

HEAVENLY

FADE IN:

EXT. GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE - NIGHT

Fog rolls across the bridge; its massive weight appears suspended on a bank of clouds. In the distance, the lights of San Francisco gleam like stars.

WE DRIFT HIGH THROUGH THE GOLDEN CABLES and slowly descend as a SOUND floats up. It's a woman crying. Finally we reveal --

THE YOUNG WOMAN: She stands outside the safety rails, gazing down into the freezing black water of San Francisco Bay two-hundred feet below her. She closes her eyes, gathers her nerve. She is about to jump...

INT. CHAPEL OF THE MARINER - NIGHT

A small, hundred year-old church on Marina Street. It's a work-in-progress, being restored all the way from its stone floor to its redwood steeple. The work is being done by --

OWEN MORETTI, (30): also a work-in-progress. Tonight he's in jeans and a wife-beater. He looks more like a construction worker than a pastor -- but a pastor is exactly what he is. He's been doing hard battle with an ancient painted-over window that refuses to open. Finally, he just hits it.

OWEN

Damn it!
(catches himself)
Sorry.

And still the window won't open. Time to call it a night. As he gathers his tools together...

He hears a sound in the darkness of the church entryway. He squints into the shadows and barely makes out A DARK FIGURE entering and sitting in a back pew...

Owen cautiously approaches to find a Young Man. His eyes are closed tightly, and he seems to be praying.

OWEN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, the front door was supposed to be locked.

YOUNG MAN

Are you the pastor?

OWEN

Yes. But we're not exactly open
right now.

The Young Man looks up. Owen looks into his eyes and sees something essentially good and non-threatening there. But the man is clearly troubled. He cannot turn him away.

OWEN (CONT'D)

Are you alright?

YOUNG MAN

(shakes his head)

I've done something unforgiveable.
And because of it, people are going
to die.

Wow. Not exactly what Owen expected to hear. He sits down next to the man.

OWEN

Can you tell me about it?

YOUNG MAN

(suddenly urgent)

There's a woman. I need to find
her, I --

But before he can say more his body is wracked by harsh coughs. Owen steadies him.

OWEN

Okay pal, slow down, just... take
me through it.

The Young Man, who we will soon come to know as DASHIELL COFFEE, gathers himself.

DASHIELL

For thousands of years... I have
existed among you... as an Angel.

Again -- not what Owen was expecting to hear. But he doesn't say anything. The two men sit in the last pew, dimly lit by red votive candle-light, as Dashiell tells his story...

EXT. GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE - NIGHT - AS BEFORE

AGAIN WE SEE -- THE YOUNG WOMAN, about to jump... But now we also see DASHIELL as he appears to complete a floating descent, landing several yards behind her.

DASHIELL (V.O.)
 I was an Angel of the Crossroads.
 An Angel of the Crisis Moment...

Dashiell approaches the Young Woman and gently places a hand on her shoulder. The Young Woman suddenly calms. Unaware of the Angel beside her, she steps back from ledge, gasping with relief. Whatever she was planning, her plans have changed...

DASHIELL (V.O.)
 When someone's fate hung in the
 balance between life and death, I
 could tip the scales and save them.

EXT. KABUL, AFGHANISTAN -- STREETS -- NIGHT

Gunfire erupts sporadically in the distance. BUT HERE -- a U.S. INFANTRYMAN lies alone in the street, barely breathing, a gunshot wound in his chest.

Dashiell is there. He reaches out a hand and touches the soldier's arm. The soldier's eyes FLASH OPEN and he gasps, just as -- A MEDIC arrives and begins tending to his wounds.

INT. NYALA, SUDAN -- THATCHED HUT -- DAY

A WOMAN has just given birth, but the baby is still; it does not cry. Dashiell is there. He runs his hand along the infant's cheek, and it revives with a loud healthy cry...

EXT. DEER CREEK, MINNESOTA -- NIGHT

A stranded car, on its side and half-buried in snow...

INSIDE THE CAR -- a MIDDLE-AGED MAN, head bleeding, freezing, fading fast... Dashiell is there. He touches the man's forehead, and his ragged breathing clears as FLASHING BLUE AND RED LIGHTS appear in the distance through the cracked windshield. Help is on the way...

INT. CHAPEL OF THE MARINER -- NIGHT

DASHIELL
 I've been among you for centuries.
 But I have never been one of you.

Owen stares at Dashiell, trying to assess exactly how crazy he is. Charming crazy? Dangerous crazy?

OWEN
 So... you're telling me you're an
 Angel.

DASHIELL
 (shakes his head)
 No. I was an Angel. Until just a
 few hours ago...

OWEN
 What happened?

DASHIELL
 Something wonderful. Something
 terrible...

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - CORNER OF UNION AND COLUMBUS - DAY

Dashiell moves through a crowd of people, but he is somehow separate from them. People move around him without ever seeing him. The wind doesn't touch him. He seems to be surrounded in a faint spectral glow.

Dashiell pauses at the corner; he has a strange feeling.

EXT. CAFE NAPOLI -- DAY

A charming Columbus Street cafe. People dine at sidewalk tables, sipping wine or espresso, enjoying the warm day.

Dashiell stares at this idyllic scene. SOUND DROPS OUT leaving nothing but a LOW RUMBLING ROAR that builds until --

AN EXPLOSION RIPS THROUGH THE CAFE. Glass shatters; tables and chairs fly through the air, *passing straight through Dashiell* before slamming into parked cars. It's chaos.

DASHIELL (V.O.)
 A ruptured gas main...

It's bad. People are hurt. Dashiell moves through the devastation.

DASHIELL (V.O.)
 Some people were dead. Others were
 hardly injured...
 (beat)
 But then there were those in
 between, who could go either way.
They were the ones I helped...

He reaches out to the right and left, touching people as he goes, pulling them back from the brink of death.

DASHIELL (V.O.)
 That's when I saw her...

DASHIELL'S POV: A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN lies unconscious among the wreckage near a fallen ceiling beam... Her name is LILY DeMARCO, (27). And though she appears fine, she is as critically injured as anyone here.

DASHIELL

I could see that a she had been struck by a ceiling beam. But inside her, a small spark of life remained...

Dashiell can't explain why he is drawn to her, but he is. He kneels by her, reaches out, touches her...

WHAM! A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHT and Dashiell finds himself --

EXT. SUBURBAN BACKYARD -- DAY

DASHIELL'S MEMORY: Sunlight FLASHES on the rippling water of a swimming pool.

A PANICKED FATHER attempts CPR on his four year-old daughter. She is soaking wet, clearly just pulled from the pool. The girl's terrified mother looks on...

Dashiell is there. He reaches past the father, touches the small girl on the cheek -- and suddenly she chokes out water and breathes in air.

Dashiell watches as the parent's faces flood with relief. They look at each other knowing that in a single unguarded moment, their lives almost took an irreversible turn...

EXT. CAFE NAPOLI -- DAY

BACK TO SCENE: Dashiell pulls his hand back from Lily as if she's on fire. She comes back to consciousness, her eyes fly open -- *and she looks straight at him.*

DASHIELL (V.O.)

I saved her once as a child... *and now I had saved her again.* In my entire existence, she is the only human being I have ever saved twice.

For a second it seems as if Lily actually SEES him. But no; her eyes move away...

DASHIELL (V.O.)

It was then that I felt the change.

Dashiell staggers back, losing composure, his stunned eyes still locked on Lily with emotion we have not seen before.

DASHIELL (V.O.)

I began to *feel* things. Not with my body, not physically... but inside myself. I felt urgency -- and connection; desire -- and confusion. It was overwhelming. And it was all because of this woman.

As RESCUE WORKERS move in, Dashiell recedes from view...

INT. CHAPEL OF THE MARINER -- NIGHT

DASHIELL

It was so strange to meet someone, touch someone, and suddenly feel things. Has this ever happened to you?

Owen smiles. Is this guy for real?

OWEN

Yes. I think it's safe to say that almost everyone has felt that, at least once. But --

(pointed)

That doesn't mean you were an Angel.

Dashiell ignores this.

DASHIELL

I talked with God, and he said --

OWEN

Wait -- he answered you?

DASHIELL

Yes. We had a conversation. Just like you do.

OWEN

If he answered, then it's not just like I do.

DASHIELL

I asked him to make me fully human. To have feelings, but not be able to experience them among humans -- as a human -- seemed unbearable. My only condition was that I still be able to save people. I was very clear about that. And he said yes. And that was that.

OWEN
You were human?

DASHIELL
I was naked.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - LAFAYETTE PARK - DAY

He looks around, trying to take in his new incarnation. Then he notices an OLD WOMAN staring at him. *He suddenly realizes that for the first time he is visible to people.* But it's not what he expected -- she looks upset. And then realizes -- of course -- he's naked.

Dashiell quickly steps back, crouches in a tangle of bushes. Trapped. What is he supposed to do? He looks around until he sees TWO ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WOMEN doing yoga nearby...

THE WOMEN -- lost in the intensity of their routine, do not notice the naked former-angel tip-toeing up to one of their gym bags...

Dashiell GRABS a blue nylon windbreaker and covers himself -- just as one of the WOMEN looks over. They lock eyes. She's stunned. He's mortified. Dashiell turns and runs.

