

LAW & ORDER:

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

"ALTERNATE"

LAW & ORDER:SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT"ALTERNATE"TEASER

FADE IN

INT. SVU HALLWAY - DAY ONE

Elevator doors open, revealing Benson. She takes a breath, steps off, moving with purpose. As Fin passes --

FIN

Welcome back.

BENSON

Thanks.

FIN

Nice haircut.

BENSON

I had a little too much time on my hands. Captain in?

FIN

Catch him while you can.

Benson looks puzzled as Fin heads for the squadroom. She knocks on the hallway door to Cragen's office.

CRAGEN (O.S.)

Yeah.

INT. CRAGEN'S OFFICE - DAY ONE - CONTINUOUS

Benson enters to find Cragen at his desk, pulling files from a drawer, his back to her.

BENSON

Hey. I wanted to thank you.

CRAGEN

(not looking up)

Don't mention it.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON

I know you had to pull strings to keep me here after my suspension.

CRAGEN

Yep.

BENSON

Hope it didn't cost you too much.

He picks up a cardboard box from the floor, sets it on the desk, drops in a gun cleaning kit, then a red Dayplanner.

BENSON (CONT'D)

What's going on?

CRAGEN

I've been temporarily reassigned.
Chief of D's office.

BENSON

Why?

CRAGEN

(picks up box)

You aided your fugitive brother, Elliot covered up his kid's DUI, Fin's stepson butchered two people and walked...

He grabs his dress uniform on his way out the door.

CRAGEN (CONT'D)

Someone has to take the heat.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY ONE - CONTINUOUS

Benson on Cragen's heels.

BENSON

We're the ones who screwed up.

CRAGEN

Under my command. One PP calls that Failure to Supervise.

BENSON

That's insane.

Stabler joins them as Cragen heads for Munch's desk.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

STABLER

You want insane, guess who they put in charge.

MUNCH

I had nothing to do with it. 'If drafted I will not run, if elected I will not serve.'

FIN

You're lying like a politician. You took the Sergeant's Exam behind our backs. What's up with that?

MUNCH

I took it last year. On a bar bet.

Cragen tosses a set of keys onto Munch's desk.

CRAGEN

Enjoy your new office, Sergeant Munch. Don't let the power go to your head.

Cragen heads for the door, passing Lake who extends his hand.

LAKE

It was an honor serving under you, Sir.

CRAGEN

I'm not dead yet, Detective Lake.

STABLER

We'll get you back, Captain.

CRAGEN

(gives them a look)
Try and behave yourselves.

Cragen exits, crossing Dr. Anna Young, late 30s, suit, glasses, as she enters to find the Detectives at the door.

DR. YOUNG

Excuse me, I need to report a possible case of child abuse.

BENSON

Have a seat over here.

STABLER

We got this one, Sarge.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

DR. YOUNG

I'm torn about reporting this. It involves a patient.

BENSON

If you treated a child with suspicious injuries, doctor/patient privilege is out the window.

DR. YOUNG

I've never met the child. I'm a psychiatrist. I'm treating the mother for post-partum depression.

STABLER

How old's the kid?

DR. YOUNG

A year. Janis called me this morning, enraged. She was giving April a bath and said no matter how hard she scrubbed, she couldn't get the filthy slut clean. The baby was screaming.

BENSON

What's the mother's name and address?

DR. YOUNG

Janis Donovan, 182 14th Street. I'm Dr. Anna Young. Here's my card.

(sets it on desk)

Please call and let me know what happens.

INT. JANIS DONOVAN CO-OP - DAY ONE

BAM. The door flies open, Benson and Stabler rush in.

STABLER

Janis?

BENSON

I don't hear a baby.

They move down the hall. Benson checks the empty bedroom, containing a bed and crib as Stabler tries a locked door.

BENSON (CONT'D)

Crib's empty.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

STABLER

Door's locked. Must be the bathroom.
 (pounding)
 Janis? You in there?

BENSON

Janis, it's the police. You need to
 open the door right now or --

BAM. Stabler kicks it open. They see a full tub with a baby
 in a pink dress floating face down.

BENSON (CONT'D)

Oh, God.

Stabler grabs the baby only to find --

STABLER

It's a doll.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Hello?

They rush out to find a Woman, 20s, holding a baby.

BENSON

Janis?

MRS. LYNDE

No, I'm her neighbor, what's going on?

STABLER

How well do you know Janis?

MRS. LYNDE

Not well. She moved in with April
 right after I had Tommy, but she
 doesn't do playdates.

Stabler picks up a photo of a smiling Dr. Young holding a
 baby, shows it to Benson.

BENSON

Dr. Young told us she never met the
 baby. Why's she holding her?

MRS. LYNDE

I don't know who Dr. Young is, but
 that's not the woman in the photo.

STABLER

Who is it?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

MRS. LYNDE

That's Janis.

Looks. Off the picture of Janis/Dr. Young as we --

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY ONE

CLOSE ON a blowup of Janis Donovan's driver's license
(without glasses) on the multiplex.

FIN (O.S.)

Must be some kind of whackjob.

Munch, Fin and Lake are gathered around the monitor.

LAKE

License says she's Janis Donovan.

(on another screen)

DMV's got an 0-7 Honda registered to
her.

BENSON (V.O.)

(over speaker phone)

Then who's Dr. Anna Young?

FIN

Can't find anyone by that name.

MUNCH

I knew there was something hinky about
her. It was so obvious.

FIN

Super powers come with your promotion?

MUNCH

Dr. Anna Young. Hello? Anna Freud,
Carl Jung? Real clever alias.

LAKE

(taps monitor)

No corrective lens restriction on her
license. Her glasses were fake, too.

BENSON (V.O.)

Why go to the trouble? She sent us
right to her own apartment.

MUNCH

On a wild goose chase. She's an
attention-seeker wasting our time.
Case closed.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON (V.O.)

Not so fast...

INT. JANIS DONOVAN APT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY ONE

Benson has her cell phone on speaker as Stabler looks through drawers.

BENSON

Her name might've been fake but the baby is real. We need to track this kid down and make sure she's okay.

STABLER

We're tossing the apartment.

MUNCH (V.O.)

(over speaker phone)

Not without a search warrant.

STABLER

That'll be tough. No sign of foul play.

BENSON

She reported herself. How much probable cause do you need?

FIN (V.O.)

(over speaker phone)

Neighbors ever see her hurt the kid?

BENSON

They don't know anything about her except she's painfully shy.

STABLER

Leaves in the morning with the kid, comes back at night. No visitors, no idea where she might be.

BENSON

Wait a minute, she left her business card. Check my desk.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY ONE - CONTINUOUS

As Lake rushes to Benson's desk, picks up the card --

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MUNCH

Name's fake, number's probably for dial-a-scam. If it's a toll call, I'm not approving the charges.

