

IN THE DARK

"PILOT"

Written by

Corinne Kingsbury

3-1-18

ACT ONE

OVER BLACK, we hear people having drunk sex. They are both into it. The moans are getting louder, both on the verge...

1

INT. MURPHY'S ROOM - NIGHT

1

The sounds continue as the camera settles on a cute Golden Retriever, staring at the bed with noticeable judgment in his eyes. This is **PRETZEL**. We stay on the dog as...

GUY (O.S.)

God, you're so hot. Do you have any idea how hot you are?

GIRL (O.S)

Nope.

After a few more moans they both orgasm together. If Pretzel could roll his eyes he would.

The **GUY** collapses next to **MURPHY**. She appears like any average 27-year-old dysfunctional beauty who makes bad decisions on the reg. He kisses her shoulder.

GUY

That was legit incredible.

Murphy immediately tenses up, putting her walls back up. The guy doesn't notice but jumps when he notices Pretzel.

GUY (CONT'D)

I didn't know your dog was in here.

She didn't either. She can't stand this dog.

MURPHY

That dog is so weird. He follows me around everywhere. Like a stalker.

GUY

Awww. I'll protect you.

The guy playfully bear hugs her. She is unamused. Plus, he has already served his purpose.

MURPHY

Okay. Nice meeting you.

(CONTINUED)

1

GUY
(taken aback)
That's it?

MURPHY
I'll text you later.

GUY
But you don't have my number.

MURPHY
I don't understand how you don't
get what's happening here.

He's shocked. Hurt, he starts to get dressed. He grabs his shoes and walks out. She waits for the sound of the front door closing. Once it does, Murphy breathes a sigh of relief. She then sits up, downs what's left of her vodka soda, throws on sweats, an old hoodie with no bra and her favorite/only jacket. She reaches under the bed and grabs her... WALKING STICK.

Pretzel follows her down the hall. She makes her way to the front door and closes the door in Pretzel's face.

2

INT. DRUGSTORE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

2

Murphy taps her stick as she walks to the familiar aisle and routinely feels for a box of Emergency Contraceptive on the shelf. She locates the box and grabs it. She makes her way through the store, drunkenly tapping her walking stick.

A few **CUSTOMERS** in line stare at Murphy as she feels (with her stick) the line is longer than she was hoping. She routinely pretends to be lost and cuts the line. She approaches the counter, acting clueless.

MURPHY
Am I in the right spot? I'm looking
for the line...
(loudly)
But I can't see. Anything. Because
I'm blind.

MARIA, the clerk, knows Murphy and her antics well.

MARIA
You cut past it, Murphy.

All the customers simultaneously tell her "it's fine" "go ahead" etc. Murphy gives Maria a mischievous smile.

(CONTINUED)

2

MARIA (CONT'D)
Your usual?

MURPHY
Yeah and the morning after pill.

Maria grabs it from behind the counter and rings up a pack of cigarettes and a bag of cheese puffs.

MARIA
You should really buy condoms.

MURPHY
They're bad for the environment. We
all got to do our part, right?
(then)
Can I get a bottle of water too?
I'll grab it on my way out.

Maria nods and rings that up too.

MARIA
\$63.11.

Murphy reaches in her hoodie pocket and hands Maria her credit card. Maria swipes it and bags Murphy's items.

MURPHY
Thanks.

Murphy turns around and heads out. As Murphy opens the refrigerator and feels for a bottle of water, a **WOMAN** in line watches her, unbearably sympathetic.

WOMAN
You're my hero!

Murphy gets this all the time. She sarcastically smiles.

MURPHY
I'm a regular Mother Teresa.

Murphy puts a cigarette in her mouth and walks out. The woman is horrified. Maria shakes her head: typical Murphy.

3

EXT. ALLEY - A FEW MINUTES LATER

3

Three young drug dealers hang in this isolated alley: **TYSON**, a handsome and sweet 17-year-old is with his pals **TEN** (chubby) and **XAVIER** (scrawny.) It's slow, so they shoot the shit -- or, Ten and Xavier do. Tyson mostly half-listens, off in his own world, reading a book.

(CONTINUED)

TEN

I made a new beat last night? It's
fire. This my year, y'all. I'm
takin' over. I'm talkin 'Ye status.

XAVIER

(scoffing)

Man, the only thing you takin' over
is the couch in your mom's
basement, every night.

TEN

Oh, really? Okay. We'll see who
hits me up for VIP when I'm at
Coachella next year.

XAVIER

Please. Your beats is trash, fam.

TEN

(getting heated)

Your whole life is trash!

As they continue to bicker, we see Tyson spot someone O.S. A
smile spreads across his face. He cuts the other two off.

TYSON

You're both trash. Shut up a
second.

Ten and Xavier turn to see what Tyson's smiling at: Murphy.
She's in the alley, "looking" around for Tyson.

XAVIER

Miss that. Darnell ain't gonna like
it if he comes by and you not here.
He already gonna be heated when he
sees the take for today.

TYSON

Just cover for me, 'aight?

They nod, clearly not thrilled, and watch as Tyson rushes
over to Murphy. Shaking their heads a little.

Tyson approaches Murphy. They walk to their usual spot as --

TYSON (CONT'D)

Yo, thank God you're here. For
real. I couldn't hear their dumbass
conversation for another second.

(CONTINUED)

MURPHY

Aw. At least one guy uses me for my
conversation skills.

She routinely tosses him the bag of cheese puffs. Tyson takes a seat on the ground and helps Murphy as she sits next to him. This is their thing. He opens the bag of chips as she smokes. She hands him the emergency contraceptive.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Can you open this for me?

She sighs and rolls her eyes.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

I know. I know. I knooow.

TYSON

I didn't say anything.

Tyson unwraps the pill and hands it to her. She cracks open her bottle of water and swallows the pill.

MURPHY

I wish I didn't like sex so much.
It's a very expensive habit.

TYSON

I realized why you do.

MURPHY

This should be interesting. I love
being analyzed by a teenager.

TYSON

Because it's the one time you don't
feel blind. I mean... we all do it
with our eyes closed anyway.

Murphy is taken aback by his insight.

MURPHY

You're a smart kid. Too smart to be
doing what you're doing.

TYSON

I could say the same about you.

MURPHY

Just eat your cheese puffs.

They sit in silence for a few content beats.

(CONTINUED)

In The Dark - "Pilot" - GOLD (03/19/18)
CONTINUED: (3)

5A.
3

3

TYSON
So who was the lucky guy?

(CONTINUED)

MURPHY

Ummm... Tom...my. Tommy.

Tyson looks at her sideways and laughs a little.

TYSON

You don't even know his name.

MURPHY

Of course I do!

TYSON

Wow. Wow. Woow. That's sad.

MURPHY

Oh, whatever.

TYSON

(teasing her)

I guess you can't remember all
their names.

MURPHY

Wow. Wow. Woowooow.

Tyson stares at her. It's clear he's harboring a bit of a
crush on Murphy. She's oblivious to it.

TYSON

Just out of curiosity... have you
ever slept with a guy like me?

MURPHY

A child? No.

TYSON

I'm grown.

MURPHY

You're 17.

TYSON

I'm damn adorable.

MURPHY

Yeah. Gonna have to take your word
for it, kid. Also, I feel like only
a really ugly dude would try to
convince a blind girl they're hot.

(CONTINUED)

TYSON

Okay. Feel for yourself.

Tyson grabs her hand and presses her palm to his cheek.

MURPHY

What are you --

TYSON

For real. Get at it. Let yourself
feel my beauty.

He's only half-joking. Murphy plays along: She doesn't normally do this but she does feel comfortable around him. But as she slowly moves her hand across his face, memorizing every little curve, you can see her realize: Tyson isn't lying. He really is hot. And as he can see her realizing this, he can't take his eyes off of her...Before he knows it, her hand is back in the pocket of her hoodie.

MURPHY

(changing the subject)
God, it's freezing tonight.

TYSON

Why you gotta say that like it's my
fault?

MURPHY

Because it is. If you didn't hang
out here I wouldn't freeze my ass
off every night.