WOMAN ONE
Some naked guy just stole my
jacket.

Woman Two glances over in time to see a mostly naked Dashiell recede, the nylon jacket barely serving as a loincloth.

WOMAN TWO
Looks better on him.

EXT. ALLEY -- BEHIND THRIFT STORE -- DAY

Dashiell digs through bags of cast-off clothing ...

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Dashiell walks down the street in an ensemble thrown together from the thrift store. Somehow, it looks good on him. The jacket is now tied around his waist. He comes to a sudden stop in front of --

INT. PHOENIX LIQUORS -- DAY

Dashiell walks in and comes to rest before an enormous display of candy. He stares, his eyes huge. The OLD JAPANESE WOMAN behind the counter watches him curiously.

DASHIELL
Which one is the best?

OLD JAPANESE WOMAN
Oreo.

Dashiell picks up the classic blue and white package of six.
Then suddenly realizes...

DASHIELL
I don't have any money.

Crest-fallen, he returns the package.

OLD JAPANESE WOMAN
Yes you do.

She points to blue jacket around his waist. A FIVE DOLLAR
BILL peeks out from the pocket...

INT. CHAPEL OF THE MARINER -- NIGHT

DASHIELL
(excited)
Have you ever had an Oreo?

OWEN
Once or twice.

DASHIELL
So you know.

INT. PHOENIX LIQUORS -- DAY

Dashiell stands in the aisle, devouring the Oreos like
someone who hasn't eaten in a thousand years...

DASHIELL (V.O.)
I felt as if the world and my
existence made sense... Like people
were essentially good... Like
happiness, too, was inevitable.

INT. CHAPEL OF THE MARINER

OWEN
You should try Twix.

INT. PHOENIX LIQUORS -- DAY

Face covered in crumbs, Dashiell approaches the Old Japanese
Woman.

OLD JAPANESE WOMAN
One dollar, twenty-five.

Dashiell hands her the money; she gives him his change. But Dashiell notices a worried look in her eyes. He asks kindly:

DASHIELL
Is something wrong?

She glances at him defensively, but when she looks into his eyes something comes over her... and we see for the first time the effect Dashiell has on people: For reasons she does not understand, the Old Japanese Woman finds herself confiding in him. Unburdening herself.

OLD JAPANESE WOMAN
My grandson is very sick. He's
having heart surgery today and I am
so worried.

Dashiell looks behind the counter and sees a small Buddhist shrine with the picture of a five-year old boy set before it.

DASHIELL
(re: shrine)
Have you prayed?

She nods.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)
Good. It's more important than you
know. It will help him. And it
will help you more.

She believes him. Her eyes fill with grateful tears. She selects A SMALL ORIGAMI BIRD -- one of hundreds stacked around her cash register -- and gives it to him.

OLD JAPANESE WOMAN
Thank you.

DASHIELL
You're welcome.

A connection had been made. Then Dashiell takes the small paper creature into his hands and smiles...

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - LAFAYETTE PARK - SUNSET

The TWO YOGA WOMEN gather their things when Woman One turns to find herself face-to-face with Dashiell. He holds out her jacket. She suddenly realizes -- it's the naked guy.

WOMAN ONE

Oh. I didn't recognize you. You know, with clothes on.

WOMAN TWO

That's because she wasn't looking at your face.

Dashiell smiles; even he can see appreciate the awkwardness of the moment.

DASHIELL

Thanks for letting me, uh, borrow your jacket.

WOMAN ONE

Rough morning?

DASHIELL

You have no idea.

(remembering)

Oh -- and I owe you a dollar twenty-five. If you give me your name, I can try to pay you back.

She is somehow disarmed by the weird honesty of this hot guy.

WOMAN ONE

Don't worry about it, okay?

WOMAN TWO

You can have my name: Sasha Nouri.

Sasha is darkly pretty with a wicked smile. They shake hands. The touch does something -- to both of them. We get the feeling we haven't seen the last of her...

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - LAFAYETTE PARK - DUSK

It's getting dark. The park is empty. Dashiell stands alone, looking out over the lights of the city...

DASHIELL (V.O.)

I was tired and cold. I had no money and I was still hungry. *But I felt wonderful.*

He holds his arms out wide and looks into the heavens, exalting in his new humanity. The wind blows his hair around and a light rain gently wets his face. Ecstasy.

EXT. STREET -- NIGHT

Later. Dashiell walks down the street. The rain is now a torrential downpour and Dash has no umbrella. He's soaking wet and feeling considerably less thrilled to be human...

DASHIELL (V.O.)
I set out to find the woman I
saved, but not really knowing how.

INT. SAINT MARY'S MEDICAL CENTER -- NIGHT

Dashiell wanders the stark white hallways.

DASHIELL (V.O.)
Hospitals seemed like a logical
place to start...

Dashiell nears the Emergency Room when suddenly --

PARAMEDICS BURST IN wheeling a YOUNG WOMAN who appears to have just flown through the windshield of a car. DOCTORS surround her, moving with her, shouting back and forth... The PORTABLE EKG suddenly FLATLINES. She dying --

DASHIELL has seen situations like this hundreds of times before in his life as an Angel. Acting on pure instinct --

He strides to the gurney, reaches past the medical technicians and lays his hand on the dying Woman's arm. Just like before, at the Cafe where he saved Lily, ALL SOUND DROPS OUT as Dashiell closes his eyes...

But this time nothing happens. SOUND CRASHES BACK --

DOCTOR
Get away from her!
(grabbing Dashiell)
Security.

TWO SECURITY GUARDS swarm in and grab Dashiell, but his eyes remain locked on the Woman. He stares in disbelief. Why is she not waking up? What's gone wrong?

Dashiell struggles madly, striking out at the security guards who fight to subdue him, desperately trying to get back to the woman and have one more shot at saving her...

INT. CHAPEL OF THE MARINER -- NIGHT

DASHIELL
The woman died. I couldn't save
her. Now that I'm human... I can't
save anyone.
(MORE)

DASHIELL (CONT'D)
 (bitter regret)
 God lied to me.

Owen can't help but sympathize. Dashiell's sanity is debatable, but his emotions are real.

OWEN
 You tried to help her. You did what you thought was right.

DASHIELL
 And I was arrested on the spot.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Dashiell is being questioned by OFFICER ARMSTRONG, (30s), a tired man at the end of a long shift.

ARMSTRONG
 Name?

For the first time, Dashiell realizes he doesn't have one. He glances around at a neighboring desk; sees a paperback novel ("Red Harvest" by Dashiell Hammett) acting as a coaster for a stained mug of cold coffee.

DASHIELL
 Dashiell... coffee.

ARMSTRONG
 (weary smile)
 You got any ID, Mr. Coffee?
 Address? Phone number?

Dashiell just smiles at him, stuck. This isn't good.

EXT. POLICE STATION -- NIGHT

Dashiell steps outside onto the cold cement steps; hugs himself against the sharp wind. He is utterly alone.

DASHIELL (V.O.)
 I was questioned further, but he must have decided I wasn't worth the time or trouble. I was eventually released...

INT. CHAPEL OF THE MARINER -- NIGHT

OWEN
 Did you tell him the same story you're telling me?

DASHIELL

No.

OWEN

Why not?

DASHIELL

He wouldn't have believed me.

OWEN

And I would?

Dash looks around at their surroundings.

DASHIELL

Don't you?

Owen doesn't respond.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

If you don't believe me, who will?
Do you believe anything about...
all of this? The birth of Jesus?
The resurrection? The salvation of
heaven?

Owen hesitates. He knows if he says yes to any of those things, it will imply that he also believes Dashiell's story. But he doesn't.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

I see.

OWEN

Look -- it doesn't matter whether I
believe you or not. If you ever
find this woman and tell her this?
She'll have you arrested for
stalking.

Owen can see that Dashiell is dejected. He came here for help. So Owen speaks to him as he would a younger brother.

OWEN (CONT'D)

I'm a pastor -- not a priest. I
know what it's like to be obsessed
with a woman; to feel like you're
destined to be with her forever.
But -- sooner or later -- reality
steps in. If you can't find this
woman, maybe there's a reason.
Maybe fate, or the universe -- or
God -- is telling you something.

DASHIELL

(nods)

You haven't tried hard enough.

For a second Owen can't tell which one of them he's referring to...

INT. CHAPEL OF THE MARINER -- HALLWAY -- NIGHT

Owen hands Dashiell a small stack of blankets, a towel, a toothbrush, razor -- even a change of clothes.

OWEN

Get some sleep. Tomorrow we'll check into job fairs, food banks, housing... And -- there's a legal clinic down the street...

(hands him a brochure)

Might be a good idea to make sure you're completely cleared with the cops.

Dashiell takes the stack from Owen's hands. Smiles.

DASHIELL

Thank you. I knew I came to the right place...

Owen looks at him, questioning.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

I passed by so many other churches before choosing this one.

With that, Dashiell turns and goes into his room, leaving Owen wondering exactly how it was that he was chosen.

INT. OWEN'S ROOM -- NIGHT -- LATER

Owen gets ready for bed. But as he passes his desk, he picks up a small framed picture; stares at it thoughtfully. Then, considering Dashiell's words:

OWEN

Maybe I haven't tried hard enough.