FIN

Get off your power trip.

Lake, phone to ear, types into the Benson's computer.

LAKE

It's ringing.

INT. JANIS DONOVAN APT. - LIVING ROOM - DAY ONE - CONTINUOUS

CLOSE ON a cordless phone as it rings. PULL BACK to reveal Benson and Stabler exchanging a knowing look.

MUNCH (V.O.)

(over speaker phone)

It's ringing.

Stabler hits the speaker button on the cordless phone.

LAKE (V.O.)

(over cordless)

Hello?

STABLER

Dead end, Lake.

LAKE (V.O.)

(over cordless)

Maybe not.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY ONE - CONTINUOUS

Lake has an address up on the computer.

LAKE

I ran the address. Office of Dr. Henry Carlisle, Psychoanalyst.

INT. DR. CARLISLE'S OFFICE - DAY ONE

Benson and Stabler with Dr. Henry Carlisle, 50s, small wire-frame glasses. Benson hands him a photo of Janis.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON

She a patient of yours?

DR. CARLISLE

Sorry, I'm not at liberty to say.

STABLER

You just did. Confidentiality only applies to patients.

BENSON

We need to find her. We're afraid she's going to hurt her baby.

DR. CARLISLE

If I believed she was a danger to herself or others --

STABLER

(interrupting)

You'd be able to talk. I guarantee you, she's lost it.

BENSON

We know you're treating her for post-partum depression.

DR. CARLISLE

What would make you think that?

BENSON

'Dr. Young' told us.

STABLER

She was wearing granny glasses, just like yours.

DR. CARLISLE

That doesn't make her violent.

STABLER

How about calling her baby a filthy slut and scrubbing her raw?

DR. CARLISLE

Oh dear. That's not good.

As he crosses to his filing cabinet --

BENSON

It's gonna be real bad for you if she hurts the baby and you don't help us.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

DR. CARLISLE

She works at a museum.

(pulling a file)

If she's not there, all I have is an
emergency contact. Penny Taylor.

EXT. PARK - DAY ONE

Penny Taylor, 20s, nervous, pushes a baby stroller, flanked
by Fin and Lake.

PENNY

I don't know why Janis put me down.
I'm not her babysitter anymore. She
fired me three months ago.

LAKE

What'd you do?

PENNY

(defensive)

Nothing.

FIN

We're not accusing you of anything.

LAKE

Why are your hands shaking, Penny?

PENNY

I never did any of those terrible
things she said I did.

LAKE

Like what?

PENNY

I can't even say it.

FIN

It's okay, we've heard everything.

PENNY

She said I burned April's... little
privates.

Lake winces.

FIN

You think Janis did it?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

PENNY

No, I think Janis is crazy. It was diaper rash. Talk to my friend, Bethany. I ran into her in the park a couple months ago with April. She's working for the nutcase now.

EXT. STREET - DAY ONE

Benson and Stabler look into the open back door of a mobile dog grooming van. Inside, Bethany Daniels, late 20s, work-apron, struggles to give a beagle a bubble bath.

BETHANY

Bitch fired me. Made sure I'd never get another babysitting gig.

The beagle splashes away from her.

BENSON

Maybe kids and animals aren't your true calling.

BETHANY

April loved me.

STABLER

Then why were you fired?

BETHANY

I don't have a clue. Janis was the flake, not me.

BENSON

Flakey, how?

BETHANY

She dropped April off at my apartment every morning at eight and was supposed to pick her up at six. Sometimes she wouldn't show up until ten or eleven.

STABLER

Let me guess. Drunk? High?

BETHANY

She looked sober, but she'd insist she was right on time. I'd point to the clock and she'd start crying and ask why I was playing tricks on her.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON

You think she could hurt her baby?

BETHANY

One time she threw April's bottle at me after she spit up. Accused me of feeding her hot sauce. She screamed so loud I thought her head would explode.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY ONE

CLOSE ON Carla Sexton.

CARLA

I've worked for Janis three weeks, I've never heard her raise her voice.

REVEAL she's sitting across from Fin at his desk.

FIN

Any idea why she didn't show up with April this morning?

CARLA

Hunh-uh. I called to check on her and some strange woman answered.

FIN

Who?

CARLA

Said her name was Petra, that Janis wasn't there.

FIN

Sure it wasn't Janis messing with you?

CARLA

Absolutely. This woman was Russian.

FIN

So, where do you think Janis could be?

CARLA

The only place I know of is work. Museum of Natural History.

INT. MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY - EXHIBITION HALL - DAY ONE

Benson and Stabler follow Research Scientist Morgan Hargrove, 40s, as he moves through the exhibit.

MORGAN

Janis is one of our top arachnologists. We were lucky to steal her from Penn, especially with a newborn baby.

STABLER

She's a spider lady.

He looks around the room, full of specimens.

STABLER (CONT'D)

Strange no one mentioned that.

MORGAN

I'm not surprised. She's not very comfortable around people. A lot like her friend the *Loxosceles reclusa*.

(chuckles; indicates model)

The brown recluse.

BENSON

Any idea why she didn't show up for work today?

MORGAN

Far as I know, she did.

BENSON

She's here?

MORGAN

No, she's out in the field somewhere. Collecting specimens. She's about milked the ones we have dry.

STABLER

She milks spiders.

MORGAN

For the venom. Take a look.

He flips a switch on an exhibit monitor: a blow-up of venom being excreted from the fang of a nasty-looking spider.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MORGAN (CONT'D)

Gotta milk a thousand of these babies to get one teaspoon. Pharmaceutical possibilities are endless. It could cure heart fibrillations, diabetes --

BENSON

Sir, we just need to know where Janis could be.

MORGAN

I can give you her favorite hot spots.

INT. PRINCE OF PEACE CHURCH - CHAPEL - DAY ONE

Benson and Stabler follow Sylvia Stiles, 80, spunky, down the aisle towards the pulpit.

SYLVIA

Janis has been coming by once a week since the infestation. Odd girl.

STABLER

So we've heard.

He stomps on the ground.

STABLER (CONT'D)

Got one for you.

SYLVIA

(re: dead spider)

Oh, that little thing was harmless. The real demons are in the rectory. Six-eyed Sand Spiders.

BENSON

Was Janis here today?

Sylvia reaches the message board behind the pulpit, proceeds to change the attendance and collections numbers.

SYLVIA

No, yesterday. Reverend Ferguson was doing missionary work in Africa and the little buggers got into his suitcase. I know they're God's creatures, but --

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

STABLER

(interrupting)

Do you have any idea where Janis could be today?

