

UNTITLED UNIVERSITY PROJECT

by

Sheldon V. Turner

White Production Draft 03.07.17
 Blue Revisions 03.11.17
 Pink Revisions 03.15.17
 Yellow Revisions 03.16.17
 Green Revisions 03.19.17
 Goldenrod Revisions 03.20.17
 Salmon Revisions 03.21.17
 Tan Revisions 03.22.17
 Second Blue Revisions 03.23.17
 Second Pink Revisions 03.26.17
 Second Yellow Revisions 03.27.17
 Second Green Revisions 03.28.17
 Second Goldenrod Revisions 03.29.17
 Second Salmon Revisions 03.30.17
 Second Tan Revisions 04.02.17
 Third Blue Revisions 04.03.17
 (Pg 1, 1A, 2, 18, 21, 21A, 22)

Fox Broadcasting Company
20th Century Fox Television
Vendetta Productions
Zaftig Films
Smith & Company

All rights reserved. Copyright 2017 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. No portion of this script may be performed, published, reproduced, sold, or distributed by any means or quoted or published in any medium, including on any website, without the prior written consent of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. Disposal of this script copy does not alter any of the restrictions set forth above.

1 **EXT. RIVERSIDE ROAD -- PRIDE, ILLINOIS -- LATE NIGHT** 1

A GIRL, 20, staggers down a street. Periodically articulated by passing headlights, we see she's bloodied and bruised.

Thursday. 3:22 a.m.

Every step exacts a toll as cars blur by, oblivious. All we hear is her LABORED BREATHING. In an oversized jacket, the Girl has only a torn bra and panties underneath it.

A blurry edifice comes into view ahead: The EPU HOSPITAL, the siren of an ambulance swirling in the driveway like a beacon.

Her body trembling in the night chill, she enters the...

2 **INT. ER -- EPU HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS** 2

A sports show plays on a suspended TV before we PAN DOWN to find our Girl in the lobby. Everything moves but her.

Nurses gossip at the reception desk, doctors passing, heads bowed in paperwork. No one notices the battered beauty.

 YOUNG WOMAN

Help me...

A muttered plea. No one heeds it - until she SCREAMS: *

 YOUNG WOMAN (CONT'D)

 HELP!!! -----

And with that, she promptly collapses - doctors and nurses belatedly and urgently responding, as we -- *

3 **INT. EXAMINATION ROOM #7 -- EPU HOSPITAL -- MOMENTS LATER** 3

Nearly catatonic, the Girl, CASSIE, sits atop a table. An OLDER NURSE tends to her as a younger nurse (VICKY) exits...

Cassie Sullivan. EPU Junior. Former Homecoming Queen.

 CASSIE

 (stammering)

*T-they hit me...they kept hitting **
 *me...they held me down **
 *and...and..and...they took turns... **

We notice a YOUNG MAN (OLIVER) across the hall, waiting in Exam Room #4 before the Nurse closes the curtain. Back to Cassie, gently: *

OLDER NURSE

It's okay, it's okay. Now we're
going to have to give you an
antibiotic called Doxycycline -
just as a precaution, just to see
if you've been exposed to potential
STDs. It can cause severe cramps,
so...

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Cassie SOBS. This is real, no longer just a gruesome
nightmare.

*
*

OLDER NURSE (CONT'D)

You're safe now. You're safe. I
promise. Who did this, sweetheart?
Who did this to you?

*
*
*

Cassie's hyperventilating, unable to catch her breath.
Finally, through tears:

*
*

CASSIE

(through tears)
...They did, they all did.

OLDER NURSE

Who?

Her trembling finger points to the MUTED TV in the corner,
the image of a HANDSOME QUARTERBACK giving an interview.

The Nurse removes the garment off Cassie's shoulders to
reveal it's a LETTERMAN JACKET, #14 emblazoned on the sleeve.

And off said jacket, the EPU Pirates insignia sullied by a
scarlet streak, we're immersed into total -- **DARKNESS**

*

4 **EXT. EPU CAMPUS -- OVERHEAD SHOT (MORNING)** 4

Eastern Pride University. Pride, Illinois.

SOARING ABOVE endless acres, we PARACHUTE DOWN and catch up
to a man jogging below. Picking up speed (giving us a tour of
the place as he goes), meet...

*

MATT KELLERMAN (32). In a "PIRATE PRIDE" sweatshirt, he's not
so much exercising as *exorcising*. Until he comes up limp; a
hamstring cramp. He turns off the maniacal music bleeding
from his headphones. Ganders at his sports watch...

*

Wednesday. 6:34 a.m.

Lumbering over to a statue of FOOTBALL COACH JIM SCARMUCHI,
he touches it (part of his routine) before cranking the music
back up. Gritting through the cramp, he hobbles back home...

5 **INT. BULLPEN -- EPU LEGAL AFFAIRS -- ONE HOUR LATER** 5

In a sharp suit sans tie, hair slicked back, Matt makes his
way towards his office greeting coworkers with uncommon
alacrity and unapologetic cheer.

*
*

Mathias "Matt" Kellerman. Junior Counsel. EPU Legal Affairs.

He places TWO FOOTBALL TICKETS on the desk of his assistant,
KENDRA (40s) with --

MATT
 Bobby's birthday's coming up,
 right? *
 *

KENDRA
 Friday.
 (looks at tickets)
 No, you didn't...

MATT
 Fifty yard line. You only turn ten
 once, right?

KENDRA
 God I hope so. *
 (then; a thought) *
 Does this mean I'm not getting the *
 raise? *

MATT
 What raise? - kidding. *

He removes his suit jacket, turns to receive a hanger from
 Kendra that he promptly uses to hang it behind the door. *

MATT (CONT'D)
 Go have fun with your kid. Text me *
 after the game and I'll take him *
 into the locker room; he can meet *
 some of the guys... *

KENDRA
 I'm definitely not getting the *
 raise... *

MATT
 Stop. *

He turns back to accept a cup of coffee from Kendra (there's
 a rhythm and routine to all this, a symphonic orchestration). *

MATT (CONT'D)
 What's on the docket today? *

A6 INT. RECEPTION -- PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE ROOM -- LATER A6

Matt strides past TWO ASSISTANTS. Both named --

MATT
 Karen. Karen.

The two Karens make goo-goo eyes at Matt as proceeds into... *

6

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM -- EPU LEGAL AFFAIRS -- CONTINUOUS

6

DARWIN CONN stands at the head of a table populated by a dozen administrators. Find Matt among them, beside HOWARD GOODMAN, senior counsel. Parachute in, catching up...

*

DARWIN

...They're threatening to strike?
Already? What happened to negotiations? Well, tenure's not an option, so what do they want?

*

*

*

Darwin Conn. EPU President. Class of '85.

RACHEL (O.S.)

Guaranteed contracts, sir.

*

*

Darwin proceeds as Goodman leans over to Matt. Whispers:

GOODMAN

You look at the Josh Allen thing?
Kid eats it in front of the Student
Center, hammered. We're not
culpable. Ground ball to first.

*

MATT

There's legal culpability and moral
culpability.

GOODMAN

I'm sorry, is that a riddle?

*

Before Matt can answer --

DARWIN (O.S.)

...Which reminds me.

*

Darwin now stands behind Matt, looming over him.

DARWIN (CONT'D)

Last week we got word that the
Young Democrats for Change were
planning to protest our guest
speaker next week. This morning I
learned that Mr. Kellerman
persuaded them not to. I don't know
how you did it (I don't necessarily
wanna know) but well done. What
else?

GOODMAN

New chairs.

Sprinkled laughter.

*

DARWIN

Chairs...

*

GOODMAN

These things are circa World War I,
sir.

*

*

DARWIN

Chairs stay. They're reminders.

GOODMAN

Of what?

DARWIN

That they always outlast the people
sitting in them.

(dismissed)

Thank you. Have a nice day.

Staffers file out. Goodman stays behind.

GOODMAN

So you're not gonna support it?

MATT

We had warning signs posted, which we took down. Lights - which we removed. Just pay the kid's medical bill, Howie. It's the right thing to do.

*

GOODMAN

You're such a little Boy Scout...

*

Matt sees this as more of a compliment than an insult as Goodman moves on, appealing to a higher power:

*

*

GOODMAN (CONT'D)

President Conn...

*

Goodman places a FOLDER in front of Darwin.

*

GOODMAN (CONT'D)

My recommendation on the Allen filing, sir...

*

*

*

Darwin studies the folder contents, bifocals on the bridge of his nose as he eats a bagel. Matt lingers.

DARWIN

We're not contesting this.

GOODMAN

Sir. If I may. He's --

DARWIN

-- a nineteen year-old kid who got drunk, as college kids do from time to time. He's got a broken leg and an embarrassing story to show for it. I think that's lesson enough.

Goodman nods "yes sir," before exiting. Giving Matt a glare as he goes. And Matt's about to follow suit before --

*

*

DARWIN (CONT'D)

Mathias. Hang on.

(Matt stops)

You wouldn't sign off on it, would you? Good for you. I know you've always thought of yourself as a football player, maybe you still do...

MATT

I'm fine, sir.

DARWIN

...But you've made something for
yourself here.

(MORE)

*

DARWIN (CONT'D)

Something that you're good at.
Something that has real value. We
need you. I need you. Keep it up.
'Cus I'm gonna keep demanding it
from you.

MATT

Thank you, sir.

DARWIN

Now how did you get the protesters
to back off?