Another beat, then he sets the picture down and heads off to bed. WE MOVE IN to see the woman in the picture...

It's Lily DeMarco. The woman Dashiell saved.

INT. SPARROW LEGAL CLINIC -- NEXT DAY -- MORNING

Lily DeMarco, in the flesh, enters this brick-and-glass office space; the pro-bono arm of a huge San Francisco law firm -- Sparrow, Knox & Feinberg.

Deceptively young and friendly, Lily looks like someone's kid sister who suddenly got gorgeous over the summer. And she has turned this to her advantage as a lawyer. Underestimate her at your own peril.

SPENSER JORDAN, (29) -- African-American, whip-smart and good-looking -- can't believe his eyes. He goes to her.

SPENSER

What are you doing here?

LILY

I work here.

SPENSER

I thought maybe you'd take the day off, you know, with the whole almost-being-killed thing.

LILY

The law waits for no woman. Jared Cullen's trial starts today. Gotta be in court by nine.

SPENSER

Well, if you really think you're up for it...

He hands her a stack of message slips. She reads them.

LILY

Centennial Place Apartments, still in violation of handicapped access codes; another delay in the Hodes/Korman custody hearing; and Larry Gonzalez has been arrested. Drug possession. Third time.

Whatever energy she marshaled starts to drain from her. She slumps in her chair; and for a moment she looks like a little girl.

SPENSER

So when it happened... did you find yourself floating above your body? Drifting toward the light?

LILY

Sorry Spense. One minute I was eating a chocolate biscotti, and the next some hairy fireman was carrying me toward an ambulance.

SPENSER

(pouting)

My restaurants never explode.

He looks back at Lily, who chews her lip and stares into the distance.

SPENSER (CONT'D)

You okay?

LILY

I couldn't sleep last night. I kept thinking about how when I graduated law school, all my friends were maneuvering for the best spot at the top firms. I was the only one who actually wanted to work pro bono so I could help people who really needed it...

She looks around the office; a vortex of loud, needy, angry, hopeful people. Just like yesterday. And tomorrow...

LILY (CONT'D)

But it feels like we're not even making a dent down here, you know?

SPENSER

Don't go there. Not before lunch, and especially not before coffee.

As he pours her a mug...

LILY

(confidential)

The thing is -- I'm going to take some time off.

SPENSER

That doesn't sound like you.

LILY

I'll finish my case load, but after that... I don't know. I mean, it's been five years. And sometimes I wonder if I've ever really helped anyone.

Off Lily, looking like she could use a little help herself...

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - STREET - DAY

Dashiell, recovered from the night before, walks down the street, taking in his second day as a human among humans.

He is suddenly struck by something he sees at the end of the block. He approaches --

EXT. SPARROW LEGAL CLINIC -- DAY

Dashiell gazes at the window of the Sparrow Legal Clinic. Right by the name is their logo -- an origami bird, soaring into the heavens... Dashiell takes the origami bird he got from the Old Japanese woman out of his pocket. Then checks the brochure Owen gave him. It's the same place. *There must be a reason for this connection.* He steps inside.

INT. SPARROW LEGAL CLINIC - DAY

Dashiell approaches the first desk. Spenser is on the phone. He gestures for Dashiell to sit down...

SPENSER

(into phone)

...but we put in the request weeks ago... Look, we're under water down here; paralegal, researcher, janitor, doesn't matter -- send someone, okay? We need warm bodies...

Dash glances around the office; it's more chaotic in here than it is on the street. Then, through the crowded room...

DASHIELL'S POV: A beautiful woman... A glowing woman... The woman he has been searching for: Lily DeMarco.

DASHIELL

Oh God... *thank you.*

Dashiell stares as a single thought grows in his eyes:

Now what?

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. SPARROW LEGAL CLINIC - SAME

Dashiell walks toward Lily like he's in a dream. But she hardly notices him; she's too busy tearing her desk apart, looking for something. With barely a glance:

LILY
Can I help you?

DASHIELL
I've been looking for you
everywhere.

LILY
And just think, I've been here the
whole time. Well, there was the
five minutes at the printer, but I
had to change the ink cartridge.

DASHIELL
If there's any way you can think of
-- I would like to help you.

Lily stops typing. Really looks at him for the first time.

LILY
Wait a second. Are you the guy?

DASHIELL
Yes. I am.

LILY
(pointing upward)
From -- ?

Dashiell nods, smiling. And Lily lights up:

LILY (CONT'D)
Finally! The Sparrow comes
through. I put in the request for
a new paralegal three weeks ago.

Dashiell's smile fades; he realizes her mistake, even if she doesn't. He has just enough presence of mind to play along.

DASHIELL
I heard you needed a warm body.

LILY
Who doesn't?
(holds out her hand)
I'm Lily DeMarco.

DASHIELL
Dashiell Coffee.

They shake hands. Dashiell holds on a beat too long, waiting to see if he "feels" anything new or different. He doesn't.

But she does. She looks down at their hands -- and then back up into Dashiell's eyes. A sense of recognition comes over her, like a wonderful smell connected with a good memory.

LILY
Have we met before?

Dashiell is electrified by this; he's about to tell her everything. But then, remembering Owen's words...

DASHIELL
Well, I'd say yes, but then you might think I'm some kind of crazy stalker.

Lily smiles; shakes off the odd sense of familiarity. Then suddenly, as if waking up:

LILY
Oh. I've got to go, I'm late for court.

Searching her desk again, frustrated:

LILY (CONT'D)
Where is that deposition?!

Dashiell watches. He clearly wants to help.

DASHIELL
(beat)
Did you check behind the desk?

She stops. Looks at Dashiell. Then she kneels down and peers behind her desk... When she stands back up, she has the deposition in her hands. Dash plays it off:

DASHIELL (CONT'D)
Happens all the time.

Lily considers this. Makes enough sense. She grabs up her stuff: briefcase, handbag, files. But it's a handful so Dashiell relieves most of her burden. She smiles:

LILY
Follow me. We can talk on the way.

Dash is only too happy to oblige...

EXT. STREET -- DAY

Dashiell and Lily make their way through the crowd. He can barely conceal his excitement.

LILY

So what were you doing before this?
Criminal? Corporate?

DASHIELL

Um, a little of everything.

LILY

Good. Cause down in the clinic we
do everything Sparrow does
upstairs, except we do it pro bono.
Same misery but at bargain prices.
(beat)
What about you -- any courtroom
experience?

No response. She looks over. He's gone. She looks back to see Dash several paces back, kneeling down petting a dog.

LILY (CONT'D)

Ummmm... what are you doing?

DASHIELL

Look at this guy...

Full disclosure: it's a very cute dog... It flops on it's back and Dash rubs its belly with gusto.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

What a good boy. What a good boy!
Good boy, good boy, good boy!

Dash is really getting into it. People are starting to look.

LILY

We should get going.

A few last rubs and then Dash is up, bounding to Lily. They continue walking.

DASHIELL

What a good boy.

Lily glances sideways at him. This guy is weird. Cute -- but weird.

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE -- DAY

As they mount the large stone steps to the courthouse...

LILY

Why don't you just shadow me for today; it's the best way to get up to speed on how things work, which judges are good, which DA's to look out for. Like today -- we've got a real barracuda, so don't leave any exposed flesh dangling.

DASHIELL

And, um... what's the case?

LILY

Jared Cullen, twenty-one year old kid, car accident. The trial is about whether he should go to prison or not.

DASHIELL

He could go to prison?

LILY

There was a fatality...

(beat)

He killed his best friend.

Dash takes this in as they enter...

INT. SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE -- LOBBY -- DAY

They cross the large marble lobby of the courthouse. Suddenly, Lily sees someone coming toward them:

LILY

Speak of the devil...

(under her breath)

The barracuda herself.

A dark, sexy woman approaches...

DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY SASHA NOURI, (30) -- the woman Dash met in the park when he stole her friend's jacket.

SASHA

Well. What a surprise.

LILY

(saccharine smile)

Hello, Sasha. Meet Dashiell Coffee, our new paralegal. Dash, this is Deputy District Attorney Sasha Nouri.

Dash stares hard at Sasha -- is she going to blow his cover? She doesn't. Just shakes his hand.

SASHA

Pleasure to meet you, Dashiell.
 (then, casual, to Lily)
 Judge Horvath woke up with chest
 pains; Avery's taking over.
 (bright smile)
 See you inside.

Sasha strides away. But this news makes Lily deflate like a punctured balloon.

DASHIELL

Bad news?

LILY

Like... the worst.

Before she can elaborate...

JARED CULLEN, (21), the defendant, and his dad ROBERT, (45), arrive. Jared is a decent, clean-cut kid; the last guy in the world you'd picture on trial for a crime involving death.

ROBERT tries to keep spirits up under difficult circumstances.

ROBERT

Sorry we're late. Tie issues.

JARED

Dad made me try on, like, a million.

Then, an awkward moment as THE MEDRANO FAMILY passes them: JOHN and CONNIE, (40S) and their daughter PAULA, (17).

ROBERT

Connie... John --

But the Medrano's don't acknowledge him; they simply enter the courtroom. Even Dashiell understands: this is the family whose son was killed by Jared. Robert looks most affected.

ROBERT (CONT'D)

(to Lily)

We've spent every Christmas for the last 20 years together. What can we possibly say to them to...

