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"The Boy in the Box"

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Directed by Karen Gaviola

> PRODUCTION #176-712 Episode Twelve

Network Draft November 11, 2003

# COLD CASE

"The Boy in the Box"

# CAST LIST

LILLY RUSH
JOHN STILLMAN
NICK VERA
WILL JEFFRIES
SCOTTY VALENS

GRETCHEN (1958, 2004)
SISTER VIVIAN DOLE (1958, 2004)
SISTER GRACE BELLAMY (1958,1960)
ARNOLD CULLIVER (1958)
ROGER STRATTON (1958, 2004)
FRED BAKER (1958, 2004)
WALTER RAFFERTY (1958,1960,2004)
YOUNG WOMAN (1958)
YOUNG MAN (1958)
DR. MILTON THAYER (1958, 2004)
ELISA
SALLY BOWEN (1958, 2004)
CLAYTON WELLS (1958, 2004)

# COLD CASE

"The Boy in the Box"

# SET LIST

# INTERIORS

HOMICIDE
CONVENT
GRETCHEN'S APARTMENT
FERNWOOD
Boy's Bunk/Grace's Room
Hallway/Back Stairs
DINER
PSYCHIATRIC LOUNGE
HOOVER INSTITUTE
Thayer's Office/Hallway
INDEPENDENT LIVING/LOUNGE

# EXTERIORS

FIELD - DAY
ANOTHER FIELD - DAY
CONVENT - DAY
FERNWOOD GROUNDS - NIGHT
BACKYARD - DAY
POTTER'S FIELD - DUSK
RIVER DOCKS - DUSK (PHILADELPHIA)
RESEARCH INSTITUTE - DAY
HOSPITAL - NIGHT
CHURCH STEPS - DAY
CEMETERY - DAY
HORSE FAIR/HORSE RING - DAY

# COLD CASE

"The Boy in the Box"

# TIME SPAN

Scenes 1-8	Day 1
Scenes 9-11	Dusk 1
Scenes 12-17	Day 2
Scene 18	Dusk 2
Scenes 19-22	Day 3
Scene 23	Dusk 3
Scenes 24-33	Day 4
Scenes 34-36	Night 4
Scenes 37-59	Day 5

FADE IN:

MUSIC: "The Nearest Thing to Heaven" (Johnny Cash)

1 EXT. FIELD - DAY - 1958

1

Springtime. Boys in gray slacks play Cowboys and Indians, while girls in gray dresses have a tea party nearby --

COWBOY

Don't make me tie you up, Red Feather. Come quiet and civilized.

INDIAN

We scalp you first, White Man. Whoo-whoo...!

The Indian gang joins in the battle cry and attacks the cowboys. It's the quieter group of girls that notices the newcomer first...a 6 year old, charismatic BOY in a cowboy hat is approaching the kids, grinning. He's got distinctive blond curls. GRETCHEN, 8, stands, joyful at seeing him --

#### GRETCHEN

Look!

She runs to him, embraces him. All the other kids turn, gleeful to see the newcomer. The boy grins at the cowboys --

BOY

Sheriff's back, men.

As the kids happily encircle the boy, two NUNS (VIVIAN and GRACE), both in their 20s, have a different reaction to seeing the boy; they're dismayed at his return --

2 EXT. ANOTHER FIELD - DAY - 1958

2

This one's overgrown, a footpath from the road leading to thick brush. It's a damp morning as Walter, 19, a college student, walks along the road, running a stick along the shrub. Suddenly a RABBIT darts in front of him, jumps into the brush. On instinct, Walter follows it...hurries along the footpath to catch up, stumbling upon a...cardboard box. For Island Punch. Something nestled inside it. A blanket...and a BOY. The boy we saw earlier, but with his curls cut off. Wounds all over his head --

3 INT. COLD CASE ROOM - 1958

3

A man writes on a fresh brown box: "Unknown Boy. H-58-067. Apr. '58".

INT. HOMICIDE - DAY - 2004 (DAY ONE)

4

January. VALENS sits in as private a niche as he can find, on his cell phone. He's deep into a conversation --

**VALENS** 

I'm sorry to hear that. I'm sorry to hear that.

He listens with patience, empathy; and maybe pain --

VALENS (CONT'D)

I know you're working on it. I miss you too.

RUSH interrupts him --

4

RUSH

Boss has something.

**VALENS** 

Yeah, good.

He suddenly has a game face, shuts the emotion off --

VALENS (CONT'D)

I gotta jet, Elisa. I'm gonna try to come this week. Can't promise, but best effort. Bye.

He follows Rush to where STILLMAN stands over a tiny suitcase, circa 1950's. Dusty, 56 years of grime on it --

STILLMAN

Someone left this on the steps of St. Luke's Church.

They gather around as he opens the suitcase. Inside they find a small cowboy hat; a pair of boy's gray slacks; a photo of 6 grinning boys leaning against a bus, a building behind them; and a Police Department "Information Wanted" circular with photos of a dead boy. Rush looks at the notice --

RUSH

"Unknown boy found in box. April 6, 1958."

Stillman recognizes the flyer right off. Calls to JEFFRIES --

STILLMAN

Jeffries. Look at this.

One glance at the sheet, and Jeffries knows the case --

4 CONTINUED:

**JEFFRIES** 

Boy in the Box?

VALENS

Even I heard of that one.

STILLMAN

City's most famous cold job.

RUSH

(re: circular)

I've seen this up in the Commissioner's Office.

**JEFFRIES** 

Still nags at the Bosses. They never so much as ID'd the boy.

STILLMAN

They were sure someone would report him missing, but nothing came in. People all over the city knew about the dead boy, but no one could name him.

VALENS

Where'd the body end up?

STILLMAN

Potter's field. With the paupers and prisoners.

**JEFFRIES** 

Grave marker says "The Unknown Boy."

Valens is checking out the slacks --

**VALENS** 

Cool pants.

RUSH

Any tag on 'em?

**VALENS** 

Nah.

Rush looks at the photo of 6 boys leaning against a bus. Five of them wear gray caps, one wears a cowboy hat --

RUSH

You think the Unknown Boy is this little cowboy?

She compares the photo with the Information Wanted circular. Stillman sees writing on the back of the photo --

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: (2)

STILLMAN

Something on the back.

Rush turns the photo around; one sentence scrawled on the back --

RUSH

"His name was Arnold."

Off which --

# END TEASER

#### ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 INT. STORAGE ROOM - DAY

5

Rush, Valens, Stillman with the old box --

STILLMAN

John Doe, '58. Dumped in Fox Chase. Better known as the Boy in the Box.

RUSH

Four hundred thousand circulars posted in Philadelphia and Bucks County. Hundreds of leads, none of them right.

STILLMAN

Kid was found in an Island Punch box, out in a field. They tried to trace the box to schools, restaurants -- got nothing.

**VALENS** 

We know how he died?

RUSH

Undetermined. But look at the head wounds.