MATT

Simple. I just arranged for them to
use the Media Room to stream a
podcast during the speech. At the
end of the day, everybody just
wants to be heard.

Off Darwin's proud smile, we...

7

INT. ROOM -- PEDIATRIC CENTER -- EPU HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS 7

TOMMY DAWSON (21), the QB we glimpsed earlier (#14) plays
College End-Zone with TRAVIS (8), who sits on a bed, his head
shaved. His MOM watches from a nearby chair.

TRAVIS

(raises hands in victory)
That's three games in a row!

TOMMY

I'm just letting you get
overconfident, my dude. Then I make
my big move...

Tommy Dawson. Heisman Trophy Candidate.

Tommy sorts through a DUFFEL BAG filled with swag.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

Check this out...
(puts an EPU BASEBALL CAP
on Travis' shaved head)
Gotta wear it like that. Yeah.
(then)
How you feelin' 'bout this surgery
tomorrow, brother?

*

TRAVIS

I'm ready.

TOMMY

I know you are. *

And they lock eyes for a moment, drawing strength from each other before Tommy allows a smile and... *

TOMMY (CONT'D) *

Hey, you cool if I brought some friends...? *

A DOZEN EPU FOOTBALL PLAYERS and the team MASCOT (a bear dressed as a pirate) enter with more swag and balloons.

Tears in her eyes, Travis' mom mouths "thank you" to Tommy.

8

INT. HALLWAY -- PEDIATRIC CENTER -- MOMENTS LATER

8

Tommy bumps into the Older Nurse we met at the opening.

OLDER NURSE

I have to tell you, what you do for these kids it's just, it's incredible... *

TOMMY

Thank you. But I think I get more out of it than they do. *

OLDER NURSE

My son - he's 6 - he loves you. We all do. What you do for this town, for this community. Would you mind? His name's Tony... *

She hands him a PEN and a NERF FOOTBALL. *

TOMMY

I'd love to...
(as he signs the football)
Tell Tony to listen to his mom. *

OLDER NURSE

He does. He's a good boy... *

TOMMY

(hands the football back)
Thank you for all you do here. *

She watches admiringly as he continues down the hallway to teammates BRIAN MEADOWS (20, wide receiver) and PHARAOH PITTMAN (21, safety). *

BRIAN

Check this out, dude... *

He hands Tommy his cracked iPhone - where we see a FLYER for "T'S BIG BIRTHDAY BASH" at "1777 National Road."

TOMMY

Idiots. My birthday's not for five months.

PHARAOH

We marketing majors, 'T. Don't take everything so literal...

*
*

TOMMY

And if Coach finds out, he'll --

*

BRIAN

Scarmuchi ain't gonna find out. We'll keep it chill - just a tight crew...

*
*
*

PHARAOH

Yeah, just elite hos and whatnot...

*
*

BRIAN

That was the deal, dude: we do this, you let us have the party at our place.

*
*
*
*

TOMMY

This is a bad idea...

*
*

PHARAOH

That's why we need to do it...

*
*

A beat. A thought. An exhale:

*

TOMMY

Fine.

*
*

BRIAN

Good. 'Cus we already sent the emails out...

*
*
*

Tommy shakes his head, smiling, as his boys howl with laughter, and we...

*
*

*

9

EXT. QUAD -- EPU CAMPUS -- DAY

9

CASSIE and her roommate, ASHLEY (20), give TWO HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL RECRUITS a tour of campus. We parachute in:

CASSIE

...Fans are so loud here that one of our home games last year registered as an earthquake on the Richter Scale...

ASHLEY

Wait 'til you see the new stadium. It's insane. Literally modeled after a Roman Coliseum...

CASSIE

And the best steak sandwiches in the world right over there. Just show them your football ID and they'll make whatever you want.

The Recruits dap knuckles and hustle off towards the Student Center...

CASSIE (CONT'D)

Your guy seems into it...

ASHLEY

He's into something. He wants to party later. You in?

CASSIE

Pass.

ASHLEY

What, he's cute.

CASSIE

You're ridiculous. And I'm working tonight.

ASHLEY

Which of your seven jobs, Princess?

CASSIE

Funny. Library.

ASHLEY

God, I love that you're a nerd.

CASSIE

You love that I take notes for you
when you don't go to Brit Lit class
- which I'm not doing anymore, by
the way.

She shows Ashley her iPhone, a familiar flyer image on it.

ASHLEY

Tommy invited you? - I knew it.

CASSIE

He's got a girlfriend, Ash.
(off Ashley)
He does! Shut up.

ASHLEY

It's an invite, not a marriage
proposal, babe. You're going.
You're gonna be thirty and married
to some fat bald accountant...

CASSIE

(overlapping)
Thanks for that wonderful glimpse
into my future...

ASHLEY

...And you're gonna regret --

CASSIE

-- partying with a high schooler? I
don't think so. When I get into med
school it'll all be worth it.

ASHLEY

So shortsighted. When do Bob and
Brenda get in for Homecoming?

CASSIE

Tomorrow.

ASHLEY

I'm serious about them adopting
me...

CASSIE

Maybe run it by your parents
first...

She nods towards the returning recruits. Tells them:

CASSIE (CONT'D)
Coach Meeks wants us to bring you
guys by his office, so...

And off they go as we LINGER BEHIND on the quad, taking note of OLIVER PECK (21, we recognize him from the opening scene in the hospital). Trying to interview students...

Oliver Peck. Senior. Editor of *The EPU Daily Siren*.

OLIVER
Hi, I work for *The Daily Siren*. I
was wondering if --

The Asian students respond. In Mandarin. Oliver deflates.

OLIVER (CONT'D)
Okay. Good to know. Thanks for
that.

The students continue on, laughing and speaking English.
Before Oliver can even register this --

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
How goes it, Clark Kent?

SPENCER (20, a human shrug), Oliver's roommate, approaches.

OLIVER
...Clark Kent?

SPENCER
Only journalist I could think of.

OLIVER
Walter Cronkite? Edward R. Murrow?
Dan Rather? - any of these names
ringing a bell?

SPENCER
Peter Parker...?

OLIVER
He was a photojournalist.

SPENCER
Same thing.

OLIVER
Not the same thing.

SPENCER
How's the headache?

OLIVER
It's not a headache - and it's worse.

SPENCER
You're just stressed 'cus you didn't get into Columbia. What's up for tonight?

OLIVER
I dunno. Netflix and chill?

SPENCER
I don't think that means what you think it does, Cronkite.

OLIVER
It means watch TV and hang out...

SPENCER
No.

OLIVER
What's it mean?
(off Spencer's gesture)
Nooooo...

And they continue to bicker, as we...

10

EXT. PARKING LOT -- STRIP MALL -- DAY

10

*

DETECTIVE JACKSON DUNN and DETECTIVE AVA COURTNEY exit their Dodge Charger already into conversation...

*

*

DETECTIVE DUNN
(chewing gum like it's an aerobic sport)
...You gotta get over it.

*

*

*

Detective Jackson Dunn. 10 Years on the Job.

*

AVA
"Get over it"? Good advice. Why didn't I think of that?

*

*

Detective Ava Courtney. Four Weeks on the Job.

DETECTIVE DUNN
All I'm saying is, they offered you S.W.A.T.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE DUNN (CONT'D)

I know cops been on the job for
decades who don't get that call. I
mean, isn't that what you wanted?

*
*
*

AVA

Because I deserve it - not because
it's some quota they're trying to
fill.

DETECTIVE DUNN

I understand even less about women
when I talk to you...

Ava laughs. Then:

AVA

Can you explain why we're here? -
let the uniforms deal with it.

*
*

DETECTIVE DUNN

(blows a bubble)
'Cus we're crime fighters...

*
*
*

He opens the door for her...

*

DETECTIVE DUNN (CONT'D)

I'll let you take the lead,
Detective...

*
*

11 **INT. TOASTY'S SUBS -- STRIP MALL -- MOMENTS LATER** 11

A shirtless Pharaoh Pittman paces. AN EMPLOYEE, 19, behind the counter holds a bag of ice over his left eye as Dunn goes to the counter, studying the sandwich selections.

*
*

PHARAOH

...so today I gets my grub and this bitch over here brings me a bill. Tells me after I done eatin'. Then runs his mouth off 'bout me "stealing" when he knows I didn't do no such thing --

*
*

AVA

Alright, alright...

*

PHARAOH

-- I been coming here for six months and nobody never said nothing 'bout --

*
*
*
*

AVA

Enough.

*
*

Pharaoh's words expire. He gives Ava a predatory once over (then promptly refuses to acknowledge her existence).

*
*

DETECTIVE DUNN

(to Employee)

Let's see it...

*

The Employee removes the ice pack to reveal a nasty bruise.

PHARAOH

I don't know how he do that.

AVA

(eyes SECURITY CAMERA)

Yeah, we may have to call in forensics...

DETECTIVE DUNN

(to Employee)

You guys use oven-roasted turkey meat on your subs?

*
*

Ava shoots him a look. *What the fuck?* Dunn smirks, then:

*

DETECTIVE DUNN (CONT'D)
Alright. You wanna press charges?

*
*

PHARAOH
For what?!

AVA
Shut up.
(he finally looks at her)
Oh, now I got your attention,
huh...

*
*

Pharaoh unveils a surprisingly charming smile, about to speak
when - a portly and rumped man enters. This is the --

*
*

OWNER

(Greek accent)

It's okay. S'my nephew, he doesn't know. He's not from here.