To what, make everything okay? He can't even form the question.

LILY

There's nothing you can say. I know it's hard, but especially now, it's important to keep your distance. When you walk in, don't even look at them, just take your seats. Okay?

Robert and Jared take this in, steel themselves, and enter the courtroom.

INT. COURTROOM -- DAY

The proceedings are underway. Sasha questions A TOW TRUCK DRIVER, (30s), on the stand.

SASHA

You arrived on the scene just as the police did -- at 11:45 p.m.?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

(nods)

I was on a job when I heard the call on my scanner.

SASHA

And what did you see when you arrived?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

Well, it was raining like crazy. And there was a pick-up smashed against the wall just outside the Ralph's on University. It was totaled. Looked like he must've run the light and --

LILY

Objection. Speculation.

JUDGE AVERY, (50), looks non-plussed, but allows it.

JUDGE AVERY

Sustained.

SASHA

And how many people did you see inside the vehicle?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

One person. In the driver's seat.

SASHA

So it appeared to be a one-person accident.

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

Well, yeah. But then... that changed.

CUT TO: A POLICE OFFICER, (30s), on the stand.

POLICE OFFICER

We received the 911 call from dispatch at 11:31. When we arrived at the scene the driver of the vehicle, Jared Cullen, was unconscious behind the wheel.

LILY

According to the hospital report, he suffered a minor concussion that resulted in short term memory loss.

POLICE OFFICER

That's correct.

LILY

Based on the damage to the car, were you able to estimate the speed at which the vehicle was travelling when it hit the wall?

POLICE OFFICER

Approximately thirty miles per hour. The posted limit.

LILY

In the police report, you state that there was "no smell of alcohol" on the driver.

POLICE OFFICER

None that we detected, no.

LILY

And later tests showed Jared Cullen's blood alcohol content level to be well below the legal limit.

POLICE OFFICER

Yes; point zero-two.

LILY

And according to interviews you conducted, witnesses at the party Jared and Mark attended confirm that Jared was not drinking to excess and seemed "normal and sober." Is that right?

POLICE OFFICER

That's correct.

LILY

Thank you.
(lets this sink in)
What happened next?

POLICE OFFICER

We were about to radio the ambulance -- when they radioed us.

CUT TO: A PARAMEDIC, (30s), on the stand.

PARAMEDIC

We were travelling south on University Drive, about two blocks north of the accident site when we saw something in the road. A body.

Dash, seated at the council table, glances over at the Medrano family. Reliving this looks like torture for them.

SASHA

What did you do?

PARAMEDIC

We found a young male, Mark Medrano, approximately 20 years of age. He appeared to be the victim of a hit-and-run.

LILY

Objection. The defendant is not on trial for hit-and-run.

JUDGE AVERY

Perhaps that's a matter to take up at a later time. But for now, sustained.

Lily can't believe what she just heard -- *the judge just implied the defendant should also be on trial for hit-and-run...* Sasha lets this sink in, then continues:

SASHA

What did you do then?

PARAMEDIC

We radioed ahead to the police officers at the scene that we had found a victim whose death might be related to the accident we were originally responding to.

SASHA

And did laboratory tests confirm this?

CUT TO: The Police Officer back on the stand...

POLICE OFFICER

Yes. White paint samples from the defendants car matched marks found on the clothing of the victim.

Sasha refers to some police documents...

SASHA

Now: according to your interviews, several witnesses remarked that Jared appeared "exhausted" when he left the party.

POLICE OFFICER

Yes.

SASHA

Was their any specific theme or reason for the party?

POLICE OFFICER

Apparently it was a celebration marking the end of finals.

SASHA

And, again, according to witness testimony, Jared had been to a number of all-night study sessions leading up to it.

POLICE OFFICER

That's correct.

SASHA

I see. Thank you. That's all.

INT. COURTHOUSE -- HALLWAY

Court has been dismissed. The Medrano family exits the courtroom, looking grim. Lily, in deep conference with Sasha, doesn't see Dash approach the Medranos:

DASHIELL

Excuse me. My name is Dashiell
Coffee. I just wanted to extend my
deepest sympathy to your family.

Connie Medrano stares at him coldly. John attempts to pull his wife away. But she remains rooted to the spot, anger and pain radiating out from her.

CONNIE

You're working for the defense. It
seems to me your deepest sympathy
has been bought and paid for by the
Cullen's.

DASHIELL

This car accident was a horrible
tragedy for both of your families.
But it was an accident.

CONNIE

And who is going to take
responsibility for this "accident"?
Who is going to pay for Mark's
death?

JOHN

(to Dash)

I'm sorry, you'll have to excuse
us.

John finally manages to pull Connie away; Dash watches as the family makes their way down the hall.

Jared, who has been out of sight, steps up next to Dashiell.

JARED

I thought we weren't supposed to
talk to them.

DASHIELL

I know. I just felt like I had to
try.

JARED

I've been trying every since it
happened. I even wrote a letter.
It came back unopened.

DASHIELL

I'm sorry.

Jared watches the Medrano's as they turn down the hall and disappear from view...

JARED

Five years ago, my mom got sick. It was really bad. But they were there for us, every day. I don't think we would have made it through without them...

(beat)

After she died, I told myself I'd be there for them if anything ever happened.

The horrible irony is all too clear.

JARED (CONT'D)

We weren't allowed at the funeral.

(beat)

Can't say I blame them.

Dash looks at this kid, suffused with guilt and remorse, and somehow knows exactly how he feels...

INT. COURTHOUSE -- CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Lily and Dash are with Jared and Robert, strategizing in light of the days events. Robert is very worked-up:

ROBERT

I thought you said we were on solid ground with the judge.

LILY

We were -- Judge Horvath. He got sick last night; Avery is the replacement, and he's known to be very... conservative.

ROBERT

What about the plea bargain?

LILY

I just spoke with the DA. Right now the likelihood of a plea bargain seems remote. Mrs. Medrano has made her feelings clear --

ROBERT

She wants Jared in jail.

Lily tries to remain upbeat.

LILY

The fact is, Jared wasn't driving recklessly, he wasn't drunk, he wasn't even speeding. So best case, we're looking at probation, some community service and a suspended license.

DASHIELL

And worst case?

LILY

The prosecution will try to argue "state of mind" -- that he knew he was too tired to drive, or was somehow knowingly reckless. If they can convince the jury, then it's second degree murder. Highly unlikely.

JARED

But not impossible.

ROBERT

How bad?

LILY

The judge has some lee-way in sentencing, but typically... fifteen years to life.

The words sit there like stones on the table in front of them. Finally, Dash speaks up:

DASHIELL

Why not put Jared on the stand?

Lily dismisses the idea with a look.

LILY

It's a rookie move. Ninety percent of the time it backfires.

JARED

Besides -- I don't even remember anything that happened.

DASHIELL

It wouldn't be about that. It would be a chance for the jury to see Jared as a person.

LILY

Only problem? I don't trust juries.

DASHIELL

But once they hear him, get to know him... After all, he was Mark's best friend, he lost someone too. It'll make it harder for them to judge against him.

Lily starts turning it over, looking for possible advantages. And then, she finds one...

LILY

Maybe we put him on the stand, get his testimony...

(and here's the big idea)

And then immediately re-approach the DA with the plea bargain. If we can make them see they'll never get second degree murder, they might just go for it.

Robert looks invigorated:

ROBERT

Let's try it.

LILY

It all depends on you Jared. You'll have to make the court see you as, well, the great kid you are. Pre-med, straight As, no priors of any kind. A kid with a bright future who does not in any way deserve to go to jail.

Jared looks unsure. His dad turns to him, forceful:

ROBERT

We're talking about the difference between you going to jail -- or going back to school, getting your degree, getting on with your life. I don't see it as a choice.

Jared is torn, feeling guilty -- but scared. He looks at his dad, and sees how important this is to him. That decides it.

JARED

Okay. Whatever we have to do.

Lily looks at Dash; his confidence somehow gives her hope.

LILY
 Alright folks, let's order some
 Chinese and start running through
 it.

With their work cut out, they begin to practice for tomorrow.

INT. SPARROW LEGAL CLINIC -- NIGHT

Pastor Owen enters; by the smiles and waves it's clear he's
 very at home here. He approaches Spenser who is getting
 ready to leave for the night.

OWEN
 Is Lily around? Something epically
 weird happened last night. Thought
 maybe I'd regale her over drinks.

SPENSER
 I wish you would. Woman hasn't
 been regaled in months.
 (then)
 What happened?

OWEN
 A guy showed up at the church last
 night convinced that he was...
 (looks over -- sees Dash)
 That guy.

Owen, completely stunned, goes straight to him.

OWEN (CONT'D)
 What are you doing here?

Dash looks up -- and is delighted to see Owen.

DASHIELL
I found her. Her name is Lily
 DeMarco -- she works here.

OWEN
 That's impossible.

DASHIELL
 No -- she really does.

OWEN
 Yeah, I know she works here, I just
 -- she's the one you saved?

DASHIELL

Don't worry, I didn't tell her
about being an angel or saving her
life or anything. But guess what?
(thrilled)
She gave me a job.

Before Owen can respond -- Lily appears beside them.

She notices that they've been talking conspiratorially.