The photo shows the boy with patches of bald; a crude, hasty haircut. Six circular wounds on his head --

VALENS

Look at the hair. What's the deal?

STILLMAN

One detective thought he was killed while gettin' a haircut.

**VALENS** 

Homicidal barber? That's a crack theory.

RUSH

Check this out.

Another circular: the dead boy, fully clothed, sitting in an upright position --

5 CONTINUED: 5

RUSH (CONT'D)

Cops put the body in clothes, propped him up -- thinking it would make him more recognizable.

**VALENS** 

Creepy.

STILLMAN

They didn't think so in '58.

(looks at them)

Not that I was on the force then.

VALENS

(innocent)

We weren't thinkin' that, Pops.

Rush and Valens smile at each other as Stillman ignores this --

STILLMAN

College kid who found the box turned into a frequent flyer. Came to Homicide 16 times 'bout the case.

RUSH

Got obsessed.

**VALENS** 

Or was guilty 'bout something.

STILLMAN

Probably want to set up visit number 17.

**VALENS** 

So who do we think left the suitcase?

RUSH

Someone who's been keeping a secret a long time.

STILLMAN

Let's see if we can get prints off

Rush nods; looks at the photo of the six boys --

RUSH

We've got the name "Arnold", and we've got this.

STILLMAN

Maybe someone with younger eyes can read the lettering on that bus?

5 CONTINUED: (2)

Rush hands the photo to Valens; he holds it up, squints --

VALENS

"Fernwood Home for Orphans".

Off which --

6 EXT. CONVENT - DAY

6

5

Rush and Valens approach the gates of a Convent, Rush reading from a document --

RUSH

Sisters Vivian Dole and Grace Bellamy ran the Fernwood Home in 1958.

VALENS

They still got orphanages in Philly?

RUSH

Nah. We got the outstanding foster care system instead.

They ring the Convent bell. Valens shakes his head --

VALENS

Nuns.

RUSH

What about 'em?

VALENS

Tough ladies. 'Least the ones who taught me.

As a NUN approaches the gates, he steps back --

7 INT. CONVENT - DAY

7

Rush and Valens with VIVIAN, 70, now a stern old Mother Superior. Flash to the young Sister Vivian from the Teaser --

VIVIAN

I'm afraid Sister Grace died recently.

RUSH

I'm sorry.

VIVIAN

She gave fifty years to the Church. That's a life well-lived.

**VALENS** 

You and she ran the Fernwood orphanage in 1958?

7 CONTINUED:

VIVIAN

From '52 to '70. We had up to sixty boy and girls at any given time.

RUSH

You must know these boys, then.

She gives her the photo of the six kids against the bus --

VIVIAN

They look like Fernwood children. But I couldn't tell you names.

**VALENS** 

How about a boy named Arnold? Remember him?

RUSH

Wore a cowboy hat?

She points to the kid in the photo. Vivian looks, thinks --

VIVIAN

It's possible. I saw so many children come and go, I just don't remember them all.

RUSH

We know the orphanage is gone now -but there must be records from Fernwood somewhere.

VIVIAN

Probably somewhere.

**VALENS** 

Maybe here at the convent?

VIVIAN

I suppose in the basement. But I'm sure you don't want to sift through all that...

**VALENS** 

Actually, we love that kind of thing.

VIVIAN

(shrugs)

You're welcome to look.

As they get up, Rush shows her the Information Wanted sheet --

RUSH

Did you hear about the Boy in the Box case, back in '58?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

VIVIAN

I don't think so.

**VALENS** 

Kid was dumped in Fox Chase? It was all over the city.

VIVIAN

We lead private lives here. We read morning prayers, not morning papers.

RUSH

Could we see that basement?

Off which --

8 INT. HOMICIDE - DAY

Rush and Valens show Stillman, VERA and Jeffries the 46-year-old yellowed records they've uncovered --

**VALENS** 

There was one Arnold at Fernwood that year, Arnold Culliver. Six years old.

**VERA** 

So the boy in the box has a name.

RUSH

We found intake and adoption records for him.

STILLMAN

Who adopted him?

RUSH

(off record)

Ruben and Lila Hanson, April 4th. Two days before he was found in that field.

**VERA** 

Kid was better off at the orphanage.

STILLMAN

Those parents got a lot to explain.

**JEFFRIES** 

We'll track 'em down. I wanna meet these people.

**VALENS** 

Arnold came to Fernwood in '53 with a sister, Gretchen.

(CONTINUED)

8

8 CONTINUED:

STILLMAN

Can we find her?

**VALENS** 

There's a Gretchen Culliver listed in Roxborough.

Jeffries is looking at the photo of the 6 boys --

**JEFFRIES** 

You get names of the other kids at Fernwood? We can figure out who the rest of these boys are.

Valens nods, hands him a list --

RUSH

(to Stillman)

Maybe if the sister gives her DNA, we exhume the boy's body, make a positive ID.

**VERA** 

Gonna need an ADA to help us on that.

STILLMAN

(deadpan to Rush)

You know anyone?

Rush doesn't take their bait. To Valens --

RUSH

Wanna go talk to Gretchen?

VALENS

Sure thing.

He smiles back at the guys as they head out --

9 INT. GRETCHEN'S APARTMENT - DUSK

Rush, Valens, with GRETCHEN, 54 (Flash to the GIRL in the Teaser), still shy and inward, but never self-pitying. She lives in a light-filled, modest apartment --

GRETCHEN

Yes, Arnold Culliver was my brother.

She holds the Information Wanted circular --

GRETCHEN (CONT'D)

But this isn't him.

RUSH

I know it's hard to look at...

(CONTINUED)

9

9 CONTINUED:

GRETCHEN

That isn't my brother. Arnold had these curls, blond curls.

VALENS

Is he one of these boys, Gretchen?

He hands Gretchen the photo of the six boys. She points to the kid in the cowboy hat right away --

GRETCHEN

That's him. With his Science Club friends. Where'd you get that?

RUSH

Someone left it, along with this circular.

GRETCHEN

(insistent)

Well that dead boy can't be Arnold. He was adopted 1958.

And we go to --

Music: Catch a Falling Star (Perry Como)

10 INT. FERNWOOD - BOY'S BUNK - 1958

Gretchen buttons up her brother's jacket, readying for an adoption party --

GRETCHEN

Sister Vivian says there's a family coming that wants a little boy.

ARNOLD

They can't have me.

GRETCHEN

I wish they wanted a girl too.

ARNOLD

I won't go, Gretch.

GRETCHEN

You have to. Even if we get separated.

(then)

You know our plan, right?

ARNOLD

Meet at the horses.

10

(CONTINUED)

11

10 CONTINUED:

O CONTINUED:

GRETCHEN

When?

ARNOLD

My 18th birthday. Go to the Devon Horse fair, meet you at the horses.

GRETCHEN

Don't forget.

ARNOLD

I ain't leaving you, Gretch.