SYLVIA

I know she had a heated discussion about it.

BENSON

With who?

SYLVIA

Herself. I could hear her from the next room.

Benson and Stabler exchange looks.

BENSON

What did she say?

SYLVIA

(imitating)

I'm running away from home. Don't you think that would hurt her? I don't care, she never listens to me anyway.

STABLER

She was psychotic.

SYLVIA

I thought she was possessed. But when I walked in, she seemed sane as can be.

Benson's phone rings.

BENSON

(answering phone)

Benson...

SYLVIA

(re: board)

Oh, Cripes. Attendance is down again.

BEGIN PICKUP

BENSON

(hanging up)

Janice's car came with Lojack. She's heading north on the Westside Highway.

END PICKUP

OMITTED

EXT. INWOOD HILL PARK - ENTRANCE - DAY ONE

Fin strolls by a parked white Honda, talks into wrist mic.

FIN

Still no activity at her car.

Lake stands across the street, scanning the crowd.

LAKE

(into wrist mic)

Hold on. Check out the baby stroller approaching at six o'clock. Mom's wearing a hoodie, can't see her face.

FIN

(turning)

I'm on it.

He approaches the woman, whose head is bent low over the stroller. He steps in front of them, blocking her. She looks up, startled.

FIN (CONT'D)

Excuse me.

He moves on, speaks into wrist.

FIN (CONT'D)

False alarm. How you guys doing in the park?

EXT. INWOOD HILL PARK - DAY ONE

Benson and Stabler on the move.

BENSON

(into wrist)

No sign of her.

STABLER

Liv, what about the caves?

He indicates rock formations fifty yards away. They hurry towards them.

INT. INWOOD HILL PARK - CAVES - DAY ONE

Benson and Stabler enter the dark cave. Benson scans the ground with her pen light, stops.

BENSON

Elliot...

In the spotlight are vials of spiders.

STABLER

Janis?

They hear whimpering, follow it around a corner. The beam lands on Janis, hunched by a portable car seat.

BENSON

(pulls gun)

Put your hands up where I can see them.

Janis sticks her hands up, terrified. Stabler grabs the car seat, pulls the blankets out.

STABLER

It's empty.

BENSON

Where's April?

JANIS

(little girl voice)

What?

BENSON

What did you do with your baby, Janis?

JANIS

I'm not big enough to have a baby. And my name's not Janis. It's Tammy.

Off looks as we --

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE

Benson sits with a petulant Janis. Stabler prowls past.

JANIS/TAMMY

I want to go home.

STABLER

You're not going anywhere till you tell us where your baby is.

JANIS/TAMMY

I already told you, I don't have a baby. I'm only six.

STABLER

(snaps)

Cut the act, Janis.

Her face crumbles.

JANIS/TAMMY

My name is Tammy.

Benson pulls her chair closer.

BENSON

(gently)

Tammy, listen to me. Did you leave April outside somewhere?

Janis puts her head down on her folded arms.

BENSON (CONT'D)

It's getting late. She must be really cold and hungry by now. And scared. Will you please help me find her?

Tammy peeks up at her.

JANIS/TAMMY

Okay.

BENSON

Good. Where is she?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

JANIS/TAMMY

(whisper)

I can't tell or he'll hurt me.

BENSON

Who? I won't let anyone hurt you, I promise. Did you give April to a man?

JANIS/TAMMY

No, he just took her.

STABLER

What's his name?

Janis shrinks back.

JANIS/TAMMY

Burt.

BENSON

Where did Burt take her?

JANIS/TAMMY

I don't know. For real.

Stabler pulls out a photo, slams it down in front of her.

STABLER

No more games. This is you and your baby. You couldn't handle motherhood so you abandoned her.

Janis slips out of the chair, moves toward the one-way.

JANIS/TAMMY

That's not me.

STABLER

(in her face)

You let her die out there of exposure, you're going to prison for murder.

Janis slaps his face. Hard. Benson jumps up.

STABLER (CONT'D)

You pack a big wallop for a 6-year-old.

BENSON

Tammy, let's sit back down.

As Benson takes her arm --

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

JANIS/PETRA
(Russian accent)
Get out of my face.
(shoves Benson)
I want a lawyer.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE - CONTINUOUS

Munch and Fin watch Stabler, a few inches from the one-way, as he cuffs Janis' hands behind her back.

STABLER
(filtered)
Maybe he'll give you a discount, two charges for the price of one. You just assaulted an officer.

JANIS/PETRA
(filtered)
Screw you. You can't take a slap?
Grow some balls.

FIN
This must be Petra.

MUNCH
Who the hell is Petra?

FIN
Russian lady who answered this morning when the babysitter called Janis.

MUNCH
Whatever her name is, she just said the magic word. I gotta pull them out and get her a lawyer.

He raps on the glass.

FIN
I'm gonna call Huang, tell him to bring his butterfly net.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT ONE

Huang stands at the multiplex, watching Janis on a monitor, pacing. Benson and Stabler flank him.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

HUANG

From what you tell me, she has
Dissociative Identity Disorder. What
we used to call multiple personalities.

STABLER

I call it a crock.

HUANG

You're not alone. There's a huge
divide in the psychiatric community.

BENSON

What do you think?

HUANG

I think it's overdiagnosed. But in the
genuine cases I've seen, it's almost
always the result of long-term
childhood sexual abuse. Was she a
victim?

STABLER

Who knows? Is that gonna help us find
her daughter?

HUANG

It could. Tell me about her alters.

BENSON

Alternate personalities? We've seen a
shrink, a little girl, and a tough
Russian.

STABLER

She's playing us, right?

HUANG

Not necessarily. When a child is
repeatedly abused, she can detach and
imagine it's happening to someone else.
Additional personalities are created as
needed to cope with the trauma --

STABLER

We don't have time for this. Her
lawyer's on his way. You need to trick
her into telling us where that baby is.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

HUANG

She might not know. The host personality is often unaware of the alters or their actions.

BENSON

Tammy told us Burt took her. I was just about to find out where when Petra showed up and bitched-slapped Elliot.

STABLER

I just need five minutes alone with Burt. How do we get to him?

HUANG

The alters are a defense mechanism, brought out by stress. It's a question of finding the right trigger.

STABLER

Let's go.

He heads off for --

INT. SVU HALLWAY - NIGHT ONE

Benson, Stabler and Huang move down the hall. Munch comes towards them, in his dress uniform.

BENSON

What are you doing in uniform?

MUNCH

Press conference. It's our last option.

STABLER

Doc thinks he might be able to get it out of her.

HUANG

People with DID are easily hypnotized. If I can put her under, maybe I can pull out the alter who took the baby.

MUNCH

Great plan, but you can't talk to her.