LILY

Do you guys know each other?

OWEN

Um, yeah, sort of.

She gives Owen a kiss on the cheek, happy to see him.

LILY

So what's going on? I haven't seen
you in forever.

OWEN

I just stopped by to see if you
wanted to, you know, grab a
drink... It's been a while.

Lily glances at Dash; he looks like a dog desperate to be
walked. So, being a lawyer, she cuts a deal...

LILY

You know what: why don't we all go?

Dash smiles, excited. Owen looks like he doesn't know what
he just got himself into.

INT. BUDDHA LOUNGE - NIGHT

The neighborhood hangout. A retro-cool Chinatown dive.
Christmas lights, bamboo, jade elephants, the works.

Dash, Lily and Owen sit around a too-small table, knees
touching. Owen nurses a beer; Lily sips her signature dirty
martini; and Dashiell slurps the last of his very first drink
-- a Mai Tai. It's already having a big effect.

DASHIELL

I just want you guys to know how
much you mean to me. This is a
very, very... very special night.

LILY

Take it easy. Those things can sneak up on you.

Dash stands, a little shaky:

DASHIELL

I have to go urinate through my penis.

They both watch as he walks off. As soon as he's gone:

OWEN

Is everything going okay with that guy? I mean, he's a little odd.

LILY

Yeah. But he's basically a good guy. Why? Is there something I should know?

How can he tell her without sounding crazy?

OWEN

No. I guess not... But if he starts to bother you, let me know, okay?

(puts his hand on hers)

You know I'm always here for you.

Lily is half-amused/half-annoyed at his concern.

LILY

Owen -- are you jealous?

OWEN

What? No!

LILY

Because, we had our moment.

OWEN

It wasn't just a moment, it was a whole night.

LILY

And it was amazing --

OWEN

-- your words, but yes --

LILY

But then you never called me.

Boom. There it is. Owen looks like he just stepped in something.

OWEN

It's only been a few weeks.

LILY

Three months.

OWEN

So that's, what -- twelve weeks?

(beat)

Okay. That's a long time.

LILY

It's okay. My heart will go on.

(smiles)

You know how these things go. It's all about timing.

She really doesn't seem upset. And that makes Owen push the matter even further. Recalling Dashiell's words:

OWEN

Maybe we haven't tried hard enough.

LILY

We?

OWEN

Okay, me. Still -- maybe we should give this another shot.

LILY

(skeptical)

Is this because of yesterday? I almost die, and suddenly you get a case of reverse buyer's remorse or something?

OWEN

Okay, I'm not totally sure what you just said. But no, it's not just about yesterday. I was feeling this way before that.

She searches his face -- and finds he's serious.

LILY

Owen, I like you. I always have, but...

(beat)

I need to figure out what I really want.

(MORE)

LILY (CONT'D)
 And not just my love life --
 everything. If this is a second
 chance, I want to make sure I get
 it right.

Owen looks up; Dash is at the bar getting more drinks...

OWEN
 I've got a really weird question...
 (beat)
 When you were a little kid, did you
 almost drown in your parent's
 swimming pool?

Lily's whole face changes; her smile fades.

LILY
 Why... would you ask me that?

Owen can see the answer in her eyes.

OWEN
 You did.

LILY
 I was four. I wasn't supposed to
 be in the yard by myself, but
 someone left the patio door open...
 How did you know?

OWEN
 (weak cover)
 You must've told me.

Before Lily can follow up, Dash plops back into his chair
 with a fresh Mai Tai. He smiles.

DASHIELL
 They're half-price 'til seven.

Lily looks from Owen to Dash then back again.

LILY
 (to herself)
 Think I'm ready for another.

EXT. UNION STREET -- NIGHT

A very drunk Dash walks Lily back to her apartment. She's
 holding her shoes; he's holding his coat.

LILY
 You sure you're okay?

DASHIELL

I've never felt better in my entire life. Ever.

From the end of the block a FIRE ENGINE turns onto the street, lights flashing, siren wailing. Lily stops, frozen. She stares at the passing truck.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Lily slowly sits on a low wall, shaken.

LILY

I'm fine.

But as the lights and sirens fade, Lily looks into Dashiell's eyes.

LILY (CONT'D)

Actually... I'm not fine.

Once again we see the magical effect Dashiell has on people. His eyes unlock something inside her...

LILY (CONT'D)

I wasn't supposed to be there...
(beat)

The clerk misread the court schedule. She said there had been a postponement on a custody hearing -- so I suddenly had the afternoon free. And I'd seen that cafe for over a year and I thought -- why not? I asked for a table out front because it was so warm, but they'd just given the last one away so they sat me inside.

(beat)

Everyone on the sidewalk...

She shakes her head; doesn't need to say it. Then, as if waking from a dream...

LILY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. I don't know why I'm telling you all this.

She stands, pulls her coat around her and continues walking. He follows, determined.

DASHIELL

Why do you think it happened?

LILY
The explosion?

DASHIELL
No. Your surviving it.

She turns to him, answers louder than she means to:

LILY
Exactly! That's my point. There is no reason for any of it. I could just as easily be dead. The fact that I'm alive is nothing but dumb luck.

DASHIELL
That's not true, Lily. You want to believe there's a reason you're alive. And you should, because it's true.

In this moment, it feels to Lily that Dashiell has discovered her gentle soul. She wants to believe his words with all her heart... But then, her defenses return.

LILY
What makes you so sure?

Of course, he can't tell her. He steps in close with that drunk intensity some people get. And their physical proximity begins to derail his train of thought...

DASHIELL
This wasn't just some accident.
There's a reason we met again...

She notices the slip; but he doesn't. Dash takes a deep breath and closes his eyes:

DASHIELL (CONT'D)
And you smell wonderful.

He leans in and kisses her. It's his first kiss ever. And what he lacks in skill, he makes up for in enthusiasm. It happens so fast, it takes Lily a minute to shove him back.

LILY
What are you doing?

Dash comes out of his daze. The spell has been broken. But it's clear to us (if not Dash) that the kiss did more for her than just take her by surprise -- it took her breath away.

DASHIELL
I just really wanted to kiss you.

LILY
Yeah. I got that...

She takes a moment to gather herself. Then:

LILY (CONT'D)
Hey, what did you mean just then --
there's a reason we met "again"?

Dash stares at her, genuinely puzzled:

DASHIELL
Did I say that?

She stares at him; realizes there's no point in pursuing it.

LILY
You're drunk. Just... go home.

She turns and goes inside her apartment. Dash just stands there, staring at the closed door, trying to quantify exactly how badly he's messed everything up...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE -- LOBBY -- MORNING

Bright sunlight from the high windows illuminates the courthouse lobby like a cathedral. Lily is with Jared; it's almost time for his testimony.

LILY
How do you feel?

JARED
Nervous.

LILY
Good. I'd be worried if you weren't. Just answer my questions the way we practiced and you'll do great. Why don't you hit the restroom, we've still got time.

Jared nods and heads off just as...

Dashiell arrives. Lily is surprised at how awkward she feels; it's like being back in high school.

DASHIELL
Hey.

LILY
Hi.

DASHIELL
Full disclosure. Last night was my first Mai Tai.

LILY
No kidding.

They both smile. Then the silence grows. Lily steps in, trying to claim the role of "mature adult".

LILY (CONT'D)
Look, I think the thing to do is just... forget it happened.

DASHIELL
Is that what you want?

LILY
Well... yes.

DASHIELL
Alright. I'll forget it happened.

Lily isn't sure why -- but for some reason, she feels sad.

INT. COURTHOUSE HALLWAY -- RESTROOM -- MORNING

Jared comes out of the restroom and comes face to face with Paula Medrano -- Mark's younger sister. It's an awkward moment. But in a way, Jared's been looking for an opportunity like this ever since Mark died.

JARED

Paula, I just want to say... I'm sorry. I know your mom doesn't want to talk to me, but --

PAULA

Neither do I.

Jared nods. He's about to leave when --

PAULA (CONT'D)

She doesn't leave the house, you know. Only to come here. The rest of time she's in her room. She doesn't talk, she doesn't eat, she barely sleeps. It's like when Mark died... she did too.

JARED

You know I'd do anything to make this right.

PAULA

Then go to jail.

(nothing from Jared)

Yeah. I didn't think so.

(anger building)

He called me that night, you know. Just before it happened. You were supposed to drive him home, but you said you were too tired to haul him clear out to Oakland. You don't remember the fight, do you? You let him down. That's what he was thinking when he died.

This story has hurt Paula almost as much as it did Jared. She doesn't stick around to witness the damage, just turns and goes.

INT. COURTROOM -- DAY

Dash and Jared sit at the council table as people file into the courtroom. Jared looks tense.

DASHIELL
Feeling okay?

Jared shrugs.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)
Jared, I think deep inside, you know exactly what to do. Listen to that voice and you can't go wrong.

JARED
I don't think I can do this.

DASHIELL
Sure you can.

JARED
Then maybe I'm not sure I should.

LATER -- JARED IS ON THE STAND: Lily is questioning him from the counsel table. He looks uncomfortable.

LILY
And Jared -- when did you and Mark Medrano first meet?

JARED
I think we were in day care. My dad would know. Mark was just... always there.