Off his smile --

11 INT. GRETCHEN'S APARTMENT - RESUME

Rush, Valens, Gretchen --

**GRETCHEN** 

But he was gone one morning...adopted late the night before. I never said goodbye to him.

**VALENS** 

Did you go to meet him at the horse fair?

**GRETCHEN** 

Yeah. He didn't show.

(then, quickly)

But it was lucky Arnold found a home. He acted up a lot. There were two families before this one who had taken him, but brought him back.

RUSH

Because of his behavior?

GRETCHEN

(nods)

And if you got too old you didn't get adopted at all, and you were stuck at Fernwood.

VALENS

That what happened to you?

**GRETCHEN** 

Yeah. I grew up there.

RUSH

Any idea where Arnold went to live?

11 CONTINUED:

**GRETCHEN** 

(shakes head no)

They never told us things like that.

(beat)

I always imagined him with a nice family on a horse farm somewhere. So nice that he forgot about Fernwood. He was very young when he left.

**VALENS** 

Gretchen, would you be willing to give us a DNA sample? So we can compare it to this boy's?

**GRETCHEN** 

I'll be glad to. I know that's not my brother.

Off which --

12 INT. DINER - MORNING (DAY TWO)

12

Vera, Jeffries with cashier, ROGER, 51. Simple, decent guy who navigated a tough upbringing. Flash to the Cowboy from the Teaser --

**JEFFRIES** 

Roger Stratton?

ROGER

Yeah?

**JEFFRIES** 

(shows badge)

We got your name from Gretchen Culliver. From the Fernwood Home?

ROGER

(to passing waitress)
Carolyn, take over a minute?

He moves to the waiting area with Vera and Jeffries, thinking --

ROGER (CONT'D)

Was Gretchen one of the older girls?

**VERA** 

Yeah. Her brother Arnold was your age.

He shows him a copy of the six boys photo --

ROGER

Oh. Sure.

(MORE)

12 CONTINUED:

ROGER (CONT'D)

(re: photo)

That's the Science Club gang. That Arnold was a cut up.

**JEFFRIES** 

Yeah?

ROGER

Drove the Sisters barking mad.

And we go to --

Music: The Cattle Call (Eddy Arnold)

EXT. FERNWOOD GROUNDS - 1958 - NIGHT 13

Wooded area. Arnold, Roger, and Fred sneak out, Arnold in the lead --

ARNOLD

We'll make a posse, find that old girl and bring her on in...

ROGER

I got the rope.

ARNOLD

Freddy, got your spurs on?

FRED

Got 'em, Sheriff.

But all of a sudden, Sister Vivian is there. Caught, Fred and Roger look fearful, but not Arnold --

VIVIAN

What do you think you're doing?

ARNOLD

Going to the woods.

VIVIAN

Bedtime was an hour ago.

ARNOLD

We're gonna lasso a cow, Sister Vivian.

VIVIAN

There are no cows in the woods.

ARNOLD

That's what you think.

(CONTINUED)

13

13 CONTINUED:

The other boys snicker at their ringleader. Vivian grabs his arm roughly, leads him back to the orphanage --

14 INT. DINER - RESUME

14

13

Roger, Jeffries, Vera --

ROGER

He was kinda the holy terror of Fernwood. So of course, we all loved him.

(beat)

Why're you asking about him?

They can tell Roger's emotionally fragile; step lightly --

**JEFFRIES** 

We're working a homicide from 1958. We think the victim was probably Arnold.

ROGER

Oh no.

**JEFFRIES** 

Could you look at a picture for us?

Roger, wary, nods; when they show him the circular tears spring from his eyes --

ROGER

Aw no.

VERA

Think that might be Arnold?

ROGER

Arnold had blond hair. Curls.

**VERA** 

But if his hair was cut off.

Roger looks close; more tears --

ROGER

I couldn't say yes. But I couldn't say no.

**JEFFRIES** 

You got kids yourself, Roger?

ROGER

Two boys. Adopted.

As Vera hands him a napkin to dry his eyes --

15 INT. HOMICIDE - DAY

Rush, Valens, Vera, Jeffries, confer --

**VERA** 

Anything off the suitcase?

RUSH

Just that it was bought at Wanamaker's in '54.

**JEFFRIES** 

Only the biggest department store in the city.

VALENS

And that was before credit cards, so no records.

RUSH

No prints on it either.

Stillman approaches --

STILLMAN

Got the okay from the Court of Orphans to exhume the boy. His sister's gonna give us a swab?

RUSH

(nods)

She's pretty committed to this boy not being Arnold, Boss.

**VALENS** 

She better get uncommitted. Blond curls or not, that's the same kid.

STILLMAN

(to Vera and Jeffries)
Find any of the other boys in the photo?

**VERA** 

Two besides Arnold are dead. One we just talked to.

**JEFFRIES** 

Kind of a dim bulb.

**VERA** 

Said Arnold was a problem child.

STILLMAN

If two different families took him in, then changed their mind, he musta been.

RUSH

So Lila and Ruben bring him home, he throws a fit right off --

VALENS

Ruben gives him a paddling or shakes him too hard, he ends up dead.

**JEFFRIES** 

And what else do you do with a dead kid besides dump 'em in a field?

STILLMAN

Maybe there's a reason they're so hard to trace.

RUSH

You can't find them?

**VERA** 

No record of them anywhere in Pennsylvania.

**JEFFRIES** 

We're trying the national database now.

Now a wacky-looking guy comes into Homicide --

**VERA** 

Whoa. Nut job, twelve o'clock.

VALENS

(looks at watch)

Must be our Rabbit Guy.

STILLMAN

Have fun.

Rush and Valens go over to WALTER, 65, definitely a little off --

RUSH

Detective Rush and Valens.

WALTER

Walter Rafferty. I was the one to find the boy in the box.

15 CONTINUED: (2)

RUSH

We know. Thanks for coming in.

WALTER

You have something new on the case?

RUSH

Possibly.

She offers him a seat. He rattles off his story --

WALTER

He was about 6 years old. Wrapped in a blue blanket. It was twelve noon on a Sunday. I followed a jack rabbit into the brush and came upon a box, an Island Punch box. And there was the boy. Inside.

He's still haunted by it 46 years later --

**VALENS** 

You didn't recognize him?

WALTER

No. Absolutely not.

**VALENS** 

You weren't involved with him dying, were you Walter?

WALTER

Absolutely <u>not</u>. I took a polygraph test in 1958.

RUSH

We know you did.

WALTER

I'll take one right now. I gave the cops a straight story.

**VALENS** 

I guess we're just wondering why you found it necessary to come back to homicide about it 16 different times Walter.

WALTER

I like to keep tabs on the case.

RUSH

You do any investigating yourself?

15 CONTINUED: (3)

WALTER

As a matter of fact I go back to the site every year on April 6th. And I'm not the only one. There's a woman who shows up regularly, too. I've seen her there for years.

RUSH

Uh huh.

WALTER

She comes with white roses, wearing a red coat.

