

5th NETWORK DRAFT (Clean)

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ACT ONE

1 EXT. GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE - DUSK 1

The George Washington Bridge at evening rush hour. Trucks and cars slowly stream out of the city in a dense thicket of humanity. And then, heading the other direction, a small figure on a bicycle rides into the city, moving against the tide...

CLOSER. We see her. This is JULIA. Unruly curls spring out from under her sensible helmet....

CLOSER STILL. On her softly expressive face. Her big, gentle eyes. A look of quiet determination.

At the end of the bridge she lingers for a beat and looks out at the sun setting on the river, losing herself for a moment...

DRIVER (O.S.)

What the fuck is wrong with you? Move!

Snapping back, Julia gives an apologetic wave and keeps riding, a sensitive soul in an indifferent world...

2 EXT. MIDTOWN BAR - DUSK 2

Julia pulls up in front of a bar and locks her bike, takes off her helmet, looks in the dirty little bike mirror and, not liking what she sees, does something she does when she's nervous: *taps a front tooth with a fingernail...*

5 INT. MIDTOWN BAR - THAT NIGHT 5

We CATCH UP with Julia inside the bar, halfway through a tequila and soda, wildly oversharing with a date.

JULIA

...My official title is communications director, but really I'm just a glorified secretary to this incredibly difficult doctor... no matter what I do, or how hard I work, it's like, it's never good enough for him, or if it is it took me way too long to get it there...

REVERSE to reveal her date: SAM. On a scale of 1 to 10 he's about a 14.

SAM

Sounds like a real asshole.

JULIA

He's my dad.

SAM

Oh. Sorry.

JULIA

No, he's tough. But, he's also the best. In the world. Not just my opinion. He is getting this thing called the Lasker Genius Award. Tonight, actually. I have to give a speech introducing him. Worked really hard on it. All week.

(indicating her jacket pocket)

And if there's one thing I can be sure of... it will not be good enough. I'm sorry. What did you ask me again?

SAM

I asked what you do? I didn't expect a whole... story.

JULIA

Sorry. I talk a lot when I'm nervous and I'm very nervous 'cause you're insanely good looking! You're the hottest guy I've ever matched with and I do this a LOT. I mean, not a lot a lot? Just, normal, healthy a lot...

(off Sam, looking worried)

Can I be honest with you, Sam? I have about an hour before I have to go do a very high stakes daddy-daughter tap dance and right now I'd just really like to have sex. Preferably, with you. How does that sound?

And off Sam, taken aback by the boldness of this, we...

SMASH TO:

Julia and Sam furiously go at it. It's hungry, passionate and very alive, and on Julia's face, we read: the release she was seeking. A total surrender to pleasure...

CUT TO:

7 INT. YOGA STUDIO - DAY

7

EDIE, eyes closed, as tense and uncomfortable in her body as can be. We hear the gentle voice of a THERAPIST:

THERAPIST

...Bring your awareness to the tips of your fingers, so full of erotic charge...

We WIDEN to reveal her husband TIM cross-legged opposite her in a room full of EARNEST COUPLES in an intimacy workshop. A therapist weaves through, encouraging:

THERAPIST (CONT'D)

And now I invite all the women to take that erotic energy and vocalize it.

Women in the class make SOUNDS: ooh's, ahhhh's. Intimate. Intense. And for Edie, hugely embarrassing. We watch her open one eye to peek around the room. Is everyone else doing this? Then, caught by the therapist, she closes her eyes and lightly hums...

THERAPIST (CONT'D)

Surrender, release...

As the howling and moaning build, so does Edie's discomfort. There is just no way. Eager to escape, she begins to cough. Tim opens his eyes, concerned.

EDIE

I need water. Excuse me!

As Edie rushes out, Tim follows...

8 INT. YOGA STUDIO - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

8

We catch up with Edie and Tim in the hallway.

TIM

You're miserable, aren't you? This was a terrible idea.

EDIE

No! I love that you signed us up for this. It's just a little... outside my comfort zone.

TIM

I know. Mine too! But I thought it might help us. Relight the... you know.

EDIE

The... what?

TIM

The spark. Between us. I feel like, you never want to have sex anymore.

EDIE

You want to have sex? I will have sex right now. I'll call us an Uber. We can go straight home and do it.

She lifts her phone, he stops her.

TIM

I don't want you to prove it to me. I want you to... want to. Lately, it feels like every time we do... it's a chore.

He's careful. But this lands with the thud of truth. Edie reaches up and does something she does when she's nervous: she *taps her teeth with her fingernail*.

EDIE

Work's just been really stressful... and it's hard for me sometimes. To just, get out of my head.

TIM

I know, that's why I thought this might... help. It was dumb. Let's just get brunch. We still have fifteen minutes before they stop serving that grain bowl you like at Frankie's--

EDIE

I do love that grain bowl. But believe it or not, I love you more. We're going back in there.

TIM

It's okay. You don't have to--

EDIE

I want to! And guess what, I am going to moan louder than any of those bitches.

TIM

You do like to win.

EDIE

You know I do.

8 CONTINUED:

8

He gives a grateful smile. There's so much love here, so much desire to get over this bump in the road...

9 INT. NEW JERSEY CONVENTION CENTER - DAY

9

OFF a sign reading "Sports Legends of Yesteryear" we REVEAL a room filled with faded sports figures: an ELDERLY FORMER BASEBALL PLAYER slumped in a wheelchair, an OVERWEIGHT FORMER FOOTBALL PLAYER, belly bulging under a jersey, and: ROXY, 30, a compact spark plug of a woman. A permanent chip on her shoulder. Currently flanked by two young female FANS, posing for a photo. SNAP. Then:

ROXY

Remember, train hard, but have fun, too!

YOUNG FANS

Thank you! We will!

Roxy watches her parent/managers, DIANE and RON, accept a cash payment from the two fans. Diane approaches Roxy.

DIANE

Remember not to block the Beast energy drink logo. It has to be in every shot.

Diane gestures to a poster with a *hideous* logo on it.

ROXY

Can't believe you have me pushing this off brand crap. I was on a WHEATIES box!

DIANE

That was a long time ago, dear.

RON

(gently)

It's just another hour. Then we can get ice cream.

ROXY

Ice cream? I'm 30, dad.

RON

(embarrassed)

I still like ice cream. And I'm 60.

DIANE

Honey. We'd love to get our reputation back to a place where premium brands want to do business with us. But right now, we have to take what we can get.

Roxy lifts a hand to her mouth and *anxiously taps her front tooth with a finger*. Then, unable to protest, she heads back to her spot as a CREEPY GUY walks up.

CREEPY GUY

Can I get a pic?

Roxy stands with him in front of the Beast poster, a comfortable distance away. But he creeps closer, and closer, and as he holds up his selfie stick, he slides his hands from her waist, down to her butt...

CREEPY GUY (CONT'D)

Smile!

But Roxy isn't smiling. She's furious. She reaches behind her, grabs his hand, and twists it behind him.

CREEPY GUY (CONT'D)

Ow, let go, you psycho!

ROXY

Oh, I'm the psycho? I'm the psycho?

Ron and Diane cross over, trying to de-escalate.

DIANE

What's going on?

ROXY

That perv just grabbed my ass, that's what's going on.

RON

Sir, you should go.

CREEPY GUY

Fine. Not worth fifty bucks anyway.
You're way past your expiration date.

And with that, Roxy FLIES at the creepy guy with surprising strength, taking him to the ground. This creep, twice her size, is getting pummeled. Ron tries to pull her off as Diane looks around with horror to see: A dozen cellphones recording Roxy's outburst in HD video, the Beast logo in every shot, another gig lost...

Julia, energized by her casual encounter, bikes up to the elegant greek columns of Gotham Hall and hops off her bike. Looking in her bike mirror, she's... a mess.

10 CONTINUED:

She does what she can with lipstick, but when she digs into her saddle bag, she's frantic:

JULIA

Pleasepleasepleaseplease... NO!

She pulls out only ONE HIGH HEEL. Disaster. She looks down at her cycling cleats with a weary sigh...

11 INT. GOTHAM HALL - MOMENTS LATER

11

As she goes LOUDLY CLICKING through the marble foyer, chic heads swivel and stare. Julia approaches the check-in table with as much dignity as she can muster.