LILY
You both attended Waverly Christian School; played soccer together; did Cub Scouts, student council, the football team...
(smiles)
Didn't you ever get sick of each other? Argue?

JARED
No. I mean --
(eyes on Paula)
Not really.

LILY
You even ended up at the same university.

JARED
We both wanted to do pre-med, so...

LILY
And how are your grades?

JARED

Fine.

Lily waits for him to elaborate. He doesn't.

LILY

According to your transcripts,
you're doing better than fine.
Last semester you had a 4.0. In
fact, out of the last three
semesters, you've maintained --

JARED

So did he.

LILY

I'm sorry?

JARED

So did Mark. Mark had a 4.0, too.

Dash notices Jared keeps looking at Paula. It's as if he's directing part of his testimony to her.

LILY

You miss him, don't you Jared.

SASHA

Objection. Relevance.

JUDGE AVERY

Sustained.

LILY

Do you need to take a minute?

JARED

No. I don't. Mark wasn't my
friend. He was more like my
brother, you know? He was always
there for me. I wish I could say I
was always there for him... but I
wasn't.

These last words are directed straight to Paula. But it's also the first time she looks away. Dash wonders: *what's going on between these two?* Jared continues, guilt-ridden:

JARED (CONT'D)

I was tired, we got into a fight;
I was supposed to drive him home
but I didn't. I'm not looking for
anyone's sympathy or mercy. I
deserve to pay for what I did.

(MORE)

JARED (CONT'D)

Whatever happens to me will be
better than what happened to him.
At least I'm still alive.

Lily watches her case implode; she can't believe this is
happening. Murmurs roll through the court. Dash looks back
in time to see Paula get up and walk out.

LILY

No further questions.

But it's barely heard as Judge Avery bangs his gavel, calling
the court to order. Dash gets up and heads out after Paula.
Sasha, at the DAs table, just shakes her head, smiling,
thinking: *Rookie mistake...*

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE -- PARKING LOT -- DAY

Dash steps outside and looks around until he sees PAULA
getting into her used-but-cool '89 Toyota Corolla. He
watches as she quickly drives away...

INT. COURTHOUSE -- CONFERENCE ROOM -- LATER

Dash, Lily, Robert and Jared are here. Lily can barely
contain her anger.

LILY

What the hell happened out there?

JARED

I'm not the victim. Mark's the
victim.

LILY

We had a plan. You practically
asked for a jail sentence. And with
Judge Avery, that's all he needs.

JARED

So maybe I should go to prison.
Maybe I should pay for what I did.

ROBERT

Who do you think you'll be after
fifteen years in prison? I loved
Mark like a son. But you should
not have to lose your life over one
mistake.

JARED

Would you feel the same way if Mark
killed me?

Robert can't answer that. Lily tries for calm.

LILY

Wait. Stop. Jared -- between last night and this morning, what changed?

Jared takes a minute before responding. He's holding something back. Finally, he just shrugs:

JARED

It's not fair, just going back to my life, like none of this ever happened. Dashiell told me to listen to the voice inside me. And I did.

LILY

(to Dash)

You knew about this?

DASHIELL

(suddenly on the spot)

He was worried about going on the stand. He said he wasn't sure he could do it.

LILY

When was this?

DASHIELL

In court today.

LILY

So you counseled him before he took the stand and didn't tell me?

DASHIELL

I -- I just... told him... to do what he thought was right.

Lily is angry, but the part that kills Dashiell is that she also looks hurt -- and personally betrayed.

LILY

You're done with this case. You're fired. Go.

Off Dashiell -- devastated...

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. SAN FRANCISCO - LAFAYETTE PARK - DAY

Dashiell sits on a bench near where he first became human. But now he feels more lost than ever.

DASHIELL

Father, this was a terrible mistake... I thought I could manage being human... I thought I knew what to do. But I don't. I've made things worse. Especially for Lily, and I can't forgive myself for that...

(beat)

Please. Help me. Take me back. Let me save people like I did before. I'm begging you...

He closes his eyes and waits for something to happen. But nothing does. And soon Dashiell realizes: nothing ever will.

INT. CHAPEL OF THE MARINER -- DAY

David and Goliath. Ali and Foreman. Owen and this damn window. He's scraped eighty years of paint off it. He pounds it with his screwdriver. But it's just not happening.

OWEN

All the other windows open. You think you're better than them?

Just then, the front door opens. And Dashiell enters.

DASHIELL

I need your help.

Owen walks over to him. Dashiell looks lower and more lost than the first night he showed up here.

OWEN

What's wrong?

DASHIELL

I have really, really, really, really, really messed things up with Lily.

OWEN

Because I wasn't taking you seriously until you got to that fifth "really". What'd you do?

DASHIELL

What didn't I do? I destroyed her case, I kissed her, I --

OWEN

You what now?

DASHIELL

(ashamed)

It's just, I felt so amazing after those two Mai Tai's. And we walked through the city, and we started to talk, and she *smelled so good...*

OWEN

Oh, for God's sake.

DASHIELL

And then I started to get this really weird feeling all over my body and --

OWEN

Stop! Stop. I get it.

Dashiell slumps into a pew. For a moment they regard each other.

OWEN (CONT'D)

You were right, by the way. About Lily almost drowning when she was a kid.

Dashiell just nods.

OWEN (CONT'D)

So how'd you know?

DASHIELL

Because I saved her, I told you.

Owen stares at him. And the cold truth settles on Dashiell.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

You don't believe me.

OWEN

How can you expect any rational person to believe that you were an angel?

Dashiell suddenly explodes in anger -- and it's scary:

DASHIELL

I don't expect any rational person to believe me -- I expect you to!

(beat)

You're a pastor. How can you do what you do when you don't believe the first thing about it?

OWEN

(heated)

Nobody does. Not like this.

DASHIELL

Once again -- maybe you're not trying hard enough.

OWEN

Oh, I'm sorry. I'm not an Angel, I don't "converse" with God, I've always just been a regular old human being, I wasn't born yesterday like you.

DASHIELL

I wasn't born yesterday.

OWEN

Okay, Tuesday, whatever!

His angry words echo in the small chapel. Then, calmer:

OWEN (CONT'D)

For me, faith is a journey. I didn't become a pastor because I had some perfect level of belief. I did it so that maybe one day I would.

Dashiell almost laughs; the answer is so obvious.

DASHIELL

And here I am.

Owen just stares at him, apparently unmoved.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

So are you going to help me fix things with Lily or not?

OWEN

Putting you back with Lily isn't the help you need. I think you should talk to someone. Like a therapist.

DASHIELL
 I didn't wander all over the city
 looking for a therapist. I chose
 this place. And I chose you.

Dashiell waits. But Owen just lowers his gaze to the floor.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)
 I guess I was wrong.

Dashiell is now truly on his own. He turns and slowly walks out, closing the door behind him.

Owen stands in the silence of his own lack of faith. The Chapel has never felt more like just an ordinary building.

Then -- POP! Owen looks back to see --

The window has opened. Just an inch. But sunlight pours through. Owen looks back at the door where Dash just left...

INT. CAR -- DAY

Owen drives; Dashiell rides shotgun.

OWEN
 All you needed was ride? You could
 have called a taxi.

DASHIELL
 (knowing smile)
 Right. Taxi. Maybe next time.

Owen knows Dashiell has won this round. And that's fine. He pulls to the curb in front of a modest suburban house.

OWEN
 885 Keystone Drive -- right?

DASHIELL'S POV: In the driveway he sees Paula's funky Toyota.

DASHIELL
 This is it. And Paula's home.

As Dashiell readies to leave, Owen grabs his arm.

OWEN
 Two things: first, Lily can never
 know I helped you.

DASHIELL
 Got it.

OWEN

And this is never going to work.

DASHIELL

You're probably right. But I know Paula knows something. I have to talk to her; try to find out what it is...

(beat)

Pray with me?

Dashiell bows his head and prays. Owen watches -- should he join him? He does. Dashiell finishes. Deep breath.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

Okay. Here goes.

OWEN

I'll keep the motor running.

Dashiell gets out of the car and makes his way up the walk...

EXT. MEDRANO HOUSE -- DAY

Dashiell rings the bell. Paula Medrano answers. She is shocked to see him.

DASHIELL

May I come in? Please?

She considers for a long beat...

INT. MEDRANO HOUSE -- DAY

Dashiell follows Paula into the living room. It's awkward, but Dashiell does his best to ease the tension.

DASHIELL

Look, just so you know, I'm not the enemy anymore. I mean, I 'm not working for Jared Cullen.

PAULA

Why not?

DASHIELL

I got fired. After what happened on the stand this morning.

PAULA

Why'd you get fired for that?

DASHIELL

It turns out I gave Jared some bad advice. I told him to say whatever he felt in his heart. But I didn't know what he was feeling. Do you?

Paula shifts uncomfortably; stares at the ground.

PAULA

You should probably go.

DASHIELL

Paula -- why did you run out of the courtroom? I followed you, but you were already in your car.

Connie appears in the doorway; she is shocked to see Dashiell with her daughter.

CONNIE

What's going on here?

DASHIELL

I was just leaving.

Dashiell turns to go. As he reaches the doorway, he turns back to Paula -- and for the first time she meets his gaze.

PAULA

Look, I didn't tell him to say those things. I just...

