

REALITY CHECK

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FADE IN:

INT. PETER LINCOLN'S APARTMENT LOS ANGELES - DAY

Flat-Screen TV airing the shower scene from "Psycho." Nice apartment, a picture window view of the downtown skyline.

PETER LINCOLN, AFRICAN-AMERICAN (42) holds a glass half full of vodka. Casual suit, handsome but looking tired and drawn. He pulls cell phone from pocket, sees "1 message" on display, presses button.

KATEY (O.S.)

I can't believe you missed the meeting today! Henry totally blew a fuse.

PETER

Love you too, Katey.

KATEY (O.S.)

I gave him a bullshit excuse about you covering a story, but he practically laughed in my face.

PETER

Self-serving prick that he is.

KATEY (O.S.)

Listen... you wanna flush your career down the toilet, be my guest. I'm here for you, but I-

Peter presses delete, places phone into pocket, walks over to desk, turns on police scanner. Random reports emanate as walks to the window, downing the drink from his glass.

EXT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT - ESTABLISHING - DAY

There is a fountain, a pond and lush greenery. LANDSCAPERS and GARDENERS at work with the upkeep of the grounds.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

SAMANTHA KENT, CAUCASIAN (61), resident at the retreat, a once-famous film star.

Her room is adorned with movie posters, pictures posing with other celebrities. She primps in front of mirror, practicing smiles and looks of seduction.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN CHESTER'S ROOM - DAY

CHESTER ARMSTRONG, CAUCASIAN (56), another resident at Starlight, a big burly man, subject to black-outs.

Sit in chair reading a large, hard cover manual. He stands, book in hand, walks over to open window, flings book out of window nearly hitting a gardener who yells.

WORKER (O.S.)  
Hey, what the fuck!

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN PAULA'S ROOM - DAY

PAULA RICHARDSON, AFRICAN-AMERICAN (30), another resident, beautiful, well-dressed woman.

Standing, cell phone in hand, she text messages "Come now", stands before mirror, checks her hair and make-up. In bursts DAVID MADERA, HISPANIC (26), Operations Mgr. for the clinic.

Closing door behind him, he walks over, begins kissing and caressing her body. Dressed in clinic attire, he wears a diamond stud earring in his left ear.

PAULA  
That was quick. I just hung up my phone.

DAVID  
What can I tell you? I'm psychic.

PAULA  
No one saw you come in here I hope?

DAVID  
I understand the meaning of discreet and cautious.

PAULA  
That's very important. We don't have much time. I only have a few minutes til group.

DAVID  
So shut up and take your clothes off.

Paula smiles, walks over and locks door, pulls dress off over her head revealing her sexy lingerie.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT UPPER HALL - DAY

A door, room "203" opens, a FEMALE ORDERLY emerges, closes door behind her.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - DAY

DR. SEBASTIAN MARKS, CAUCASIAN (59), Head Administrator of Starlight Haven Retreat, a rehabilitation clinic, brown hair, medium build, dressed in a suit.

In walks DR. GLORIA SANDERS, CAUCASIAN (32), Assistant Director, blonde hair, often worn in a bun, rather pretty.

GLORIA

Dr. Marks, it's time for the three o'clock session.

SEBASTIAN

Thanks Gloria, I seemed to have lost track of the time.

GLORIA

That's why you keep me around.

SEBASTIAN

Certainly not the only reason. Is the group assembled?

GLORIA

Most of them, yes. I asked David to go and bring Brian down to session.

SEBASTIAN

How is Brian? Making any progress?

GLORIA

He's still not very responsive. Still prone to occasional outbursts.

SEBASTIAN

That's too bad. I'm in daily contact with his parents. They've been apprised, but remain hopeful.

GLORIA

It's awful what happened to him,  
but I read a report that the two  
guys arrested for the attack claim  
that it was-

SEBASTIAN

-in retaliation for Brian having  
raped a girl. I read that as well.