16 EXT. FIELD - DAY - 1960

16

15

Walter approaches the site, A woman, blond hair and a red coat, stands with her back to him, lays a white rose at the site. As Walter gets closer, she hurries off --

17 INT. HOMICIDE - RESUME

17

Walter, Rush, Valens --

RUSH

You ever talk to this woman?

WALTER

I tried a few times. She didn't want to engage.

**VALENS** 

Why's this whole boy in the box thing so big in your life, Walter?

WALTER

I guess you've seen lots of dead bodies. Doesn't bother you.

(beat)

Well I'm not built that way. This derailed me.

(then)

I wish I never saw that rabbit.

Off his distress --

18 EXT. POTTER'S FIELD - DUSK

18

A bland, ugly cemetery for paupers and prisoners. Rush, Valens, Stillman stand by as they exhume the boy --

RUSH

I think this Walter guy's on the level, Boss. Just got messed up by finding the body.

18 CONTINUED: 18

STILLMAN

What do we think of his story 'bout the lady in the red coat?

VALENS

Fifty-fifty.

RUSH

Even if it's true, what's it mean? She could just be an obsessive like him.

Valens checks his watch --

**VALENS** 

How long you think this'll take?

RUSH

One of your girls waiting for you?

STILLMAN

'Important to maintain a social life.

**VALENS** 

You know what, forget it. I can go tomorrow.

STILLMAN

What I wouldn't give for a look at Scotty's black book.

**VALENS** 

They line up faster than I can count 'em.

Rush smirks at Stillman. They are joined by Vera and Jeffries --

RIISH

Didn't want to miss the show, huh?

**JEFFRIES** 

We finally found records on Ruben and Lila Hanson.

**VALENS** 

And?

**VERA** 

There's a reason they were so hard to find. They died in the 1887.

As they all exchange looks --

**JEFFRIES** 

Arnold's "parents" don't exist.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

Off which --

END ACT ONE

# ACT TWO

# 19 INT. HOMICIDE - DAY (DAY THREE)

Rush, Valens, Stillman, Vera, Jeffries --

**VERA** 

Ruben and Lila Hanson died before the turn of the century. Buried in the cemetery at St. Luke's.

RUSH

Same church where the suitcase turned up.

VALENS

So the adoption papers are phony.

STILLMAN

So what happened to Arnold the night he was supposedly "adopted"?

**JEFFRIES** 

Maybe he died in the orphanage. Someone inside covered it up with adoption records.

**VALENS** 

Here's another layer. Autopsy positively ID'd our boy as Arnold Culliver, from his dental records. But Arnold's DNA? Doesn't match Gretchen's.

**VERA** 

So they aren't brother and sister?

RUSH

(shakes head no)
Arnold's intake papers were doctored

**JEFFRIES** 

So this kid came from nowhere, and went nowhere.

STILLMAN

Who signed these records?

**VALENS** 

Sister Vivian.

too.

19 19 CONTINUED:

RUSH

And guess who's not talking now?

**JEFFRIES** 

Sister Vivian?

RUSH

In seclusion.

VERA

Nun on the run.

STILLMAN

Ever staked out a convent?

RUSH

I'll go anywhere.

**VALENS** 

Gretchen's gonna take this hard.

RUSH

Yeah.

**VALENS** 

How do we tell her that not only did her brother die 46 years ago, but on top of that, he wasn't actually her brother?

STILLMAN

Gently.

Off which --

INT. GRETCHEN'S APARTMENT - DAY 20

> Gretchen with Rush and Valens; they've just given her the news. Pain all over her face --

> > GRETCHEN

This must be a mistake.

**VALENS** 

No. I'm sorry.

GRETCHEN

Arnold and I came to Fernwood together. Our parents were killed in a train wreck...

RUSH

You didn't have the same parents, Gretchen.

(CONTINUED)

20

20 CONTINUED: 20

GRETCHEN

(now angry)

Sisters Vivian and Grace knew this?

RUSH

I think they must have.

**GRETCHEN** 

And kept it a secret from me? All this time?

VALENS

You were young. Maybe they were protecting you.

GRETCHEN

I was there 'til I was 18. That's grown up. They should have told me.

RUSH

Gretchen, we know now that Arnold was never adopted. There was no family that came and took him away.

**VALENS** 

And right around that same time, someone hurt him, bad enough it killed him.

RUSH

The best explanation right now is that he died at Fernwood.

GRETCHEN

Oh God.

RUSH

We need your help thinking about who could have hurt him.

GRETCHEN

I don't know.

VALENS

Did anyone ever get violent with Arnold?

**GRETCHEN** 

(thinks)

Freddy Baker. He's in that picture you have. He beat Arnold up pretty bad once.

20 CONTINUED: (2)

RUSH

(writes)

Who else?

Gretchen shakes her head --

**VALENS** 

Gretchen, I went to Catholic schools. I got the ruler more than once, and other kids got worse. I gotta think that was going on at Fernwood.

GRETCHEN

Arnold got...disciplined a lot.

RUSH

By who?

GRETCHEN

Sister Vivian.

We go to --

EXT. FIELD - DAY - 1958 21

21

Where we were in the Teaser. Arnold, in his cowboy hat, with Gretchen and the other kids as Vivian and Grace approach --

GRETCHEN

Why are you back?

ARNOLD

I didn't like that family and they didn't like me.

They kick you out?

ARNOLD

I left. There was no one to play with.

The nuns have arrived. Vivian's livid --

SISTER VIVIAN

Well, Arnold. What do you have to say for yourself?

ARNOLD

Good to be home.

Vivian wallops him. Everyone, even Sister Grace, cowers --

21 CONTINUED:

SISTER VIVIAN

You're pleased with yourself, are you?

ARNOLD

Didn't hurt. Didn't hurt.

SISTER VIVIAN

Arnold's coming to my office.

She takes him by the hair, rough --

GRETCHEN

Don't, Sister Vivian...

Arnold smiles back at Gretchen, trying to be brave --

ARNOLD

Meet you at the horses.

As Vivian strides away, Arnold in tow, Gretchen watching --

INT. GRETCHEN'S APARTMENT - RESUME 22

22

Rush, Valens, Gretchen --

GRETCHEN

I never knew what she did to him in her "office". But he came out with a lot of bruises.

RUSH

On his head?

**GRETCHEN** 

All over.

RUSH

Would Sister Grace punish him too?

GRETCHEN

No, it was always Vivian.

(then, to Valens)

Ask Freddy Baker. He ended up in her office a lot too.

As Gretchen sits, overwhelmed --

EXT. DELAWARE RIVER DOCKS - DUSK (PHILADELPHIA) 23

23

Valens with FRED BAKER, 52, tough old bulldog type, dock supervisor. Flash to the Indian from the Teaser --

FRED

Fernwood, agh.

23 CONTINUED:

**VALENS** 

Bad memories?

FRED

The worst.

**VALENS** 

Sorry to bring it up, but it's a homicide investigation.