(to Employee/Nephew)

They eat for free - I tell you this.

(to Detectives)

He's young, doesn't listen.

DETECTIVE DUNN

There you have it. Everybody's happy. We good?

Pharaoh winks at Ava before grabbing a pre-made sandwich from the counter and simply, brazenly, walking out...

AVA

Hey.

Dunn gestures to Ava: *leave it.*

AVA (CONT'D)

Maybe next time you just make the sandwich for him...

She looks back at the petrified employee (now getting yelled at by his uncle). Dunn remains at the counter, determined:

DETECTIVE DUNN

Is that a "yes" on the oven-roasted turkey?

Pissed, Ava exits. Dunn doesn't seem to care.

12

INT. LOBBY -- FOOTBALL OFFICES -- CONTINUOUS

12

Matt enters, striding through when from the atrium above A MAN spots him. Shouts down:

WILL

This is for football players and coaches, son. Ain't no lawyers up in here...

Matt stops. Smirks. Considers giving him the finger.

INT. LOBBY -- FOOTBALL OFFICES -- MOMENTS LATER

Matt and COACH WILL MEEKS walk through...

Assistant Coach/Defensive Coordinator Will Meeks.

MATT

...We gonna win Saturday?

*

WILL

The way Tommy's been playing? - be
hard not to. Just gotta make sure
the D does its part.

*

MATT

We grabbing a drink tonight?

WILL

Says the guy who doesn't drink alcohol. Can't - gotta take the little man to Chuck E. Cheese's.

*

MATT

He's still into that?

WILL

He's six, bro.

Matt stops. Will, too.

*

MATT

I canceled on Nikki...

WILL

Which Nikki?

*

MATT

Two "K"s. Bring him. Kid's a rock star.

*

*

WILL

Yeah, Jess would love that, good thinking...lemme run that by her immediately...

*

*

*

MATT

What happened to my boy?

WILL

He got a family, dude. And one day your little punk ass will, too.

MATT

One day. Maybe. But not today. I'll give Nikki your regards.

*

WILL

Douche.

MATT

Clown.

They go their separate ways, laughing...

*

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)

This is a great day for EPU...

BRIAN
(over music)
WHAT?

CASSIE
WHERE IS TOMMY?

He points upstairs. AUSTIN WATKINS (19, freshman running back) watches her go, mesmerized.

15 INT. BRIAN MEADOWS' ROOM -- 1777 NATIONAL ROAD -- CONTINUOUS

Tommy sits at a desk, laptop open, in a disheveled room.

CASSIE (O.S.)
Why aren't you in your room?

TOMMY
Too loud. This is Meadows' room -
so don't touch anything without a
Hazmat suit or a Penicillin shot.

CASSIE
You're not even going to your own
party?

TOMMY
It's not my birthday, and I got a
Philosophy exam tomorrow. I didn't
think you'd come. You never come to
these things...

CASSIE
I traded hours with someone at the
library.

She walks on skittish legs, clearly intoxicated.

TOMMY
Whoa. You okay?

Seeing that she's having trouble, he assists her.

CASSIE
Happy birthday...

Suddenly, she kisses him - Tommy pulls away.

TOMMY
I thought we weren't gonna do this
anymore, Cass. I have a
girlfriend...

CASSIE
I don't care...
(off Tommy)
Why'd you invite me then?

*
*
*

*
*
*

*

*

*
*
*

TOMMY

'Cus we're friends, right?

*

CASSIE

Definitely...

With that, she goes in for a deep kiss as the CAMERA PULLING
BACK until we find ourselves in THE HALLWAY, party-goers
passing by before -- SLAM. Someone closes the bedroom door.

*

STAY OUTSIDE, shut out from the events within, before we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

16 **INT. EXAMINATION ROOM #4 -- EPU HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS** 16

Thursday. 6:45 a.m.

OLIVER confers with a male Doctor...

EPU DOCTOR

Oliver. I'm afraid you have what's clinically known as "Cephalalgia."

*

OLIVER

Oh my God, no...

EPU DOCTOR

...Also known as a common headache. Might sound familiar, because it's the same diagnosis I gave you last week. One of the nurses mentioned you didn't get into grad school...

*

OLIVER

I didn't get into *Columbia*, not all grad schools - and no I don't think it's related.

*

*

EPU DOCTOR

My advice? Save your parents some money, Oliver, and invest in some ibuprofen.

*

*

And with that, the doctor takes leave, Oliver calling out:

*

OLIVER

(calls out)

This is on your conscience, Doc!

As the Doctor recedes, Oliver takes note of the exam room across the hall - where we see Cassie, now on her iPhone.

Even with the cuts and contusions, he recognizes her from campus as he ganders further down the hall (OLIVER POV) to see...DETECTIVES DUNN AND COURTNEY approaching.

BACK TO CASSIE(STILL OLIVER POV) as she disconnects the call.

OLIVER hops off the table, a dog in search of a bone...

*

19 **INT. BULLPEN -- LEGAL AFFAIRS -- CONTINUOUS** 19

Matt sips a chocolate milk as he strides through the offices, merrily greeting coworkers when his cell chimes to life.

*

*

MATT
(answers off caller ID)
V, I was just thinking about you...

VICKY (V.O.)
Not so much that you actually call
but...

MATT
(into cell)
I've been so slammed --

*
*
*

20

EXT. STREET -- EPU HOSPITAL -- MORNING

20

Vicky stands in the cold outside the hospital, on her cell:

VICKY
Relax, Rico Suave, I'm calling to
give you a heads-up on something...

Intercut as necessary:

VICKY (CONT'D)
...A coed came in late last night,
pretty banged up.

MATT
She okay?

VICKY
Not the question...

MATT
Okay, what's the question?

VICKY
How the football team's involved.

FAVOR MATT as Vicky continues to lay out what she knows (os),
Matt's face losing its color, before we --

21

INT. RECEPTION -- DARWIN CONN'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

21

Matt blazes past the two Karens without a word, on a mission.

*

22

INT. EPU PRESIDENT'S OFFICE -- SIXTH FLOOR -- CONTINUOUS

22

Matt enters to find Darwin on the phone:

*

DARWIN
...tell them I'd be happy to give a
brief speech before the dinner. So
long as they bring their
checkbooks.

*
*
*
*
*

(MORE)

DARWIN (CONT'D)
(looks at Matt)
I got one of my guys here,
so...thanks, Sue.

*
*
*

As soon as Darwin hangs up --

*

MATT
Sir, I'd never interrupt like this
if it wasn't important.

DARWIN
What's wrong?

MATT

A coed's making allegations against the football team. She showed up at the hospital this morning, beaten up, wearing Tommy Dawson's jacket...

DARWIN

Is the girl okay?

MATT

Hospital hasn't released her yet, so I dunno.

*
*

DARWIN

This is from a reliable source?

MATT

Very reliable.

This hits Darwin hard. He leans back, processing. Then, standing, he's all action:

*
*

DARWIN

We have to get the Communications Department involved...

(picks up phone)

This is bigger than football. This kind of thing, it can...

*

His voice trails off. Dialing a number when --

*

MATT

Sir. Hang on. The more people that know, the more likely it is to get out. Let me handle it. I can get answers before anyone else. I can get the truth. I know these kids - I used to be one of them.

*

Darwin stares back, ponderous, phone still in hand.

*

MATT (CONT'D)

You said you were going to demand more of me, sir? How 'bout we start here...

*
*

Darwin puts the phone down, as we...

Oliver enters to find Spencer playing video games.

SPENCER

I thought we had a knock policy,
Peter Parker...

OLIVER

Trust me, after what I saw that
time --

SPENCER

I was playing video games, dude...

OLIVER

You were definitely playing with
your joystick.

Oliver dumps his backpack on the cluttered floor.

SPENCER

I thought you had class...?

OLIVER

Something more important came up.

Oliver slides behind his desk, opening his laptop.

SPENCER

What?

OLIVER

The thing that's gonna get me into
Columbia, that's what.

He begins furiously typing, as we...

24

INT. HALLWAY -- EPU HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS

24

Dunn and Ava confer outside Exam Room #7, Cassie visible in
the BG in a yellow hoodie with "Be Happy" on it.

AVA

This is how these people think they
can treat women...

DETECTIVE DUNN

Her statement doesn't help. Don't
look at me like that. You know it's
true. She admits to being drunk,
says she blacked out. And she
doesn't even remember --

*

AVA

None of that matters until we get
the tox screen back. Okay?

*

*

*

(MORE)

AVA (CONT'D)

And if she presses charges, DNA
will tell us all we need to know --

*
*

DETECTIVE DUNN

How 'bout we just get her home,
Detective. Don't push.

*
*

With that, they enter...

25

INT. EXAMINATION ROOM #7 -- EPU HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS

25

Head bowed, Cassie envelops herself in a hug. Muttering:

CASSIE

*I'm gonna miss class...I can't miss
class...*

*
*

AVA

You don't need to worry about that
right now, sweetie...

CASSIE

I'm trying to remember more, I am,
but I just...

*

Cassie looks at Dunn. Looks at Ava. Intuits:

CASSIE (CONT'D)

You think I made this up? You think
I'd do that?

DETECTIVE DUNN

No one thinks that...

CASSIE

You think I'd hit myself in the
face? I'd give myself a concussion?
Why would I do that??? Then I'd put
myself through this? Have swabs and
needles and cameras put inside
me...

*

DETECTIVE DUNN

We just want to take you home,
Cassie. That's all. We've got your
statement, we're good.