GLORIA

That's horrible if it's true.

SEBASTIAN

It's unsubstantiated, but  
apparently he has a history of  
violent altercations.

GLORIA

Are you still considering moving  
him to another facility?

SEBASTIAN

I plan to broach the subject if  
there isn't any meaningful progress  
soon.

INT. PETER LINCOLN'S APARTMENT - AFTERNOON

Peter, dressed, passed out on couch. The TV, scanner both on.  
The glass, now empty lies on floor next to the couch. Door  
opens, KATEY KAMURA, ASIAN (28), long black hair, Reporter  
for "SHOWBIZ DIRT" newspaper, enters using key.

She notices Peter asleep on couch, walks over to TV, turns it  
off, walks into another room, emerges carrying a bedspread,  
covers Peter, gives him a kiss on forehead.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SUNSET ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sebastian and Gloria enter SUNSET ROOM six residents sit in a  
circle in plush chairs with armrests. Gloria takes a seat,  
standing, Sebastian addresses the group.

SEBASTIAN

So, who would like to get the ball  
rolling today?

Silence. Sitting in chair on Gloria's right is Samantha.

SAMANTHA

I've said it before and I'll say it again, I really do fucking hate this place.

Sebastian walks to empty chair across from Gloria, sits.

SEBASTIAN

Okay, that's something at least, though I was hoping to get today's session off to a more positive start.

SAMANTHA

The people suck, the food sucks, and frankly, you both suck!

SEBASTIAN

Okay, maybe we should start over.

RICHARD KOHANA, NATIVE AMERICAN (28), short, heavy set, wearing a sweater, slacks and loafers.

RICHARD

She's such a whiny, self-centered bitch. I don't know why you put up with her shit Doc.

SAMANTHA

Fuck you, you drug-addled red skin!

GLORIA

Enough! This has to stop now.

SEBASTIAN

We have no tolerance here for racial slurs Samantha, and both of you, this behavior is totally counter-productive.

RICHARD

Honey, you were great about a thousand martinis ago, but-

Chester pipes in.

CHESTER

Really Richard, why must you always set her off?

RICHARD

Put a cork in it, old man.

SEBASTIAN

Everyone, let's just try to stay focused on positive communication, or we can end this meeting right now.

PAULA

I agree with Richard, that old bitch needs to just chill the fuck out.

SAMANTHA

Shut up, you skank.

PAULA

Excuse me? What the fuck did you call me?

DAN KOMMANI, PACIFIC ISLANDER (35), another resident of medium height, sits to the right of Chester, wears sunglasses, a Hawaiian shirt, with medium-length hair.

DAN

Well, I see it's time for another exciting episode of the Paula and Samantha Show!

PAULA

Listen, you dried up old bitch, I've got half a mind-

SAMANTHA

Exactly my point, you've only got half of a mind.

Gloria moves quickly, as Paula lunges for Samantha, manages to hold Paula back. Samantha stands and the two women continue bickering, as Sebastian and Gloria look on.

BRIAN POPE, CAUCASIAN (26), sitting quietly between Paula and Samantha, he suddenly pushes his chair back, cowers.

INT. CONCERT HALL - FLASHBACK

Brian rocking out at a concert, suddenly he is pushed to the ground, stomped on and kicked repeatedly by TWO THUGS.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SUNSET ROOM - DAY

Gloria, Sebastian manage to get both women settled back into chairs, now placed away from Brian, separated from one other.

GLORIA

The two of you need to calm down.  
You're both acting like children.

SAMANTHA

Listen, you dyed-blondie whore, if I  
need your help I'll let you know!

GLORIA

Your being ridiculous. Please,  
let's try and act like adults.

SEBASTIAN

Another outburst like that and  
we'll have to restrict your access  
to the group.

SAMANTHA

Here's what I think of your group.

Samantha gets up, exits room.

PAULA

What a relief.

Sebastian walks over to Brian, places a hand on his knee.