(upset)

I just thought he should know what it's like here for us. That's all.

Dashiell begins putting it together.

DASHIELL

So you told him something, didn't you.

PAULA

(opening up)

I ran into him this morning -- by accident. We sort of got into it, and I said I thought he should go to jail. And I told him how Mark called me that night... but I lied. I told him Mark was mad at him.

Connie is genuinely surprised by this, and by how upset Paula is...

CONNIE
Why would you do that?

PAULA
I'm sorry. It's just that...
you've been so angry. And so sad.

CONNIE
We all are.

PAULA
No. Not as much as you...
(beat)
I was afraid...

CONNIE
Afraid of what?

PAULA
(fighting tears)
You said if he got off, if nothing
happened to him... you couldn't
live with that.
(then quickly)
And you've been so depressed, and I
got scared that you, you might...

Paula can't say it. Connie is stunned. It's like she suddenly wakes up.

CONNIE
Oh my God.

Connie goes to her daughter and holds her. Suddenly, horribly aware of what she's put her daughter through.

PAULA
(to Dashiell)
I'm sorry I got you in trouble.

DASHIELL
It's okay. I forgive you.
(to Connie)
Is there any chance you can do the
same for Jared?

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

INT. SPARROW LEGAL CLINIC -- DAY

Dashiell enters, excited. He looks around, sees Lily, and goes to her.

DASHIELL

Lily.

She looks up. But when she sees it's Dash, her expression hardens.

LILY

You shouldn't be here.

DASHIELL

We need to call the DA, set a meeting for this afternoon.

Off Lily, skeptical --

INT. COURTHOUSE -- CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

Around the conference table: Dash, Lily, Robert & Jared Cullen; Sasha Nouri, Connie, John & Paula Medrano.

Sasha looks disappointed to be here.

SASHA

You all know why we're here.

(beat)

Connie Medrano has something she would like to discuss...

Connie looks at Jared, who sits directly across from her, for a long beat.

CONNIE

Do you remember when you and Mark were nine? It was the summer before fifth grade. And you guys built that platform out of plywood between the back wall and the garage roof.

Jared nods. He remembers.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

Then you put on your skateboard pads and had a battle to see who could push the other one off first.

Both families remember this; it's a laugh-or-cry moment...

JARED

He won.

CONNIE

And your leg was in a cast for the rest of the summer.

ROBERT

You made Mark give Jared his entire comic book collection.

JOHN

(to Robert)

And you brought them back the next day.

The memory is almost too much to bear. Connie looks at Jared; fights her tears. Speaks with the strength of a parent.

CONNIE

I was so mad at him. I really gave him hell. Even though, of course, I understood...

(beat; to Jared)

I know you never wanted to hurt Mark. All I ever wanted... was for the two of you to be safe. That's all.

Connie looks at Dashiell -- then at her daughter Paula.

CONNIE (CONT'D)

I realize now that I haven't made this easier for anyone. I'm so sorry...

(to Lily)

If there's still time... can we accept the plea bargain?

Lily and Sasha share a glance; Sasha slowly nods.

LILY

(smiles)

I think we can work something out.

Connie reaches out and takes Jared's hand, joining the two families together again. A palpable wave of relief washes over the room...

INT. COURTHOUSE -- HALLWAY -- LATER

Lily walks with Dashiell; she can barely contain herself.

LILY

How did you do it? I'm serious. I've seen a lot of angry, hurt people in this job. And I gave up any hope of her accepting a plea bargain, much less forgiving Jared, a long time ago.

DASHIELL

Forgiveness is for the forgiver. I think she was afraid that if she forgave Jared she was being a bad mother to Mark... But she didn't see what effect that was having on her family. I helped her see that.

Lily looks at him; still can't quite believe it. She smiles.

LILY

Well, however you did it, I'm glad you did. You're an angel.

OFF DASH -- never happier...

INT. JUDGE AVERY'S CHAMBERS -- DAY

Dash, Lily and Sasha sit while Judge Avery finishes reading the plea bargain. Finally, he looks up.

JUDGE AVERY

I'm not accepting this.

Lily is stunned. This is highly unusual.

LILY

Your Honor -- all parties are well aware of what it entails. The Medrano's would be happy to meet with you personally if you're concerned that --

Judge Avery waves her off:

JUDGE AVERY

I'm not convinced this agreement is in your client's best interest.

LILY

Your Honor --

JUDGE AVERY

Part of my job is to make sure the sentence has a substantive impact on the defendant's future behavior.

(re: plea bargain)

This is a wrist slap. The jury heard his testimony. Second degree is a real possibility, and I'd be inclined to agree with that verdict.

(stands)

I'll see you in court tomorrow.

Off Lily and Dash, crestfallen...

INT. COURTHOUSE -- CONFERENCE ROOM -- DAY

The Cullen family and the Medrano family are still gathered; Lily has just delivered the bad news

ROBERT
(incredulous)
But how can he do that? We all
agreed.

LILY
It doesn't matter. Tomorrow we'll
deliver our closing arguments and
the case will go to the jury.

Everyone can tell by her face that this does not bode well. A pall hangs over the room. Finally, Paula goes to Jared.

PAULA
I'm sorry. I lied to you about
Mark's phone message. He wasn't
mad at you, and you didn't let him
down...
(beat)
I did.

Jared is completely surprised by this.

JARED
What do you mean?

Paula looks at her parents, then back to Jared:

PAULA
He wanted me to come get him. But
I was with my friends and I didn't
want to leave, so... I pretended I
never got the message.

This is news to everyone in the room. No one knows quite what to say. Until Dash speaks up.

DASHIELL
Do you still have it?

Odd question. But Paula nods.

PAULA
I couldn't delete it.

Dash has a feeling that hearing this message is important.

DASHIELL

Would you mind playing it? I have
a feeling it's something we all
need to hear.

It's an odd request. But there's something about the way he
said it that makes everyone take it seriously. Lily nods at
Paula who dials her voicemail then puts the phone on speaker.
Sets it down on the table in front of Jared:

VOICEMAIL (ON PHONE)

September third.... Eleven thirty-
nine p.m....

Everyone waits; the next voice they hear will be Mark's.

MARK (ON PHONE)

Hey Paula, it's me... I need a
ride. You can even use my car, the
keys are on my desk. Call me back.

That's it. No big revelations. No ironic reveals. The most
common voicemail imaginable. Except it's the last one.

But Lily is suddenly alert.

LILY

Play it back, Paula.

Paula plays it back. But before Mark is even halfway through
his message, Lily stops her.

LILY (CONT'D)

I need to borrow that phone.

DASHIELL

What is it?

Lily smiles, seeing a ray of sunlight through the clouds.

LILY

Jared didn't kill Mark.

Off the room, stunned...

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. SPARROW LEGAL CLINIC -- DAY

Dashiell watches as Lily pores over the court documents and police reports. She's in full lawyer mode, and when she is -- look out.

LILY

The original 911 call was made from Ross Liquors at 11:31 p.m. That's when Jared's car hit the wall of their parking lot.

Dash shrugs, not getting the connection.

LILY (CONT'D)

Mark's message to Paula was placed at 11:39. Eight minutes later. How could Jared hit Mark eight minutes after he crashed his car?

Click. Dash gets it. (Along with our audience).

DASHIELL

Jared didn't kill him.

(beat)

So if he didn't hit Mark, who did?

LILY

Someone driving a white Chevy pick-up... south on University Avenue... around nine minutes later.

DASHIELL

That could be anyone.

But Lily is back checking the police records.

LILY

No. Not anyone...

INT. SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURTHOUSE -- COURT ROOM -- DAY

Everyone is gathered for closing arguments. Even Owen is there to witness the proceedings. But first, Lily has one final witness to question. On the stand --

THE TOW TRUCK DRIVER we met before...

LILY

Thank you for coming back.

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

No problem.

LILY

I just have few questions about your previous testimony. You stated on the night of the accident that you heard the accident report on your police scanner at 11:33 p.m. Is that right?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

I guess.

LILY

It would make sense. The original 911 call was logged just two minutes earlier...

The Tow Truck Driver nods, relaxing a bit.

LILY (CONT'D)

And then we have you arriving at the accident scene just as the police arrived -- at 11:45. Is that correct?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

Yes, that is correct.

Lily refers to her court documents.

LILY

(off-hand)

And what color is your truck?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

White.

LILY

Thank you. And according to your dispatch report you were just finishing changing a tire at 1859 University Avenue. You left immediately upon hearing the accident report.

The Tow Truck Driver knows the questions are leading him somewhere; he's just not sure where...

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

That's correct.

LILY

1859 University Avenue is only three blocks from where Jared's car crashed.

(beat)

Why did it take you twelve minutes to drive three blocks?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

It was raining, and -- there was traffic.

LILY

Traffic? At that hour?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

(scrambling)

Maybe I'm a little off, I don't know the exact times --

LILY

They're on record with your dispatcher.

(gently)

Did something happen on the way to the accident site to delay you?

The Tow Truck Driver just stares. Then:

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

I never even saw him. But... I heard a thump.

A ripple runs through the courtroom. This is huge.

TOW TRUCK DRIVER (CONT'D)

I stopped a block later, went back to see what happened. It took me a while to find him. Then when I did...