*

AVA

You're over 18, so we can't make
you talk to your parents. But you
need to talk to someone...

Dunn shoots a look at Ava. *What did we just talk about?*

*

CASSIE

You don't know what football means
to these people...

*

AVA

I know they'll keep doing it if you
let them get away with it.

*

*

Dunn tics another annoyed glance at his partner: *stop.*

*

AVA (CONT'D)

(offers her BUSINESS CARD)

Call. Anytime. My cell's on there
too. Let's get you home...

They gently help Cassie off the table, as we...

26 **INT. LOCKER ROOM -- EPU FOOTBALL FACILITIES -- CONTINUOUS** 26

Matt enters, FOOTBALL PLAYERS perambulating about. He scans the room, troubled, before spotting...TOMMY DAWSON. Matt notices a sizable BRUISE on his torso, SCRATCHES on his chest, as he dresses for a workout. Off Matt's gaze --

*

TOMMY

Practice.

*

Matt discreetly scans Tommy's locker: Biblical quotations/a picture of Tommy with Travis/various sundries.

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

You'd think our D-line didn't like me or something...

*

*

27 **INT. COACH SCARMUCHI'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS** 27

HEAD COACH JIM SCARMUCHI (50s) talks to Matt and Will Meeks, his office overlooking the weight room (where we see Tommy doing deadlifts below). Parachute in:

*

*

HEAD COACH SCARMUCHI

"Where did he get the bruises from?" Take a wild guess. He's a football player - it's a contact sport (no matter how much we try to protect our quarterbacks).

EPU Head Coach Jim Scarmuchi. 2014 Coach of the Year.

HEAD COACH SCARMUCHI (CONT'D)

And I'll tell you something else:
I've worked with a lotta' kids -
great kids, kids like you, Matty -
and Tommy Dawson is as good as they
come. A big part a' my job is
judging character - and that kid is
as a good a person as he is an
athlete (and that's saying
something).

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

WILL

We know who the girl is?

MATT

Her name's Cassie Sullivan. She's part of --

WILL

-- The Hostess Squad. I know her - not well.

HEAD COACH SCARMUCHI

The freakin' Hostess Squad. What
did I tell you about that? That is
not recruiting.

(MORE)

HEAD COACH SCARMUCHI (CONT'D)
I didn't like it when we first put
it in, and I like it even less
now...

Scarmuchi and Will continue to argue as Matt slips out...

28 INT. BATHROOM -- CASSIE'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS 28

Cassie stares at herself in the mirror, doing her best to
conceal the cuts above her eye and lip with mascara. She
flinches with the sound of the doorbell.

A29 INT. CASSIE'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS A29

Ashley opens the door for BOB and BRENDA SULLIVAN, Cassie's
parents. They exchange warm, familiar hugs.

ASHLEY
Your little angel's in the
bathroom...

CASSIE'S MOM
(admiring apartment)
I still don't understand how you
girls can afford this place...

CASSIE'S DAD
I think I might move in...

CASSIE'S MOM
Bob...
(to Ashley)
This is from the Hostess Squad?

*
*
*
*

B29 INT. BATHROOM -- CASSIE'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS B29

Cassie wipes away tears, summoning strength before her gaze
goes to THE BUSINESS CARD Ava gave her. Exiting to...

C29 INT. CASSIE'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS C29

...Cassie's mom sees the cut on her lip.

*

CASSIE'S MOM
What happened, hon?

*
*

CASSIE
Oh - just my bike. I'm such a
klutz. I'm fine.

*
*
*

Simulating her best smile, Cassie gives her mom a nice long
hug, holding on tight. Too tight.

*

CASSIE'S MOM

We missed you.

*

CASSIE

I missed you, too.

*

*

A tear betrays her facade, her mom - assuming it's induced by joy - gives her another hug. Cassie's dad looks suspiciously on, his Spidey sense tingling.

*

*

*

CAMERA WIDENS to see Jourdan's assistant, BEN (30) in the passenger seat. He gestures to his watch. Jourdan waves him off, keeps hammering away:

JOURDAN (CONT'D)
 (into iPhone)
 This is about reputations - yours
 and mine (but mostly yours).
 Promises were made and promises
 were betrayed. If you've done this
 to me, you've done it to millions
 of others...

Frustrated, Ben disgorges, scurrying around the car to open the driver's side door. All but yanking his boss out.

CAMERA TRACKS WITH JOURDAN, flanked by Ben as they move towards an unseen edifice...

JOURDAN (CONT'D)
 (into iPhone)
 These things matter, James; they're
 the very glue of our
 civilization...

She finds the door unlocked, creaking it open and entering...

30 **INT. HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS**

30

Sweeping the environs, she continues on her iPhone:

JOURDAN
 ...there's only one way to resolve
 this, James, and we both know what
 it is. I'm not going away. I'm not
 backing off. I'm not standing down.
 I am tireless and I am just getting
 started...

She follows the sound of a familiar voice...

MATT (O.S.)
 ...There's no room for deception or
 evasion - or even silence - here,
 fellas. There's what happened.
 That's all. That's all that
 matters. We tell the truth and we
 stand behind it --

THE CLICK-CLACK of Jourdan's high heels resonate as she enters the LIVING ROOM, drawing every eye. None more surprised or offended than...

MATT (CONT'D)
...Can I help you?

Jourdan raises a finger to silence him.

JOURDAN
(into iPhone)
...I have your solemn word on that?

Matt bridges the gap between them, Jourdan sizing him up the way a hungry lioness sizes up a baby antelope.

JOURDAN (CONT'D)
(into iPhone)
That means you'll be immediately refunding the thirty dollar checked baggage fee. For both pieces of luggage. That's sixty dollars in total, correct? I need you to say it, James. Right now, yes.
(he says it)
Congratulations, James, your airline still has my business.

She disconnects. Immediately to Matt:

JOURDAN (CONT'D)
Jourdan Price.

No handshake. A statement of fact.

Jourdan Price. Crisis Management Consultant.

JOURDAN (CONT'D)
Good advice, by the way...

MATT
Thank you --

JOURDAN
We're not going to use any of it. Just 'cus you tell the truth doesn't mean they have to listen.
(to the room)
I'm here to help, boys.

MATT
Yeah, I can tell. Under whose authority?

JOURDAN
The University. You should have been apprised. I'm sorry for that.
(MORE)

JOURDAN (CONT'D)

But things are moving rather
expeditiously now...

*
*

She hands him her iPhone. ON THE SCREEN we see an article in
The EPU Daily Siren by Oliver Peck. "COED ACCUSES FOOTBALL
TEAM OF GANG RAPE DURING OFF CAMPUS PARTY."

*
*
*

MATT

We don't even know if she's
pressing charges yet...

*

JOURDAN

Something tells me she might be...

*

She points through the window - where we see THREE POLICE
CARS and a DODGE CHARGER descending, sirens flashing.

Off Matt, realizing that things have just gotten considerably
more complicated, we...

END ACT TWO

JOURDAN

Whatever your name is, just let
these people do their job.
(to Ava and Dunn)
Go ahead...

*
*
*
*
*

Matt grumbles, about to fire back at her before he realizes:

*

MATT

Then you don't have anything to
worry about.

(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

But right now you need to get up
and walk out of here with me.

TOMMY

It won't matter, what actually
happened. The story's already
written...

MATT

Well, get up and rewrite it.

Dunn and four cops enter, immediately tearing the room apart
as Tommy belatedly stands and exits with Matt.

33

EXT. 1777 NATIONAL ROAD -- PRIDE, ILLINOIS -- DAY

33

AVA places a BOX OF ITEMS from the house into the Dodge
trunk. Seconds later, Dunn does the same as Ava takes note of
Matt outside the house as he talks to Jourdan (os).

AVA

(nods to Matt)
You know him?

DETECTIVE DUNN

Matt Kellerman. He played here.
Played with Reed Willis - All-Pro
running back for Miami.

AVA

I know Reed Willis...

DETECTIVE DUNN

Yeah, you a football fan?

AVA

I know he punched an Economics
Professor when he went here because
he didn't like the grade she gave
him. Broke four bones in her face.

DETECTIVE DUNN

I don't remember that...

AVA

'Course not. But you probably
remember how many yards Willis ran
for last week.

DETECTIVE DUNN

Don't be ridiculous. He didn't play
last week.

(off Ava)

I'm kidding...

MAN'S VOICE (O.S.)
Run along now, girlfriend...

*
*

This from one of the players. Dunn focuses on them:

*

DETECTIVE DUNN
What'd you say?

*
*

AVA
Leave it.

*
*

But Dunn's charging towards the players, Ava having to thwart his path and physically halt his progress.

*
*

AVA (CONT'D)
Stop.

*
*

Dunn snaps out of it. Takes a deep breath. Stalks back to the car as we RACK FOCUS TO Matt and Jourdan watching.

*
*

*

JOURDAN
Ooh, I like him...

34 **INT. DODGE CHARGER -- STATIONARY**

34

Fists clenched tight, Dunn takes deep breaths, more shaken than he should be. Ava returns to the car, sliding in.

AVA
What was that?

He shakes her off, his fists unfurling.

AVA (CONT'D)
...You alright?

DETECTIVE DUNN
I'm fine.

AVA
You don't seem fine.

DETECTIVE DUNN
I'm dealing with some stuff, alright. It's nothing.

AVA
At home?

DETECTIVE DUNN
I'm good, Detective.

AVA
Michelle okay?

