voice come through the phone, upbeat.

TOM (O.S.)

Hey, I was thinking about a game of squash later, you interested?

DANNY

Oh. No. I can't. I have dinner. With Lucy.

TOM (O.S.)

Next time then.

DANNY

Next time.

He hangs up, and throws down the phone, upset.

EXT. PARK - DAY

PANTING. Danny runs through a wooded park with Rosie off the leash. He's sweating, pushing harder, like if he runs fast enough he can just run away from it all-- until he trips. Some twigs. That's when he realizes--

DANNY

Rosie?

Rosie isn't with him. Danny turns in circles, panicked.

DANNY (CONT'D)

Rosie!? Rose? Rosie?

RING! It's his phone, in his pocket. He looks at the caller ID, PETERS. Fuck! He answers.

DANNY (CONT'D)

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AGENT PETERS (O.S.)
 Why'd you say no to playing squash
 with Tom tonight?

DANNY
 (can't believe it)
 Because I'm having dinner with my
 fiancé! Are you bugging my phone?

AGENT PETERS (O.S.)
 You can go to dinner after squash. It
 just seems like a good opportunity to
 get the job done with the MobilXtract.
 Tom probably doesn't play squash with
 his phone on him. Wait- Yaeger wants
 to talk to you--

Danny stands there in the forest, he can't fucking believe it-

AGENT YAEGER (O.S.)
 The faster we get our case, the sooner
 you're done. That's it.

Danny looks into the glare of sun through the towering pines,
 Fuck! Shit! He slams his phone into an imaginary rock over
 and over and over, and then-

DANNY
 Fine.

He hangs up. Makes a call-

DANNY (CONT'D)
 Hey Tom, yeah it's Danny, you still up
 for that game of squash?

Just then Rosie runs back into frame, proud, a dead squirrel
 hangs from her mouth.

INT. BOSTON SPORTS CLUB - EVENING

Danny and Tom Canter walk down the halls of the posh club.
 Danny can't stop looking at Tom, like he's trying to see the
 truth.

TOM
 You okay there Danny?

DANNY
 Yeah, yeah, not a bad place to work
 out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOM

Elitist a-holes. Seriously. You have to be a direct descendent of the Mayflower to get into this place.

DANNY

How'd you get in then?

TOM

(grins)

I bought the roof, literally. It was caving in, I paid to have it fixed. Gotta love America, anything can be bought.

Danny LAUGHS despite himself; an attendant in a polo passes-

TOM (CONT'D)

Hey Matty, how's school?

MATTY, a young Irish kid smiles-

MATTY

Great Mr. Canter, my mom is so thankful to you, she baked you like 5 soda breads. I keep telling her, "he comes to the club to lose weight!"

TOM

Well, I'm glad school is going well. You keep up the good work.

They keep walking. Danny looks at Tom curiously.

DANNY

You paid for his school?

TOM

(shrugs)

Everyone should have the right to go to whatever the hell school they want.

ON DANNY, this man is such a paradox, it's easy to forget he's the enemy.

INT. BOSTON SPORTS CLUB - EVENING

The men change into sports gear. ON DANNY, already sweaty as he slips the MobilXtract out of his bag, and places it on the top shelf of his locker.

TOM

Jose, como va! How are the kids?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tom waves warmly to the locker room attendant, JOSE.

JOSE
Everybody's good Mr. Canter-

TOM
My friend, Danny Goodman.

JOSE
Nice to meet you Mr. Goodman, let me know if I can get you anything?

DANNY
Thanks.

Danny clocks that Tom puts his phone into his suit jacket pocket, and hangs it in the locker. He SLAMS the locker door shut. Danny wipes more sweat from his forehead.

INT. SQUASH COURT - EVENING

The men enter the court. Danny clocks that Tom throws his locker keys on the floor. Danny throws his own keys beside Tom's. The men start to play--

TOM
Tatiana tells me you don't want Ellie to hang out with her so much. May I ask if something happened?

Danny gets flustered, as the ball whizzes by his head.

DANNY
No- no- I just want her to spend more time with me and Lucy, family stuff-

Tom nods, getting ready to serve.

TOM
I just wanted to make sure, because Tatiana is very disappointed-

Tom SLAMS the ball, it BANGS the wall and comes careening toward Danny. Danny lunges and misses, nearly tripping over himself.