TYSON

Well, let's just enjoy this balmy
weather then.
(he closes his eyes)
I'm pretending I'm in Florida.

MURPHY

(laughing)
I love that of all the places you
could pretend to be in, you chose
Florida.

TYSON

Shut up. It's warm.

MURPHY

So are like... The Bahamas.

TYSON

I like to dream realistically.

(CONTINUED)

In The Dark - "Pilot" - DBL WHITE (03/22/18)
CONTINUED: (6)

7A.
3

3

They continue to laugh as we --

CUT TO:

4

INT. MURPHY'S ROOM - NEXT MORNING

4

As Murphy sleeps in the messy darkness **JESS**, dressed in scrubs, opens the door, purposely letting in Pretzel AND sunlight. She moans as Jess places an electrolyte drink, ibuprofen, and toast on her bedside table. Pretzel licks Murphy's face.

MURPHY

Get off me, dog.

(sneezing)

I swear... I'm developing an allergy to him.

JESS

Because he wants your love. That's the only thing you're allergic to.

(CONTINUED)

MURPHY

Oh, look who's bringing the jokes
at the crack of dawn.

Murphy holds her head in agony. Jess grins, excited.

JESS

So... how was your night of
loooooove making?

MURPHY

Don't be gross. And I don't
remember the majority of it.

JESS

You wanna know what he looked like?

MURPHY

Hit me. I could tell he was
tallish. But that's it.

JESS

This one had a real gummy smile. He
only had his two front teeth. Like
a rabbit. And he definitely had
early onset alopecia --

MURPHY

I could feel his hair, jerk.

JESS

He seriously looked like Alexander
Skarsgård. Who is, like, super hot
by the way. You're missing out. You
should've felt his face.

MURPHY

I would never do that.

Murphy shifts, remembering feeling Tyson's face the night
before. Just then **VANESSA** (Jess's girlfriend) enters. She's
clearly threatened by Murphy and Jess's bond.

VANESSA

Gotta go to work.

JESS

See ya, babe.

VANESSA

You didn't put the cap on the
toothpaste again.

JESS

(over)
Sorry--

VANESSA

It's real simple, babe.

Vanessa mimes screwing on the cap.

MURPHY

It's toothpaste. Relax. It keeps.

Vanessa grits her teeth. They hate each other equally.

JESS

Murph, it's fine.

Vanessa gives Jess a perfunctory kiss and exits. Once she's out of earshot Murphy "looks" at Jess, overprotective.

MURPHY

If you wanted to be treated like that you should date dudes.

JESS

She's sweet, okay? You just don't know her the way I do.
(Off Murphy)
Come on. You have to get ready.

Jess picks up Murphy's phone on her night stand. It's dead.

JESS (CONT'D)

You never plug in your phone.
(then)
Hurry. I promised your parents you would be on time today.

MURPHY

Ugh. Fiiiiine.

Murphy crawls out of bed and throws on what she was wearing last night. She slowly walks from her room into the bathroom, feeling the walls around her for help. Jess and Pretzel follow Murphy into the bathroom.

Murphy feels for the medicine cabinet and opens it. There are several bottles: face wash, face moisturizer etc. She has labeled them with puffy paint so she knows what's what. Murphy is feeling around for something...

4A

JESS
Toothpaste?

MURPHY
As long as the cap is on.
Otherwise, I will LOSE IT.

Jess gives her a sarcastic smirk as she grabs a tube of moisturizer and hands it to her -- Murphy squirts it in her mouth. She GAGS and spits it out as Jess CRACKS up.

JESS
That's what you get for being a
dick.

5

EXT. CHICAGO GUIDING HOPE - LATER

5

Jess gets out of the car and grabs Pretzel before helping Murphy out. They walk toward a white picket fence surrounding an AstroTurfed area where TRAINERS lead a group of cute guide-dog-puppies-in-training. Jess sees the head trainer **KIMMY** (30s, one of those annoying overly enthusiastic types) leaning up against the fence, attempting to flirt with **JAKE** (late 20s, hot, somewhat douche).

JESS
You're lucky you can't see how
annoying Kimmy is.

MURPHY
Let me guess... she's flirting with
that loser, Jake.

ANGLE ON: Kimmy and Jake.

JESS
If that's what you call it.

KIMMY
I'm so impressed. Acting is *really*
competitive --

MURPHY
What are you losers talking about?

Kimmy stiffens.

KIMMY
We are having a very serious and
private conversation, thank you.

(CONTINUED)

5

JAKE

I booked a beer commercial. I'm moving to Los Angeles.

JESS

Wow. You know who else got their start that way? Leo Dicaps.

JAKE

Is that true?

JESS

No.

Murphy swallows a laugh. Kimmy doesn't appreciate these two.

KIMMY

Jess, this dog has been dragging his tush all morning. I think it's hemorrhoids. But you're the expert.

JESS

She probably just needs her anal glands expressed.

MURPHY

Can you express Kimmy's too? She's had a stick up there since birth.

Kimmy gasps, offended.

6

INT. HANK AND JOY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

6

The owners of this company/Murphy's parents **HANK** (earnest, well-intentioned) and **JOY** (joyless) are preoccupied as a **DOG BREEDER** proudly shows them a puppy.

DOG BREEDER

Isn't she magnificent? And very advanced. Watch. Sit, girl.

(floppy puppy stares)

Sit, girl. She was doing it all morning. Sweetie, sit. Siiit. Si --

(then)

Hmm. She might have just been sitting by coincidence.

JOY

We believe you. The last puppies we got from you were great. How many did you say you had in this litter?

(CONTINUED)

DOG BREEDER

Eight more. So nine in total. I'll do thirteen hundred each.

HANK

Thank you. Let us get our ducks in a row and we will let you know.

The breeder smiles warmly and exits with the puppy.

JOY

Thirteen hundred?! That's over eleven thousand dollars.

HANK

I'll have Felix run the numbers and see what we can afford right now.

JOY

How can Jake leave us like this? An actor is a ridiculous career choice. And he's too tall for it.

HANK

I know he was a great receptionist, but I really think --

JOY

Murphy is not doing it.

HANK

Sweetheart, our daughter is very smart. She can handle it.

JOY

You know I wish that were true. But one of us has to live in reality. Jake was the face of this company.

HANK

Well, maybe Murphy should be the face of this company.

Just then Murphy walks by their office window, looking like shit, drinking an electrolyte drink and holding an unlit cigarette in her mouth. Joy gives him an exasperated look.

JOY

Look, we both thought opening this place would get Murphy's life back on track. But it hasn't worked. Nothing has. I'm not going to keep trying to fix Murphy when --

(CONTINUED)

6

HANK
She's unable to be fixed?

JOY
You know that's not what I meant.

HANK
What happened to her --

JOY
Was horrible. Every day I wish it
were me instead. But it's been two
years and she's getting worse.
Giving her a critical job --

HANK
It's answering phones.

JOY
I'm sorry, honey. No.

The tension is cut by a KNOCK on the door.

HANK
Yeah, come in.

FELIX (picture Dev Patel) enters.

HANK (CONT'D)
Just the man I wanted to see.
Felix, can you run the numbers and
let us know how many puppies we can
afford? Thirteen hundo a pop.

Felix already knows the answer: Not a lot.

FELIX
Sure thing, boss.
(then)
Is it true Jake is going to be in a
beer commercial?

Joy and Hank look at each other. This is a touchy subject.

7

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

7

Just like before Ten and Xavier are shooting the shit as
Tyson is in his own world, reading a book.

(CONTINUED)

7

TEN
Anyone wanna grub?

XAVIER
Fo sho. I'll text Darnell and tell
'em we'll be back in an hour.

TYSON
I'll stay here.

TEN
Awww... you're waiting on Stevie
Wonder to bring your cheese puffs.
Isn't that cute.

TYSON
Shut up.

8

INT. JESS AND MURPHY'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

8

Murphy lies on the couch, drinking vodka, drunk. Jess is in the adjacent kitchen with Vanessa. Jess is plating dinner.

VANESSA
Let's eat in your room. We can
watch something in bed.