STABLER

I don't care if they crown you Chief of D's, I'm not taking orders from you.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MUNCH

It wasn't an order, Detective. You can't talk to Fruit Loops because her attorney's already in with her.

STABLER

Dammit.

BENSON

No law against talking to the attorney. He's gotta get it out of her.

As they head off, Munch calls after them --

MUNCH

Tune in at eleven. Every nutjob who's ever seen a baby will be calling in. No one goes home tonight.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE

Benson knocks on the door, peeks in. Janis is now uncuffed, Defense Attorney Heshy Horowitz argues with her.

HOROWITZ

You're making a bad decision. I strenuously urge you to reconsider.

Janis sees Benson in the doorway.

JANIS/DORI

Hi, who are you?

BENSON

Detective Benson, who are you?

JANIS/DORI

Dori. Would you please tell this a-hole I didn't do anything wrong so I don't need a lawyer.

BENSON

Sounds like she changed her mind, Heshy.

HOROWITZ

Which one? Janis, Petra or Dori's? I don't think she's competent.

JANIS/DORI

I think you're a troll. You're fired.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

HOROWITZ

You invoked your right to counsel.
You're my client until you legally
waive that right.

JANIS/DORI

(waving)
See ya, butthead.

BENSON

I'll grab the form.

She hurries out to --

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE - CONTINUOUS

Stabler and Huang are at the one-way. As Benson grabs a
Miranda form from a wall-mounted file pocket --

BENSON

She just waived Miranda, we're back in.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE

Benson, Stabler, Huang and Horowitz are gathered around Janis
as she signs the waiver, thrusts it at Horowitz.

JANIS/DORI

There. Satisfied?

HOROWITZ

No. You signed it 'Dori Johnson.'

JANIS/DORI

That's my name, numbnuts.

STABLER

(leaning in)

The only way to get rid of him is to
sign your legal name. Janis Donovan.

Without Horowitz seeing, he gives her a wink. Janis smiles,
winks back, turns to Horowitz.

JANIS/DORI

Whatever.

She signs "Janis Donovan."

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

HOROWITZ

I still say you're making a big mistake. Call me if you change one of your minds.

He exits as Huang takes a seat across from her.

HUANG

Dori, my name is Dr. Huang. I'm a psychiatrist.

JANIS/DORI

Already got one, but thanks.
(to Stabler)
Where's your gun?

STABLER

In my locker.

JANIS/DORI

Can I see it?

BENSON

I don't think that's a good idea.

STABLER

Tell me where April is, I'll show it to you.

JANIS/DORI

(giggles)
If I knew, I would so tell you.

HUANG

You said you're seeing a therapist.

JANIS/DORI

Yes. I don't know why.

HUANG

Has he ever hypnotized you?

JANIS/DORI

D'uh.

HUANG

Do you mind if I try?

JANIS/DORI

I don't think Dr. Carlisle would like that.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

STABLER

Come on. Do it for me.

JANIS/DORI

(coy)

No.

STABLER

Why not?

JANIS/DORI

I feel safe here. I don't want to go away.

She gives Stabler a big smile as Huang pulls Benson aside.

HUANG

I'll keep trying, but get her shrink here. He'll know how to reach Burt.

INT. SVU ELEVATOR - NIGHT ONE

Benson rides up with Dr. Carlisle, whose raincoat is wet. He removes his rain hat, shakes it off.

DR. CARLISLE

Over the last year, I've identified five distinct identities in Janis, but I've never met Burt.

BENSON

I might've heard him. When she called, her voice dropped a register and she exploded.

DR. CARLISLE

None of Janis' alters are violent.

The elevator doors open and they exit to --

INT. SVU HALLWAY - NIGHT ONE - CONTINUOUS

Benson ushers Dr. Carlisle down the hall.

BENSON

Petra shoved me and slapped my partner.

DR. CARLISLE

Janis must have felt extremely threatened. Petra's her protector.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Fin and Lake, also in wet rain gear, approach them.

FIN

Hope the kid's not out in that storm.
We got nothing off the canvass.

LAKE

Choppers swept the park with infra-red.
She's not there, unless she's dead and
buried.

As Benson and Carlisle pass --

BENSON

We're still working on Janis, see if
you can catch Munch.

FIN

No problem.

STAY WITH Fin and Lake as they enter --

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT ONE - CONTINUOUS

Bustling. Fin looks around -- Techs set up banks of phones.
Novak and ND Detectives are gathered around a TV.

FIN

Anyone seen Munch?

NOVAK

He just came on.

Fin and Lake join them. Munch is on the monitor, a new logo
in one corner, a photo of Janis and April in the other.

MUNCH

(filtered)

The baby is a year old and is believed
to have been abandoned. She was last
seen with her mother, Janis Donovan.

(looking to side)

Are the photos up?

NEWS CREW MEMBER (O.S.)

Yeah.

LAKE

He looks good.

Fin gives him a look.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MUNCH

A ten thousand dollar reward is being offered. If you have information regarding this child's whereabouts, please call 1-800-555-0199.

The phones start ringing. Looks. Fin picks one up.

FIN

(on phone)

Special Victims... Better adjust your TV. Baby we're looking for is Caucasian.

NOVAK

And the circus begins.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE

Benson and Stabler look through the one-way, where Dr. Carlisle and Huang sit with Janis, whose eyes are closed.

DR. CARLISLE

(filtered)

In a moment, I'm going to pick up your wrist, and as I do, you're going to notice how light your arm feels...

He picks up her wrist with two fingers. CAMERA pushes through the one-way to...

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE - CONTINUOUS

Rain falls steadily outside the window.

DR. CARLISLE

When it's time to come back I'll tap your shoulder. You'll be wide awake, refreshed and perfectly calm. You're very relaxed now, aren't you?

JANIS

Yes, Dr. Carlisle.

DR. CARLISLE

Hello, Janis. Would you like to tell me where April is?

JANIS

At the babysitter's.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

DR. CARLISLE

You remember taking her there?

JANIS

(tensing)

No.

DR. CARLISLE

That's okay. You remember when you last saw her?

JANIS

When I gave her a bath this morning.

DR. CARLISLE

And the next thing you remember?

JANIS

Searching the cave for *Latrodectus mactans*. That's Latin for 'murderous biting robber.'

DR. CARLISLE

The black widow. And that's the one with the red hour glass on its abdomen, isn't it?

Huang points to his watch as he gives Carlisle a look.

JANIS

She envenomates her victim, liquefying its insides, which she then sucks dry.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE - CONTINUOUS

Stabler and Benson watch intently.

BENSON

What do you think?

STABLER

She killed that baby.

DR. CARLISLE

(filtered)

Janis, I want you to listen to the patter of the rain, and as you listen, you sink deeper and deeper into pleasurable relaxation. And you realize it would feel so good to let Burt talk to us now, wouldn't it?