FRED

Who died?

**VALENS** 

Boy named Arnold Culliver.

FRED

Arnold? Crap. That was one of the few kids I liked.

**VALENS** 

Way I hear it, Fred, you were kind of a bully at Fernwood?

FRED

Yeah, I went around dropping guys just for looking at me funny. Real nice kid, you know?

**VALENS** 

You ever drop Arnold?

FRED

One time. But I mostly left him alone 'cause he had spirit, you know. Gave the nuns hell.

**VALENS** 

He was popular, huh?

FRED

With the kids, he was. Funny thing about him, he loved it at Fernwood. Everyone else wanted out, but he kept coming back.

**VALENS** 

What are your memories of Sister Vivian?

**FRED** 

Mean old battle-axe. She's the reason I kept my kids out of Catholic school.

24

23 CONTINUED: (2)

VALENS

She ever whale on you enough to do damage?

FRED

She was sadistic.

VALENS

Think she could have hurt Arnold bad enough to kill him?

FRED

You saying Arnold died at Fernwood?

VALENS

We're looking into it.

FRED

Thought he got adopted.

**VALENS** 

No.

Fred exhales; thinks --

FRED

Sister Vivian was pretty cruel. But murder...

**VALENS** 

Mighta been accidental.

FRED

I'll tell you it was pretty bad. I still got scars on my back from the belt she took to me.

**VALENS** 

She used a belt, huh?

FRED

With me. But she mixed it up. Had a lot of tricks Spoons, paddles. in her bag.

(beat)

I'm sorry as hell that kid died.

Off Valens, nodding --

EXT. CONVENT - EARLY MORNING (DAY FOUR) 24

> Rush stakes the place out from across the street. Been there a few hours. When she spots Vivian exiting for a morning walk, she beelines across the street --

29.

RUSH

Sister Vivian. You're a hard lady to get to.

SISTER VIVIAN

I'm in seclusion.

RUSH

Everyone needs a little fresh air. Should we walk?

SISTER VIVIAN

(doesn't move)

I'm not comfortable with this.

RUSH

You know, I'm not comfortable with a few things myself.

(with documents)

Like Arnold's phony intake papers. And his phony adoption records.

SISTER VIVIAN

I don't know anything about that --

RUSH

-- And the fact that his supposed parents died in the 1800s.

Sister Vivian doesn't respond --

RUSH (CONT'D)

I'm also uncomfortable with what I'm hearing about the corporal punishment you gave out at Fernwood.

SISTER VIVIAN

Raising children calls for discipline.

RUSH

I hear you were extra rough with Arnold Culliver.

SISTER VIVIAN

He had a serious behavior problem.

RUSH

Oh now you remember him? Because before you couldn't place him at all.

Vivian remains measured --

SISTER VIVIAN

Yes. I remember Arnold. He was a troubled boy.

RUSH

And you just didn't feel like telling me and my partner that before?

SISTER VIVIAN

We lead private lives here. I believe in discretion, and I don't like prying eyes.

RUSH

Because they might discover what you did?

SISTER VIVIAN

I didn't do anything out of the ordinary to those children.

RUSH

You left kids with lifelong scars.

SISTER VIVIAN

Maybe it sounds scandalous today. It was routine in 1958.

RUSH

So maybe in a routine pummeling of Arnold one night, he fell unconscious from one of your blows. Died, in fact. You'd want to be discreet about that event, so maybe you cut off those blond curls so no one would recognize him, put him in a box, and privately took him to a field and dumped him.

VIVIAN

That's a remarkable thing to say to a woman of God.

RUSH

Is it true?

VIVIAN

(beat)

No.

RUSH

Why'd you fake Arnold's intake and adoption records?

24 CONTINUED: (3)

VIVIAN

I didn't.

RUSH

Your signature's on both sets of papers.

VIVIAN

Sister Grace did intake. She drew up adoption papers. As the senior sister at Fernwood, I signed the documents.

RUSH

Was Sister Grace as fond of corporal punishment as you are?

VIVIAN

I won't speak ill of the dead.

RUSH

Why did she fake the records?

SISTER VIVIAN

(snaps)

Why did she do half the stupid things she did?

(then)

Sister Grace was a screw up. She was weak-willed. Unreliable. She couldn't discipline the children, that's why  $\underline{I}$  had to.

And we go to ...

MUSIC: Poor Little Fool (Rick Nelson)

25 INT. FERNWOOD - DAY

Adoption party. Punch and cookies are served. Couples shopping for an orphan to take home. The kids are on their best behavior, Gretchen and Arnold among them. Sister Grace is overseeing the party, but is busy chatting in a corner with a couple. Vivian appears in the doorway, checking up, in time to witness a young couple standing over Arnold --

YOUNG WOMAN

What's your name?

Arnold says nothing. Gretchen nudges him --

GRETCHEN

He's Arnold.

25

25 CONTINUED: 25

YOUNG WOMAN

Do you like swimming, Arnold?

ARNOLD

I like horses.

YOUNG MAN

Afraid we don't have any of those. But we do have a membership at the Haverford swimming pool.

YOUNG WOMAN

Does that sound like fun?

Arnold puts his fingers in the shape of a gun, "shoots" at the couple --

ARNOLD

Pow! Pow! Pow!

He strikes the woman and runs away. The startled couple looks at each other. Sister Vivian strides over to Grace, who is oblivious --

SISTER VIVIAN

Don't socialize with the parents so much.

SISTER GRACE

I'm sorry.

SISTER VIVIAN

Arnold just hit a woman.

SISTER GRACE

(dismayed)

I told him, best behavior.

SISTER VIVIAN

We have to control him, Grace. He'll never get a home if we don't.

Off which --

26 EXT. CONVENT - RESUME

Vivian and Rush --

VIVIAN

Grace and Arnold were similar. They were both always screwing things up.

RUSH

Could Grace have hurt Arnold?

27

26 CONTINUED:

VIVIAN

Grace...

She says it like she's got a world of opinions about her... but doesn't open the floodgates --

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

(simply)

Some stories shouldn't be told.

As she walks away --

27 INT. HOMICIDE - DAY

\_

Rush, Valens, Stillman --

RUSH

Vivian says Grace was the one to doctor the records.

VALENS

She offer any reason why?

RUSH

(shakes head no)

She was mysterious about her.

STILLMAN

And conveniently Grace is dead.

RUSH

(to Valens)

How'd it go with Fred the bully?

VALENS

He was a decent guy. Adopted twins from Romania.

STILLMAN

He do in Arnold?

**VALENS** 

Nah. But he confirmed Sister Vivian was good and vicious.

Vera and Jeffries enter, join them --

**JEFFRIES** 

Found the last kid in the photo, Paul Evans.

RUSH

He add anything to the picture?

VERA

More of the same. Loved Arnold, terrified of Sister Vivian.

**JEFFRIES** 

One thing that struck us though...he told us he couldn't have kids.