JESS
Okay, hang on a sec. Murph, you
should eat something. Can I make
you a plate of chicken piccata? I
didn't put too many capers in it
this time.

MURPHY
Not right now. I'm gonna give you
guys privacy to talk about your
feelings and touch each other's
boobs. I'll go hang with Ty.

Murphy grabs her cigarettes from the coffee table and stumbles to her feet. She loses her balance for a second. Murphy heads for the front door. Pretzel follows. Murphy ignores him once again.

JESS
I should take Pretzel out.

VANESSA
Murphy can do it for once. It's her
dog. Come on, let's eat.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

JESS

Do you mind, Murph?

Pretzel looks up at her and pants. Off Murphy, horrified.

9 **INT. DRUGSTORE - A COUPLE MINUTES LATER**

9

Murphy routinely tries to cut the long line, but Pretzel guides her to the back of it. She fights him.

MURPHY

I said, right. Dude, right. Stop, dork. I know where I'm going.

ANGLE ON: Maria is amused as Murphy drunkenly struggles with Pretzel. Pretzel plants his paws at the back of the line. The MAN next to her smiles warmly at her and Pretzel.

MAN

How does he know where to go? Does he wear a GPS or something?

Murphy grits her a teeth.

10 **EXT. ALLEY - FEW MINUTES LATER**

10

Murphy, smoking, enters holding a bag of cheese puffs.

MURPHY

Tyson? Hello...

Murphy tries to enter the alley, but Pretzel won't budge. Murphy is getting more annoyed.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Dude, forward. Go.

But Pretzel won't go. Finally, Murphy starts walking without his help and trips over SOMETHING LARGE AND FALLS.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Oww. What the hell was that?

Murphy, still lying on the ground, feels to see... WE ARE CLOSE ON HER -- WE NEVER SEE WHAT SHE FEELS. But we see her heart stop as she removes the blanket. As she feels around...

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Tyson...
(then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MURPHY (CONT'D)

No, no... Help! Somebody HELP!!!

Heeeeeeeeeeeelp!!!

But no one can hear her in the darkened alley. Murphy pulls out her cell phone but the battery is dead. Off Murphy, screaming to no one and everyone --

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

11

INT. JESS AND MURPHY'S APARTMENT - LATER

11

A distraught/drunk Murphy is getting interview by a few cops.
DEAN (30s, salt of the earth), **JUAN**, and **JUAN'S PARTNER**.

JUAN

You're sure it was him?

MURPHY

Yes. I felt his face. Did they identify him yet?

DEAN

Our guys are checking it out now.

MURPHY

Is it going to take them over an hour to get here too?

JUAN

We've had a busy night.

Murphy is not understanding. She takes a gulp of vodka.

DEAN

Hey, it's going to be all right.
We're doing everything we can.

JUAN

(all business)
And what was Tyson's last name?

MURPHY

Umm... Parker. Tyson Parker.

DEAN

Do you know where he lived? How old he was? Anything else?

MURPHY

He was 17 and lived in Fuller Park.

JUAN

Tough neighborhood. You know what he did for work?

MURPHY

He was a Quantum Physicist. What do you think he did for work?

(CONTINUED)

Juan doesn't appreciate Murphy's sarcasm.

JUAN

You guys are an unlikely pair. How did you become friends?

This is a touchy subject for Murphy. Jess knows this.

JESS

They would talk while she smoked.

DEAN

Anything else you can remember?

Murphy thinks, really thinks...

MURPHY

He didn't smell like himself. Whoever killed him was wearing a distinctive cologne.

JUAN

Right. Because your other senses are heightened.

MURPHY

That's not a thing. I'm not Daredevil. I just smelled it.

Juan's radio on his shoulder grumbles to life. There's some police jargon Murphy doesn't understand before --

MURPHY (CONT'D)

What are they saying?

JUAN

Give me one sec.

Juan and his partner step out of the apartment. Murphy is losing her shit. She takes another giant gulp from her drink.

DEAN

The reason I asked to cover this case is because my daughter is blind as well. She lost her vision in a car accident a couple years ago. She gets that heightened senses question too. And random people tell her she's their hero. It really pisses her off and --

MURPHY

I have to puke.

DEAN

Okay then. Good talk.

Murphy stumbles to the bathroom and shuts the door. Jess watches her, worried. Dean gives Pretzel a little pat.

DEAN (CONT'D)

Is this her guide dog?

JESS

(distracted)

Yeah, that's Pretzel.

DEAN

I'm thinking about getting one for my daughter. Giving her a pal.

(noticing)

Your friend is going to be okay.

JESS

You don't understand. Something happening to Tyson is the worst thing that could happen to her.

DEAN

They were really that close?

Jess looks back at the bathroom, making sure Murphy can't hear. She takes a seat next to Dean and talks quietly.

JESS

A couple years ago she got mugged. What kind of sociopath mugs a blind woman? Murphy, is... well, Murphy and she wouldn't just give the guy her purse. She put up a fight but she got beaten up pretty badly. It was brutal. She probably would have died if Tyson didn't see it and stop the guy. A 15-year-old kid saved her life. That's how they really met.

DEAN

That's awful.

JESS

She refuses to talk about it. Murphy isn't great about dealing with her feelings.

Juan and his partner reenter the apartment.

11

JUAN
There was no body.

DEAN
Did they check the alley?

JUAN
Yep. And the surrounding streets.
No trace. Not even a drop of blood.
(to Dean)
Let's go.

JESS
Wait -- that's it?

JUAN
Did you hear what I said? There was
nothing there. Your friend is
wasted. She probably blacked out
and imagined the whole thing.

Jess feels bad. Dean can see this.

DEAN
Take care of your roommate, okay?

Jess nods. Dean gives Pretzel one last pat before they leave.

Jess taps on the bathroom door before entering.

12

INT. JESS AND MURPHY'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

12

She sees her friend, a drunk mess, on the ground.

MURPHY
(unintelligible)
Did they identify him?

JESS
Not yet. Are you sure what you felt
was a body?

Murphy can't even respond. After a beat, Jess enters and lies
down and curls up next to Murphy.

13

OMITTED

13

13A

INT. POLICE STATION - NEXT MORNING

13A

Murphy sits in the waiting area. She's hungover and been here for much longer than she would like. Finally, Dean enters.

DEAN

How are you feeling?

MURPHY

Did you get any information on Tyson's case?

DEAN

Like I told you on the phone, there is no case. There's nothing we can do. He'll turn up. I'm sure of it.

MURPHY

Oh, you're sure of it? Great. Thanks. I feel so much better. This is why everyone hates you guys.

Murphy gets up and walks out. Dean watches her go and shakes his head in his disbelief.

14

EXT. CHICAGO GUIDING HOPE - LATER

14

BRADLEY, a handsome banker in his 30s, walks with his polished wife **GAYLE**. They see something and stop.

GAYLE

There's someone... I think.

REVEAL Murphy, now asleep on the bench, her hoodie covering her face. A half-eaten candy bar rests on her stomach.

GAYLE (CONT'D)

Hello?

Murphy struggles to wake up.

BRADLEY

Sorry to disturb you. We couldn't find anyone in the building.

MURPHY

They're at a farewell lunch for one of our coworkers.

GAYLE

Oh! So you do work here?

(CONTINUED)

Murphy nods. Gayle notices her walking stick. She softens, feeling bad for her.

GAYLE (CONT'D)

I'm Gayle and this is my husband,
Bradley.

MURPHY

Murphy.

Murphy is clearly distraught as she feels her stomach and realizes she has candy bar left and stuffs it in her mouth.

GAYLE

You okay?

MURPHY

Yeah. I had a rough night.
(saving face)
You'd think blacking out would be a
little easier when you're blind.

Bradley laughs, surprised by her joke.

BRADLEY

(to Gayle)

I wish your mother had a little of
that attitude about vision loss.

GAYLE

(to Murphy)

Mummy went blind ten years ago and
we couldn't even talk about it.

MURPHY

Your mummy sounds like the worst.

GAYLE

(offended)

She just passed away. And she was
absolutely wonderful.

MURPHY

Okay.