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE - CONTINUOUS

Janis opens her eyes, sneers.

JANIS/BURT
(throaty)

Hunh.

In a flash, she jumps up, grabs the chair, flings it across the room, narrowly missing Huang and Carlisle, who jump back.

HUANG
(calling)
We need some help in here.

DR. CARLISLE
Burt? Calm down, tell us where April is.

Janis upends the table as Benson and Stabler rush in.

JANIS/BURT
April's gone. She's never coming back.

Benson and Stabler struggle with her as she flails.

BENSON
Get the cuffs on her.

JANIS/BURT
Nooo.

As Stabler cuffs her, Dr. Carlisle taps her shoulder and she instantly relaxes, looks around, timidly.

JANIS
What's going on?

Off looks --

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT ONE

Middle of the night. Empty take-out containers, papers everywhere, Detectives in shirt sleeves, dragging. Phones ring intermittently. As Lake hangs up --

LAKE
Gas station attendant outside of Philly swears he saw her with the baby this morning.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON

She pay with a credit card?

LAKE

Cash.

FIN

(covering receiver)

She made good time. Waitress at an I-Hop in Reno is serving them waffles as we speak.

STABLER

Chester, have Philly PD follow up with your guy. Janis' boss said she worked at Penn last year.

As Munch joins them, removing his dress uniform jacket --

MUNCH

How's it going in there?

BENSON

Dr. Carlisle's had her bouncing between personalities for hours. Burt's not talking.

Cass Magnall, early 30s, gaunt, red hair, enters.

CASS

Excuse me, you people have made a terrible mistake. April's fine.

MUNCH

You're gonna have to give us a little more to collect the reward.

CASS

She's at my apartment. I've been with her all day.

BENSON

Who are you?

CASS

Cass Magnall. I'm April's mother.

Off reactions, we --

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT ONE

Stabler and Lake with Cass.

CASS

Janis is my sister. She was taking care of April for me.

LAKE

Who's taking care of April now?

CASS

My landlady.

STABLER

Funny, we questioned dozens of people today. No one knew Janis had a sister.

LAKE

Or that she wasn't April's real mother.

CASS

She moved here after April was born.

LAKE

And you just popped back into the picture today.

CASS

Yeah.

STABLER

Where you been?

CASS

Prison.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE

Benson with Janis, who now sits erect.

JANIS/DR. YOUNG

Janis doesn't have a sister.

BENSON

Are you sure?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

JANIS/DR. YOUNG

I think it would've come up in therapy.
I've been seeing her for a year now.

BENSON

Dr. Young?

JANIS/DR. YOUNG

Yes?

BENSON

(frustrated)

I need to talk to Janis.

JANIS/DR. YOUNG

I wish I could help you, but I don't
know where she is.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT ONE

Stabler and Lake are still with Cass.

CASS

Just let me see her. She'll tell you
who I am.

STABLER

She can't even tell us who she is.

CASS

Why? What's wrong with her?

STABLER

You don't know?

CASS

She seemed fine when she dropped April
off this morning.

Lake picks up Cass' purse, sets it in front of her.

LAKE

You're her mother, show us a picture of
April.

CASS

I don't have one.

STABLER

Why not?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

CASS

Because they don't take baby pictures
in the prison ward where I had her.

STABLER

What were you in for?

CASS

(reluctant)

When I was eight months pregnant I
scored heroin from a narc. I just got
out yesterday.

LAKE

Ten thousand bucks could really come in
handy, huh?

CASS

Give me a break. Call my landlady.
She'll tell you April's there.

STABLER

We've got a detective on his way over
to visually confirm that.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT ONE

Benson looks up as Munch enters with a file.

MUNCH

They say a picture is worth a thousand
words...

He sets a driver's license in front of Janis.

MUNCH (CONT'D)

Explain this.

JANIS/DR. YOUNG

Sorry, I seem to have misplaced my
glasses.

She holds it at arm's length.

JANIS/DR. YOUNG (CONT'D)

It looks like Janis' driver's license.

BENSON

So you recognize Janis.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

JANIS/DR. YOUNG
Of course. I know my own patient.

BENSON
(standing)
Dr. Young, come here, I want to show
you something.

She leads Janis to the one-way.

BENSON (CONT'D)
Who do you see in the mirror?

Janis stares, her composure slipping just slightly.

JANIS/DR. YOUNG
I see you standing beside Janis.

BENSON
That's right.

JANIS/DR. YOUNG
(moving her head)
What is it, some kind of high-tech,
rear projection?

BENSON
It's not a trick. It's you.

JANIS/DR. YOUNG
Sorry, I don't get the joke.

MUNCH
How about this one? Knock knock...

He pulls Cass' mug shot from the file, holds it up.

MUNCH (CONT'D)
Who's there?

JANIS/DR. YOUNG
(squinting)
I don't know, who?

MUNCH
Maybe a stroll down memory lane will
jog your memory.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT ONE

Stabler and Lake with Cass.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

STABLER

Our shrink thinks Janis was abused as a child. Any truth to that?

CASS

I don't know. She left home when she was sixteen. I was only six.

LAKE

Were you abused?

CASS

Yeah.

STABLER

You ever tell Janis?

CASS

Why would I? She didn't care. She didn't stick around to protect me.

LAKE

What did your dad do to you?

CASS

The night Janis ran away, he dragged me through the house by my hair, demanding to know where she went. I didn't know, but he didn't believe me. Made me drink hot sauce till I threw up.

STABLER

Where was your mother?

CASS

In the room. Watching. She was always there. Never said a word. Even when he started raping me.

Reactions. PULL BACK through the one-way to...

INT. CRAGEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT ONE - CONTINUOUS

Munch stands behind Janis, who watches, crying.

CASS

(filtered)

I begged her to help me, but she didn't. No one did.

Janis turns to Munch, tears streaming down her face.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

JANIS/DORI

Turn it off.

He does, closes the blinds.

JANIS/DORI (CONT'D)

That poor girl. How could that bitch
Janis just leave her there? She knew
what would happen.

MUNCH

Because it happened to you, too?

JANIS/DORI

Not me, Janis. I would never have left
Cass. I would have told somebody, a
teacher or someone I could trust, like
Detective Stabler.

She sobs.

MUNCH

Can I get you a tissue?

She nods, Munch looks around the desk, cluttered with files.

MUNCH (CONT'D)

I'll be right back.

He exits to --

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT ONE - CONTINUOUS

Munch grabs a box of tissues off a desk as Benson approaches.

BENSON

Fin just called. Cass's story checked
out. April was there, safe and sound.

MUNCH

Great.