TOM (CONT'D)
(joking)
I thought you played squash.

ON DANNY, realizing he is trapped on so many levels.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

Hah, yeah, I think I just- I'm gonna use the bathroom.

Danny walks over to the keys, his heart beating in his throat. He bends down and quickly sweeps up both sets!

INT. BOSTON SPORTS CLUB, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

We follow Danny to the locker, cursing himself.

INT. LOCKER ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Danny, hand trembling, fumbles with Tom's locker keys and unlocks Tom's locker. He reaches in and gets the phone out of Tom's jacket pocket.

Then, awkwardly clutching Tom's phone, he fumbles to get his own locker open when-- **Lynyrd Skynyrd FREE BIRD!** Tom's phone is going off! Danny starts madly pressing buttons, trying to silence the fucking thing! The phone slips out of his sweaty hand and onto the floor! Danny stoops to grab it as the call finally goes to voicemail and we hear--

VOICE (O.S.)

Excuse me--

Danny freezes. ON HIS FACE, holy fucking shit. Danny turns--

JOSE

Can I help you?

It's Jose, his eyes on Tom's open locker.

DANNY

Uhm, yeah, yeah, Tom thought he had some water in here. But he doesn't. You think you could grab us some?

Jose's eyes linger on Danny and the locker, then he walks away.

Danny nearly pisses with relief. Then, he quickly removes the MobilXtract from his locker and plugs it into Tom's phone. A prompt reads: **Download all.** Danny hits it, and a green bar starts to load. AND STOPS. 20 minutes to download.

DANNY (CONT'D)

You gotta be kidding me!

JOSE

Your water.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jose holds out water bottles. Danny makes a snap decision, and throws Tom's phone into his own locker and closes it.

INT. DANNY GOODMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Lucy is working in the living room, Rosie at her feet, when Ellie wanders in--

ELLIE

Can I take you up on your offer?

LUCY

Offer?

ELLIE

Mom stuff.

LUCY

(excited)

Oh yes! Of course, have a seat.

ELLIE

Why was Dad so weird the other night?

LUCY

I don't know, but you're right, he was weird. Maybe he's just so happy to finally have a family again that he's acting a little overzealous.

ELLIE

It was hard when mom was sick. He was so sad, sometimes I felt like I had to be happy around him.

LUCY

That's a tall order for a kid.

ELLIE

Anyway... Tatiana's brother Robert is having a party at Harvard tonight, and Tati really wants me to go with her, but Dad isn't picking up his phone.

LUCY

I think he's actually playing squash with Tati's Dad. They should be done soon.

Ellie looks disappointed. Lucy clocks it-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LUCY (CONT'D)

Hey, since your Dad's not picking up,
I'll call Celina, see what she thinks,
if it sounds safe, why not?

ELLIE

Really? Thanks, Lucy.

OFF LUCY, heading for the phone, enjoying the mantle of
parenthood-

INT. SQUASH COURT - NIGHT

Bam! Bam! Bam! Back on the court Danny plays like an
animal. All the adrenaline from the 007 escapade in the
locker room. The ball whizzes by Tom's head, he stops, bent
over, panting.

TOM

What'd you do in the locker room?

DANNY

(nervous)

What do you mean?

TOM

You drank a Red Bull, didn't you?

Danny laughs, relieved.

DANNY

Actually I drank a lot of water and I
have to use the facilities again.

TOM

Let's call it a night, I'm wiped.

Danny falters, the phone is still in his locker.

DANNY

But I just started winning-

Tom heads for his keys.

TOM

(winks)

I know when to quit.

He stops--

TOM (CONT'D)

Where are my keys?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

Oh, shoot, I must have picked up both sets.

(he throws Tom his keys)

Here.

Tom catches them, and Danny bolts ahead to the lockers--

INT. LOCKER ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Danny quickly gets his locker open and pulls out Tom's phone, it reads: **DOWNLOAD COMPLETE**. Danny removes the MobilXtract, just as Tom approaches his locker. Danny has no choice but to put Tom's phone back in his own locker. ON DANNY sweating bullets wondering how he's gonna get away with this mess--

Next to Danny, Tom strips down, throws on a towel and heads to the shower leaving his LOCKER DOOR WIDE OPEN. Danny can't believe his luck when: **Lynyrd Skynyrd FREE BIRD!** Tom's phone is going off INSIDE DANNY'S LOCKER! Danny freezes in fear.