Gayle looks at Bradley: 'Can you believe this woman?!'
Bradley shakes his head, pretending to be as upset as she is,
but he's clearly entertained by Murphy.

GAYLE

I'm sure you're wondering what we
are doing here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GAYLE (CONT'D)

(Murphy was not, she's
lost in her own world)

Anyway, we got her guide dog at
this facility and we're so grateful
for the companionship he gave mumm -
- my *mother* in her final years. We
wanted to donate ten thousand
dollars as a thank you. Can you
tell me where the owners are so I
can give them this check?

MURPHY

That would be my parents. I can
give it to them if you want.

GAYLE

Sure.

She places the check in Murphy's hand.

14

GAYLE (CONT'D)

Darling, we should go. I still have
to pack and run errands before I
leave for the airport tonight.

BRADLEY

All right. Let me just use the loo
real quick.

(to Murphy)

Where is it?

MURPHY

It's inside. I'll show you.

(re: check)

I need some water anyway.

We FOLLOW Bradley and Murphy as they walk toward the
building.

14A

INT. GUIDING HOPE - FRONT ENTRANCE - MOMENTS LATER

14A

Bradley opens the door for Murphy as they walk into the front
entrance. Bradley checks Murphy out as she walks in front of
him.

BRADLEY

Rough night, huh? Hair of the dog
always does the trick for me.

MURPHY

Little early, even for me.

BRADLEY

When you get off work. Trust me on
this. There's a great bar called --

MURPHY

Thanks but I only go to the
Linsmore. Bathroom is on your left.

With that, Murphy walks off toward Hank and Joy's office.
Dean stares at her perfect ass for a beat before entering the
bathroom.

15

INT. CHICAGO GUIDING HOPE CONFERENCE ROOM - SAME TIME

15

It's a typical 'goodbye' lunch: A couple lukewarm pizzas,
wilted salad, and a bottle of cheap wine left over from the
last time this happened, some supermarket cupcakes. But it's
a break from work so everyone is happy to be there.

(CONTINUED)

ANGLE ON: Felix, eating his pizza with a knife and fork, sitting at the table quietly talking with Hank and Joy.

FELIX

You can purchase three puppies if we cut back on office supplies.

JOY

We've already cut back as much as we can. Anywhere else where we can pinch a few additional pennies?

FELIX

(sighs, then)

You pay Murphy to work here and... she doesn't do anything besides eat candy bars and take naps.

HANK

Out of the question.

Just then Murphy enters. Hank jumps to his feet as Joy notices she looks worse than usual.

FELIX

The wine is already gone.

Murphy grits her teeth. They hate each other equally.

MURPHY

Who is that? It sounds like a prepubescent girl.

Felix smirks, he's used to this. Murphy turns to her parents.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Got a sec?

INT. HANK AND JOY'S OFFICE - A FEW MINUTES LATER

Murphy sits across from Hank and Joy as they stare at the check in shock. Hank picks it up and examines it.

HANK

They just handed you a check for ten thousand dollars?

MURPHY

Yep.

HANK

Good job, honey. I'm proud of you.

(CONTINUED)

JOY

Yes, congratulations on waking up
from your nap.

Murphy looks down, despondent.

JOY (CONT'D)

Where's your snarky response?

MURPHY

I'm not feeling great. I think I
need to go home.

Joy and Hank share a worried look.

HANK

Sweetheart, are you okay?

MURPHY

I'm fine.
(fighting tears)
I really just need to not be here
right now.

JOY

What is going on? Did something
happen --

MURPHY

Nothing happened. God. I just -- I
need to go home.

HANK

Okay... of course. I'll drive you.

MURPHY

I want to be alone. Please just
don't ask me any more questions.
Please. Please...
(weak)
Please.

They don't. Murphy walks out. Hank and Joy exchange a worried
look as Murphy disappears out the door.

INT. LINSMORE TAVERN - LATER

Murphy is hammered, sitting at the bar, despondent. A hand
TAPS her on the shoulder. She doesn't react.

BRADLEY

Guess who?

MURPHY

This game is only fun for sighted people.

We reveal it's Bradley, who isn't exactly sober himself.

BRADLEY

It's Bradley. I met you earlier.
(Murphy doesn't respond)
Crazy running into you here.

MURPHY

Uh-huh. I could feel your eyes burning a hole in my ass earlier, much like they are now, *annnnnnnd* I told you this is the only bar I go to. Yeah, it's a real coinkydink.

BRADLEY

(busted)
Sorry... you're right. I haven't been able to get you off my mind.

Murphy is used to this. And she's not in the mood.

MURPHY

I get it. Your wife is out of town and you're bored and horny. You got to thinking, I've never boned a blind chick before. Porn has made all dudes a little kinkier.

Murphy goes back to her drink. This is the first time he notices how distraught Murphy is. He takes a seat.

BRADLEY

Hey, are you okay?

MURPHY

No.

BRADLEY

You want to talk about it?

MURPHY

No.

BRADLEY

Is there anything I can do?

Murphy closes her eyes. She desperately needs an escape. She "looks" back at him: 'Yeah. There's something you can do.'

18

INT. BRADLEY'S PENTHOUSE APARTMENT - LATER

18

A beautiful place overlooking the city. Bradley and Murphy burst through the door, making out. Murphy tosses her stick as they rip off each other's clothes. They're about to have sex when the light in his bedroom turns on --

GAYLE
(groggy)
Sweetheart?

Bradley panics as he starts putting his clothes back on --

BRADLEY
Hi! One sec!
(to Murphy)
You need to hide.

We STAY ON Murphy as she desperately tries to feel around this unfamiliar space, trying to hide. She hears Bradley rushing down the hallway, but it's too late.

BRADLEY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Honey, what are you doing home?

Murphy slowly crawls to the coffee table and feels it.

GAYLE (O.S.)
My flight got cancelled. I wanted
to surprise you.
(looking around)
Is there someone here?

Gayle turns the lights on and sees a half-naked Murphy lamely hiding under the glass coffee table. Gayle is furios.

GAYLE (CONT'D)
What the hell is going on?!

MURPHY
(feeling the table)
This is glass, isn't it?

Murphy crawls out from the table as --

GAYLE
How could you bring this blind
whore into our home --

MURPHY
Whoa.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GAYLE

GET OUT!!!

Gayle grabs her clothes and pushes her out of the apartment!

INT. BRADLEY'S PENTHOUSE HALLWAY - NEXT MOMENT

Murphy stands outside the door, half-naked, realizing...

MURPHY

(motherfucker)

My cane...

She's about to knock when she hears screaming, crying, and lots of glass breaking. Maybe now is not the best time.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

20

EXT. STREETS OF CHICAGO - LATER

20

Murphy, without her stick, just looks like a regular person. Well, not that regular... she's frozen in fear, holding on to a hot dog cart. The **HOT DOG VENDOR** is staring at her.

HOT DOG VENDOR

Lady, order a dog or move it along.

This is the first time that we've seen Murphy scared.

MURPHY

Hang on. I'm trying to make a call.

(into the phone)

Call Jess.

(nothing)

Call Jess. Call Jess! Omigod.

The vendor notices her phone is dead. He rolls his eyes.

HOT DOG VENDOR

Yo, your phone's dead. Now come on,

I got a business to run.

She lets go of the cart and takes a few slow steps. Annoyed pedestrians bark at her to "move..." etc. The vendor watches her, confused. Murphy takes a step and CRASHES into a WOMAN.

WOMAN

Watch it!

Murphy is fucked. She turns back to the hot dog vendor.

MURPHY

If I buy one of your disgusting hot dogs can I use your phone?

(losing her tough facade)

Please.

HOT DOG VENDOR

(rolling his eyes)

Fiiiiine.

She slowly makes her way back over. He holds the phone out for her -- but when she doesn't notice, he realizes for the first time she's blind. He feels bad for her.

(CONTINUED)

HOT DOG VENDOR (CONT'D)
Yo, I'll dial it. Who do you want
me to call?

MURPHY
(realizing)
I don't have anyone's number
memorized.

HOT DOG VENDOR
No one?