JULIA

Julia Bechley? I should be on the list...

ATTENDANT

Not finding you. Would it be under something else? A married name?

ISAAC (O.S.)

She's not married. Good one, though.

Julia looks up to see: DR. ISAAC HADDAD, 30, looking annoyingly good in his tux. He looks down at her cleats.

ISAAC (CONT'D)

Were you mugged on the way here?

JULIA

It's a long... none of your business.

(to the attendant)

I'm introducing the Guest of Honor. I'm Dr. Bechley's daughter.

ATTENDANT

Oh! Here you are. "Dr. Bechley's Daughter." Enjoy the evening.

Julia takes her lanyard of shame, her sarcasm a shield...

JULIA

Yes, why should I be anything else?

ISAAC

(to the attendant)

Isaac Haddad?

(off the attendant)

Doctor Isaac Haddad? I'm a colleague of Dr. Bechley's. His Number Two, really.

11 CONTINUED:

JULIA

Yeah. See if you have anything under,
"Number Two."

ISAAC

That's... childish.

(then, worried)

My name should be there. Look again.

As Julia crosses off, happy to have some comeuppance...

12 INT. GOTHAM HALL - STAGE

12

We're with Julia "backstage" as she looks around for her dad, not seeing him. A group of well-wishers parts to reveal: LEON BECHLEY, 60. Handsome, distinguished, and right now, basking in his well-earned spotlight...

JULIA

Sorry, sorry, sorry. I'm here. I made it.
How you doing, old man?

LEON

Better. Now that you're here. Finally.
What happened to your shoes?

JULIA

(deflecting)

It's a long story about me and tonight's
about YOU. Are you doing okay? You're not
smiling. You should be smiling for once.
You should be proud.

LEON

I am. I just wish...

He looks at her. Doesn't want to say it.

JULIA

I know. But she's here. She's with us.

A beat of grief between them, the burden they share.

LEON

Can't wait to hear your speech. I told
everyone how funny you are. Don't make a
liar out of me.

As Leon crosses off, Julia pats her pocket and... all the color drains from her face. The speech IS. NOT. THERE. And just then, a stage manager points to her. It's time.

She momentarily looks at the exit sign, wondering if she can run, but she can't. She walks out on stage. Lights in her eyes. Throat tight. This is a nightmare.

JULIA

I um, when my father asked me to, um... do this... My first thought... my first thought was... excuse me. So dry.

As she takes a drink, she looks over to see Leon in the wings. Watching. Expectant. She can't let him down.

JULIA (CONT'D)

I was all... was no one else available? I guess he was asking me because I'm his favorite child. I'm also his only child.

Sporadic laughs, but Julia catches a glimpse of her father looking down. Disappointment dawning, then:

JULIA (CONT'D)

When I was a kid, in Sunday school, I got myself into some serious trouble one day with the nuns. See, they were saying that only God could create life and I said, that's not true. My dad creates life. He's gotten hundreds of women pregnant.

A big laugh from Leon and Julia finally exhales.

JULIA (CONT'D)

As I got older, my understanding of my father's pioneering work in the fertility field got a little more sophisticated. But one thing hasn't changed. I'm still that little girl who thinks he's a God.

ANGLE ON: Leon. The merest glimmer of pride in his eyes.

JULIA (CONT'D)

He's made miracles happen. He's made families. And I'm honored to introduce him to you. Please welcome this year's recipient of the Lasker Genius Prize, my dad, Leon Bechley.

Applause as Leon walks out and hugs Julia, whispering:

LEON

You really mean all that?

JULIA

Don't get too big a head.

A private beat between them before Leon crosses to the podium, putting on his public mask of charisma:

LEON

Thank you so much.

(then)

Science is not fixed, but ever-changing.
And over the course of my career...

We STAY WITH JULIA, basking in the warm glow of her father's hard-won approval. As his speech continues, we--

MATCH TO:

INT. GOTHAM HALL - FOYER - LATER

Julia, standing on the sidelines, as Leon charms his well-wishers. An aggressive REPORTER approaches.

REPORTER

Excuse me, sir? Jim Horner, from the Wall Street Journal. I have a source who believes their genetic material was tampered with at the Bechley clinic. Do you care to comment?

Cocktail chatter quiets down as Julia intervenes.

JULIA

What the hell are you talking about?

LEON

Jules, it's nonsense. Ignore him.
(to the reporter)
Slow news day, huh?

A chuckle from the assembled as the reporter persists.

REPORTER

My source alleges that you used your own sperm to impregnate a patient in your practice. Can you confirm or deny that?

LEON

I have no idea what you're talking about.

JULIA

Do you want me to get security over here?

LEON

Jules, don't make a scene.

CONTINUED:

JULIA

This jerk is trying to ruin your night.

REPORTER

We're running a story tonight. Just wanted to give you a chance to comment.

JULIA

I told you to back off, okay?

A protective Julia takes her father's arm...

EXT. GOTHAM HALL - NIGHT

Julia is walking her father to his car when he winces a little. Holding his arm. Isaac follows behind.

ISAAC

Dr. Bechley? Are you all right?

JULIA

He's fine. He just had a long night. We are cancelling the Wall Street Journal, by the way.

LEON

I'm good. Just tired. Ready to get home.

ISAAC

I don't like the way you're holding your arm. Mind if I have a look?

JULIA

He's just upset. He has a right! As soon as he gets the recognition he deserves, the crazies come out of the woodwork...

At this, Leon doubles over. His face twisted in pain.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Dad? Dad.

ISAAC

(to the driver)

Take him to St. Vincent's. Now.

And off Julia realizing something is very wrong...

13

INT. ICU - NEXT MORNING

13

We're with Julia at her father's bedside, where he lies asleep in a tangle of wires and lines, a monitor registering the steady rhythm of his heartbeat. In Julia's exhausted head, a DOCTOR's voice goes in and out.

DOCTOR

We were able to repair... in a major artery... a long road... significant therapy... full recovery...

As the doctor crosses out, a nurse lingers behind.

NURSE

You should go home and rest. Is there any other family who can relieve you?

JULIA

No. Nobody. It's just Dad and me.

Julia looks up at the TV and sees Jim Horner, the reporter, over a chyron: "Esteemed doctor accused."

JULIA (CONT'D)

You have got to be kidding me.

Julia shakes her head in disbelief.

LEON

My dad would say, don't fly too high, they'll only shoot you down.

Julia turns to see that her dad is awake. Weak, but conscious. Watching.

JULIA

Dad, it's just the 24 hour news cycle. It'll all blow over. Just rest, okay? You need to recover. I'm here.

LEON

You'll take care of me. You always do.

But Julia can't take her eyes off the screen. This relentless reporter, making his case...

HORNER

... Not too long ago, doctors had free reign to do whatever they wanted. But today, all it takes is a hundred dollars to have your own genetic test done.

(MORE)

13 CONTINUED:

HORNER (CONT'D)

Patients can take matters into their own hands, to find out the truth...

WE STAY WITH THE TELEVISION and MATCH TO:

14 INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

14

THAT SAME REPORT now on a TV in a courtroom hallway as Edie and Tim cross in to find AMANDA, the DA, waiting. She's young, gender-fluid and self-assured (think Cara Delevingne.) She throws Edie a provocative look.

AMANDA

Morning, counselors. Good luck in there.

As she crosses inside, Edie turns to Tim.

EDIE

Who does she think she is? With her hipster glasses. And her, "I'm too cool for a briefcase!" You're a prosecutor, not a DJ at a nightclub.

TIM

Amanda McAvoy really gets under your skin, doesn't she?

EDIE

I just don't like her attitude. I mean, "good luck?" I don't need "luck." I have hard work, and preparation--

TIM

Babe. Have you seen this?

Tim points to the TV where we see: a picture of Leon Bechley, and the damning chyron: "Celebrated fertility doctor accused of mishandling genetic material." Off a wide-eyed Edie, taking this in...

15 INT. RON AND DIANE'S HOUSE - DAY

15

A grim suburban tableau: Roxy drinks coffee and scrolls through Instagram, assessing the damage from her outburst. Diane cooks eggs and Ron watches the news:

REPORTER

Imagine if the whole story of how you came to be... turned out to be a lie? For patients of the Bechley clinic, that's exactly the fear. These allegations...