(heading back)

Course I just made an ass of myself on
the news and authorized a crapload of
wasted man hours.

BENSON

What do we do with Janis?

They pass the phone bank as one rings; Munch lifts the
receiver and lets it drop immediately.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MUNCH

Pack up the phones, party's over.

BENSON

Should we E-D-P her to Bellevue?

MUNCH

I don't know, ask her shrink. She's in pretty bad shape.

They continue into --

INT. CRAGEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT ONE - CONTINUOUS

Janis, dry-eyed, sits behind the desk, looking through files.

MUNCH

What are you doing?

He grabs the file out of her hand.

MUNCH (CONT'D)

These are confidential

JANIS

(standing)

I'm sorry. I was just trying to figure out where I was.

BENSON

Janis?

JANIS

This is so embarrassing. Have we met?

BENSON

Technically, no. I'm Detective Benson.

JANIS

(wheels spinning)

Right. I'm in a police precinct. I'm here collecting specimens.

MUNCH

Not exactly.

JANIS

(scanning room)

You've got a nice *pholcus phalangioides* over there.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

They follow her eye up to a far corner of the room.

MUNCH

Nice. Captain left me with three months of back reports and a tarantula.

JANIS

(smiles)

It's a Daddy Long Legs. And no matter where you go, you're almost never more than six feet away from a spider.

Cass appears in the doorway.

CASS

Janis, are you okay?

JANIS

Cass, what are you doing here? Did something happen to April?

CASS

No, she's fine, but we need to talk.
(to Benson)
Can I take her home now?

BENSON

Give me just a minute. I need to check with someone.

INT. SVU HALLWAY - NIGHT ONE

Benson walks down the hall with Stabler.

STABLER

The baby's fine, she didn't break any laws. I say cut her loose.

BENSON

I'd feel more comfortable if Huang signed off on it.

STABLER

Do what you want, Liv. It's three in the morning, I'm going home.

He peels off, Benson continues toward --

INT. SVU LOUNGE - NIGHT ONE

Benson with Huang and Dr. Carlisle.

HUANG

Sending Janis home is a crapshoot.

DR. CARLISLE

I disagree. Her behavior today doesn't accurately reflect her state of mind.

BENSON

You've been treating her for D.I.D. for a year. She has five personalities.

DR. CARLISLE

All functional. We have no grounds to commit her. She's not a threat to herself or others.

HUANG

She flew into a rage and threw a chair.

BENSON

(to Carlisle)

That nearly hit you.

DR. CARLISLE

She had an exceptionally stressful day. She had to give up the baby she'd been mothering since birth.

BENSON

Can you guarantee she won't get worse?

DR. CARLISLE

I think she's on the road to recovery.

He walks to the railing, looks down to where Janis sits with Cass in deep conversation.

DR. CARLISLE (CONT'D)

Look at her. She never had a relationship with her sister before.

CAMERA PUSHES IN on Janis and Cass, under --

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

DR. CARLISLE (O.S.) (CONT'D)
 I think she can help Janis finally
 confront the abuse, which should lead
 to the integration of her fractured
 personalities.

Off Janis as she hugs her little sister --

INT. STABLER HOME - BEDROOM - DAY TWO

The sun streams in through window shears. Stabler is sound
 asleep in his bed.

KATHLEEN (O.S.)

Dad!

Stabler's eyes open painfully as Kathleen comes bounding in
 holding an orange reflective vest.

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)

You have to do something.

STABLER

(groggy)

What time is it?

KATHLEEN

Nine o'clock, Lazy, aren't you late?

He groans as Kathy enters, wearing a loose top, carrying a
 basket of laundry.

KATHY

Kathleen, let your dad sleep. He
 worked all night.

STABLER

Honey, you shouldn't be lifting heavy
 things.

KATHLEEN

She shouldn't be pregnant.

(to Kathy)

You're too old. I'm in college.
 People will think it's mine.

She plops down on the bed beside him.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

KATHLEEN (CONT'D)

Dad, you gotta do something. Kids at school saw me yesterday picking up trash.

(re: vest)

Wearing this.

STABLER

Honey, I can't go against the judge's order.

KATHY

He could've sent you to jail for that DUI, you're lucky you only got community service.

KATHLEEN

I'm not trying to get out of my punishment, just get me reassigned somewhere indoors, where no one can see me.

The phone rings.

STABLER

(answering)

Stabler...

KATHLEEN

Dad, it's so embarrassing, please?

A look of dread washes over his face.

STABLER

(on phone)

I'll be right there.

INT. CRIME SCENE - BEDROOM - DAY TWO

CLOSE ON a couple in their late 60s, dead, bedsheets bloody, spatter on the walls. Warner comes into frame.

WARNER

Victims are Francis and Molly Donovan.

PULL BACK to reveal Benson and Stabler.

BENSON

Yeah, we met their daughters yesterday.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

WARNER

I wondered why they called you guys in.
No sex crime. Gunshot wounds to the
chest at close range. Double barrel
shotgun.

STABLER

We need Ballistics to confirm that?

WARNER

Should be easy.

She bends down, picks up the shotgun by the barrel.

WARNER (CONT'D)

Perp left the murder weapon. You can
still smell the cordite.

STABLER

(off bodies)

Mother's eyes are closed. She was shot
in her sleep. Blast woke up Dad just
in time to see his murderer.

BENSON

We both know who did this.

WARNER

CSU got a bloody fingerprint off the
door.

BENSON

It belongs to Janis Donovan.

(to Stabler)

I told you we should have had her
committed.

Stabler's cell phone rings. He checks the number, answers.

STABLER

(on phone)

Kathy, I can't talk right now...

What...?

(upset)

Get out of there. Now.

He starts moving, Benson follows.

BENSON

Elliot, what is it?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

STABLER

Janis is in my house. With a knife.

Off them rushing out as we --

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

EXT. STABLER HOME - DAY TWO

Blue and whites are parked out front, bubblegums flashing. An ND sedan screeches to a stop. Benson and Stabler jump out, pick up Uni Ramirez on the move.

STABLER
Where's my wife?

UNI RAMIREZ
Still inside.

STABLER
Why?

UNI RAMIREZ
She wouldn't come out.

STABLER
Wouldn't or couldn't?

UNI RAMIREZ
She said to wait for you, that she wasn't in danger.

They reach a front window. Through it they see Kathy sitting in a chair.

BENSON
She looks okay...

They move to another window where they can now see Janis, sitting on the couch.

BENSON (CONT'D)
They're just chatting. I don't see a knife.

STABLER
Then why didn't Kathy get out?

INT. STABLER HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY TWO

Kathy sits across from Janis.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

JANIS/DORI

(giddy)

It was total love at first sight. He leaned over my shoulder and whispered in my ear. Then he winked at me. There was this electricity between us.