Tom stops, time stands still as he decides whether on not to get his phone. And dangling in this moment of HARROWING SUSPENSE WE--

SMASH TO BLACK--

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVEINT. BOSTON SPORTS CLUB, LOCKER ROOM - NIGHT

PICK UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF: Danny frozen in fear by the locker with Tom's phone ringing inside it. Tom deciding whether to go back for it.

And then, the phone stops ringing. And Tom keeps going for the showers. Danny nearly faints with relief. He thanks his lucky stars, returns the phone to Tom's pocket.

OFF DANNY as a look of ELATION spreads across his face--

INT. DANNY GOODMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Danny comes striding into the house, feeling relieved. Rosie greets him with sloppy kisses-

DANNY

Oh hello there girl-

Lucy appears in a slinky slip-

LUCY

How was squash?

DANNY

Exhausting. Wow, You look nice-

LUCY

Thank you-

They kiss.

LUCY (CONT'D)

Ellie went to a party with Tatiana, I thought we could make up for last night.

DANNY

What?

LUCY

Don't worry, I talked to Celina, she said Alexi would take them, keep an eye out and make sure they were home by midnight-

DANNY

Alexi? I don't want her at a college party with Alexi-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He starts calling Ellie, it goes to voicemail.

LUCY
Danny? What the hell is going on?

DANNY
Why isn't she answering her phone?

He grabs his keys.

LUCY
Where are you going?

DANNY
To get her!

And he races out leaving Lucy stunned and confused--

INT. DANNY'S EXPLORER, TRAVELLING - NIGHT

Danny has Ellie's phone on re-dial-

ELLIE'S VOICEMAIL
Hi, this is Ellie, leave me a message.

Danny pulls onto the Harvard campus, he scans the landscape, he sees some kids carrying a keg into a house. And out front-
the Escalade and Alexi leaning against it-

ALEXI
Mr. Goodman, is everything okay?

Danny nods, yeah, and dodges Alexi, heading up to the party.

INT. HOUSE PARTY - CONTINUOUS

Heavy thud of house beats fill the crowded room of Co-eds. Dancing. Drinking. And there's Danny pushing his way through, he doesn't see Ellie. He stops a YOUNG MAN-

DANNY
Have you seen a pretty, brunette girl.

YOUNG MAN
They're all pretty brunette girls.

Danny is starting to get frantic when he hears-

TATIANA
Mr. Goodman?

DANNY
Tatiana! Where is Ellie?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TATIANA
Dancing, over there-

She points, and we see from DANNY'S POV: Ellie. Dancing close to Robert! This is so much worse than Danny thought: Not only is Ellie best friends with Tatiana, but she's got a crush on Robert!

ON ELLIE AND ROBERT on the dance floor.

ROBERT
I'm glad you came.

ELLIE
Me too-

Robert moves in closer, a TAP ON ELLIE'S SHOULDER, she turns-

ELLIE (CONT'D)
Dad?

EXT. HOUSE PARTY - MOMENTS LATER

Ellie runs out of the house, Danny a few paces behind.

ELLIE
I can't believe you!

DANNY
You're too young to be at a college party. And what were you doing with Robert?

She turns on her father, so angry she nearly spits.

ELLIE
I was dancing Dad.

DANNY
That wasn't dancing.

ELLIE
You don't get anything-

DANNY
What don't I get?

ELLIE
Mom got sick when I was 10! And then two years later, she died.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLIE (CONT'D)

I've spent my entire adolescence sad and scared-- thinking I'd never be a normal, happy kid who got to do the stuff other kids do- have friends, and go to parties, and dance with boys. But I finally am happy. Dad. And that's in part because you cleaned up, you stopped drinking, you met Lucy. And I'm so happy and supportive of you, of your dreams coming true. Why can't you be supportive of mine?

DANNY

Oh honey-

Ellie is CRYING NOW. He puts his arms around her-

DANNY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, I am so, so sorry. You're right. It's just I love you so much, if anything ever happened to you...

ELLIE

I know. But you have to let me be a teenager.

He gets it, he's so sorry.

ELLIE (CONT'D)

It's okay, let's just go home.