DETECTIVE DUNN
Leave it alone. Everybody's good.

And he starts the car, as we...

A35 **INT. KITCHEN -- CASSIE'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS**

A35

Cassie's Mom cooks, Ashley sampling some butternut squash soup.

CASSIE'S MOM
I have to make sure you girls are eating - so skinny. And I love cooking in this kitchen.

She notices a Pirates Football Schedule magnetized to the refrigerator. Makes her think about...

CASSIE'S MOM (CONT'D)
Horrible what happened to that girl
with the football team...

*
*
*

ASHLEY
If it happened...

Cassie enters. Grabs a water from the fridge.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
I'm just saying, who knows with
these things. We know these guys-

*
*
*

ASHLEY (CONT'D)
(gestures to Cassie)
we both do - girls throw themselves
at them. They'll do anything. Some
girls turn regret into rape.

*
*
*
*
*

Cassie tries to stay composed as she exits.

B35

INT. BASKETBALL COURT -- EPU FACILITIES -- CONTINUOUS

B35

SWISH! Sleeves rolled up, tie loosened, Darwin shoots free throws as Matt enters.

MATT

Sir...

DARWIN

Mathias.

(takes another shot)

You know all my hiding spots...

CLANG. He misses. Lets the ball bounce away.

MATT

Sir. I just got word that the Young Democrats reneged on our agreement. They're gonna protest after all...

DARWIN

...Only now they're gonna live stream it. I heard this morning. Where'd they get that idea from?

MATT

Sir --

DARWIN

They said, and I quote, they "don't make deals with schools that encourage rape."

MATT

Let me talk to them. I can still --

DARWIN

No thanks. We tried that already...

He fetches the basketball, heading back to the court. Matt moves with him. More to say...

MATT

Also, sir. This crisis consultant...

DARWIN

I'm sorry about that. You should have been informed. Things are moving at light speed right now and decisions are being made above me. I fought for you - but as soon as that article hit (I couldn't fight anymore)...

MATT
 You wanted the truth, sir. I'm
 close to -

*
 *
 *

DARWIN
 There's no latitude here, Matt.
 "Close" only counts in horseshoes
 and hand grenades. And I didn't
 want the truth, I wanted the facts.
 There's a difference and you
 oughta' know it.

*
 *
 *
 *
 *
 *

(then; softening)
 Look, you're still on this. You're
 my guy. I have big plans for you.
 Show this consultant how things are
 done here. I need you to be my eyes
 and ears. Can you do that?

*
 *
 *
 *
 *

Matt nods, re-emboldened.

36

INT. OFFICES -- EPU LEGAL AFFAIRS -- CONTINUOUS

36

Jourdan and her assistant, BEN, unpack boxes as Matt enters.

MATT
 Even sharks get tired...
 (hands her A COFFEE)
 I don't normally get the coffee
 but...

JOURDAN
 For me? That's so sweet. Black?

MATT
 I had a feeling...

He surreptitiously stuffs sugar packets into his pocket.

MATT (CONT'D)
 I also got some of those little
 donuts with the rainbow sprinkles
 on them. If you're into those...

JOURDAN
 Who can resist those...

MATT
 Personally, I'm a cookie guy but --

JOURDAN
 Is that all it usually takes?

MATT
 What?

JOURDAN

Some coffee, some rainbow
sprinkles, flash the baby blues...

She's close to him now, letting him know she's immune to his
considerable charms. And he's flustered for a moment before:

MATT

I'm trying to make nice here...

JOURDAN

And I appreciate that but we need to sit down with this girl.

MATT

...To do what?

JOURDAN

To see what she wants...

MATT

Meaning money...

JOURDAN

If that's what she wants...

MATT

We're not paying her off.

JOURDAN

What should we do?

MATT

We need to find out what actually happened. Cus if they did it then they were never a part of this University to begin with. And the same goes for her if she's lying.

JOURDAN

You need to pick a side, Matthew.

MATT

Mathias. And I already have. A long time ago.

JOURDAN

If we don't talk to her now, we'll have to pursue aggressive methods later. And you really won't like that.

MATT

(digging in)

We are not paying her off.

She looks at him, amused. As if seeing a pink unicorn. Before she can give voice to thought her iPhone rings. She answers:

JOURDAN

This is Jourdan...

...A DOZEN POLICE CARS AND SHERIFF TRANSPORT VANS lined up inside the tunnel, cops filing out and snatching up stunned players with urgency and authority. Scarmuchi howls at the cops, protecting his players. CHAOS.

*
*
*
*

WILL

What is this --? They're being arrested?

*

JOURDAN

They're being *processed*. But to a news camera, they look like the same thing.

*
*

The Cops begin loading players into the vans as Will and the other coaches futilely protest, and we --

*

A39

INT. LIBRARY -- EPU -- CONTINUOUS

A39

Craving normalcy, Cassie rolls a cart down an aisle, stocking books back on shelves. To the average eye, she looks fine. Just a girl at work. Until --

All at once, she doubles over in pain. The aforementioned stomach cramps vibrating through her body.

*
*

After a moment, a nearby coed clearing her throat, Cassie forces her body upright. Absorbing the pain. Catching her breath. Summoning unseen strength, she begins to gingerly restock the shelves, as we...

*
*
*
*

39

EXT/INT. MATT'S PICKUP TRUCK -- MOVING

39

Matt drives, Jourdan expertly emailing on her iPhone.

JOURDAN

According to the police report...

MATT

You got the police report?

JOURDAN

...girl says she was unconscious for part of the assault. The rape kit showed vaginal lacerations and anal bruising consistent with but not endemic to rape.

MATT

Meaning she could have just had rough sex...

Her cell. She raises a finger to Matt (*one minute*), snags it on the second ring. Launching in:

JOURDAN

(into iPhone)

Ken, I need everything you can find on the players. All of them.

She disconnects. Reads the look on his face.

JOURDAN (CONT'D)

I need to know everything about everyone. My investigators are very good.

MATT

That's terrific. What'd they tell you about Tommy? Did you know he's dyslexic? 'Cus your "very good" investigators won't find that anywhere.

Her other phone, a BlackBerry TRILLS. Caller ID: "Vanessa."

MATT (CONT'D)
(seeing her trepidation)
Go ahead, take it...

Jourdan reluctantly answers, her voice soft and soulful:

JOURDAN
(into BlackBerry)
Hey Sweetheart. Call me anytime.
Did you talk to Elaine? Call her,
please. Yes. I love you, too.

She hangs up as Matt follows the cop caravan off the highway.

MATT
How many kids you have?

JOURDAN
None. Let's hope they handcuffed
the players on the bus.

Before Matt can ask why, they pull into THE PRIDE POLICE
DEPARTMENT to see A THRONG OF MEDIA assembled outside.

MATT
(re: the media)
How'd they get here so fast?

JOURDAN
I called them.

A40

INT. MICHIGAN ROOM -- EPU -- CONTINUOUS

A40

An EPU fundraiser. Packed with University fat cats as
Hawthorne holds court, stepping away when she spots Darwin.

DARWIN
Turns out there might be such a
thing as bad publicity, after all.
Your crisis consultant has some
interesting methods...

*
*
*
*

HAWTHORNE
My first CEO job at Kendall, I
realized you can't micromanage
everyone. You learn to rely on
people smarter than you - people
like you, Darwin.

*
*
*
*
*

DARWIN
Uh-oh, beware of women bearing
compliments...

*
*

HAWTHORNE

Jourdan Price helped Langford State
last year - and we both know what
an unmitigated disaster that was.
My friend called her "a miracle
worker."

*
*
*
*
*

Darwin smiles at a passing donor. Waiting 'til she's out of
earshot to tell Hawthorne:

*
*

DARWIN

We don't need miracles, Connie, we
need something in shorter supply:
competence. My guy could've handled
it.

*
*
*
*

HAWTHORNE

You're loyal, and that's one of the
things I love most about you...

*
*

DARWIN

(overlapping)
There you go again...

*
*
*

HAWTHORNE

...But this is not the time to take
flyers on people. We need
experienced professionals --
(to a passing Fat Cat)
Don! How's Stacey?
(back to Darwin)
Where are we with the TAs?

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

DARWIN

It's not just the TAs. It's the
adjuncts and postdocs, too. They're
all going to strike if they don't
get guaranteed contracts.

*
*
*
*

HAWTHORNE

Guaranteed. What's guaranteed these
days? Everybody wants to go to
heaven but nobody wants to die.

*
*
*

DARWIN

They outnumber tenured faculty two-
to-one. I say we give them what
they want.

*
*
*
*

HAWTHORNE

I'll bring it up to everyone next
week. You know why I agreed to
become Head of the Board, right?

*
*
*
*

DARWIN
Because I begged you to?

*
*

HAWTHORNE
Well besides that. I know people
think I left the oil business to
help my husband's political
career...

*
*
*
*
*

DARWIN
Did you?

HAWTHORNE
I sure as hell let him think so. I
came here for the same reason you
did, Darwin. But none of that's
gonna matter if this lingers. This
is a cancer. And we're all counting
on you to make sure it doesn't
spread.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

And with that, she slips back into the unwashed masses of
donors and docents, Darwin watching it all, as we...

*
*

40 **EXT. PRIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT -- EVENING** 40

HANDCUFFED PLAYERS cover their faces as the media film and photograph. Jourdan walks alongside them, instructing:

JOURDAN
Do not cover your faces. Just walk.
Look troubled, not angry.

Matt falls in with Jourdan as they bound towards the station.