Kathy nods, smiling, looks up and sees Stabler entering.

KATHY

Hi, Elliot. Dori was just talking about you.

JANIS/DORI

Hi, Elliot.

He moves slowly into the room, sees the knife Dori is holding beside her leg.

STABLER

Dori, what's going on?

JANIS/DORI

I wanted to see you again.

KATHY

She was really upset when I got home. She said she was going to hurt herself.

Dori tightens her grip on the knife.

JANIS/DORI

This lady says she's your wife. Is that true?

STABLER

It's complicated. How did you know where I live?

JANIS/DORI

When that really skinny Detective left me alone in his office, I peeked in your file.

STABLER

Kathy, you don't need to be here. You should leave now.

JANIS/DORI

(smiling)

I guess he made his choice.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

KATHY

(standing)

Take care of yourself, Dori.

As she moves past Stabler --

KATHY (CONT'D)

You too.

She exits. Stabler sees Benson enter the room behind Janis.

STABLER

We need to talk.

JANIS/DORI

(flirty)

I know. This is crazy, huh?

STABLER

Yeah. Put the knife down on the coffee table.

JANIS/DORI

What's wrong? You sound so cold.

STABLER

(moving towards her)

Put the knife on the table.

Janis brings the knife up to her chest, clutches it with both hands, upset.

JANIS/DORI

Why?

STABLER

I don't want you to hurt yourself.

JANIS/DORI

I need it. For protection.

STABLER

I'll protect you.

Janis jumps up, backs away from him.

JANIS/DORI

No one can.

STABLER

Who do you think is going to hurt you?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (3)

JANIS/DORI

Burt.

Benson creeps closer.

STABLER

What did Burt do?

JANIS/DORI

He killed Janis' parents.

Stabler nods. Benson grabs Janis in a bear hug. Janis screams.

JANIS/DORI (CONT'D)

Help! He's killing me!

She screams and thrashes. Stabler grabs for the knife.

BENSON

It's okay, calm down.

STABLER

Give me the knife, Dori.

Stabler pries the knife from her hand. Janis gives him a devastated look, crying.

JANIS/DORI

I thought you loved me.

Off Stabler --

INT. BELLEVUE - PSYCH WARD - HALLWAY - DAY TWO

Benson, Stabler and Novak watch through a window where Janis, in bed in restraints, is given a shot by Dr. Carlisle.

BENSON

I don't think she's competent to stand trial.

NOVAK

She confessed to killing her parents in cold blood.

STABLER

She didn't, Burt did.

BENSON

Actually, Dori flipped on Burt.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

NOVAK

They're all the same person. I don't care how many names she goes by, I'm putting her body in jail.

Dr. Carlisle exits Janis' room, joining them.

BENSON

That road to recovery she was on got pretty bumpy, didn't it, Dr. Carlisle.

DR. CARLISLE

I should have spent more time drawing out Burt. But I honestly didn't believe she had a killer in her.

STABLER

Can she stand trial?

DR. CARLISLE

She's so fractured right now, I don't think her psyche could bear it. I've never had to medicate her to bring her back before. In my professional opinion, she's not competent.

NOVAK

Forgive me if I don't have the utmost confidence in your professional opinion. I'm ordering a 7-30 exam.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY THREE

Fin and Lake at their desks, doing paperwork.

LAKE

I'm not saying I didn't see some crazies in Brooklyn, but you guys are cuckoo magnets.

FIN

Should've been here for the case when Munch got shot in the ass by a white supremacist.

(chuckles)

He still has to sit on a special pillow.

LAKE

(looking up)

Look who's back.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Fin turns to see Cragen entering with his box. Fin moves toward him.

FIN

Hey, Captain, you back?

CRAGEN

Yep.

LAKE

How'd you swing that?

CRAGEN

It didn't hurt that Sergeant Munch released a maniac who promptly killed Mom and Dad.

FIN

She may be a mental case, but a judge ruled she's competent to stand trial.

Cragen continues into --

INT. CRAGEN'S OFFICE - DAY THREE

Cragen enters to find Munch on the phone.

CRAGEN

Miss me?

MUNCH

(hanging up)

Thank God you're back. This job sucks.

CRAGEN

Then you'll be happy to hear you're officially relieved of your duties as acting C.O.

He plops the box down on his desk, moves to his chair as Munch moves around to the front.

CRAGEN (CONT'D)

Anything you need to bring me up to speed on?

MUNCH

Liv and Elliot went through the Donovan house. Found boxes of old Polaroids.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

CRAGEN

Confirming the child abuse.

MUNCH

Yeah.

CRAGEN

That'll buy her jury sympathy. Novak gonna plead her out?

MUNCH

She tried. Janis turned down the deal. Claims she's innocent.

CRAGEN

Of course she is. Now it's just a matter of what bogus defense her attorney can dream up.

INT. JUDGE BRADLEY'S CHAMBERS - DAY FOUR

Novak and Defense Attorney Horowitz in front of Judge Bradley.

HOROWITZ

My client wasn't at the scene of the crime.

NOVAK

Funny, her bloody fingerprints were all over it.

HOROWITZ

All right, her body was there, but she was an innocent bystander.

JUDGE BRADLEY

I'm confused, Mr. Horowitz. She's the only person being charged with this crime. I understood she acted alone.

HOROWITZ

My client suffers from Dissociative Identity Disorder. She has five documented personalities.

JUDGE BRADLEY

Should we swear them all in separately?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

HOROWITZ

They're distinct individuals, one of whom committed the crime without her knowledge. You can't punish the host for what the alter did.

NOVAK

(to Judge Bradley)

We can't just blindly accept Janis was unaware of her actions on her say so. Otherwise, every murderer's going to use that defense. 'I didn't do it, my imaginary friend did.' It's bunk.

HOROWITZ

In U.S. v. Denny-Shaffer, the Court of Appeals disagreed. They tore the trial court a new one for not allowing this defense.

JUDGE BRADLEY

He's right, Counselor. I'm granting Mr. Horowitz's motion.

Off Novak --

INT. COURTROOM - DAY FIVE

A jury is present. Bradley presides. Novak for the People, Janis at the Defense table. Horowitz has Dr. Carlisle on the stand.

HOROWITZ

When did you first diagnose Janis with Dissociative Identity Disorder?

DR. CARLISLE

Almost a year ago.

HOROWITZ

Eleven months before the crime. In that time, was Janis ever aware of the existence of these alters?

DR. CARLISLE

No.

HOROWITZ

So what was going on with Janis when an alter was in control?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

CLOSE ON Dr. Carlisle.