Vera has the 6 boys photo; points --

**VERA** 

First guy we found, Roger? He adopted his kids.

VALENS

Fred adopted too.

**JEFFRIES** 

That's what we mean. Three of the six boys in this photo don't, or can't have kids?

RUSH

Maybe orphans are more likely to adopt when they grow up?

STILLMAN

Three out of six? That's a cluster, not a coincidence.

They all look at the photo, think for a moment --

RUSH

Gretchen said this is a picture of the Science Club boys, right?

**VALENS** 

Right.

RUSH

Maybe we need to find out what they did at this club.

Off their looks --

END ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

INT. HOMICIDE - DAY 28

Rush and Valens sit with Gretchen --

GRETCHEN

The boys went to Science Club on Fridays, while the rest of us had Music class.

**VALENS** 

Science Club wasn't at Fernwood?

GRETCHEN

No, they went someplace else. Took a bus.

RUSH

By themselves?

GRETCHEN

(shakes head no)

Sister Grace went with them.

**VALENS** 

Do you know what they did there?

GRETCHEN

It was only for boys. No.

RUSH

And you don't know where it was.

**GRETCHEN** 

(shakes head no)

But I think that picture you have was taken wherever the Club was held.

RUSH

Was it?

She pulls it out. There is a building in the background. Now it's the younger Gretchen that points to the photo --

YOUNGER GRETCHEN

That building's not Fernwood.

Valens grabs the photo; to Rush --

**VALENS** 

Maybe we blow this up?

28	CONTINUED:	28
	Rush nods	
29	OMITTED	29
30	OMITTED	30
31	INT. DINER - DAY	31
	Jeffries and Vera sit in a booth with Roger	
	ROGER Science Club was just a weekly field trip.	
	JEFFRIES To where?	
	ROGER A hospital type building.	
	VERA What kind of things did you do there?	
	ROGER It was different every time.	
	JEFFRIES Could you give us a for instance?	
	ROGER (thinks) One time we had breakfast in the afternoon.	
	And we go to	
32	EXT. RESEARCH INSTITUTE - DAY - 1958	32
	A small school bus drives up into the driveway, stops. DR. THAYER, 27, greets the kids as they alight with Sister Grace	
	GRACE Hello, Doctor.	
	DR. THAYER Sister Grace.	
	ROGER  Do we have to give blood today, Dr.  Thayer?	
	DR. THAYER No. Today all you have to do is eat cornflakes.	

ROGER

We just had lunch!

DR. THAYER

(smiles)

Hope you're hungry.

As the boys hustle inside with Thayer --

33 INT. DINER - RESUME

33

Vera, Jeffries, Roger --

ROGER

It was fun. Nothing scary about it.

**VERA** 

You know Dr. Thayer's first name?

ROGER

Nah, sorry.

**JEFFRIES** 

Roger, we have to ask you a personal question.

ROGER

Okay.

**JEFFRIES** 

Did you adopt kids -- because you couldn't have your own?

ROGER

Yeah.

**VERA** 

That was on your side, not your wife's.

ROGER

(nods)

How'd you know that?

Off which --

34 INT. HOMICIDE - NIGHT

34

Rush and Stillman walk through Homicide --

RUSH

All three of the men still alive from Science Club? Confirmed as sterile.

STILLMAN

(nods)

But how do you blame cornflakes for that?

RUSH

I don't know. And I don't know what it's got to do with Arnold's head wounds either.

STILLMAN

We gotta find out what else was going on at this place.

They've joined Valens; he's looking at the blown up photo of the 6 Science Club boys with a magnifier --

**VALENS** 

I got a partial name on the building. H-o- something and I-n- something.

RUSH

Something - Institute?

STILLMAN

Hoover Institute. In Fairmount.

RUSH

Maybe that's where we find Dr. Thayer.

(to Valens)

You wanna cross-reference them?

Valens checks his watch, has to be someplace --

VALENS

I got something, Lil.

RUSH

Okay.

**VALENS** 

(quilty)

You know what, I can go tomorrow.

STILLMAN

You've been saying that all week, but you never go.

**VALENS** 

Yeah.

RUSH

I'll meet you in the morning Scotty.

34 CONTINUED: (2)

**VALENS** 

First thing.

RUSH

First thing.

He goes. Stillman sits down at the computer --

STILLMAN

I'll do the cross-reference.

RUSH

(skeptical)

Maybe let me, Boss.

STILLMAN

I gotta learn the computer some time.

As he hunts and pecks --

35 INT. LOUNGE - NIGHT

Valens sits with ELISA, 27, pretty, worn. Puts out a cigarette. We're not sure where they are; at first we'll take it for a corner in her home. They hold hands while they talk, but he's oddly remote with her --

ELISA

I know you don't like me smoking.

**VALENS** 

It's okay.

ELISA

How's your work going?

**VALENS** 

Good.

ELISA

You miss West?

**VALENS** 

Nah.

(shakes head)

Tell me how you are, Elisa.

ELISA

Better. Really.

**VALENS** 

Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

34

35

ELISA

It's like it never happened. (off his nod) It can go back to how it was, Scotty.

**VALENS** 

Great.

ELISA

I just can't think too much 'bout what I did to you, it makes me so --

**VALENS** 

Forget it.

ELISA

But I swear Scotty, we can go back.

VALENS

I'm glad.

**ELISA** 

Don't you miss how we were?

Valens lets his guard down for a minute --

VALENS

I do.

(beat)

Elisa. I better go.

**ELISA** 

I still wanna marry you.

Valens nods, sad --

ELISA (CONT'D)

You love me don't you?

**VALENS** 

I'll never not love you.

He squeezes her hand, gets up. As he leaves we now see they're not in a private home, but somewhere more institutional --

EXT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT 36

36

Valens steps out, puts his gloves and scarf on. As he leaves he crosses the sign -- "Oberton Psychiatric Hospital" --

HOOVER MEDICAL INSTITUTE - MORNING (DAY FIVE) 37 EXT.

37

Next day. Rush stands in the driveway of the building as Valens walks up, late --

37 CONTINUED:

**VALENS** 

Sorry.

RUSH

I won't ask.

He smiles, playing along. She holds up the 6 boys photo --

RUSH (CONT'D)

The bus was parked right here.

**VALENS** 

We know what was going on here in the 50s?

RUSH

Government research.

(off documents)

Dr. Milton Thayer was using volunteers, including the boys from Fernwood, as test groups.

**VALENS** 

What was Fernwood getting in return?

RUSH

They were paid a fee for every boy they brought over. I got the contracts.

**VALENS** 

Sister Vivian set this up?

RUSH

No. Sister Grace.

As he looks at Grace's signature on the contracts --

**VALENS** 

What kinda tests are we talking?

RUSH

That's what we gotta ask Dr. Thayer. He's an Emeritus Researcher here.

They head in --

HOOVER INSTITUTE - THAYER'S OFFICE - DAY 38

38

Rush, Valens, DR. THAYER. He's 73, kind, razor sharp. Looking at the photo --

THAYER

I remember the Fernwood boys. (MORE)

THAYER (CONT'D)

They were subjects in a series of radiation tests for us.