SEBASTIAN

Are you okay, Brian?

Brian slowly relaxes, stands up, moves his chair back to its  
original position, sits down, making a rocking motion.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Very well then, let's try to get  
back on track, shall we? Dan,  
perhaps you'd like to get us  
started.

DAN

If I had my iPhone just now, I  
could've made a fortune.

Richard and Dan start to snicker. Sebastian looks slightly  
annoyed.

INT. PHILLIP KLINE'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

PHILLIP KLINE, CAUCASIAN (66), Lawyer, sits at large oak desk  
with documents and framed pictures. He's on the phone having  
a heated conversation.

PHILLIP

Listen, I don't know what to tell you. I spoke to him yesterday and he said he'd be there.

(beat)

Frankly I don't give a fuck how much money it's costing you. That's really your problem now, isn't it?

(beat)

Look, I'm not a goddamn baby-sitter. I'm just trying to keep this shit show from becoming any more of a colossal fuck-up. His behavior is borderline suicidal and he needs to get help.

FLASHBACK - LAST NIGHT

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY MALIBU - NIGHT

A shiny black Porsche soars South down the curvy highway.

INT. PORSCHE/EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Inside the driver's seat is JASON "J-ROCK" JAMBOWSKI, CAUCASIAN (42), Long, scraggly hair, jeans, black T-shirt, wearing an excessive amount of jewelry.

In the passenger seat is GINA, CAUCASIAN (23), a gorgeous brunette, close to passing out. In Jason's lap; a gun and a half empty bottle of Grey Goose Vodka.

Speed metal is blasting from his car speakers.

GINA

Baby, my fucking head is spinning.  
Maybe you should pull over.

JASON

We're almost there, just be cool.

The speedometer reads 65 m.p.h., quickly accelerates to 80 m.p.h. The car takes a curve through Malibu erratically, with Jason on the verge of passing out.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - FLASHBACK

Slender legs clad in mini-skirts, martini glasses clinking, alcohol hitting the plush carpet, faces of laughing people.

INT./EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - NIGHT

Jason, fighting off sleep, rolls electric window down, sticks his head out. He lights a cigarette, it drops to the floor of car. The speedometer reads 90 m.p.h.

GINA  
Slow down J, I think I'm gonna be sick.

INT. PARTY HOUSE - FLASHBACK

ANGRY PARTY HOST yelling at Jason.

ANGRY PARTY HOST  
Big, important rock star! Get the fuck outta my house!

Jason shoves someone and grabs Gina by the hand.

Gina  
Hey! Where are we going, babe?

Jason doesn't respond. He pulls Gina along as he grabs a half full bottle of Grey Goose off a counter top and the two exit.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY II - NIGHT

Another point on PCH, Jason swerves past another car moving about half his speed, the other car's horn wailing.

EXT. PARTY HOUSE - FLASHBACK

Door of Porsche opens, bottle of Grey Goose and the gun are dropped onto front seat. Jason flips the middle finger back towards the house. He and Gina are laughing as they climb into the car.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY III - NIGHT

A different point on PCH, the Porsche misses a turn and crashes into a house along the side of the highway. The music from the car's sound system can still be heard emanating from the vehicle.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

DETECTIVE JAMES MORTON, CAUCASIAN (45), and DETECTIVE ASHLEY ROBERTS, AFRICAN-AMERICAN (32).

There are other officers, along with recently arrested people waiting to be booked or released.

JAMES

We're really not getting anywhere on this case.

ASHLEY

Leads haven't checked out. We keep running into dead ends.

JAMES

The Florida D.A. thinks he's here in California, maybe working under an assumed name.

ASHLEY

He's smart, doesn't make many mistakes, and walks away clean with the money every time.

JAMES

But he's bound to slip up at some point. My bet is that he picks the wrong target eventually.

INT. SHOWBIZ DIRT OFFICES - DAY

Katey sits at desk, while two more employees work in an otherwise empty office. Peter walks in, somewhat disheveled.