LILY

I understand. Why didn't you say anything to the police?

TOW TRUCK DRIVER

I was going to. But then the ambulance called and they made the connection to the crashed car and... I let them. I just kept my mouth shut.

The JURY reacts to this statement. So does Judge Avery. This case effectively closed.

INT. COURTHOUSE -- HALLWAY -- DAY

Lily is with Dash. They watch as...

The Tow Truck Driver -- now in handcuffs -- is led away from the courtroom and down the hall by Two Police Officers.

LILY

You know, I'd just about given up believing I could help anyone in this job. I was even thinking of quitting. But not anymore.

DASHIELL

When it comes to helping people, you shouldn't ever give up hope.

Owen approaches them; gives Lily a hug.

OWEN

Congratulations! That was amazing. Is court always like this? If it is, I should come more often.

DASHIELL

(to Lily)

You know, I couldn't have done anything without Owen's help.

Dashiell realizes he's slipped up. But Owen doesn't mind.

OWEN

That's true, by the way. He's useless without me.

(to Dash)

But I guess you did prove me wrong. Your plan worked.

DASHIELL

If you want something badly enough, sometimes you get it.

Owen glances at Lily, then back to Dashiell.

OWEN

I hope you're right.

Just then Connie, John and Paula approach.

CONNIE

I'd like to thank you both. For everything.

LILY
I'm just glad to see you and the
Cullen's speaking.

CONNIE
We've decided to have a second
memorial for Mark...

Robert and Jared join the group.

CONNIE (CONT'D)
And everyone who was important to
him will be there this time. We'd
be pleased if the two of you could
join us.

Dashiell looks at Lily, waiting for her response. Lily
warmly embraces Connie.

LILY
We would be honored.

JARED
(to Dash & Lily)
I don't know how to thank you.

DASHIELL
Jared -- there's nothing worse than
seeing a young life end before it
even starts.

JARED
I know.

DASHIELL
I'm talking about you. You want to
thank us? Make something great out
of your life. Something that would
make Mark proud.

Jared nods a confirmation and shakes their hands.

JARED
I will. You guys really saved my
life.

These words hit Dashiell hard: saved my life... Maybe they
did. Which means that God didn't lie to him after all...

EXT. LAFAYETTE PARK -- SUNSET

It's the perfect time of day here -- almost night. Dashiell
is alone again, but not feeling lonely at all.

DASHIELL

Father. Thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed on me.

(beat)

I realize now that the gift you gave me... the gift of being human... isn't at all what I expected it to be. Most important, I understand now that you never lied to me. Not really. There's still a way for me to save people...

(beat)

So thank you for this life. I'll try not to screw it up.

FROM HIGH ABOVE we watch as Dashiell takes one last look at the sun dipping below the horizon, and then turns to leave.

EXT. SPARROW LEGAL CLINIC -- NIGHT -- LATER

Dashiell looks in the window. Lily is the only person there, illuminated by the reflected glow of her desk lamp.

Dashiell smiles.

INT. SPARROW LEGAL CLINIC -- NIGHT

Dashiell enters. Lily looks at him with a disturbingly blank expression.

LILY

Who are you?

Dashiell is too surprised by her question to answer.

LILY (CONT'D)

I just got a call from upstairs. Sparrow Knox & Feinberg said they would be assigning the paralegal I requested on Monday. They've never heard of you.

DASHIELL

I can explain.

Dashiell waits a beat, praying for the words to come to him, an idea, an excuse -- anything. But nothing does.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

Actually... I can't explain.

He walks to the door. Then he turns back.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Lily. I never meant to hurt you. In fact... I meant the opposite.

Dashiell walks out the door. Conflicted, Lily watches him go...

INT. BUDDHA LOUNGE -- NIGHT

Dash sits alone at a dark corner table, brooding over a Mai Tai. A WOMAN sits down across from him: Sasha Nouri.

SASHA

You look pretty down. Want some company?

Dash shrugs. He's so depressed he almost doesn't notice how incredibly hot Sasha looks. Almost. She gently removes the Mai Tai from his hands and takes a sip.

DASHIELL

(glum)
Wonderful, isn't it?

Sasha winces at the sweet taste.

SASHA

I'm more of a Scotch girl myself.
(beat)
So what's wrong?

DASHIELL

(summing himself up)
I am a liar.

SASHA

It's pronounced "lawyer".

Dash looks at her for a beat. Then:

DASHIELL

What would you do if you knew a guy, and you found out he hadn't been completely honest with you about something?

SASHA

I guess it depends on how big the something was.

DASHIELL

Big.

SASHA

Well, if I liked him, I would at least give him a chance to explain.

DASHIELL

(hopeful)

Really?

She casually puts her hand on his -- but the effect it has on him is immediate and electric. She smiles her wicked smile.

SASHA

Does this have anything to do with you running around naked in the park stealing girls clothes?

Dashiell actually blushes.

DASHIELL

Not exactly.

SASHA

Look, whatever happened, it's probably not as bad as you think.

(beat)

Just talk to her.

DASHIELL

So -- total honesty?

SASHA

I never said that.

Sasha stands. Dashiell can't help but stare at her amazing body. She's about to walk away when --

DASHIELL

Sasha.

She stops, turns back. They look at each other for a long time... SMASHCUT TO:

DASHIELL AND SASHA -- their bodies SLAM INTO FRAME, hitting the wall of...

INT. SASHA'S APARTMENT -- NIGHT

They're making out, pulling each other's clothes off. Finally, Sasha pulls him into her bedroom. Even though we can't see them we can still HEAR them as the last of their clothes come off...

SASHA (O.S.)

Oh... God.

INT. SASHA'S APARTMENT -- BEDROOM -- MORNING

Sunlight gives the room a golden glow. Dash and Sasha lay in each other's arms. Dashiell looks transformed.

DASHIELL

That was...
 (searches for the words)
 Better than Oreos.

She gives him a look, then bursts out laughing. Dash smiles.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

I know. I'm super funny.

But we can tell by the look on his face that he's beginning to experience that familiar human emotion that always seems to follow true pleasure: guilt...

INT. SACRED GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE -- DAY

Lily is getting her morning coffee when Dashiell steps up beside her. She is definitely surprised to see him.

DASHIELL

Can we talk?

LILY

I'm due in court in ten minutes.

She walks out of the store. He follows her.

EXT. STREET -- DAY

He follows along as she quickly walks down the street.

DASHIELL

First, I have to apologize. I did something that I'm not proud of...
 (is he really going to tell her?)

I gave you the impression that I worked for Sparrow Knox & Feinberg when I really didn't. The truth is, I heard you needed help at the clinic -- so I offered help. Technically, I didn't lie.

LILY

Omission of the truth is a de facto lie. And if you didn't know that, then you're not a paralegal. Which gets us back to: who are you?

DASHIELL

I am a person... who wants to help people change their lives. And it seems like you want that, too.

LILY

Still don't know who you are.

DASHIELL

Up until recently, I worked in crisis management. In a context I really can't go into.

She sneaks a look at him: Government work? Covert? Maybe...

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

But I wasn't connecting with people. At least not in the way I wanted. So I asked for a transfer. And it was granted. That's when I become a human being. I changed my life on purpose. I mean, we've only got so many days, right?

Dash smiles at her, but Lily keeps her eyes focused away.

DASHIELL (CONT'D)

Why won't you look at me?

LILY

Because when I look at you I get a weird feeling. Like I'll believe whatever you say.

DASHIELL

Well this is true: we helped out Jared Cullen and the Medranos. And I'll bet there's a lot of other people who could use our help...

(beat)

Maybe things do happen for a reason. I'd like to stick around and find out what that reason is.

Lily looks directly into his eyes. She knows she should follow her common sense. But instead, she listens to her gentle soul...

LILY

Come by Monday. There might be some work you can do.

DASHIELL

Great. That's great.

They smile at each other. Shake hands. A little too long. Before she gets the weird feeling, she breaks off and turns away, heading downhill toward court. Dash heads uphill.

He feels wonderful. A light rain begins to fall. As others huddle under umbrellas, Dash stops and turns his face skyward, delighting in the feel of rain on his face.

DOWN THE HILL: Lily stops walking. Maybe it's that weird feeling again. She turns and looks back up the hill to see --

DASHIELL -- arms out, eyes closed, faced turned heavenward. Fog swirls around his feet. He seems to float. Rays of sunlight pierce the clouds; he is shrouded in golden light.

Lily stares at this amazing sight -- one that no one else on the street seems to notice -- and it touches her soul. Before she knows what she's doing, she's walking back up the hill towards Dash...

UP THE HILL: When she reaches him, he is once again just Dash, standing happily in the rain.

LILY

Actually... I think I could use
some help right now.

Dashiell smiles. And now they walk down the hill together.

WE MOVE HIGH ABOVE THEM OVER THE CITY: Teeming with thousands of lives... All of them waiting to be saved.

Then -- we hear a DOG BARKING.

DASHIELL (V.O.)

Hey! Look who's here!

LILY (V.O.)

Oh no...

DASHIELL (V.O.)

Who's a good boy?! Who's a good
boy?!

LILY (V.O.)

Uh, Dash... Dash?

DASHIELL (V.O.)

What a good boy!

FADE OUT:

THE END

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