Ellie goes to the car, Danny follows, his heart aches, just then his phone BEEPS, he looks at it, a text from PETERS:

Meet tomorrow, 5:30AM Charles River, 5th bench. OFF DANNY--

INT. CANTER HOME, BEDROOM - DEAD OF NIGHT

DARKNESS. And then, FREE BIRD. Celina opens her eyes, turns on the light, upset, as Tom reaches for the phone-

CELINA

It's two in the morning, who would call you now?

TOM

(looking at his phone)
Your father.
(he answers)
What is it Borya?

He listens, his face goes ashen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TOM (CONT'D)

Okay, okay-

He hangs up, a stunned expression.

CELINA

What did he want?

TOM

Your father says we have a mole in the organization.

CELINA

A mole?

If we had any doubts about Celina knowing what Tom's business is, we don't anymore. Celina's father is Tom's business.

TOM

Your Dad says it has to be someone very close to us.

They sit there digesting, Tom looks devastated-

CELINA

Don't go dark on me, Tom, you know Daddy will protect us.

TOM

God- I hate this life.

CELINA

Don't pretend you didn't know what Dad did when he asked you to work for him.

TOM

(he knows he's culpable)
I knew what he did. And I wanted it.
I wanted it all.

They stand there, anger and fear fill the room. Celina softens, reaches out to her husband--

CELINA

Daddy will protect us.

TOM

He couldn't before.

And off this we--

EXT. CHARLES RIVER - EARLY IN THE MORNING

A thick bed of mist sits on the river, enshrouding the city in the distance. Two figures emerge from the mist like an appearing act-- Agent Peters and Yaeger. And there's Danny and Rosie, dressed for a run.

AGENT PETERS

Great job.

DANNY

Fuck you.

A pause- Peters and Yaeger look at each other.

DANNY (CONT'D)

What?

AGENT YAEGER

We didn't get everything we needed.

DANNY

What do you mean?

AGENT PETERS

We're just gonna need you to hang on a little longer-

DANNY

No-

AGENT PETERS

We're so close-

DANNY

Unh-unh, no way-

AGENT PETERS

I know this is upsetting-

DANNY

--I did your dirty work--

AGENT PETERS

And you did a great job-

AGENT YAEGER

But we didn't get everything we needed-

DANNY

Well, I don't give a shit-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AGENT PETERS

Danny, try to calm down here--

DANNY

I'm not calming down! I am done! I'm done with you! I'm done with Tom Canter!

AGENT YAEGER

You're just gonna cut off contact with Tom Canter? You don't think that's gonna look suspicious? Lucy and Celina hit it off, your daughters are best friends, though after last night's showdown at Harvard, who knows?

DANNY

You know everything.

They do. Danny stares at them, he's a balloon losing its air--

DANNY (CONT'D)

You know what? I can't do this anymore. Arrest me.

AGENT YEAGER

-- If that's what you want --

What Danny wants to do is cry.

AGENT PETERS

The truth is prison won't save you. The Russians have people behind bars. If they suspect you of espionage they find you no matter where you are, and they won't spare you, and they won't spare Lucy, and they won't spare Ellie.

Danny takes that in. He sputters, one last desperate attempt--

DANNY

But you're the government, you're supposed to protect us?

Agent Peters places a gentle hand on his shoulder.

AGENT PETERS

No one can protect you. That's why we have to be sure we have enough evidence to put Tom Canter behind bars, and make sure he stays there.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Danny brushes her hand off, angrily. He can't believe this, He runs his hands over his face, there is no way out. And then, slowly, like a boxer scraping himself off the ring--

DANNY

...Okay.

AGENT PETERS

(nods)

We'll be in touch.

AGENT YAEGER

By the way, I hear Celina invited you guys to Brendan's birthday party on Saturday-

(slips an iPhone into
Danny's hand)

Take pictures.

Peters and Yaeger walk into the mist, leaving Danny with Rosie. Behind him the mist has lifted, revealing a stunning view of that great city of our founding fathers. We PUSH IN ON DANNY, the eyes of a caged animal.

EXT. CANTER ESTATE, GARDENS - DAY

It's a beautiful day for a party. A band plays, trays of cocktails and appetizers weave through the crowd of expensively dressed guests. We're walking through the party with Danny and Lucy.

DANNY

If you could have all this, what would you do to get it?

LUCY

Nothing. I'm happy with what I have, Danny.

She kisses him, and he looks into her eyes, wishing this moment would never end. But it does-

TOM

Just the man I was looking for.