15 CONTINUED:

ROXY

The Bechley clinic? Isn't that where--

SMASH! Diane drops a plate of eggs. A huge mess.

REPORTER

Leaving others to wonder if this might only be the beginning. If you may be affected, please reach out with the hashtag Bechleybabies. We want to hear your story.

Roxy looks at the TV, a light shining in her eyes...

16 EXT. BECHLEY INSTITUTE - DAY

16

Julia cycles up to the institute to see... a SCRUM of REPORTERS pouncing on Isaac.

REPORTER

You work at the Institute, are you aware of Dr. Bechley's conduct?

Isaac pushes past them to the door.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

How many Bechley babies are there?

Julia cycles around to the alley to avoid the circus...

17 INT. BECHLEY INSTITUTE - CONFERENCE ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 17

The anxious staff is gathered around the table airing their concerns as a worse-for-the-wear Julia, still in her clothes from last night, paces...

JULIA

Bechley babies? Now it's a hashtag?

JEN

Patients are calling... frightened... hysterical, what are we supposed to say?

MICHAEL YOO, the in-house attorney, weighs in.

MICHAEL

You tell them you can't comment on these allegations and give them a referral--

ISAAC

These are my patients. People I've treated for years. I owe them more than some blanket denial and a referral.

MICHAEL

Do you want to further implicate the institute? And yourself?

ISAAC

That's a bunch of lawyer crap.

MICHAEL

Well, "lawyer crap" happens to be my job!

JULIA

Guys. Can not tell you how much it pains me to say this, but I agree with Isaac.

ISAAC

Thank you?

JULIA

This thing is blowing up on social media. Former patients are comparing stories, sharing information...

MICHAEL

Gossip. Hysteria. It will die down.

JULIA

I thought so too, but it's not dying down, it's growing. Dad is in the hospital recovering from a heart attack caused by all this--

ISAAC

Not how heart attacks work by the way...

JULIA

(ignoring him)

I think we have to get out ahead of this.

MICHAEL

How do you suggest we do that?

JULIA

I'm thinking we offer DNA kits to any former patients concerned about their paternity. We'll pay for expedited tests from an independent lab...

(MORE)

CONTINUED:

JULIA (CONT'D)

put their fears to rest, and restore my
dad's legacy and put this clinic's
reputation back at the top where it
belongs!

(off their uneasy faces)

The truth will set us free!

(still nothing)

Not the Braveheart response I was going
for...

MICHAEL

What if the truth isn't what you want to
hear?

Julia considers this a beat, then:

JULIA

It will be. I'm ordering the tests. And
I'm putting out a press release.

ISAAC

Julia, are you... barefoot?

JULIA

Yes, Isaac. I am.

Off Julia, taking charge, it's the...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

18 INT. ICU - DAY

18

Julia steadies herself to head into the room, and finds her dad's bed is... empty. What the hell?

JULIA

Oh my God. Where is he? Where is my dad?

Sure that her father is dead, she panics, shouting:

JULIA (CONT'D)

Will somebody please tell me where the hell my father is?

A NURSE approaches.

NURSE

He's not here anymore.

JULIA

Oh my God.

NURSE

Honey, relax. He didn't die. They're prepping him for a procedure.

He indicates down the hall, where Julia sees her dad on a gurney, waiting outside an operating room.

JULIA

Do NOT do that to me!

Julia crosses down the hallway to see Leon, looking vulnerable in his gown, on his gurney.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Sorry, sorry, sorry. I'm here. You doing okay, old man?

He looks up at her, his eyelids heavy. He's sedated.

LEON

They gave me something...

JULIA

(trying to lighten the mood)
I see that. Anything good? Wanna share?

But he's not in the mood for banter. He's weak. Frightened. Julia's not used to seeing him like this.

LEON

If I don't make it out of this...

JULIA

Nope. No. Don't do that.

LEON

I want you to know...

JULIA

Will you stop it? You're going to make it out of this. You're all I have. You don't have a choice--

LEON

Listen. I want you to know that... you're still the one. The most special one. No matter what. Okay?

And as they wheel him off for the procedure, Julia is left to wonder exactly what he means by this. We see the seed of doubt about her father sprouting inside her...

INT. RON AND DIANE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

OFF a living room shrine to Roxy's Olympic career: medals, trophies, pictures, we TILT DOWN to find Roxy on the couch, getting lectured by her parents.

DIANE

Do not stir this up.

RON

There is no way you're--

ROXY

Then where does it all come from? Huh? You guys aren't athletes. You guys can't do anything. I mean, look at you!

RON

My brother was a national champion.

ROXY

In bowling! A sport you can do holding a beer.

RON

(hurt)

You don't have to be nasty.

CONTINUED:

ROXY

Dr. Bechley was a champion rower at Harvard. He's a world class physician. Don't you see? It just makes sense.

Ron retreats, stung by this.

DIANE

Dear. You sound... like you've been overusing your meds again. And we know how dangerous that can be--

ROXY

Everything I take is prescribed by doctors. Doctors you took me to for my injuries! And my... everything.

DIANE

Honey, we already lost the Beast energy drink contract. We don't need anymore trouble. If you don't listen to us, let us protect you...

ROXY

You don't protect me. You shelter me. There's a difference! You're just trying to change the subject, so you don't have to admit that I might be someone else's daughter and not yours.

(then)

My Bechley vlog already has thirty three hundred likes. People are getting it. They're supporting me.

Diane just shakes her head. It's so hard to get through.

DIANE

No matter how many "likes" you get, there's never going to be anyone who... really cares about you. Except your father and me. We're your family.

This lands for Roxy. Ron and Diane look at each other, seeing an opening, and treading carefully--

RON

We want to get you some help. There's a clinic we looked at. Real nice place--

DIANE

If you can do thirty days there, the Beast folks will reconsider our contract--

CONTINUED:

ROXY

I AM NOT A DRUG ADDICT! Just because I
 get angry when people mess with me-- AGH!
 (shouting, standing)
 You guys are proving my point! You don't
 understand me. I'm getting the test. You
 can't stop me.

As Roxy storms off, we see the concern etched on her
 parents' faces...

20

INT. EAST VILLAGE RECORD STORE - DAY

20

A slice of another era, with very few patrons. Swanning
 through it, grooving to an old jazz record, is GENEVIEVE,
 a woman with the same throw-back vibe of this place.
 She's as surprised as we are to see Edie walk in.

GENEVIEVE

To what do I owe the pleasure of seeing
 my beautiful daughter today?

EDIE

I've been calling you. And texting you.

GENEVIEVE

So sorry, honey. I'm bad about that.
 Can I get you anything? Tea?

EDIE

I don't want tea, mom. I need some
 answers. Can you... that smoke is so
 thick. It's giving me a headache.

GENEVIEVE

It's sage. My landlord was here earlier.
 I don't know how long I can hold on to
 this place. Can you write him a letter?

EDIE

I can't get involved in your landlord
 disputes anymore. I'm sorry. Mom, I was
 calling because there's an allegation of
 misconduct against the Bechley Institute.

Genevieve stops. Her expression changes.

GENEVIEVE

About Leon? What are they saying?

EDIE

That he may have used his own sperm,
without his patient's knowledge. It's all
over the news, and--

(off her mom's expression)

You don't seem, surprised.

GENEVIEVE

I'm not.

EDIE

I don't understand.

Genevieve takes a deep breath. Where to begin?

GENEVIEVE

I wanted a baby. On my own. I couldn't
afford much, so my old friend Sarah...
she said her husband would help.

EDIE

Mom, I know that part. But, you told me
my dad was a number in a book. A stranger
you picked for his creative answers to
the questionnaire...

GENEVIEVE

That's what I thought. But over the
years... these qualities emerged in you
that looked so, familiar. That cloak of
ambition you throw over yourself, hiding
who you really are. Classic Leon.

EDIE

You are unbelievable. If you knew this--

GENEVIEVE

I only suspected.

EDIE

Why didn't you share it with me? I've
been chasing this, absence all my life.
So many things in me that had no
answers... why are you LIKE THIS?

She's yelling at her mother now, livid.

GENEVIEVE

That too. The anger. He has that.

EDIE

I have every right to be angry! You suspected this, and you kept this from me! Julia's father? Leon Bechley? We had... I grew up with them! You dragged me to their house all the time. We celebrated holidays with them!