MURPHY
Do I look like I have my life
together, sir?
(then)
Okay... let me think. Can you
google Chicago Guiding Hope? Maybe
my parents are still there.

INT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT - CONTINUOUS

Felix sits across from his date. They are eating chips and
salsa, seriously vibing. Felix reaches for a chip.

TINDER DATE
I'm so glad you like chips.

He cracks up, what kind of statement is that.

FELIX
Who doesn't like chips?

TINDER DATE
I once dated a dude that didn't
like them. He hated anything noisy.

FELIX
This guy sounds like a sociopath.

That cracks her up.

TINDER DATE
He was.
(then)
I have to say, this is a first.

FELIX
What?

TINDER DATE

A guy asking me out to dinner that I met on Tinder.

FELIX

Do most guys ask you out to lunch?

TINDER DATE

(laughs, then)

Uhh... no. There is never any food involved. It's like two AM and I get a text that says, "you up?"

FELIX

I hear ya. It's bleak out there. I'm not a big dater.

TINDER DATE

Well, I'm glad you came out tonight.

FELIX

Me too.

Felix wants to kiss her. She wants to kiss him. The sexual tension is cut by his cell phone vibrating.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Sorry... It's work. Do you mind?

TINDER DATE

No, of course. Of course.

FELIX

(answering)

This is Felix.

(listening)

Because I have the office calls forwarded to me after hours...

How does that make me a loser?

(losing his patience)

What do you want, Murphy?

Murphy sits in the backseat, zoning out, distraught, eating her hot dog. Felix drives her home as his date talks LOUDLY and SLOWLY to Murphy. Murphy is over her. Over everything.

TINDER DATE

Wait -- but you can still see a little, right?

CONTINUED:

Murphy doesn't respond. Felix shakes his head: 'She can not.'

TINDER DATE (CONT'D)

You guys are messing with me!
You're not really blind, are you?

FELIX

She is.

TINDER DATE

(realizing)

Oh my God... I'm sorry. Felix is just really funny so I thought he was... sorry. Why don't you look blind?

MURPHY

The same reason you probably don't look stupid.

His date gasps. Felix quickly jumps in.

FELIX

She doesn't look stupid, Murphy! She's actually... like really attractive.

MURPHY

Why would an attractive person be on a date with you?

FELIX

I go on lots of dates with attractive women.

TINDER DATE

(over)

Oh great.

FELIX

No... not like recently. I'm just trying to make the point that I have a lot to offer actually.

MURPHY

Yes, every girl is desperate for loser guy who shares a one bedroom apartment with his cousin and cat.

FELIX

The cat isn't mine.

TINDER DATE

Okay! This has been great. Can you just drop me off here?

FELIX

I thought we were going to have some beers at your place.

TINDER DATE

Yeah... just please pull over.

(CONTINUED)

Felix pulls over, deflated. His date starts to get out of the car as --

TINDER DATE (CONT'D)
Thanks for dinner. I'll text you later.

FELIX
Don't forget your leftovers.

TINDER DATE
You can keep them.

MURPHY
Or he can give them to his cat.

FELIX
It's not my cat!

But his date is already gone. Felix turns to Murphy, annoyed.

FELIX (CONT'D)
Thanks a lot, Murph. I really liked her.

22

MURPHY

A little tip for the future? Take
it or leave it. Don't be so lame.

FELIX

Awesome. Thank you.

Felix stares straight ahead as she gets out of the car.

23

INT. JESS AND MURPHY'S APARTMENT - SAME TIME

23

Pretzel is waiting by the door. Jess is watching Planet Earth
with Vanessa. She keeps checking her phone, worried.

VANESSA

Put your phone down, babe. Murphy
will turn up. She always does.

JESS

Sorry, okay? My best friend is in
the middle of a crisis.

VANESSA

She doesn't want your help. She
doesn't want anyone's help. You
have to just let her do her thing.

JESS

You sound like Murphy.

Finally, Murphy enters. Jess rushes over to her.

VANESSA

Speak of the devil.

Pretzel jumps on Murphy, excited.

MURPHY

Dude, get off.

VANESSA

Hey, nice of you to return one of
Jess's million text messages.

MURPHY

My phone died.

Jess can see Murphy is distraught and shutdown.

JESS
Where were you?

MURPHY
Nowhere.

JESS
Murph, come on. You can talk to me.

MURPHY
Yeah, well, the only person I want
to talk to is dead.

JESS
I'm sorry I told your parents,
okay? I thought they should know.

MURPHY
I really need a cigarette. Do you
know where my old cane is?

JESS
What happened to yours?

MURPHY
I lost it.

JESS
You lost it?

MURPHY
(short)
Yes, I lost it, okay? Because I'm a
disaster. Just give me my cane.

Jess, upset, walks to the closet and grabs Murphy's old walking stick and hands it to her. Murphy walks out, again shutting the door in Pretzel's face. Vanessa looks at Jess.

JESS
Don't say anything.

She makes a surrender gesture: 'I wasn't going to.'

Murphy enters with her stick. But this one has a broken plastic pad on the end that makes a screeching noise every time she taps it, annoying her. She lights a cigarette and sits where she used to with Tyson, solemnly.

ANGLE ON: Ten and Xavier are sitting with **DARNELL**. He spots Murphy and his eyes narrow. He approaches her.

DARNELL

Well... look what we have here.

But since Murphy can't see his intimidation doesn't work. She stays sitting and continues to smoke.

MURPHY

Who are you?

DARNELL

Darnell. I don't believe we've met.

Murphy stands up, eager to talk to him.

MURPHY

Wait -- you're Tyson's cousin. The drug guy! His boss --

DARNELL

Yo, let's not yell it from the rooftops.

MURPHY

Thank God! Look, I need to talk to you about Tyson.

DARNELL

What about him?

Murphy doesn't really know how to say this...

MURPHY

He's dead. I found his body here last night.

DARNELL

(laughs)
Yeah, okay.

MURPHY

I'm serious--

DARNELL

Tyson texted me this morning. He met a girl and went to Madison for a couple days with her.

MURPHY

What?

Murphy is reeling. Darnell takes another step toward her.

DARNELL

Is that why the cops were sniffing
around here last night?

MURPHY

Well... yeah. I called them after --

Darnell GRABS her wrist. Murphy freezes, panicking. Her heart pounds out of her chest.

DARNELL

You talk about my family to the
cops again and we're gonna have a
problem. You don't want that.

She YANKS her hand away.

MURPHY

Don't ever touch me again.

Murphy stands her ground. And even Darnell has to respect her for that. He SPITS on the ground before he disappears into the alley. Off Murphy, catching her breath.

Hank and Joy, along with the rest of the trainers, are gathered in the AstroTurfed area meeting the new litter of puppies. Kimmy picks up a puppy and cuddles it.

KIMMY

I am going to call this one Liam
Neeson. Because he's taken!

JOY

Unless you have thirteen hundred
dollars he is not.

Joy, the fun sponge, takes the puppy back.

Murphy sits at a table, eating a candy bar, talking into her cell phone.

MURPHY

Text Tyson: "I've called you a
thousand times. Call me. I'm really
worried about you." Send.

She sets her phone down and waits. Felix enters.

FELIX

Where are your parents?

MURPHY

Introducing the new puppies to the trainers.

FELIX

Tell me they didn't already buy the dogs.

MURPHY

This morning. Why?

FELIX

Because the donation check you got yesterday had a stop payment ordered on it. I'm trying to figure out what's going on.

Murphy hangs her head. She knows EXACTLY what's going on.

INT. HANK AND JOY'S OFFICE - LATER

Murphy sits across from Hank and Joy, having just told them what happened. Joy quietly seethes. Hank remains calm.

HANK

Okay... no big deal -- we'll see if we can return the dogs.

JOY

We can't return them, Hank. They're not a pair of pants.

HANK

What if we explain the situation?

JOY

Great idea! Sorry. A nice married couple donated ten thousand dollars to us but our daughter had SEX WITH THE GUY AND HIS WIFE WALKED IN.

MURPHY

We didn't have sex, okay?

JOY

Well, there's a first!

HANK

Everyone just calm down.