MATT
What is this?

JOURDAN
This? This is our narrative...

41 **INT. PROCESSING -- PRIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS** 41

Players split into groups of 3, twenty-five kids lined up against a wall getting photographed and fingerprinted.

JOURDAN (V.O.)
"Innocent student-athletes wrongfully accused, treated like common criminals." The only court that matters right now is the court of public opinion.

42 **INT. OFFICE SPACE -- EPU LEGAL AFFAIRS -- CONTINUOUS** 42

Ben peruses his laptop as Jourdan and Matt confer:

MATT
The DA has yet to formally press charges. Makes me think the evidence isn't there...

JOURDAN
In football, someone wins, someone loses. With these things, everyone can lose...

MATT
You said that to say what?

JOURDAN
If they're guilty - and proven so - what happens? - The University's instantly praised and applauded?

MATT

I'm not looking to create "a narrative" here.

A43 INT. ADAMS FIELD HOUSE -- EPU -- NIGHT

A43

A packed dining hall. Homecoming dinner. Cassie sits with her parents and Ashley. Feigning fun.

B43 INT. OFFICE SPACE -- EPU LEGAL AFFAIRS -- CONTINUOUS

B43

JOURDAN

Do you know who Paul Berg is?

MATT

Here we go...

JOURDAN

He's a scientist, a renowned one. In fact, the only Nobel Prize winner Penn State has ever had.

MATT

(smiles)
Fascinating...

JOURDAN

Do you know who Jerry Sandusky is?
(Matt's SILENCE is loud)
These kinds of wounds don't heal, Matt. And if we don't tend to this - fast - all the good things you're defending? - won't matter. Because your University will be known as a school for rapists.

This lands for Matt...

JOURDAN (CONT'D)

Look, I know this can't be easy for you --

BEN (O.S.)

You two might want to see this...

Ben gestures to his laptop screen, seeing that...

BEN (CONT'D)

Someone outted her...

ON THE LAPTOP SCREEN, a TMZ-like site names Cassie as the victim, complete with Instagram pictures of her in a bikini.

MATT

Did you do this...? You said if she
wouldn't cooperate, you'd pursue
"aggressive" methods...

JOURDAN

I assure you, I did not do this.
 (smiles at him)
 But it is helpful...

43

INT. ADAMS FIELD HOUSE -- EPU -- NIGHT

43

Right where we left them. Only now Cassie's acutely aware of the world around her. Noticing the other tables (POV): students and parents glance at her. Talk about her. Every eye on her - a glaring unwanted spotlight until --

-- Ashley thrusts her iPhone in front of Cassie.

ASHLEY

It's you...? You're her?

*

*

CASSIE

What?

*

*

ASHLEY

You're the girl...

*

*

Cassie looks down at the phone. Reads her name, aghast.

*

And Ashley averts her eyes, moving imperceptibly away from her friend, who feels suddenly, frighteningly...alone.

*

*

CASSIE'S DAD (O.S.)

Cass? Cass, what's wrong?

She shoots out of her chair, every eye in the place tracking her as CASSIE'S DAD rushes after his daughter. Grabbing her before she can exit. Pulling her in, letting her head rest on his shoulder, her tears sully his jacket.

*

And they stand here, for all to see, Cassie's Dad comforting her, soothing her; a tragic father-daughter dance.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

44 INT. LIVING ROOM -- WILL MEEKS' HOUSE -- MORNING

44

Friday. 7:03 a.m

Matt enters, calls out:

MATT

Hello? Your Uber's here...

Suddenly he's tackled by a ferocious six year-old. DANNY.

MATT (CONT'D)

Easy, Big D'. Uncle Matt's fragile...

JESSICA (O.S.)

Daniel! Get ready for school!

Danny grumbles. Fist bumps Matt. Retreats. Matt calls out:

MATT

Is little Willie ready for school yet?

Will hustles into frame, in boxer-briefs and a tank-top.

WILL

Two minutes, dude. Overslept. Just gotta get dressed.

MATT

How hard can that be? You wear the same thing every day. Like Curious George or Paddington Bear.

WILL

Two minutes. Go harass Jess.

Matt heads into the KITCHEN, where Will's wife and Matt's friend, JESSICA MEEKS (29, beautiful) packs Danny's lunch.

MATT

How's the prettiest professor I know?

WILL

You driving my husband to work today?

MATT
Guy's a mess. Oversleeping. Gotta
keep an eye on him.

WILL
Coffee?

MATT
Absolutely. Maybe some eggs, too?

She playfully smacks him on the arm as Will returns in EPU
shorts and a tank-top.

WILL
Don't worry, dude. I won't mess
with your precious routine. We're
good. How much time we got?

MATT
I dunno. Phone's in the car.

WILL
Um, look at your watch...

MATT
Doesn't work.

WILL
Your watch doesn't work? I don't
even wanna know...

He hustles back out. Jessica studies Matt. Knows him well.

JESSICA
I do...

MATT
Hmm?

JESSICA
Wanna know. About the watch.
There's a story there, am I right?

Matt takes a moment. Sips his coffee. Then:

MATT
It's not even a good story...

JESSICA
Out with it...

MATT
I'm telling you...
(then)
(MORE)

MATT (CONT'D)

Alright. When I was nine, I was a little punk, right? Into all sorts of dumb stuff. One day I get caught shoplifting. They call my mom to pick me up (like she didn't have enough to worry about, raising me alone and all). Anyways, she shows up and pays for the thing I stole...

JESSICA

That watch...

MATT

(a nod)

Then she gives it to me. As a reminder. To not be a punk. To do the right thing. I started wearing it after she passed away.

(off her puppy dog look)

I knew I shouldn't have told you...

JESSICA

Stop...

She likes that story. Squeezes his forearm.

WILL (O.S.)

With time to spare...

Matt and Jessica look over to see Will, a sock stuck to his EPU polo shirt. A beat. They burst into LAUGHTER.

WILL (CONT'D)

What?

45 INT. ROOM -- PEDIATRIC CENTER -- EPU HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS 15

Teddy bear in hand, Tommy enters to see Travis in bed, head bandaged. The boy's mom - reading get well cards - stops. Instantly, there's a heavy vibe in the air.

*
*

TOMMY

Heard you took care of business, T-Rex. I'm proud a' you, dawg...

*

He places the bear beside Travis - who immediately looks at his mom and inches imperceptibly away from Tommy.

*

Tommy sees all of it but sits on a bedside chair nonetheless.

*

TOMMY (CONT'D)
You doing okay...?

Travis tersely nods, avoiding eye contact.

*

TRAVIS' MOM

We're good, Tommy. Thank you.

And Tommy instantly understands. An awkward moment before he stands. Nods ("okay"). Begins to exit, voice cracking:

*
*

TOMMY

Glad you're okay, buddy...

46 **INT. HALLWAY -- PEDIATRIC CENTER -- CONTINUOUS**

46

Crushed, Tommy stops in the busy corridor. Leaning against the wall, he notices a trash can - where he sees THE NERF FOOTBALL he signed for the Older Nurse. Discarded.

All at once, with a violent burst, he kicks the wall, denting it. Drawing every eye in the vicinity, Tommy -angry and wounded - stalks out.

*
*
*

48 **INT. SHOCKY'S DINER -- PRIDE -- CONTINUOUS**

48

Tapered with EPU banners and jerseys, Tommy sits in a booth with Pharaoh, Brian and Kimble. The players laughing, Tommy slips out, taking the bill up to the cashier.

FEMALE CASHIER

Hey, Handsome.

Tommy studies his shoes.

FEMALE CASHIER (CONT'D)

I'm sorry about all this nonsense, honey. You don't deserve none of it.

He slides the check, cash atop it, across the counter.

FEMALE CASHIER (CONT'D)

What this girl is doing to you, to this town, it ain't right.

(slides his money back)

Handsome, you don't have to pay, you know that. It's our pleasure.

TOMMY

I want to, please.

FEMALE CASHIER

Why? We love having you --

TOMMY

Please.

Seeing his determination, she takes the cash, rings him up.

49

INT. OFFICE SPACE -- EPU LEGAL AFFAIRS -- CONTINUOUS

49

Jourdan confers with Ben as Matt enters.

MATT

...Arts and crafts project? What're we doing here?

He gestures to a WHITEBOARD filled with information and pictures regarding Cassie Sullivan.

JOURDAN

Now that her name's public, we need to undermine her credibility.

MATT

We're not gonna do that to this girl.

JOURDAN

What other options do we have?

MATT

We still don't know what happened.

JOURDAN

Not relevant - never was. This is about perception, not reality. I'm sorry, this is the world we live in.

MATT

It's not my world.

JOURDAN

Speaking of your world...

She hands him A LIST OF PHONE NUMBERS. This is:

JOURDAN (CONT'D)

Cassie Sullivan's phone records. We can't identify that number - you recognize it?

Matt looks at the highlighted phone number, wheels turning.

JOURDAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 ...Matt?

MATT
 (breaks from his reverie)
 No but...I'll check it out.

Another glance at that number, and we...

A50

EXT/INT. RENTAL CAR -- STATIONARY

A50

Behind the wheel, Cassie's mom talks to her daughter.

CASSIE'S MOM
 Sweetheart, please. I don't
 understand why you won't think
 about it...

CASSIE
 I can't, Mom.

CASSIE'S MOM
 Just come home for a semester.
 That's it. Then we'll decide what
 to do. We just wanna take care of
 you...