VALENS

Radiation.

THAYER

Right.

RUSH

We heard something about cornflakes.

THAYER

That was one of the methods.

RUSH

How'd that work?

YOUNGER THAYER

The milk was irradiated.

**VALENS** 

You gave radioactive milk to 6-yearold boys?

THAYER

Very low level. We put it in toothpaste too, had them brush their teeth.

He is as matter-of-fact as they are shocked --

**VALENS** 

And this was government sponsored.

THAYER

You're what, thirty years old?

**VALENS** 

Yeah.

THAYER

So you don't remember the Cold War.

RUSH

What about it.

THAYER

We lived in fear of the bomb. Radiation research was considered necessary, and even patriotic.

39

RUSH

Did you know your tests left three men sterile?

THAYER

I doubt that.

RUSH

Well I'm not a doctor, but three of the six boys in your Science Club can't have children.

**VALENS** 

Still think it was necessary?

THAYER

Look, we didn't intend to harm anyone, but at the time we were working for a cause.

RUSH

So you don't regret the tests?

THAYER

(undefensive)

We worked within the boundaries of what we knew. In the 50s we thought those tests would do us good. We also performed lobotomies, which we now think are barbaric. But at the time, it was cutting edge medicine.

RUSH

Uh huh.

THAYER

You can't help the times you live in.

He has a point. Off Rush and Valens --

39 INT. HOMICIDE - STILLMAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Rush, Valens and Stillman --

STILLMAN

So Sister Grace arranged the visits to the Institute.

**VALENS** 

Think she knew what she was doing to these kids?

RUSH

(shakes head no)

She was a nun, not a doctor.

STILLMAN

And in '58, the culture was doctors could do no wrong. You didn't question them.

RUSH

You didn't question the government either. They funded the tests.

Vera steps in --

**VERA** 

Been looking into what else was going on at the Hoover Institute in '58. A lot of Behavioral Research.

**VALENS** 

What's that mean?

**VERA** 

Trying to straighten out psychotics. By way of insulin treatment, isolation tanks -- and electro-shock.

RUSH

Oh God. Tell me they didn't test that on the orphans.

STILLMAN

It would explain Arnold's head wounds.

**VERA** 

I tracked down a nurse, used to work in Behavior.

**VALENS** 

Still in Philly?

**VERA** 

(hands him a slip)

Sally Bowen. Old lady now, kicking it in a retirement community.

Off which --

40 INT. INDEPENDENT LIVING - LOUNGE

40

SALLY BOWEN, retired nurse, 70s, gossipy, with Rush and Valens --

SALLY

I remember that Boy in the Box case. I never put it together with Fernwood.

RUSH

No one did.

SALLY

Those boys were darlings.

VALENS

Did you know any of 'em? Maybe they were research subjects?

SALLY

Not for us. No. I just saw 'em at the Institute in their little gray uniforms. And I'd talk to the nun who brought them, once in a while.

RUSH

Sister Grace?

SALLY

(nods)

She'd come down to Behavior sometimes.

**VALENS** 

Yeah? Why would she do that?

Sally hesitates momentarily; then --

SALLY

Well, I suppose everyone's dead now, I can speak out of school.

RUSH

Please.

SALLY

She'd come visit with Clayton, an assistant in our lab. Medical student. They were -- friendly.

**VALENS** 

Friendly how?

SALLY

More friendly than a nun should be with a young man, was my impression.

As she remembers --

MUSIC: "I Don't Want to Set the World on Fire" (The Ink Spots)

41 INT. HOOVER INSTITUTE - HALLWAY - DAY - 1958

Young Sally stands at a filing cabinet right near the door of an office, purposely listening to a conversation between Grace and CLAYTON WELLS, 26, in the hallway --

GRACE

He's a good boy at heart, but he acts up.

CLAYTON

You look beautiful Grace.

GRACE

Shh.

CLAYTON

I can't tell you that?

GRACE

Clay, I'm worried he won't get adopted if he doesn't change.

CLAYTON

He'll outgrow it.

GRACE

No. It's getting worse. Please help him.

CLAYTON

I don't know what you want me to do.

GRACE

The treatment you give the patients here...

CLAYTON

That's not for children.

**GRACE** 

Does it work?

CLAYTON

It's very effective.

GRACE

Calms them down, right?

CLAYTON

Right.

GRACE

I know it could help him.

Grace.

**GRACE** 

CLATON

There's an adoption party tomorrow. Please. For me, Clay.

He looks at her; can't say no to her. Off Sally at the files --

42 INT. INDEPENDENT LIVING - RESUME

42

41

Rush, Valens, Sally --

**VALENS** 

Did you ever see the boy they were talking about?

SALLY

That same night. I was leaving, and I saw Grace again. With that little boy in tow.

RUSH

Where were they going?

SALLY

I assumed to see Clayton. To get the treatment she asked for.

**VALENS** 

What was that treatment?

SALLY

ECT.

RUSH

Shock treatment.

SALLY

I remember that night 'cause it was the only time I saw Grace out of her habit. I never even knew she had blond hair.

**VALENS** 

What was she wearing that night?

SALLY

A raincoat. A red raincoat.

Rush and Valens exchange looks; they've heard this description before --

## END ACT THREE

# ACT FOUR

43 INT. HOMICIDE - DAY

Rush, Valens, Stillman --

RUSH

Sounds like Sister Grace and Clayton were some kinda item.

**VALENS** 

And he knew how to administer ECT, which was supposed to "tame" wild behavior.

RUSH

And she wanted one of the boys "tamed" for an adoption party.

(off paper)

There was a party at Fernwood on April 5th.

STILLMAN

Day before Arnold was found.

RUSH

(nods)

So maybe on April 4th, Grace and Arnold secretly come to the Institute. She's wearing lay clothes so no one recognizes her --

**VALENS** 

Except Sally the busybody.

RUSH

She's in a red coat, just like the woman Walter the Rabbit Guy saw in the field over the years.

STILLMAN

Probably Grace.

**VALENS** 

And before you give shock treatment? You cut off the patient's hair.

STILLMAN

Why did Grace go to such lengths for this kid? When she's got sixty kids who need help?

**VALENS** 

Yeah. Why Arnold?

RUSH

This Sally makes it sound like Grace and Clayton had a relationship.

STILLMAN

Yeah?

RUSH

We still don't know who Arnold's parents were. And why Grace doctored those intake records.

They get her drift --

STILLMAN

That's sacrilegious.

VALENS

Lil, she was a nun.

RUSH

She was also human.

Off which --

44 EXT. CONVENT - DAY

44

Rush and Valens at the gates. Sister Vivian behind the bars --

VIVIAN

We can talk here.

RUSH

You probably don't want the sisters overhearing this conversation.

VIVIAN

What is it now?

RUSH

We think we know who Arnold's mother was.