Joy can't even look at Murphy. Hank sits next to Murphy.

HANK (CONT'D)

Most importantly, are you okay? Did this Bradley force himself on you?

MURPHY

Quite the opposite.

JOY

(defeated)

How does it feel not to care about anyone but yourself?

MURPHY

I don't care about myself... like at all. Isn't that obvious?

Joy looks at her daughter, heartbroken.

HANK

We both have no idea what life must be like for you.

MURPHY

Dad, stop. My issues have nothing to do with me being blind. I'd be a mess even if I could see perfectly.

Murphy walks out, with her dumb stick that screeches. Joy looks at Hank, her eyes filling with tears.

INT. MURPHY'S ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

Murphy is upset, lying in bed. A TEXT ALERT comes in. She feels on her night stand for her phone and grabs it.

MURPHY

(into her phone)

Read text.

IPHONE VOICE

One new text. From Tyson. I can't talk right now. What's up?

She's holding her phone, stunned.

29

EXT. ALLEY - A LITTLE LATER

29

Ten and Xavier spot a frantic Murphy entering the alley.

MURPHY

Hello? Is anyone here?

XAVIER

Your boy isn't back yet --

MURPHY

Tyson isn't in Madison. Something happened to him. Where do I find Darnell?

On Ten and Xavier, staring at her like she's insane.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

29A

INT. MURPHY'S ROOM - NEXT MORNING

29A

Jess sits on the bed as Murphy gets dressed.

JESS

Wait... who is Darnell?

MURPHY

I told you, Tyson's cousin.

JESS

Ohhh... the same cousin Tyson sold drugs for. This is greeeeeeeat.

MURPHY

We're just meeting for lunch.

JESS

In Fuller Park! That is the most dangerous neighborhood in Chicago.

MURPHY

Jess, I need to tell him what I know about Tyson.

Jess knows there is no stopping her. She hangs her head, resigned. Then --

JESS

Let me at least drive you.

MURPHY

Oh my God... I already have a mom.

JESS

I'm not trying to be your mom, I am trying to be your friend.

MURPHY

I know and I love you for that. But he told me to come alone.

Jess nods, absorbing this.

JESS

(sarcastic)

That makes me feel a lot better.

(CONTINUED)

29A

MURPHY

I'll be fine. I have my cell phone.

Murphy walks over and grabs her walking stick and it breaks.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

You got to be kidding me!

JESS

It's a sign you should stay home.

Murphy feels Pretzel staring at her. She sighs.

MURPHY

Come on, dog, let's go.

30

INT. DINER - DAY

30

This place is frozen in time. Murphy sits across from Darnell. He watches as Pretzel lays his head on her foot. Darnell watches as she moves her foot away from the dog and shoos him away.

DARNELL
You like pancakes?

MURPHY
Sure.

Darnell waves the tired **WAITRESS** over, who is sitting at the counter. She slowly puts down her coffee and walks over.

WAITRESS
Yeah, go ahead.

DARNELL
Two pancake breakfasts and two coffees --

MURPHY
Water. I don't drink coffee. And I'll actually have eggs over easy and a side of crispy bacon. Thanks.

The waitress nods and walks away. Darnell looks at her.

DARNELL
You said you wanted pancakes.

MURPHY
You asked me if I liked pancakes. And I hate when dudes order for me. Whoever started that horrible trend should be shot in the face.

He shakes his head. This chick is unreal.

DARNELL
So, what do you want?

MURPHY
Somebody pretended to be Tyson and used his phone to text me.

DARNELL
You still on this?

(CONTINUED)

MURPHY

He knows how much I hate texting.
He would never not call me.

DARNELL

He's with a girl. He doesn't want
to talk to another girl.

MURPHY

If you don't believe me, text him
something that only he would know --

DARNELL

Ty is fine.

MURPHY

I'm telling you, he's not.

DARNELL

And I'm telling you, he is.

MURPHY

I can't believe you don't even care
about your own cousin.

Darnell stiffens, pissed.

DARNELL

What did you just say to me?

MURPHY

I said you don't care about Tyson.
If you did you wouldn't have let
him sell drugs for you when he was
FIFTEEN YEARS OLD. He was so much
smarter and more capable than that.
And now he's dead. And you don't
believe me. No one seems to believe
me --

DARNELL

Because you're a drunk mess.

Murphy is taken aback. Darnell leans forward, getting real.

DARNELL (CONT'D)

Look, my boys told me about you
stumbling drunk into the alley
wasted every night. So who am I
going to believe? Two kids who'd
take a bullet for me or some
sloppy, blind white girl. You're
not even nice to your own dog.

(CONTINUED)

In The Dark - "Pilot" - PINK (03/12/18) 43.
30 CONTINUED: (2) 30

Murphy's face falls, for the first time she has to deal with the reality of who she is.

31 **OMITTED** 31

32 **INT. LINSMORE TAVERN - LATER THAT NIGHT** 32

Pretzel lies on the floor of this dive bar. Murphy sits, numbly drinking vodka. After a moment, Bradley enters, looking a lot less pulled-together than when we saw him before. Spotting Murphy, he walks over.

BRADLEY

Hey... I thought you might be here.

MURPHY

Yep. Here I am.

Bradley takes a seat at the bar.

BRADLEY

Sorry about the other night.

MURPHY

It's not even the worst thing that happened to me this week.

BRADLEY

You probably feel like I'm pretty messed up, huh?

Murphy stirs her drink.

MURPHY

I'm pretty messed up too. In the last 24 hours I've come to the realization that I'm human garbage.

BRADLEY

I've come to the same realization about myself.

They sit in silence for a couple beats.

BRADLEY (CONT'D)

I already miss my wife so much. Isn't that ridiculous?

MURPHY

Not really.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Murphy gets in her head. A few beats of silence before...

MURPHY (CONT'D)

What do you miss the most?

Bradley thinks, getting sad all over again.

INT. LINSMORE TAVERN BATHROOM STALL - LATER

Bradley and Murphy are now having sex in the dingy bathroom stall. Neither one is all that into it. Over this we hear --

BRADLEY (V.O.)

There are so many things. But...
I loved talking to her. It's such a
basic thing, but I don't know...

We stay CLOSE ON Murphy. She "stares" at the floor numbly as Bradley has his way with her.

BRADLEY (V.O.)

Have you ever had anyone you can
talk to? Like, really talk to? For
hours and hours? The sound of their
voice was... instant comfort.

MURPHY (V.O.)

(after a long, sad beat)
Yeah.

BRADLEY (V.O.)

That's what I'll miss the most.

Bradley climaxes. He pulls his pants back on, gives her a perfunctory kiss on the top of her head, and walks out.

Murphy sits on the toilet and unexpectedly cries. It's the first time she's done so in years. And she can't stop. She tries to pull herself together but can't.

INT. HANK AND JOY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

It's a modest house. There's a KNOCK on the door. Hank enters and answers it. He's stunned to see Murphy and Pretzel. Eyes red from crying. He immediately helps her inside.

INT. HANK AND JOY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Murphy, sipping tea, sits on the couch with Hank.

MURPHY

How much time do we have until Mom gets back?

HANK

An hour or so.

MURPHY

I can't believe she still goes to her support group for parents with disabled kids. She joined that thing when I was like ten.

HANK

That was when you guys stopped getting along. It's given her a lot of comfort over the years.

Murphy tugs on her hoodie, troubled.

MURPHY

I'm sorry... I know I'm not what you guys wanted.

HANK

Hey, you are exactly what we wanted.

MURPHY

Oh yeah, I was every adoptive parents' dream. That's why I sat in foster care for two years.

HANK

You sat in foster care because you were waiting for us.

Murphy tugs on her hoodie again. He turns to her, very serious. More serious than we've seen him.

HANK (CONT'D)

Do you know how many stars have to align to bring two people together? Think about how many billions of people are on this planet and how few of them we know. And every moment that brought you to that seemingly random person. When I think about all the paths that led me to you... it's nothing short of miraculous. I might not have been there when you were born, but you were my daughter all along, Murphy.

(CONTINUED)

Murphy wants to cry, but doesn't. For the first time, we can see the sweet little girl she once was.