CASSIE
 If I go home, if I run, they win...

CASSIE'S MOM
 We just want to --

CASSIE
 I have to, Mom. That's the way you
 and Dad raised me...

And Cassie's mom studies her daughter, sees the determination
 in her eyes. After a moment, she reaches for her daughter's
 hand, finding it, squeezing it...

CASSIE'S MOM
 (tears welling)
 I'm so proud of you, baby...

They hug, Cassie staving off emotion before pulling her cap
 low, putting her earbuds in and hastily exiting...

50

EXT. MAIN QUAD -- UCI CAMPUS -- DAY

50

Cassie walks a paved path around the quad, realizing that
 students are staring - glaring - at her. A girl purposefully
 knocks into her, another passes with a muttered "whore."

And Cassie starts to hyperventilate, dazed and disoriented, as a kid in a Tommy Dawson (#14) jersey paws at her. Sneers:

FAN/STUDENT

You sure you wanna go through with this, bitch?

And it's a frenzy of movement, like being attacked by a thousand tentacles before --

Someone forcefully grabs her from behind, pulling her from the swarm. ASHLEY - who instantly absorbs her in a protective hug, whispering:

ASHLEY

I'm sorry...I'm so sorry...

CASSIE

It's okay...

ASHLEY

It's my fault...I made you go to that party, I --

CASSIE

It's not your fault...

ASHLEY

I said those things...

CASSIE

It's okay...It's okay, Ash.

And Cassie finds surprising strength in comforting and assuring her friend.

ASHLEY

Let's go back to the apartment --

CASSIE

No.

ASHLEY

Cass...

CASSIE

I wanna go to class.
(off Ashley; more determined)
I wanna go to class.

Ashley looks in her eyes, sees the resolve there. Then:

ASHLEY

Is it okay if I walk you?

Arms linked in solidarity, they head back towards campus.

51 INT. HAWTHORNE'S OFFICE -- EPU -- NIGHT

51 *

Hawthorne's pouring an adult beverage as Darwin enters...

HAWTHORNE

You here to tell me about the dangers of Jourdan Price?

DARWIN

I'm here to tell you about the dangers of working in college administration...

He plops on her couch. Props his feet up on the table.

HAWTHORNE

We got a check for one hundred million dollars this week...

DARWIN

We did.

HAWTHORNE

So, how come I don't feel good about it?

DARWIN

Tough week.

HAWTHORNE

Maybe. Maybe it's more than that. We're building a 245 million dollar football facility with a water slide, a climbing wall and a barber shop.

Darwin leans up. Knows where this is headed.

HAWTHORNE (CONT'D)

Don't you find that a little ridiculous when we have a Science Department that --

DARWIN

Where's this coming from, Conn?

HAWTHORNE

You don't find it excessive?

DARWIN
I find that when a billionaire
booster specifically asks that his
money be given to --

HAWTHORNE
Oh come on, Darwin.

DARWIN
I don't know what you want me to
say...
(he stands)
You want me to say that no matter
how many fellows the Science
Department sponsors it won't have a
fraction of the impact of the
football program? That the day 70
million people show up to a
University debate --
(stops himself)
You know all this...

HAWTHORNE
Did we do this?

DARWIN
Do what?

HAWTHORNE
Did we create an environment where
these predators not only survive
but thrive? Where we don't punish
them, we glorify them?

DARWIN
We still don't know what
happened...

HAWTHORNE
These parents asked us to take care
of the thing they cherish most in
life: their children. That's not
something I take lightly...

DARWIN
I say this as your friend, Con:
grow up. We can't control every
single kid that enrolls here any
more than we --

HAWTHORNE
We can. We can and we should.
That's the job. Everything else is
just custodial.

(MORE)

HAWTHORNE (CONT'D)

Our football team's ranked fourth
in the nation right now. Do you
know where we're ranked
academically?

*
*
*
*

DARWIN

Less than fourth.

*
*

HAWTHORNE

A lot less.

*
*

Her voice trails off. Darwin sees her angst.

*

DARWIN

You're right. This is the job. And
this is why you're good at it.

*
*
*

HAWTHORNE

Someone once told me to beware of
men bearing compliments...

*
*
*

DARWIN

As long as there are buildings to
engrave, Clayton Farewell will keep
giving money - maybe the next one
goes to the Science Department.

*
*
*
*
*

HAWTHORNE

Maybe when the Science Department
has cheerleaders...

*
*
*

DARWIN

See, you're already coming up with
ideas...

*
*
*

Which finally gets her to smile. Then:

*

DARWIN (CONT'D)

How's Emily?

*
*

HAWTHORNE

She's good. She's got her first
college party Saturday night.

*
*
*

DARWIN

She'll be fine.

*
*

HAWTHORNE

She's not the one I'm worried
about.

*
*
*

52

EXT. BACKYARD -- WILL MEEKS' HOUSE -- DAY

52

Backpack in hand, Will exits his house to see Matt sitting on a bench, deep in thought.

WILL

What're you doing? I thought we were going out, dude? Grab a bite, watch some ball...

MATT

(low)

You said you barely knew her...

WILL

What? Who?

MATT

Cassie Sullivan.

(before Will can speak)

Do not lie to me. *Please*. I couldn't handle that right now. Your number's all over her phone records - that burner you pranked me with last year. She's twenty.

(Will's silent)

Talk to me. Say something...

(Will averts his gaze)

You slept with her...

Will looks inside his house. Looks at some of his son's toys scattered on the grass.

WILL

Once. *Once*. I made a mistake - a bad one. The worst. But --

MATT

Why wouldn't you come to me? I'm supposed to be your best friend.

WILL

You think I wanna share this with anyone - *especially* you.

MATT

I introduced you to Jess. I knew her before I even knew you...

WILL

It's the worst moment of my life, okay? Jess has always been by my side and...I can't even look at my little boy without wanting to...

(voice trails off; then)

I just wanted it to go away. But this girl, she wouldn't let it go. Calling me all the time. Threatening to tell Jess. She's completely unstable. You know what I think? I think she's making all this up with the team, with Tommy, to get back at me.

MATT

Where is it?

WILL

I need you to protect me on this. It would ruin me, brother. Ruin my marriage. Ruin everything. I am begging you here...

MATT

Where is it?

WILL

What?

MATT

The phone, the burner...

A beat. Will reaches into the backpack, producing the BURNER PHONE. Matt snatches it from him.

WILL

...What're you gonna do?

Matt exits, without a word, as we...

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

53 **EXT. CLAYTON FAREWELL STADIUM -- EPU -- MORNING** 53

Saturday. 11:41 a.m. Homecoming Game.

Hardcore fans, in jerseys, adorned with face/body paint, make their way into the stadium as THE EPU FIGHT SONG plays.

54 **INT. TEMPORARY OFFICE SPACE -- BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS** 54

Matt strides in, Jourdan on a call (os). As soon as she hangs up, he drops AN ENVELOPE on the desk in front of her. She opens it to find GRISLY PHOTOS of Cassie from the hospital.

JOURDAN

Are those meant to shock me?

MATT

They're meant to see if you're human.

JOURDAN

You do my job long enough, and you don't trust anything anymore - least of all pictures.

MATT

(low)

Definitely not people...

(points to photos)

Somebody did that...

JOURDAN

Somebody did. But not these guys. The report just came in: No DNA matter was found on the girl's body from any of the players.

Her phone rings. Her BlackBerry. "Vanessa." She walks away, photos mindlessly in hand, to take the call. Matt overhears:

JOURDAN (CONT'D)

(into BlackBerry)

...we'll work through it, sweetheart. We'll work through it together, promise. You don't have to worry.

She looks down at the photos of Cassie and we see something hit her. A moment. A memory. Matt sees it too. Then:

JOURDAN (CONT'D)
(into BlackBerry)
...Love you, too.

She disconnects. Walks back to Matt - who, point blank, asks:

MATT
Who's Vanessa?

Jourdan's uncharacteristically rattled. Answers on reflex:

JOURDAN
...My sister.

MATT
How old is she?

JOURDAN
A lot of questions, Counselor...
(beat)
She's 35.
(the wall returning)
She has some problems - like the
rest of us.

Matt studies her. Sees a flicker of the humanity she keeps buried away. Before he can speak -- his iPhone rings.

MATT
(into iPhone)
This is Matt. You're kidding me...
(cups phone; tells
Jourdan)
The DA is moving forward, even
without DNA evidence.
(into phone)
Alright...thanks.
(disconnects, shaken)
There's something else...

55 **EXT. CLAYTON FAREWELL STADIUM -- EPU -- DAY** 55

CIRCLING HELICOPTER SHOT of the state-of-the-art 300 million dollar stadium, 75,000 rabid fans ready for kickoff.

56 **INT. HOME FIELD TUNNEL -- FAREWELL STADIUM -- CONTINUOUS** 56

Nothing heard but the CLICK-CLACK of cleats as the ENTIRE EPU FOOTBALL TEAM waits to take the field. Palpable anticipation.

HEAD COACH SCARMUCHI
This is it. Our home field. Our
homecoming. Our home. They're not
gonna give you respect, you gotta
go out and take it. This is what
we've worked for, what we've bled
for. LET'S GO!

All at once, the team sprints towards the GLOW of the stadium, the ROAR of the crowd.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

We FIND AND FOLLOW TOMMY, about to emerge into the modern-day *
Coliseum when Matt steps into frame, thwarting his path, *
Jourdan behind him. *

TOMMY
What're you doing, dude?!