Tom gives Lucy a peck on the cheek. Then leans into Danny-

TOM (CONT'D)

There's something I want to talk to you about-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY
(nervous)
Yeah?

TOM
Later. Privately.

Danny watches Tom head off, and over to Alexi, where he leans in and tells him something quietly. Alexi nods, looks up, and for a moment locks eyes with Danny. Danny starts to sweat, what does Tom want to talk to him about? Then, he turns back to Lucy and sees--

Jose, the locker room attendant. He's working the party, but looking right at Danny. Now, Danny wonders, *am I being watched?*

EXT. CANTER ESTATE - CONTINUOUS

Tatiana and her brother play croquet. They look up at Ellie--

ROBERT
Why hello Ellie, that was a tragic exit you made from my party.

ELLIE
My Dad had a mental breakdown.

ROBERT
Can I get you ladies a glass of champagne disguised in a kids cup?

ELLIE
Sure.

TATIANA
You can get me the bottle.

He chuckles and heads off. Ellie watches after him.

TATIANA (CONT'D)
Be careful.

Ellie looks at her.

TATIANA (CONT'D)
Just protect your heart. Something happened to him, a while ago, it messed him up.

Tatiana warns, then SMACKS her ball, leaving Ellie, upset.

EXT. CANTER ESTATE - CONTINUOUS

Tom steps up to the band and takes the microphone-

TOM

Good afternoon, I want to make a toast
to my oldest son, Brendan-

Brendan stands with his arm around Marco, watching his Dad
with pride in his eyes.

TOM (CONT'D)

You've taught me more about being a
father and man than anyone else. We're
blessed to have a lot, but in the end
all that matters is family...

Then, he meets Celina's gaze, and they share a look loaded
with the new knowledge that the life they built could be in
jeopardy. Celina nods encouragingly to him, and Tom recovers--

TOM (CONT'D)

I love you kid, here's to an amazing
22nd year...

Guests raise their glasses, we find our players among them:
Tom, Lucy, Celina, Robert, Ellie and Tatiana, toasting the
moment, as APPLAUSE RISES UP--

EXT. CANTER ESTATE, VERANDA - EVENING

Danny stands on the veranda taking in the setting sun, the
sky is streaked pink and gray. Tom comes out with scotch--

TOM

Know what sucks about getting to where
I am? You don't know who you can
trust. Where we grew up you knew who
your people were, you just did...

ON DANNY, where the fuck is this going and am I about to be
assassinated!?

TOM (CONT'D)

You knew who had your back- God look
at that sunset-

Danny follows Tom's gaze to the apocalyptic sunset, and we
travel down the wall of the estate to--

INT. CANTER ESTATE, GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

Music plays on an old radio. Alexi cleans the Escalade. Just then, a loud CLANG! Like something fell. Alexi turns--

ALEXI
Mr. Canter?

But the garage seems empty. Alexi shrugs and goes back to work on the smallest scratch near the back left tire. Then--

A PAIR OF GLOVED HANDS emerge behind him, bringing a wire around his neck.

ON ALEXI, struggling for life, eyes popping out of his head-

EXT. CANTER ESTATE, VERANDA - CONTINUOUS

Tom turns to Danny-

TOM
Point is, Tati tells me you don't have plans for winter break. We've got this great place in Aspen. Middle of nowhere. I mean that literally, not a soul for miles. Plenty of room. We want you guys to come. Celina won't take no for an answer.

Danny pauses, then...

DANNY
I guess we have no choice then.

They lock eyes, and Danny wonders: will this nightmare ever end? Or will it end on a snow covered mountaintop in Aspen?

TOM
(smiles)
To old neighborhoods, and new friends.

DANNY
Old neighborhoods, and new friends-

Off the CLINK! of their glasses, Danny's VOICE OVER FADES BACK IN--

DANNY (V.O.)
The tyranny of small decisions someone once called it...

FLASH FORWARD. EXT. ASPEN COLORADO - DAY

We are back where we started on the snow covered mountaintops of Aspen.

DANNY (V.O.)
The gates of history turn on small hinges...

Danny Goodman holds a cocked pistol at a body struggling for life in the snow-

DANNY (V.O.)
There was only one way out--

And now we see who the body is: AGENT YAEGER! His face pleading, don't shoot-

DANNY (V.O.)
Change the course of history.

SMASH TO BLACK--

END OF PILOT