GENEVIEVE

They had a nice house! I could never get it together for holidays--

EDIE

And now, he could be... I can't stand him! Pompous, acting like the smartest guy in the world. Total egomaniac.
(off her mother's look)
Oh don't even, if you're suggesting...

GENEVIEVE

I didn't say anything.

EDIE

You don't have to. That is NOT me.

GENEVIEVE

Darling. Sweetheart. Look at me. I'm your mother. I carried you, I cared for you, I gave you everything. That's what matters. Not whatever ended up in some test tube.

EDIE

It's so like you to dismiss this.

GENEVIEVE

I am trying to tell you how much I love you. But you don't hear it. It's always been so hard for you... to take in love. You're broken in that way.

On Edie, deeply hurt by this.

EDIE

Broken? So now I'm... broken?

GENEVIEVE

And what's wrong with that? I wish you'd understand that our brokenness is what makes us human. You're so eager to seem perfect. The way you stay in that marriage, even though it's such a strain, because you're so afraid to fail...

EDIE

My marriage is none of your business! I should have known... this was a mistake.

Edie leaves her mother, furious...

INT. BECHLEY INSTITUTE - LOBBY - DAY

The receptionist JEN hands a TEST KIT to a YOUNG MAN. Julia sits nearby, sneaking surreptitious looks.

JEN

It's just a cheek swab. You can mail it in and wait, or if you're in a hurry to know, you can drop it off right at the lab yourself. We'll even pay for expedited results. If we can just get you to sign in right here. Thanks so much.

As he signs the form, we go CLOSE on his HANDS. LIPS. EYES. And back to Julia. She wants to believe this isn't true, but she's clearly watching, searching for clues...

ISAAC (O.S.)

Spying?

She looks up to see: Isaac. Catching her.

JULIA

No. Observing.

ISAAC

From a place where you can see them, but they can't see you? Sure you're not getting nervous about this?

JULIA

I believe my dad. I'm just... curious.

A MONTAGE of clients coming through the doors to pick up their kits. Faces. Hands. Hair. And back to Julia. Looking. Questioning.

Until she sees: EDIE entering. Armored in a sharp grey blazer. Looking around. Purposeful.

JULIA (CONT'D)

You've got to be kidding me. What is SHE doing here?

ISAAC

Who?

CONTINUED:

JULIA

(indicating)

Edie Flanagan. Only one of the worst people ever. The most arrogant, competitive... I bet she's here to sue us! She's some high-powered lawyer now. Or maybe she just came to gloat.

ANGLE ON: Tim entering, taking Edie's hand.

ISAAC

Gloat. About what?

JULIA

About winning.

Seeing Tim, Julia gets self-conscious, adjusting her hair, tapping her tooth. Isaac clocks this as Julia takes a deep breath and crosses over to Edie.

EDIE

Julia.

JULIA

Edie. Look, if you came here to sue us--

EDIE

I don't sue people. I'm a criminal defense attorney. It's a completely different field actually.

JULIA

I get it. You're smarter than me.

Tim steps in to break the tension.

TIM

Julia, it's nice to see you again. How are you doing?

Tim's concern is genuine, and Julia responds in kind.

JULIA

Been a little bit of a rough week. Dad almost died, and now we're in the middle of a genetic witch hunt. So if you're not here as someone's lawyer, why are you here?

EDIE

Well, my mom was a friend of your mom's.

CONTINUED:

JULIA

I know. It's why we always had to... hang out.

EDIE

And she was a patient of your dad's.

JULIA

(dawning on her)

That's right. Dad was always discrete about that.

EDIE

Well, my mom's not discrete about anything. She seems to think your father spread his seed everywhere he could. So, on the off chance she's right, I thought I'd take the opportunity. To make sure.

Julia takes a beat. Could this be true? Then:

JULIA

I get it. I mean, first you steal my boyfriend, why not try and steal my father too!

And now the whole clinic is watching. Including Tim. Who is standing between the two of them, mortified.

Luckily, there's a big distraction as Roxy enters, recording herself with a selfie stick...

ROXY

...so, I'm now entering the Bechley clinic space, and I'm having ALL the feels. Nervous. Excited. It's time for me to get the facts. To find out if I share a special bond with a stranger...

JULIA

Is that, that washed-up former gymnast that's always getting in trouble? Roxy whatever-her-name-is?

TIM

She's the one in that video who punches the TSA guy who confiscates her pot?

EDIE

I'll handle this.

(crossing to Roxy)

You can't film in here. Turn that off.

CONTINUED:

ROXY

I think I have a right to express myself?
It's called freedom of speech? It's in
the constitution. Google it.

EDIE

I don't need to "Google it." I studied it
in law school. The first amendment has no
bearing in this context, where patients
have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

ROXY

Well, you have a reasonable expectation
of having this stick shoved up your ass!

Roxy steps to her, scrappy, as Tim intervenes.

TIM

Okay, let's take a beat. Cool down...

EDIE

You're one of those people who thinks
rules don't apply to them, aren't you?

ROXY

You want to go? Cause I will go now.

JULIA

(stepping in)
Stop it! No one is gonna "go."

ROXY

She started it.

EDIE

This was initiated by her.

The three women face off. A nervous Roxy lifts her hand
and starts TAPPING AT HER TEETH. Isaac spots it, alarmed.

ISAAC

Julia does that exact same thing.

JULIA

No, I don't.

ISAAC

Oh believe me, you do.

TIM

So does Edie. When she's nervous--

EDIE

I do not tap my teeth--

CONTINUED:

TIM

You're probably not aware of it, but--

ROXY

Maybe it's a shared genetic trait, like rolling your tongue into a cigar shape, which is apparently totally inherited according to WebMD.

(rolling her tongue)

I can do it! Can you guys? Try. Come on.

As the three women look at each other, their curiosity gets the better of them. As they each roll their tongue into a cigar shape, Roxy's guard drops. She beams.

ROXY (CONT'D)

Well, I don't know about you two... but I think that's pretty cool.

An uncanny, undeniable moment between the three of them. A connection. On Julia, her suspicion growing like a bubble floating in the air, until:

ROXY (CONT'D)

Sister selfie? For social meeds?

And just like that, pop.

JULIA

Nope.

EDIE

No way.

JULIA

Thank you all for stopping by. If you have any further questions, let us know.

Off Julia, pulling down a protective veil of denial...

INT. JULIA'S OFFICE - LATER

Julia and Jen pour over the list of names...

JULIA

How many did we get today?

JEN

Fifteen in person, and another twenty asked for tests to be mailed out to them.

Julia is staring at the names, thirty five of them. A growing sense of unease.

CONTINUED:

JULIA

Hey, Jen. Do you ever see me... tap my front tooth when I'm nervous?

JEN

Yeah. You do that all the time.

Stressed, wanting escape, Julia takes out her phone and opens her Tinder App. CLOSE ON THE PHONE: we see a notification: "Someone you matched with is nearby!" She clicks on it. It's Sam. She smiles, pleased.

JEN (CONT'D)

Good news?

Julia leans forward, sotto:

JULIA

Just this hot guy I met the other night. My app says he's nearby. Really nearby. He couldn't be more nearby. It looks like... this can't be right. He's here.

She turns to see, entering the clinic: SAM.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Sam? Hi.

Sam quickly introduces the ATTRACTIVE WOMAN he's with.

SAM

Oh, hey. Um, this is my wife, Kim.

Julia realizes: this jerk is married? Of course.

JULIA

Your wife. Hello. I'm Julia.

KIM

Hi. How do you two know each other?

SAM

We have mutual friends.

JULIA

Right. Mutual friends. So...

(to Kim, optimistic:)

Were your parents patients at the clinic?

KIM

No, Sam's. It's a crazy story. He didn't know he was an IVF baby. His mom never told him. Shame or stigma, I guess?

CONTINUED:

SAM

She saw the reports on TV, and she told me, and it was like, hang on. I mean, I look nothing like my dad, he's about a foot shorter than me... then I saw the pictures of Dr. Bechley and I'm like, that makes sense.

As Julia begins to take in his similarity to her father, heart quickening, eyes widening...

JULIA

Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Yeah. Okay.

KIM

So, Julia. You work here at the Bechley clinic?

JULIA

Yes. And I'm also a Bechley. Leon Bechley. Is uh, he's uh... he's my...