DR. CARLISLE

She would cease to exist. She'd lose chunks of time, have no memory whatsoever of her alters' actions.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY FIVE - LATER

Novak is now with Dr. Carlisle.

NOVAK

What proof do you have she's not making up these alters?

DR. CARLISLE

I've brought them out under hypnosis.

NOVAK

Which you had a vested interest in doing. Isn't it true you're writing a book about Janis?

DR. CARLISLE

The book was inspired by Janis' alters, not the other way around.

NOVAK

Is there a blood test, brain scan, anything to objectively prove they exist?

DR. CARLISLE

They have distinctive personalities, voices, memories, behavior, even handwriting.

NOVAK

And you contend these alters were created to protect Janis.

DR. CARLISLE

Correct.

NOVAK

So if the host -- Janis -- did kill her parents, the alters would lie to protect her.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

DR. CARLISLE

(caught)

That's not how it works. Janis' mind created them as a survival mechanism to deal with her horrific childhood abuse.

CLOSE ON Novak.

NOVAK

But you'd been dealing with that in therapy for a year with no sign of violence. What was different about that night?

INT. COURTROOM - DAY FIVE - LATER

Cass is now on the stand.

CASS

I told Janis for the first time what our parents had done to me.

NOVAK

How did she react?

CASS

She cried. Then she got a strange look on her face and just walked out the door. I kept calling her name but it was like she couldn't hear me.

NOVAK

So when you last saw her, she was calm. Just like Janis always is. Not in a rage, like Burt.

INT. COURTROOM - DAY FIVE - LATER

CLOSE ON Janis, who's now on the stand. Cass is in the gallery.

JANIS

I don't know any Burt.

NOVAK

What's the last thing you remember the night you killed your parents?

JANIS

I didn't kill my parents.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

NOVAK

What's the last thing you remember the night they were murdered?

JANIS

Talking to my sister.

NOVAK

Then what?

JANIS

Waking up in the hospital.

NOVAK

How convenient.

JANIS

It's not. It's horrible losing time like that.

NOVAK

Well let's see what you missed.

As she walks back to the defense table --

NOVAK (CONT'D)

People's Exhibit H.

She picks up the murder weapon.

NOVAK (CONT'D)

The double barrel shotgun your father kept locked in a gun cabinet. Remember this?

JANIS

From my childhood.

As Novak moves to an easel.

NOVAK

Do you remember walking into your parents bedroom with it and pointing it at your mother?

JANIS

(getting upset)

No.

NOVAK

Do you remember shooting her, then your father?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

JANIS

No!

She flips back the paper covering the photo on the easel. It's a blow-up of the murdered parents at the crime scene.

NOVAK

What about this? This bring back any memories?

JANIS

Stop.

Novak heads to the stand.

NOVAK

Lot of details to forget, Janis. You don't remember any of this?

Janis leaps up, reaches over the stand, grabs Novak by the throat.

JANIS/BURT

Leave her alone!

The court erupts as Novak struggles.

JUDGE BRADLEY

Court officers.

Court Officers race over, pull them apart.

JANIS/BURT

Leave her alone...

Off Novak as the Officers drag Janis out of the courtroom, kicking and screaming --

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY SIX

Early morning. Stabler sits at his desk with coffee studying the *Ledger*, which features a picture of Janis. Novak comes up behind him, reads the headline --

NOVAK

'D.A. Flops, Killer Walks.' Another one for my scrapbook.

STABLER

It's not like she was acquitted.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

NOVAK

May as well have been. Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity only keeps her locked up till she convinces them she's sane.

STABLER

Cass gave an interview...

He turns to page 12, where the story continues with a picture of Cass holding April in front of a sparsely filled bookshelf with a dozen paperbacks.

STABLER (CONT)

Doesn't hold back about their abuse and how she escaped into drugs.

NOVAK

If they were my parents, I'd have killed them too, but still...

STABLER

(re: photo)

That's weird. On the bookshelf behind Cass... is that a Law Journal?

NOVAK

Southern California Interdisciplinary, Spring 2001. Do you have a magnifying glass?

STABLER

Munch does.

As they move to Munch's desk --

NOVAK

I read this issue myself when I was preparing for the trial. It's full of articles on Multiple Personalities and Criminal Responsibility.

STABLER

Maybe she was trying to help out with her sister's defense?

Novak holds a magnifying glass over the photo.

NOVAK

Before she got out of prison?

Stabler reads the enlarged words --

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

STABLER

'Property of Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.'

Off looks --

INT. BEDFORD HILLS CORRECTIONAL FACILITY FOR WOMEN - DAY SIX

Benson and Stabler with Sheri Simkins, 30s, prison jumpsuit. He holds the law journal in front of Sheri.

STABLER

You ever seen this?

SHERI

Depends. What's in it for me?

STABLER

That's not how it works, Sheri.

BENSON

Course our D.A. does have some pull if you had something worth our while.

SHERI

(re: journal)

Yeah, I seen Cass with it. I shared a cell with her for six months. I know lots of things.

STABLER

Keep talking.

SHERI

I can't believe they fell for it. You know she faked that whole thing.

BENSON

How do you know that?

SHERI

'Cause I read all Cass' letters. Her and Janis planned it. Hell, Cass read that book 'Sybil' like it was the Bible.

Off Benson and Stabler --

INT. STATE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL - DAY SIX

Cass sits with Janis in the Visitor's Room. Benson and Stabler approach.

STABLER
Congratulations, Janis.

JANIS
For what?

BENSON
Your brilliant performance as Dr.
Young, Tammy, Petra --

STABLER
My personal favorite, Dori.

BENSON
And who could forget Burt.

JANIS
I don't know who you're talking about.

STABLER
Memory loss. Yours, your computer's...

BENSON
Luckily, our techs were able to restore
the research you deleted on multiple
personalities.

JANIS
(smiles)
I was good, wasn't I.

CASS
Janis...

JANIS
Caught you in my web. I'm starting to
feel integrated, guess I'll be out of
here soon.

CASS
Shut up, Janis.

JANIS
It's okay, Cass. Double jeopardy has
attached. There's nothing they can do
to me.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

STABLER

You're right.

He turns to Cass, cuffing her --

STABLER (CONT'D)

Cass Magnall, you're under arrest for
the murder of Francis and Molly
Donovan.

CASS

I didn't shoot them.

JANIS

She wasn't even there.

BENSON

Doesn't matter. You conspired
together. Under the law, that makes
her just as guilty as you.

STABLER

It's like you both pulled the trigger.

JANIS

We were abused. They put us through
hell. We can never recover from that.

As they lead Cass out --

JANIS (CONT'D)

Cass, you were suffering from Battered
Child Syndrome.

(yells)

It's not your fault.

Off Janis as we --

FADE OUT

END OF EPISODE