MATT
We have to talk.

TOMMY
Get out of my way --

MATT
Tommy. We have to talk.

He quietly leads Tommy back into the tunnel as the team continues to pass like a stampede of wild horses. The CLATTER of cleats is DEAFENING and then, all at once...silence. Then:

MATT (CONT'D)
I don't know how to tell you this, Tommy, so I'm just gonna say it: They're not letting you play today. Cassie Sullivan petitioned a judge to issue a restraining order against you.

TOMMY
What does that even mean...?

MATT
It means you can't come within a certain distance of her. Her apartment's within that distance to the stadium.

TOMMY
My mom's here, my sisters...

MATT
I'm sorry, Tommy...

And Tommy stands there, fighting back tears, the DIN of the crowd alternately intoxicating and torturous as TWO UNIFORMED COPS appear, ready to escort him out, as we...

57

EXT. FAREWELL HOUSE -- EPU -- DAY

57

Oliver, in stylish shades (*is that a new haircut?*), backpack flung over his shoulder, pads up his dorm steps, holding the door for a PRETTY COED who exits before --

PRETTY COED (O.S.)
....Excuse me, are you Oliver Peck?

He turns around. *Goddamn she's beautiful...*

PRETTY COED (CONT'D)

I think what you're doing is so
brave. It's totally inspiring.

Oliver's frozen, losing the power of speech. *Is this for
real?*

PRETTY COED (CONT'D)

I'm Layla. I'm actually over in
Bolt House, so, I dunno, maybe we
could --

OLIVER

Yes.

PRETTY COED

-- hang sometime or something?

OLIVER

...I mean, sure...okay. That'd be
cool.

PRETTY COED

Cool.

OLIVER

Cool.

PRETTY COED

Bye...

OLIVER

(waving like a little kid)
Bye-bye...

She recedes as an elated Oliver does a slight fist pump before continuing inside, up a set of stairs and down an empty HALLWAY. Stopping when he reaches his DORM ROOM to see...GRAFFITI on the door ("TRAITOR").

OLIVER (CONT'D)
(pushes ajar door open)
...Spence?

WHACK! A baseball bat wallops Oliver from behind, sends him sprawling into his room and onto the carpet.

HAND-HELD CAMERA: THREE ASSAILANTS, each clad in EPU football gear, faces concealed, close the door before reigning kicks and punches down on the defenseless and wailing Oliver.

As the beating continues, we INTERCUT with hard hits and plays from the EPU FOOTBALL GAME until finally the three marauders leave a battered Oliver behind, and we --

59

INT. PRIDE TAPROOM -- LATER (NIGHT)

59

Matt at the counter, watching highlights of the game on the TV behind the bar as Jourdan enters. Sits next to him.

JOURDAN
(re: beverage)
Vodka?

MATT
Water.

JOURDAN
Is that a problem for you?

Meaning: are you an alcoholic?

MATT
I just never cared for the taste.

Jourdan stares straight ahead when she realizes/says:

JOURDAN
Your father (was an alcoholic).

They stare straight ahead, the slightest nod from Matt before he refocuses on the TV behind the bar.

MATT
What happens when Tommy Dawson
can't play and they lose a game?

JOURDAN

We'll get a reversal on the TRO.

MATT

The kid who broke the story was attacked tonight. They beat him so bad he's in the hospital. I'm worried about this girl...

JOURDAN

You identify those numbers from Cassie's phone records?

A reminder of Will and the dreaded choice Matt must make. Matt flares slightly. Doesn't want to think about it.

MATT

I will.

Jourdan glances at the TV. Tells the Bartender to:

JOURDAN

Turn that up, please?

The Bartender boosts the TV volume.

SPORTS REPORTER

(on TV)

...A source revealing that transfer Pharaoh Pittman, starting safety and leading tackler for Pride, was dismissed from his former University after a coed accused him of similar rape charges in 2015...

JOURDAN

The floodgates are open. And everything's coming out. If this girl keeps at it, her life's over...

Disgusted, Matt stands. Starts to hastily exit.

JOURDAN (CONT'D)

...Where you going?

MATT

I need to clear my head.

Jourdan watches him go. Takes a sip of his water.

60 **EXT. EPU CAMPUS -- DAY**

60

PANTERA HOWLS. Back where we started. Matt. Running. Sprinting. He stops by the statue of Scarmuchi, catching his breath as he inadvertently looks across the quad to see Cassie entering the library.

61 **INT. LIBRARY -- EPU -- CONTINUOUS**

61

CASSIE stands behind a counter, cap pulled low when a shadow crosses her. She looks up to see --

MATT

Cassie? My name's Matt Kellerman.
I'm a lawyer for the University.
I'm not here to make you
uncomfortable. I just needed to see
you. To help you understand where
this is headed.

Through the ambient glass in the BG, we see STUDENTS CELEBRATING the football victory outside.

CASSIE

You people released my name to the
press...

MATT

No, we didn't.

CASSIE

That's how this place operates...

MATT

I'm not one of those people. But
those people are involved now.
Professionals who are paid to look
at lives through a microscope. Who
are paid to -

CASSIE

Which guy are you?

MATT

What?

CASSIE

Are you the guy who threatens me?

MATT

No.

CASSIE

The guy who pays me off...?

MATT

No - I'm not here for any of that.

CASSIE

Ahhhh. You're the true believer.
The white knight...

MATT

I just wanna know what happened,
Cassie...

CASSIE

No you don't. These people, these
"professionals," tell them
something for me, okay: If they
wanna dig, dig. If they wanna
question how I can afford my car or
the apartment I live in...go for
it.

A lamb to a lion, she collects her things.

CASSIE (CONT'D)

But whatever they find is gonna
pale in comparison to what shakes
out about this place. Ask your
boss, Darwin. He knows all about
it...

She exits, leaving a stunned Matt behind. MUSIC UP, over to:

62 **EXT. LIBRARY -- EPU -- DAY** 62

MUSIC SWELLS, a gobsmacked Matt stands outside, on the phone.

A63 **INT. OFFICES -- EPU LEGAL AFFAIRS -- CONTINUOUS** A63

Jourdan. Back at the office, staring at that whiteboard, more
items on it regarding Cassie as she talks on her cell:

JOURDAN

...I told you, you were going to
have to pick a side.

63 **INT. MATT'S PICK-UP TRUCK -- MOVING (FAST)** 63

White-knuckling the wheel, Matt glances to his left to see
LAKE MICHIGAN blurring by. Gaining speed, as we...

A64 **INT. EPU PRESIDENT'S OFFICE -- SIXTH FLOOR -- CONTINUOUS** A64

Darkness. Blinds drawn, only the phosphorescent glow of his
computer screen articulating an anguished Darwin at his desk.
An unseen television plays...

*
*

EVENING NEWS (V.O.)
*...the DA officially filing charges
 tonight against Heisman front
 runner Tommy Dawson and what we're
 told are several other yet-to-be
 named Eastern Pride football
 players...*

And he stares at the computer screen as we reveal he's
 looking at emails. He begins ceremoniously DELETING one after
 another, as we...

B64 **INT. CONSTANCE HAWTHORNE'S OFFICE -- EPU -- CONTINUOUS** B64

Hawthorne looks out at the quad, her phone RINGING
 incessantly. Troubled, she picks up her iPhone, calling her
 daughter. After three rings, she gets voicemail.

YOUNG WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)
*Hey, it's Emily. Leave me a message
 and maybe I'll hit you back...*

HAWTHORNE
 (into iPhone)
 Hey. It's me again. Mom. Just
 seeing how the party went. Call me
 when you get home - no matter what
 time it is. Okay. Love you.

She disconnects. Looks at the phone. Waits.

C64 **INT. ROOM -- EPU HOSPITAL -- CONTINUOUS** C64

Bruised and bandaged, Oliver lays in bed, barely conscious.
 Alone. Through one eye (the other's too swollen to see out
 of), he notices the television playing.

Sports highlights. Pride football.

Unable to change the channel, defenseless to its incessant,
 jocular CHATTER, he closes his one good eye as tight as a
 fist. Wishing it all away.

D64 **INT. BATHROOM -- CASSIE'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS** D64

Cassie enters, calling back to the other room (os)...

CASSIE
 I'm fine, Mom. Just going to the
 bathroom.

She closes the door. Locks it. Fishes her iPhone from her
 pocket. Scrolling to a number, she bangs out a text message.

ON IPHONE, we see a goofy picture of Tommy at the top of the screen. She types: "I'm sorry about all this..."

*
*

Her finger hovers over "send," deliberating, as we...

*

E64 **INT. KITCHEN -- WILL MEEKS' HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS** E64

Will eats dinner with his wife and son. Doing his best to laugh and smile at a story his son's telling.

F64 **INT. MATT'S PICK-UP TRUCK -- MOVING** F64

Back with Matt as he, all at once, pulls to the road periphery, settling to a stop. Reaching over. Popping the glove compartment.

He removes THE BURNER PHONE he got from Will.

64 **EXT. LAKE MICHIGAN -- EVENING (MOMENTS LATER)** 64

Matt stands by an isolated edge of the lake, staring into the quivering sea as the wind batters him; the City of Chicago looming in the distance like a distant neon kingdom.

And he thinks about his best friend, about the University, about his identity.

WIDE: Burner in hand, Matt stands there, not sure what to do. In deep deliberation, caught in tumultuous crosscurrents, the sun sinks into the sky, as we slowly...

FADE OUT:

END PILOT