MURPHY

I love you, Dad.

Now Hank looks like he might cry. Murphy is oblivious.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

I don't say that a lot, do I?

HANK

Come on. Three times in 27 years is more than enough.

Hank laughs as he pulls her in for a hug. This feels better than Murphy expected. Before she knows it, she cuddles up next to him, resting her head on his shoulder. He strokes her hair, sweetly. After a few content beats --

HANK (CONT'D)

I just wish you could see how beautiful you are, kiddo.

INT. HANK AND JOY'S HOUSE - LATER

Joy opens the door and is shocked to find Murphy sleeping on Hank's lap. Hank smiles, giddy.

HANK

(whispering)

I've had to pee for two hours.

Joy smiles tightly and tosses her keys on the table, waking Murphy up. Hank gives her a look: 'Honey, really?'

MURPHY

What time is it?

JOY

Late. Ten. You can stay here. I'll pull out the couch in the office --

MURPHY

No, it's fine. I'll go.
(grabbing her phone from
her hoodie pocket)
Let me call an Uber --

JOY

I didn't realize you were Bill Gates. I'll take you home.

CONTINUED:

Murphy begrudgingly gets up, Pretzel leading the way.

I/E. CHICAGO HOPE VAN (MOVING) - LATER

Pretzel is in the backseat. Joy and Murphy drive in silence, both too proud to talk first. Murphy unzips her hoodie, hot.

MURPHY

Why is your car always a sauna?
Please turn the air on.

JOY

The temperature is just fine.

MURPHY

It's like you enjoy making everyone
around you uncomfortable.

JOY

No dear, that's you.

Murphy rolls down the window. Joy rolls it up. Pretzel watches the window battle until Joy locks the child lock.

MURPHY

Oh my God, I'm sweating profusely!

JOY

This is my van. I'm very happy.

MURPHY

Yeah, you're a beacon of joy, Joy.

Joy stares straight ahead. After several tense beats Murphy reaches into her hoodie and hands Joy a check.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

I forgot to give this to Dad.

JOY

What is this?

MURPHY

It's a check for ten thousand
dollars. I messed up. I'm sorry.
And I'm never sorry about anything.

Joy is taken aback.

JOY

Am I supposed to go to the magic
bank and cash this?

MURPHY

I post-dated it for 2020. I'm going
to work for you and Dad until you
can cash that check.

Joy is pleased, but won't show it. They arrive at Murphy's
apartment. Joy finally gives in.

JOY

We need someone to fill Jake's
position and thanks to you we can't
afford anyone else. You're hired.

MURPHY

Okay.

Murphy gets out of the car. Joy smiles faintly. That was the
nicest moment they've had in a while.

Joy watches Murphy as she walks to her apartment with
Pretzel. As they approach the front door, Pretzel stops. Joy
sees Murphy give Pretzel a very small pat on the head.

JOY

(in shock)

What in the hell is happening?

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

38

INT. MURPHY'S ROOM - NEXT MORNING

38

Jess enters to wake Murphy up, but to her surprise Murphy is already awake. She's been awake all night. She's on her computer using software for the visually impaired.

JESS

Hey...

MURPHY

I'll be ready for work in a sec.

MURPHY'S COMPUTER

(robotic voice)

Here are the results for tracing a cell: White blood cells... also called leukocyte or corpuscle--

MURPHY

I hate this thing.
(to her computer)
A cell phone, you idiot.

JESS

What are you doing?

MURPHY

I'm trying to figure out how to track a cell phone.

JESS

You should let the cops do this.

MURPHY

The cops are utterly useless... so.

JESS

So... you're next in line? You can't solve a murder case. You got bored during 'Gone Girl'!

MURPHY

Really, Jess? I'm being serious.

JESS

I know... I'm sorry. I make jokes when I'm stressed.

Murphy ignores her, keeps typing on her computer.

(CONTINUED)

MURPHY

I just wish someone else saw what I
couldn't.

Pretzel lifts his head and rests it on her foot. It's then
that Murphy realizes...

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Oh my God... this stupid dog was
there. He saw me find the body.
He's going to help!

JESS

Of course he is. A blind girl and
her guide dog. This is, like, the
worst crime solving team... EVER.

Murphy gives her pal a sarcastic smile.

INT. MURPHY'S OFFICE - LATER

Murphy is in her new office, behind her desk, engrossed on
her visually impaired computer. Felix enters with Dean and
Chloe. Felix leans toward Chloe.

FELIX

There's a chair over there.
(Chloe forces a smile)
There's a cop here to see you.
Because of course there is.

MURPHY

Really?

FELIX

And congratulations on the
promotion. It's nice to see there
is zero nepotism at this company.

DEAN

Murphy? It's me, Dean. We met a
couple days ago.

MURPHY

I remember. Is this about Tyson?

DEAN

What? No. I'm actually here with my
daughter, Chloe. We were thinking
about getting her a guide dog.

MURPHY

My parents can help you. They are
in the office next door.

DEAN

(noticing)
You look like you're doing better.

MURPHY

I am.

DEAN

(to Chloe)
I'll be right back. Why don't you
sit with Murphy. Perhaps you guys
have a couple things in common.

Chloe sits next to Murphy.

CHLOE

That guy just said there's a chair
over there as if I have any idea
where "over there" is.

MURPHY

(laughs, relating)
Felix is such an idiot. People do
that all the time.
(making fun of people)
Here is your water. Here is your
food. The bathroom is over there.

This cracks Chloe up.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

I also hate when people yell
because they think because I'm
blind I'm also deaf too.

CHLOE

That happens to me all the time.
And people always talk really
slowly like I'm a baby.

MURPHY

Here's a tip from someone who is
older and wiser than you. Everyone
on this planet sucks.

Chloe laughs.

40

EXT. CHICAGO GUIDING HOPE - LATER

40

In the AstroTurfed area Chloe plays with a litter of puppies.
Murphy stands with Dean off to the side.

(CONTINUED)

DEAN

Thanks for talking to her.

MURPHY

She's a sweet kid.

DEAN

She's really tough but I know this thing has taken its toll on her.

MURPHY

When my parents adopted me, I'd already been diagnosed. They knew it was just a matter of time before I lost my sight, and they always treated me with kid gloves. They could barely get mad at me. Even now. You want my advice? Treat her like you did before the accident.

DEAN

Thanks... that's, uh... maybe the best advice anyone has given me.

MURPHY

(changing the subject)

Look, I know I was not in great form when you came over the other night... and I sorta yelled at you at the station... but I'm telling you, there is some shady stuff going on. I need your help.

Murphy flashes him her best smile. He can't resist her.

INT. JESS AND MURPHY'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Murphy is sitting on the couch, holding her phone, anxious. Jess opens a bottle of wine. She grabs a large coffee mug.

JESS

Murph, you want a giant mug of wine I'm assuming?

MURPHY

I already have one.

Just then Murphy's phone RINGS. She immediately answers it.
INTERCUT AS NEEDED --

42

INT. POLICE STATION - DEAN'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

42

Dean sits behind his police computer.

DEAN

Okay... Tyson's cell phone was never in Madison. It's been in the same place now for 12 hours.

MURPHY

Where?
(listening)
Okay, got it. Thanks.

Murphy hangs up the phone. She turns to Jess.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

I know where Tyson's phone is!

JESS

Wait -- hold. What?

MURPHY

I have to go get it.

Murphy starts to put the harness on Pretzel.

JESS

What if it leads you right to the person who killed him?!

MURPHY

What? Should I bring some mace?

JESS

Let me come with you.

MURPHY

Okay.

Jess nearly dies from shock.

43

EXT. EMPTY LOT - LATER

43

A very scared Jess is with Murphy and Pretzel. Jess looks around the empty lot, nervous. There is no one around.

JESS

Are we going to find a dead body?
I'm not mentally prepared for that.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JESS (CONT'D)

I know that technically I'm a
doctor and I should be, but let's
be honest, I'm a vet--

MURPHY

Jess, stop talking.

JESS

Sorry.

(long beat)

I'm just really losing it here.