SAM

Your?

JULIA

Dad. He's my dad.

KIM

So that means you two might be... brother and sister?

As Sam and Julia process the implications of this...

CUT TO:

22

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

22

Julia walks in to find Leon sitting up in bed, a couple of NURSES taking his vitals and being charmed by him.

LEON

You know what they say about hospitals. You're lucky to get out of 'em alive. If the MRSA doesn't get you, the food will.

The nurses laugh, and turn to Julia.

NURSE

Your father is keeping us entertained.

JULIA

Yeah he's the best so glad he's doing better would you mind giving us a sec?

Seeing how serious she is, the nurses cross out.

LEON

Can't tell you how good it feels to be off those fluids. I felt like a balloon--

JULIA

Dad. When they were wheeling you into surgery, you said something about me being the only one who was special... what did you mean by that?

He takes this in a beat, remembering.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Is there anything you need to tell me?

LEON

(covering)

Honey, I was sedated. You're not letting these accusations get to you? Michael's looking into it. Some crazy ex-patient with an agenda stirring up--

JULIA

I gave out DNA kits.

Leon is momentarily taken aback by this.

LEON

Why? I told you not to dignify this.

JULIA

It's done. The results will come soon. Now, I'm going to ask you one more time. Is there anything you need to tell me?

Leon closes his eyes. Takes a deep breath. Then.

LEON

Okay. You have to let me explain.

As Julia's world begins to close in around her, it's the...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. HOSPITAL - CONTINUOUS

Julia works hard to stay composed as she hears Leon out.

LEON

You have to remember. When I started out, infertility was a dead end street. I changed all that. I became the miracle worker. The last resort for desperate patients. So when there were insurmountable challenges. When people who put all their hopes and dreams on me, had to be told it might not happen... I stacked the deck. Used material I knew to be successful--

JULIA

(unable to contain it)
Your material? Just so you wouldn't fail.

LEON

So I wouldn't disappoint people. There's a difference. I meant no harm. Ever.

JULIA

But you did harm. You did terrible harm.

LEON

They left with their miracles--

JULIA

Your patients, but what about their kids? Growing up with no sense of who they really are, where they come from?

LEON

Genetics are only one determinant--

And with that, Julia explodes on him.

JULIA

I hooked up with my own brother!
Yeah, a guy I went out with might be one of your... babies. Did you ever think of that? As a possibility?

LEON

Interbreeding did occur to me... But I counted on low statistical probability--

CONTINUED:

Julia shakes her head in utter disbelief.

JULIA

I just told you that I slept with my own sibling, and all you can talk about is... probability? You're unbelievable.

We ANGLE on: A nurse who has just entered, stricken.

NURSE

I need to change his... I can come back.

JULIA

No, don't leave. Take care of him. Someone has to.

Julia starts to cross out, her anger fueling her...

LEON

(calling after her)

Julia. Don't walk away from me!

But she can't stop. And off Julia, getting away from her father before she explodes...

23

INT. TIM AND EDIE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

23

We are with TIM, asleep, when a loud NOISE wakes him. Worried, he looks over to see... an empty space where Edie sleeps. He heads into the living room where he finds a manic EDIE removing books from the shelves.

TIM

Jesus. I thought we had a break in.

EDIE

I couldn't sleep. It's a mess in here. You know, this used to be organized. I had a whole alphabetical system. And now it's like, chaos. I can't live like this!

Tim crosses over. He's seen her in this state before.

TIM

Okay, do you think maybe this isn't about the books? Maybe it's about... today?

Edie shrugs. They both know he's right. But she's not ready to acknowledge it.

EDIE

Mom used wake me up in the middle of the night when I was a kid and take me on these walks. She wanted me to experience the "shadow city." We'd walk through Washington Square Park at three in the morning, in my pajamas, stepping over needles... did I ever tell you this?

TIM

No. You never talk about your childhood. I love it. Tell me more.

EDIE

Then the next day at school I'd fall asleep in class and everyone would make fun of me. It was hard enough being the half black girl who got avocado sandwiches for lunch. I used to fantasize... never mind. It's so stupid.

But Tim is eating up this rare confessional from Edie...

TIM

Keep going.

EDIE

About my father. Who he'd turn out to be. In my head, he was a classical musician. Who lived in Europe. And one day, he would come back and take me there to live with him. Anyway, now I don't get to fantasize anymore. My dad is this ego driven jerk who I've known my whole life! And to top it off, I might have this big bunch of loser sisters and brothers... Julia and that Roxy are probably the least psycho of the bunch! You know they're all gonna have DUIs they want me to clear--

TIM

Hey. What if... and I know you might not want to hear this... but what if this is a good thing. A chance to let your childhood father fantasy go?

EDIE

(getting emotional)
I don't want to let it go.

He reaches out to comfort her, but she flinches.

EDIE (CONT'D)

Don't.

Tim pulls away, frustrated.

TIM

I feel like whatever I say... whatever I do... it's wrong.

(beat)

I love you. But I'm going back to bed.

As Tim crosses out...

EDIE

I love you, too.

But he's already gone. She's alone.

EXT. BECHLEY INSTITUTE - DAY

As Julia bikes up to the Institute, she finds the last person she wants to see waiting for her: Roxy. She's holding two lattes.

ROXY

Hey! Took the liberty of getting you a pumpkin spice latte. I had a feeling you like them as much as I do.

(beat)

And I might have seen you talk about them on your Facebook page. One of the many things we have in common. You hate Ariana Grande and love Bruce Springsteen too? Nobody else our age gets it, right? Sent you an invite, by the way... did you see that, or...

Julia looks at her, dismayed.

JULIA

What are you doing here? Do you have questions, or..

ROXY

Yeah! About a hundred million questions... Starting with, how is our father doing? Is he ready for visitors? Because I'm dying to get to know him...?

JULIA

He's not stable enough for visitors.

CONTINUED:

ROXY

I'm sure they'd make an exception. For family.

JULIA

Family?

ROXY

We'll find out soon enough.

JULIA

Whatever that test ends up saying, that doesn't mean we're family.

Roxy looks at her, an earnest plea.

ROXY

I'm not trying to take anything from you. I wish you could see that. I don't know about you, but I've wanted a sister all my life. Someone to share things with, someone who gets me--

JULIA

If you can't leave me alone, I'll have to get the authorities involved, okay?

(then, backing off the threat)

Just find some other way to get the attention you so obviously need. Go make a vlog, or punch a stranger, I don't care. Just leave me alone. You're not my family. You never will be.

ROXY

Okay. Message received.

As a wounded Roxy starts to go, Julia starts to cave...

JULIA

I'll take the latte, though. Don't want it to go to waste...

And off Julia, taking the latte from Roxy...

25

INT. BECHLEY INSTITUTE - MOMENTS LATER

25

Julia walks into the clinic to discover GLOVED INVESTIGATORS carrying computers and boxes of files out of her father's office.

JULIA

What's going on here? You can't just take things out of here! Hey. Stop.

Julia bars the door. An INVESTIGATOR holds up a card.

INVESTIGATOR

Here's who I am. And here's our warrant to confiscate items related to the investigation of the Bechley case. You want to get out of my way? Or do I need to have you arrested?

JULIA

(stepping aside)

Can you not, break things, at least?

She crosses into the lobby to find Michael and Isaac.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Michael, do something!

MICHAEL

This is outside my purview. You need a defense attorney. Somebody confident, aggressive... you need a real asshole. I can give you a referral.

JULIA

I don't think that's necessary.

Off Julia, knowing what she has to do...

Julia pushes her bicycle into the sleek foyer of Edie and Tim's law firm, looking distinctly out of place.

RECEPTIONIST

You can leave packages with security on the main floor.

JULIA

I'm not a bike messenger. I'm here to see Edie Flanagan?

OFF the skeptical receptionist, lifting the phone...

Julia sits across from Edie and Tim. Edie is not pleased.

EDIE

Julia, you can't just stop by here. We have very busy schedules.

TIM

We're actually pretty light today.

Eddie shoots him a look. Really?

JULIA

I'm sorry to barge in, but we need a lawyer. These investigators just came to the clinic and started grabbing files and yanking computers out of walls...