A beat. Another. Then Vivian opens the gates --

VIVIAN

Come inside.

45 INT. CONVENT - DAY

45

Rush, Valens and Vivian in private quarters --

VIVIAN

I didn't want to tell the story of Grace.

RUSH

I know you didn't. But a little boy died, Vivian.

**VALENS** 

(tries it out) Her little boy.

Vivian doesn't deny it --

VIVIAN

Grace was...not a good nun.

**VALENS** 

No kidding.

VIVIAN

She was dreamy. Weak.

(beat)

She had good intentions, she just didn't have self-control.

RUSH

Do you know Clayton Wells?

YOUNGER VIVIAN

He was Grace's ruin.

VALENS

She was in love with him?

VIVIAN

To the day she died.

(sighs)

When she was eighteen, she came to me. Told me she was pregnant. I probably should have just told the Mother Superior. But instead, I helped her "go away" for a few months.

RUSH

You and Grace were close?

VIVIAN

Like blood sisters.

(nods)

She promised to leave the baby at a Pittsburgh orphanage. But true to form, she couldn't -- and brought him back to Fernwood.

**VALENS** 

And slipped him in as Gretchen's brother.

VIVIAN

(nods)

And he became our cross to bear. He misbehaved all the time. Couldn't hold on to a family. He was getting older, and less adoptable.

RUSH

Did he know Grace was his mother?

VIVIAN

We never told him...but I think part of him must have known he was home with Grace. That's why he kept coming back.

VALENS

So what happened to Arnold on April 4th?

VIVIAN

By April 4th Grace was desperate to find Arnold a home.

RUSH

Right.

VIVIAN

Before I tell you the rest...you should know that everything Grace did, she did because she loved him.

As Rush nods --

Music: Lonesome Town (Rick Nelson)

46 INT. FERNWOOD - HALLWAY - NIGHT - 1958

46

A frantic Grace, in her red coat, raps on Vivian's door --

GRACE

Vivian. Vivian!

Vivian comes to the door, looks at Grace's lay clothes --

VIVIAN

What are you wearing?

GRACE

Arnold's sick.

48

CONTINUED: 46

She heads down the hall to her room, Sister Vivian following --

INT. FERNWOOD - GRACE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS - 1958 47 47

They enter Grace's room to find Arnold lying in the bed, his hair all chopped off. He's almost unconscious --

VIVIAN

What in the world happened?

GRACE

Clayton treated him. To help him behave...

VIVIAN

You're not supposed to see Clayton.

GRACE

We had to cut his hair off, his beautiful hair...

VTVTAN

Did Clayton say he'd be sick like this?

GRACE

He said he might feel tired...but Vivian, he's got such a fever.

Vivian feels Arnold's forehead. He's burning up --

VIVIAN

We have to pray for him.

GRACE

I thought it would help. He'd behave, and some couple would finally want him, and keep him...

VTVTAN

Say a prayer, Grace.

off which --

INT. CONVENT - RESUME 48

Rush, Valens, Vivian --

**VALENS** 

So the wounds on Arnold's head were from electrodes.

MAIVIV

It was supposed to calm him. (MORE)

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Control him. Grace never dreamed it would harm him.

RUSH

Did Arnold ever make it to the adoption party?

VIVIAN

No. His fever got worse.

49 INT. FERNWOOD - DAY - 1958

49

The next day. The adoption party is in full swing. A preoccupied Vivian is overseeing. Gretchen approaches her --

GRETCHEN

We're out of punch, Sister Vivian.

SISTER VIVIAN

There's a new box in the kitchen.

GRETCHEN

Where's Arnold?

VIVIAN

He'll be down soon. Go talk to people.

Gretchen obeys; when she's gone Vivian slips away...

50 INT. FERNWOOD - GRACE'S ROOM - 1958

50

Grace, still in her lay clothes, sits over Arnold. He's mumbling incoherently. On death's door. Vivian slips in --

ARNOLD

I'11...I'11...

GRACE

He's going, Vivian.

Vivian just nods --

ARNOLD

I'll...meet you...

GRACE

Oh Arnold. I hope you know I loved you.

ARNOLD

... Meet you at the horses.

He quiets, lays still. Gone. Grace falls apart. Vivian goes on auto-pilot, taking charge. She grabs a blue blanket wraps Arnold in it, picks him up. Heads into the hall --

51 INT. FERNWOOD - HALL/STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

51

Vivian looks left and right before heading to the back stairs --

GRACE

Where are you going?

VIVIAN

Clean the room up.

GRACE

I want to come.

VIVIAN

Grace! This isn't one of your little screw ups. This is very serious.

Chastened, Grace hangs back. Vivian disappears down the stairs. Grace watches through the window as Vivian puts Arnold in the back seat of the car. But Grace can't stand it, she races down the stairs --

52 EXT. FERNWOOD - BACKYARD - CONTINUOUS

52

Grace runs outside as Vivian grabs an empty Island Punch box from behind the house, puts it in the car --

GRACE

I'm coming too!

She jumps in the back seat with the boy's body. As Vivian gets in, the old car takes off --

52A INT. CONVENT - RESUME

52A

Vivian shakes her head at the memory, her worst --

53 INT. HOMICIDE - DAY

53

Valens escorts Gretchen through homicide toward the interview room --

GRETCHEN

I don't have anything to say to Sister Vivian.

VALENS

She's got something to say to you.

GRETCHEN

What?

#### VALENS

She wants to tell you about Arnold's last words.

He opens to the door to the --

54 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - CONTINUOUS

54

MONTAGE music starts -- I Believe (Frankie Laine) -- as they enter to find Sister Vivian, sitting with Rush. Gretchen stiffens at seeing her, sits across the table from her. Vivian starts to speak. Gretchen at first resists her, but after a few exchanges, Gretchen trembles and puts her head down on the table. Vivian reaches across the table, puts her hand on Gretchen's head. Flash to the young Sister Vivian comforting the Young Gretchen. Rush and Valens watching --

55 EXT. FIELD - DAY

55

Walter returns to the spot where the boy was found, leaves a rose --

56 EXT. CHURCH STEPS - DAY

56

An old man leaves the tiny suitcase on the steps. As he turns, we see a flash of the young Clayton. As he returns to the old man he is now, he walks away --

57 EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

57

Arnold is reburied, next to Sister Grace's grave. The Unknown boy now has a name on his grave -- "Arnold, Beloved Son of Grace." In attendance: Gretchen, Sister Vivian, Rush, Valens, Stillman, Vera, Jeffries.

58 EXT. HORSE FAIR - DAY

58

Gretchen, 8, waits for Arnold. Looks worried he won't appear. But then there he is, in his cowboy hat. He grabs Gretchen's hand. The 6 and 8 year old enter the fair grounds --

59 EXT. HORSE RING - DAY

59

Arnold happily rides on a horse. As he passes the fence, we see Grace there, waving and watching her son. As he gallops off --

### End Episode