A train screams overhead and Jess freaks out. Murphy rolls
her eyes and grabs her cell phone from her hoodie pocket.

MURPHY

(into the phone)

Call Tyson.

It takes her a second, but they locate the vibrating phone in
the dirt by the fence. They slowly approach with Pretzel,
afraid of what they are about to find... but as Murphy bends
over and starts to feel... it's just his phone. That's it.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

44

INT. PIZZA PLACE - DAY

44

Murphy and Pretzel are waiting with pizza and mozzarella sticks on the table. Darnell approaches her and sits.

DARNELL

Yo.

MURPHY

You should know that I've been nicer to my dog. Look.

Murphy feeds Pretzel pieces of pepperoni off a slice of pizza. Darnell ignores her and finishes a text message.

MURPHY (CONT'D)

Someone was texting us from Tyson's phone.

DARNELL

This again?

Murphy holds up Tyson's phone. Darnell stops, recognizing the familiar stickers on it. He's stunned to say the least.

DARNELL (CONT'D)

Where in the hell did you get that?

MURPHY

I traced it.

Darnell looks at her sideways.

DARNELL

How in the hell did you trace a cell phone?

MURPHY

I have my ways. And I also learned this phone was never in Madison.

For the first time he is forced to take Murphy seriously.

DARNELL

Wait... hold up. His phone was never in Madison?

MURPHY

Nope.

(CONTINUED)

Murphy leans in... forcing him to hear her this time.

MURPHY (CONT'D)
Someone killed your cousin,
Darnell. And whoever it is... they
are really trying to cover it up.

Darnell is reeling in his chair. Emotions aren't his thing
but it's clear he is struggling here.

DARNELL
You're sure it was him.

MURPHY
I can count on one hand the number
of faces I have felt.

He takes a moment as he grapples with this reality.

MURPHY (CONT'D)
We have to go to the police.

DARNELL
Are you forgetting what line of
work I'm in?

MURPHY
It doesn't matter. We are dealing
with a murder.

DARNELL
And what? You think the police are
going to care about a black kid
from the projects?

MURPHY
They have to.

Darnell shakes his head, upset. This girl doesn't get it.

DARNELL
If you went missing there'd be a
search and rescue team on every
inch of this city until you were
found. Do you know how many people
I had to bury without anything to
bury at all? My father was my first
and Tyson won't my last.

Murphy shifts, uncomfortable. But she can't let this one go.
She holds up Tyson's phone.

MURPHY

I still think we should try.
Whoever was texting us from his
phone must have left prints --

DARNELL

You're touching the phone. Whatever
prints were there are gone.

Murphy panics and drops the phone right into the marinara
sauce. He just looks at her, stiffening.

DARNELL (CONT'D)

Stay away from cops. And let me
handle this, aight?

On Murphy, chewing her lip, conflicted.

INT. POLICE STATION - DEAN'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

Murphy (with Pretzel) sits across from Dean, who's holding up
Tyson's cell phone. It's now in a plastic baggie, marinara
sauce pooling around it at the bottom.

DEAN

I'll try to dust as much as I can,
but... it's going to be hard.

MURPHY

When are you going to do it?

Dean has a stack of police reports in front of him.

DEAN

I'll try to get to it this week.

MURPHY

That's not good enough. Dude, this
city is already approaching three
thousand shootings this year alone
and the homicide rate is up 50
percent since last year. Your
department's inability to catch
anyone isn't helping, since you
currently solve a whopping 30
percent of homicides. I'm not going
to let Tyson's killer run free.
So... maybe you can do it sooner.

DEAN

Where did you get that info?

MURPHY

From a guy who wouldn't have had to bury so many people if more people around here had been doing their jobs instead of sitting there.

Dean can't believe the balls on this chick. He also can't really argue. He gets up.

DEAN

All right. Let me grab a cup of coffee and I'll get on it.

MURPHY

I'll come with you. I have more questions.

DEAN

I don't doubt that.

INT. STREETS OF CHICAGO - MAGIC HOUR

Pretzel leads Murphy who is walking with Dean.

DEAN

Murder is rarely random. Nine out of ten times it's someone the victim knows. Usually a family member or lover. But since Tyson was in the game, it could have been random. A drug deal gone wrong.

MURPHY

I don't think so. If it was random, wouldn't they have left the body?

DEAN

That's a good point.

Dean notices a few black trash bags on the street. He grabs her arm but Murphy instinctively pulls it away.

MURPHY

Sorry... I don't do that.

DEAN
Calm down. This isn't romantic.
There's trash.

MURPHY
(re: Pretzel)
He won't let me crash into
anything.

Dean watches as Pretzel stops right in front of the trash. He
nods, impressed.

DEAN
That's a good dog.

MURPHY
He's whatever.

Pretzel walks around the trash, Murphy follows.

DEAN
Oh, by the way, I took your advice.
I'm taking Chloe to a Cubs game. I
know she can't see it but I used to
take her all the time.

MURPHY
I'm sure she's going to love it.

Pretzel stops in front of Murphy's apartment.

MURPHY (CONT'D)
This is me. Thanks again for
walking me home.

DEAN
Sure. Yeah.
(then)
Do you need help up?

MURPHY
That's okay. I have to do
something. Tell Chloe I say hi.

DEAN
I will.

Murphy walks off with Pretzel.

47

INT. ALLEY - A LITTLE LATER

47

Murphy sits in the same spot she did with Tyson but now with Pretzel. She cracks open a bag of cheese puffs and starts eating.

MURPHY
(to Pretzel)
Want one?

Murphy offers Pretzel a cheese puff and he eats it. They sit in silence for several somber beats.

(CONTINUED)

MURPHY (CONT'D)

You're not as good of a
conversationalist.

Pretzel wags his tail. Murphy is now in her head. Just then
Jess enters and takes a seat next to Murphy.

JESS

Hey.

MURPHY

Hey.

(then)

How did you know where to find me?

JESS

You go to the same three places.
Can I sit with you?

MURPHY

Of course.

JESS

I just wanted to let you know that
what you're doing is really
impressive.

MURPHY

Let's see if I can do it first.

JESS

You're the most stubborn person I
know. And in this case, it's a good
thing.

She nods... she knows that's true.

MURPHY

He saved my life, Jess.

JESS

I know. You're going to figure it
out.

Murphy's eyes narrow... nothing can stop her. She leans on
her hand as she "looks" down the alleyway.

JESS (CONT'D)

You have orange...all over your
face.

Pretzel licks Murphy's face. The girls laugh.

48

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - EVENING - MAGIC HOUR

48

A couple TEENAGERS joke around as they bike along the Chicago River drinking beers. One of them hits something and skids. He notices an oddly bulging duffle.

49

EXT. RIVER'S EDGE - MOMENTS LATER

49

The teenagers approach the duffle warily. We see the outline of what can only be a human body. Two of the teenagers back away from it, scared. The third one opens the bag and Tyson's body rolls out.

50

EXT. ALLEY - SAME TIME

50

MUSIC plays over while Jess and Murphy walk out of the alley. While Jess is talking, camera PUSHES IN on Murphy until she is alone in the frame.

SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW

ADDENDUM 'A' - OVER END CREDITS

INT. BAR - NIGHT - BEER COMMERCIAL

A BARTENDER (think Michael Showalter) tends his bar. A few patrons are there. Quick POPS of an icy pint glass -- pouring the beer -- placing the glass on the bar, etc. as --

DEEP MANLY VOICE

We all work hard, but we play
harder. At the end of a long day,
nothing is better than an ice cold
brew. Unlike all those other beer
companies here at Old Town Beer we
don't complicate a good thing.

JAKE enters the bar with a pal (think John Francis Daley) they look exhausted, dressed in clothes from their construction job. They take two empty stools at the bar. The bartender approaches and places two perfect looking beers in front of them. They smile, relieved/grateful.

JAKE

Bottoms up.

All the patrons in the bar turn around in their stools and raise their beer glasses to the camera.

DEEP MANLY VOICE

From all your pals at Old Town
Beer, this one is on us. Bottoms
up.

The patrons, along with Jake and the bartender all laugh as they continue to sip their beers.