TIM

(concerned)

You didn't say anything to them, did you? You don't have to answer any questions without an attorney present--

JULIA

I didn't. But God, it was so... shocking. Having them barge in and rip the office apart. Like we're criminals.

EDIE

(shrugging)

It's a criminal investigation.

Tim shoots Eddie a look. Really?

JULIA

Maybe I seem like a big wimp to you, but I've never been through anything like this before. I'm scared.

TIM

It's a scary process. They do that on purpose. Intimidating. Violating...

JULIA

Yeah, exactly.

TIM

But there's no guarantee what they find will result in criminal charges. It's important not to get ahead of yourself--

Clocking the intimacy between Tim and Julia, Eddie steps in, direct:

EDIE

Julia, are you here for yourself, or for your father? Who are you protecting here?

JULIA

I guess... I'm not really sure.

EDIE

That's something you need to sort out.

Julia takes this in a beat. Edie has a point. A good one.

EDIE (CONT'D)

Taking your case is a nonstarter for us. The personal conflicts make it way too complicated. We can give you a referral. Now, if you don't mind. I have a lunch.

JULIA

Okay. Got it. Well, Edie, if this is about what I said, about stealing my--

EDIE

It's not.

JULIA

Because that was out of line. Sometimes, things just fly out of my mouth--

EDIE

It's fine. Please, don't mention it. Again.

And as Tim walks Julia to the door, we stay with Edie...

Among the power lunchers, Edie sits across from Amanda.

AMANDA

Not that I'm keeping score or anything, but I asked you to lunch when I started this gig about... six months ago. Took you a minute to respond.

EDIE

I've just been crazed. Sorry about that. You'll have to let me buy the salads.

AMANDA

Okay. But, uh, I don't really do salads.

The waiter crosses with Edie's salad and Amanda's burger.

EDIE

So I see.

AMANDA

Actually, I was a vegetarian for a few years. Ethical reasons.

EDIE

And then, what happened? Decided ethics were overrated?

Finally, Edie's letting her guard down. Amanda smiles.

AMANDA

No. I just got hungry. And salads weren't doing it for me.

Amanda takes a lusty bite of her hamburger as Edie watches, impressed. Then, switching gears...

EDIE

Are you, uh, involved in this Bechley case at all?

AMANDA

Ah. So this isn't just a friendly lunch. Why? Are you fishing for something?

EDIE

No. Just curious.

AMANDA

I can't comment on anything ongoing.
(then, facetious)
That costs a lot more than a hamburger.

EDIE

So you are pursuing something?

AMANDA

We're getting pressured to. There's a lot of attention on this guy. Looks like he perpetrated a pretty large scale fraud over the years. Can't say more than that.

EDIE

I get it. Not trying to get you to betray your team.

AMANDA

You sure we're not on the same team?

Edie is taken aback by the implication of this.

EDIE

Sorry? What's that supposed to mean?

AMANDA

Careful. You're gonna spill your iced tea.

EDIE

You know I'm married to Tim, right?

AMANDA

I didn't know that. You two don't act much like a couple.

EDIE

Well, we act like professionals. At work.

AMANDA

Okay. My bad. I read it wrong.

As Edie flushes with embarrassment...

Julia is at a more alert Leon's bedside, filling him in.

LEON

You let them in my office?

JULIA

You think I had a choice?

LEON

You could have told them to wait. I can explain myself. When I get the chance.

JULIA

They had a search warrant. Do you understand how serious that is?

LEON

Listen to me, Julia. In the house. There is a laptop computer. I need you to get to it, before they do. And destroy it.

JULIA

No, Dad. Don't do this. Don't ask me--

LEON

Some records I kept. Data. If they see it, they'll get the wrong idea.

As the seriousness of what he's asking sinks in:

JULIA

It's illegal. I could go to jail.

LEON

So could I. Is that what you want?

(beat)

Then do this one thing for your old man.

And that's it. Julia is at her limit. She unloads.

JULIA

This one thing? I've done everything for you. My whole adult life, if you can call it that, ever since mom died, it's been about you. I gave up going to Med school, because I didn't want to leave you...

Tears. Anger. It's all coming out. Years of it.

JULIA (CONT'D)

Don't you dare call it one thing. Because it's been everything. And the worst part is, I don't think you ever noticed.

A flash of anger from Leon, and then, calmly:

LEON

You're right. There's something missing in me. When your mother was alive, she was my conscience, my center. And now that she's gone, it's you.

(beat)

You could be an exceptional doctor. You're as smart as I am and you're twice as caring. But if they take me down, it will destroy you too. They'll never license you. Your future will be over before it even has a chance to begin.

(then)

The computer's in my study. On my desk. I'm not a good person, but you are. I know you won't let me down.

Off Julia, caught in her father's powerful orbit...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

30 INT. RON AND DIANE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM 30

An emotional Ron and Diane share their story.

RON

We did everything. Spent every dollar we had, and some we didn't. Nothing worked.

DIANE

Years of tests and procedures. An awful roller coaster of hormones and heartbreak... and finally, finally...

CUT TO:

31 EXT. RON AND DIANE'S HOUSE - DRIVEWAY 31

Roxy pulls up in her seen-better-days white Porsche, playfully singing along to a song on the radio, as WE CONTINUE TO HEAR THE VOICES OF HER PARENTS, OVER:

RON (V.O.)

We got our girl. And she was perfect.

DIANE (V.O.)

Everything we dreamed about for so long.

RON (V.O.)

So to suddenly hear, she somehow might not really be ours, after everything--

Roxy spots an unfamiliar vehicle in her parents driveway, and suddenly all the playful energy drains from her...

32 INT. RON AND DIANE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 32

Roxy enters the house quietly. From the kitchen, she peers in to see her parents are speaking to an ATTORNEY.

ATTORNEY

The key to a successful lawsuit is establishing damages. Demonstrating how you've suffered as a result of Bechley's actions.

DIANE

We've definitely suffered.

RON

We're continuing to. Roxy's just... she's off the rails.

ATTORNEY

Your daughter does have a documented history of... unpredictable behaviors...

On Roxy, taking this in... the audacity of this guy!

RON

True, but... well, this time. We're worried she might go... over the edge.

DIANE

Unfortunately, she's our only source of income. We gave up our careers to manage hers, and... if she can't work...

ATTORNEY

So, in addition to emotional damage, you're suffering financially? I'm sorry to hear that. But it's good for the case.

Roxy, unable to take this insincerity, enters.

ROXY

Why don't you finish that sentence, mom. If I can't work, what? I'm of no use to you? You might as well toss me out?

DIANE

Roxy--

ROXY

You aren't worried about losing me, you're worried about losing the money I bring you. Isn't that right?

RON

Roxy, please don't get upset. Not now--

ROXY

You can sit here and bad mouth me. Talk about how I'm some fragile soul on the verge of collapse, but I can't say anything? I'm not allowed a voice?

RON

You need to calm down.

ROXY

When are you gonna learn that telling me to calm down only makes me angrier?

ATTORNEY

Maybe I should come back another time.

ROXY

Maybe you should stuff your suit with rocks and jump in a lake.

DIANE

That's enough, Roxy.

ROXY

Finding a new family is the best thing that's happened to me in years. It's liberated me. From you.

As Roxy turns to go, her parents are visibly crushed by this. Diane calls after her.

DIANE

Roxy? Come back here. Honey, you don't have anywhere else to go!

But a determined Roxy crosses out. As soon as she's clear of her parents, a look of fear flashes across her face: What if they're right, and she does have nowhere to go?

CUT TO:

Tim and Edie sit in bed together. Edie is busy on her laptop, Tim reads a book. He reaches over to get Edie's attention and she SHUDDERS at his touch.

EDIE

Sorry, you just... surprised me.

TIM

Didn't mean to. Just wanted to talk. You've been on your computer all--

EDIE

I have a lot of work to catch up on. I had a lunch, and then--

TIM

I know, with who?

EDIE

An old client. Is there a point here?

TIM

Yeah. I was hoping we could talk more about... the Bechley case. I think it might be a good idea for us. To take it.

EDIE

A good idea? Are you... insane?

He shifts into lawyer mode, making an argument:

TIM

Hear me out. We've been busting our asses to get on the partner track, and a case this high profile would get us there.

EDIE

This is about her, isn't it? Julia. You still have feelings for her. This is your chance to be her hero?

TIM

Okay... that's nuts.

EDIE

Is it? You loved her. Don't sit there and pretend like you didn't--

TIM

We were kids. That was... she was my college sweetheart, you are my WHOLE LIFE. How can you say that? I am crazy in love with you, okay? Can you just--

He reaches out to touch her --

EDIE

Don't.

Tim can't take it anymore. He's not even angry, just--

TIM

How many times are you gonna say that?

EDIE

I don't feel like being touched right now. Am I supposed to pretend like I do?

TIM

No. No you're not. Of course not. But...
You make me feel like the enemy
sometimes. And I'm on your team, okay?
We're on the same team.

EDIE

(triggered)

What are you talking about? What team do
you think I'm on?

TIM

Jesus, Edie. I can't keep doing this! I'm
walking on eggshells. I'm worrying about
every god damn thing I say to you. I
don't know what's in your head until you
just... lash out. It shouldn't be this
hard all the time!

EDIE

I'm sorry. I'm sorry you picked such a
broken person to be married to...

TIM

I never said you were... Jesus, babe! I'm
trying here. What do you want from me?

He looks at her with such anger and frustration, she
feels cornered. Unable to answer. Then:

EDIE

Nothing. I don't want anything from you.

TIM

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

Tim is surprised to see Edie throwing on her coat and
heading for the door.

TIM (CONT'D)

Don't do that. We're in the middle of
something here. Don't walk away. Edie!

But it's too late. She's off...

... a series of images fill the screen:

--EIGHTEEN YEAR OLD ROXY, smiling radiantly at the end of
a tumbling run.

--SIXTEEN YEAR OLD EDIE, receiving a national debate society award.

AND THEN, in more rapid succession, a series of exceptional young people: a YOUNG CELLIST, a girl on a Humanitarian mission, a chess champion...

We REVEAL these images are on Leon's laptop, which Julia is pouring over when there's a knock at the door. She looks out the peephole and panics.

TIM (O.S.)

Julia? I hear you in there.

Julia is so close to him, there's only one thing to do. Take a deep breath and open the door.

JULIA

Tim. Hello. Wish I'd known you were coming I'd have... done something. It's a mess in here. I'm a mess.

Julia lets Tim in, and he looks around-- stacks of papers and mail, discarded clothes...

TIM

It's not a mess, it's... lived in.
(beat)
By a crazy person.

She punches him playfully as he crosses inside.

JULIA

Glass of wine?

TIM

No thanks. I have a big day tomorrow.

JULIA

...is the kind of thing you say before having one. Let's just cut to the chase.

Tim smiles as she pours him a glass. She has his number.

TIM

I um, just came to tell you we can't take your father's case. I'd like to help, but it's just difficult right now.

JULIA

Okay. Edie made that pretty clear...

TIM

Yeah. I guess I just wanted you to know that I... tried. I didn't just give up.

Julia takes this in. What exactly is he talking about?

JULIA

Well, even if you're not my lawyer, can you still keep... lawyer secrets?

TIM

Attorney client privilege still applies.

She turns the laptop to face him.

JULIA

It looks like my dad kept a kind of... record. Of what he did. Of who he... made.

TIM

This is your father's laptop?

Tim looks at the photos. He starts clicking through.

JULIA

And they're all a bunch of hoop jumpers like him. Winning awards, and medals... inventing water filters for hurricane victims... He tracked them. All these years... Meanwhile, he never showed up at a single one of my flute concerts. He'd be like, "Call me when you're less terrible."

TIM

Were you terrible?

JULIA

Of course I was terrible! But I was his kid! I always thought my dad was just incapable of showing pride, but it turns out, he's just incapable of showing pride in me. Until he wants something.

(beat)

What's gonna happen? If the authorities see all this...

TIM

It won't look good for him. It shows... intent. I can't imagine them letting him practice anymore at least...

JULIA

At least? So it could be worse than that?

TIM

It's hard to say. But if you were caught, disposing of it, to protect him, you could be implicated too. And that I'd hate to see.

JULIA

You think I'm crazy, supporting my dad like this? After everything he's done?

TIM

No, I think you're... wonderful. And that your dad's lucky to have you in his life. I just think... you deserve better.

Julia takes this in, moved, touched, a little confused...

JULIA

Well that's the nicest thing I've heard in... I'm gonna say, forever?

Tim takes her hands in his. A dangerous charge between them. Equally unsure where this is headed, until...

TIM

I should probably...

JULIA

Yeah. I think you should...

As Tim crosses out, Julia can only watch him go...

CUT TO:

Julia on a bench near the George Washington Bridge (the spot we remember from the opening.)

JULIA

I know it kind of goes without saying, but it still really sucks that you're not here. I feel like, I don't have any family left...

An OLDER WOMAN walks by, turning to her...

OLDER WOMAN

What was that, dear?

JULIA

I'm not talking to you. I'm talking to my dead mom... You know what? Keep walking.

The perplexed Woman crosses away, as we ANGLE ON a plaque on the bench: IN LOVING MEMORY OF SARAH BECHLEY.

Julia drums her fingers on her father's computer, sitting on her lap in its distinctive leather case.

JULIA (CONT'D)

You'd probably tell me to do exactly what he asked me to. To take care of him, like you always did... But I don't think I can do it anymore. Not even for you.

Julia puts the laptop back in her bag and hops on her bike, heading in a whole new direction, as we...

CUT TO:

We find Roxy alone in her car, dry-popping a pill with the ease of habit. A sense of hopelessness overtakes her as she reaches for her phone and hits record, singing into the void (*From Bruce Springsteen's "I Will Wait for You"*):

ROXY

Now everyone dreams of love lasting and true...

As the drug begins to hit her brain, her head tilts back, and behind her, a distinctive neon sign blinks in rhythm with the song, *which continues over...*

Julia pulls up to the deserted looking station and leans her bike against the wall. Pulling her hood over her head to avoid detection, she grabs something out of her backpack and, CLOSE ON IT WE SEE: *her father's laptop, with the investigator's business card, attached to it...*

ROXY (V.O.)

Oh, but you and I know what this world can do...

37 CONTINUED:

THROUGH THE WINDOWS we see her *drop her father's laptop* on the reception desk and then hustle back outside, heart pounding in her ears in the wake of this brash act...

WE CUT TO:

38 EXT. BAR - NIGHT

38

Edie sits at a bar with a glass of bourbon, her eyes darting anxiously back and forth to the door...

ROXY (V.O.)

So let's make our steps clear that the other may see...

Amanda enters. Edie squares her shoulders and takes a deep breath as Amanda crosses over to her.

AMANDA

So, what's the big rush? Something you forgot to tell me at lunch?

EDIE

Yeah. There is.

Edie stands, now or never, and puts her lips close to Amanda's. An invitation. Amanda answers by kissing her, deep and passionate. Edie's knees buckle, surrendering...

39 INT. BAR - BATHROOM - NIGHT

39

Julia's back in another bar, hooking up with another TINDER STRANGER.

TINDER STRANGER

You good?

JULIA

Yeah. I mean, no. I deserve better than this. I'm going to stop doing this... Tomorrow.

She goes back to it when she gets a PING on her phone. She can't help but look. It's a new post from Roxy. As Julia watches it, Roxy's song hooks her, pulling her away from her perplexed date. She can't help but feel Roxy is singing right to her, reaching out, needing her help...

ROXY (V.O.)

...I'll wait for you, and if should I fall behind, wait for me...

40

EXT. PARKING LOT - NIGHT

40

Julia bikes into the parking lot, that distinctive neon sign casting a pink hue on her as she approaches Roxy's dented white Porsche.

ROXY (V.O.)

...Yeah I'll wait for you, should I fall behind, wait for me...

Roxy opens her eyes and from her DISORIENTED POV we see: a hazy woman in a bike helmet, tapping on the window and waving at her. She opens the window, and sees Julia.

ROXY

How did you... find me? Also why did you find me? Don't you kind of hate me?

JULIA

Pretty much. But, uh, I saw your video, and it looked like you were in trouble, so...

ROXY

(touched)

You subscribed to my vlog?

Julia shrugs, admitting it.

JULIA

Just, get out and hop on.

Roxy opens her car door to see... Julia's bike.

ROXY

Are you serious? You want me to get on the back of your bike?

JULIA

You got any better options right now? Because you're in no shape to drive and I never learned stick shift.

Unable to argue, Roxy climbs on the back of Julia's bike and wraps her arms around her tightly. And off this unlikely embrace, it's the...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

41 INT. JULIA'S HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

41

Julia clears space in her heavily cluttered guest room, as she makes up the bed for Roxy.

ROXY

You don't have to do this.

JULIA

Do you have anywhere else to go?

ROXY

(defiant)

Yeah!

(then, honest)

No. I'm kind of in a fight with my parents. They're being completely unreasonable. And I've just had it with them. They're my parents and my managers, and they're terrible at both jobs.

JULIA

Well, you're welcome to stay here. As long as you need to.

ROXY

No one's ever been this nice to me. I'm really grateful. I guess this is what it's like, having a sister.

She gives Julia a huge hug, then:

ROXY (CONT'D)

I am gonna need my own bathroom. With a tub. If I don't get my soak on once a day I am *no bueno*.

And suddenly, Julia starts to regret the open-ended offer.

JULIA

Right down the hall. Knock yourself out.
(then calling after her)
Use the rubber thingy for a stopper! And jiggle the handle! Old pipes!

Julia crosses over to Roxy's purse and, making sure the coast is clear, digs inside it, finding: multiple pill bottles. CLOSE ON THE BOTTLES: prescriptions from different doctors: Klonopin, Valium, Adderall...

41 CONTINUED:

Julia takes a beat, genuinely concerned about Roxy, when she hears the doorbell ring. She stashes the pills and crosses to the front door...

42 INT. JULIA'S HOUSE - FOYER/LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER 42

Julia opens the door, surprised to see a distressed-looking Edie.

EDIE

Can I come in?

JULIA

I, I guess.

(opening the door)

Do you, need something? Some tea? A telephone?

Edie is tense, pacing, unable to express herself.

EDIE

No, I just. I, um... gosh, this is really, just not me. This is NOT WHO I AM. And yet, here I am! I didn't know where to go, or who to talk to, and--

JULIA

You're scaring me. Maybe you should sit down. Let's start with that.

EDIE

You know, I was always jealous of you.

JULIA

Ha. Right. You, jealous of me?

EDIE

I know! Who would have thought. I mean, I was a better student, I was more popular, I had way more boyfriends--

JULIA

Okay, easy...

EDIE

But you had this... family. A dad who came home from work and sat down with you at the dinner table... with dinner on it. The only thing my mom ever had on the dinner table was... unpaid bills. And vegan takeout.

(MORE)

EDIE (CONT'D)

And I spent my whole life chasing that... that... thing. That thing you got to take for granted. Stability.

JULIA

And you got it. You have it.

EDIE

I had it... And then, tonight, I blew it all up. I did the stupidest thing I've ever done in my life! I ruined everything. So maybe, you and I, we're not so different after all. We're both just... total messes.

JULIA

Again, more hurtful than necessary, but...

(then, concerned)

What did you do?

EDIE

I acted on this... feeling. I've been having for a while. With someone.

JULIA

Okay...

EDIE

It was like, an itch that wouldn't leave me alone, and it had to be scratched...

ROXY (O.S.)

Oo, I want to hear this. So, who did you scratch?

Edie turns, surprised to see Roxy standing there.

EDIE

What are you doing here?

(to Julia)

What is she doing here? You didn't tell me someone else was here!

JULIA

You didn't tell me you were coming over! And she's doing the same thing you are! Running away.

Edie sighs, unable to have the moral high ground.

ROXY

Right. So, back to the itch. Are you gonna tell us who she is?

EDIE

How do you know it's a she?

ROXY

I got a vibe. Am I wrong?

Julia looks at Edie, who shakes her head, then:

EDIE

She's... you don't know her. Someone I work with, that's been... on my mind. And then after everything felt so mixed up, I just, couldn't contain myself anymore and... I'm such an idiot. I hurt the best person I know. I can't go home and face him. I can't tell him, and I can't hide it from him. He knows me better than anyone. I don't know what to do!

As Edie cries, Julia tentatively puts a hand on her back.

JULIA

You want to stay here tonight?

EDIE

Are you sure? You're not going to judge me?

JULIA

I may have accidentally slept with my brother. Who's also married.

A quiet beat, then:

EDIE

We're allowed to judge that, right?

ROXY

We're definitely allowed.

JULIA

You guys are already ganging up on me?

And off this trio...

We're with Julia as she wakes up to the sound of coffee grinding and gives a groan...

44

INT. JULIA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

44

A disheveled Julia, followed by an even more disheveled Roxy, comes downstairs to find Edie making coffee.

EDIE

I found your coffee. Although, I could not find a clean mug.

JULIA

(indicating the cupboard)
They're up there.

EDIE

Oh. You call these clean?

Edie holds up a stained mug and Julia shrugs.

EDIE (CONT'D)

What do you take in yours?

ROXY

Nothing. Black.

JULIA

Me too. Can't do lactose.

EDIE

Me either. Huh.

ROXY

Check us out. Sharing lactose intolerance. What are the odds of that?

EDIE

Fairly high, actually.
(googling it, then)
Roughly a quarter of the population...
(then)
Hang on. Have you checked your email?
There's a message from the DNA testing company. My results.

Roxy picks up her phone.

ROXY

Mine too. It says I am a 99.3 Percent match for paternity with Leon Bechley.

EDIE

And I'm a 99.6 percent match with him.

JULIA

Always have to be just a little higher
don't you, Edie?

(then, looking around the
table)

So, that's it. We're...

EDIE

Genetically connected.

ROXY

Family.

JULIA

Wow. I can't believe it. I mean, I guess
I knew in a way, but still... it's
official. So, I guess this means...

ROXY

I can finally tell you that you have a
chin hair. Right there. It's been really
bugging me.

JULIA

(hand to her face)

What?

EDIE

(looking closely)

I see it. It's a big one. You need to
pluck that. Here.

She digs tweezers out of her purse.

JULIA

You guys... that's so embarrassing.

EDIE

It happens. If you don't have anyone to
tell you.

(then)

So how many names were there? On the
list?

JULIA

I want to say, dozens. More. Of course we
don't know yet if they're all...

ROXY

But you're going to find out.

(then)

Dozens?

44 CONTINUED:

JULIA
I might need a bigger place.
(off her phone ringing)
It's Isaac.

ROXY
The cute doctor from the clinic? Do you
guys have a... thing going on?

JULIA
Ew! No. He's like an obnoxious kid
brother...
(then, realizing)
Don't. Even.

ROXY
I didn't say a word.

EDIE
Not a peep.

JULIA
(answering)
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

45 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 45

We're close on Isaac, his face etched with concern...

ISAAC
Julia? I'm at the hospital with your Dad,
and... you need to get down here.

As Julia's expression darkens...

46 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY 46

Julia, Edie and Roxy cross into the hospital room to find
Isaac standing next to Leon's bed, where two POLICE
OFFICERS flank a distraught Leon.

JULIA
Excuse me, what's going on here? What are
you doing to my father?

POLICE
We have a warrant for the arrest of Mr.
Leon Bechley. Who are you?

JULIA
I'm his daughter.

ROXY

So am I.

EDIE

Coming to the hospital to arrest a patient is a pretty aggressive move for a misdemeanor charge. Is this necessary?

OFFICER

Are you Mr. Bechley's attorney?

Julia looks at Edie, pleading. Edie is stuck. No choice.

EDIE

I'll... be acting as his counsel. For the time being.

Julia nods at Edie. A moment of gratitude.

OFFICER

Then you should know this isn't a misdemeanor charge. It's a felony.

Edie stays cool, but a worried look shades her brow, as we INTERCUT WITH:

A PRESS CONFERENCE. Before a crowd of reporters, we see: Amanda. Grandstanding.

AMANDA

Due to a recent break in the case, our office is opting to charge Dr. Bechley with multiple felony crimes, including sexual assault. We intend to demonstrate that Dr. Bechley orchestrated a deliberate, persistent violation of his patients' rights...

As a bewildered Leon is read his rights, we ANGLE ON:

EDIE, taking in what this means with Amanda...

ROXY, taking in what this means with her parents ...

JULIA, taking in the awful thought that she may have caused her father greater harm than she intended. As she looks over and meets Leon's accusing gaze, it's the...

END OF PILOT