KATEY

You look like shit.

PETER

Well, the carpet definitely matches the drapes. Hey, did ya hear what happened last night?

KATEY

Fill me in.

PETER

I picked it up on the scanner. Jason Jambowski totaled his Porsche last night on PCH.

KATEY

Was he drunk?

PETER

Of course he was. They booked him on a DUI, he blew a 2.1, plus possession of an unregistered firearm.

KATEY

He won't end up doing any time. By the way, I stopped by yesterday.

PETER

Really? What time?

KATEY

Must've been around half past drunk off your ass.

PETER

Was I that obvious?

KATEY

It was barely noon, Pete. Are you trying to shitcan your career? Because it's working!

PETER

What career? Oh wait, I'm having an epiphany.

KATEY

It's really not funny. You really need to get your shit together.

PETER

You know that's a pretty tall order.

KATEY

For God's sake, I don't now why I still bother to care what you do!

Peter with a puppy dog look on his face.

KATEY (CONT'D)

How do you pull that off?

PETER

What?

KATEY

Being simultaneously charming and an asshole.

EXT. HIGH-RISE OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

Large office building, downtown area of Los Angeles, mid-day.

INT. PHILLIP KLINE'S OFFICE

Sitting at a conference room table are Jason, Phillip, along with THREE ADVISORS. Jason has a slightly bruised eye, a bandage across his nose.

JASON

This is pure bullshit, Phil.

PHILLIP

I told you that if you kept getting arrested you'd end up in hot water.

The three advisors nod their heads, continue looking over documents and briefs.

JASON

Meaning I'm looking at what, another three months of community service?

PHILLIP

The weapon charge alone could put you behind bars for a spell.

JASON

Phil, it's J-Rock remember? They don't put rock stars in jail.

ADVISOR #1

Have you heard of Ezra Miller, Tiffany Haddish, or Bam Margera?

JASON

Who asked you? Who do we have to pay off this time?

PHILLIP

Jason, it's not going to be that easy.

JASON

So what's next?

PHILLIP

You'll likely end up going to rehab.

JASON  
I won't go back to fucking rehab.

PHILLIP  
It's either that or jail.

Jason stares at Phillip, then at Advisor #1, flips him the bird.

JASON  
Yeah, well I won't go back to Betty Ford. The food's terrible!

PHILLIP  
There's a place in Rockland, Maine that seems suitable.

JASON  
You're kidding, right?

PHILLIP  
Great staff and less chance the paparazzi gets wind of it.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT MAIN LOBBY - DAY

Main lobby filled with people, REPORTERS, CAMERAMEN, PAPARAZZI, and several ORDERLIES keeping situation under control. Jason, sunglasses on, cigarette in hand, fields a question.

REPORTER # 1  
Are you here by court order due to your recent arrest in Los Angeles?

JASON  
That is an accurate assessment of my current situation, yeah.

Sebastian parts crowd, stands between the throng and Jason. David, tucking his shirt in, stands next to Phillip.

SEBASTIAN  
Perhaps it's best if we move this to my office. Jason, extinguish your cigarette and please follow me.

Jason crushes cigarette into soil of plant next to chair.

JASON

You're calling the shots, my man.  
By the way, Seabass, this is  
Phillip Kline, my manager.

Phillip steps forward, Sebastian reluctantly shakes hands.

SEBASTIAN

Mr. Kline, and please don't call me  
Seabass, Jason. You know how much I  
hate that.

Sebastian addresses the throng of reporters.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Members of the press, I'm afraid  
you're presence here is in  
violation of our patients rights to  
privacy. David, please escort these  
people off of the premises  
immediately.

Sebastian signals Jason, Phillip to follow him. Jason grabs  
guitar case leaning against wall.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - DAY

Phillip stands as Jason leans his guitar case against wall  
and takes seat across desk from Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

I was hoping that your coming here  
wouldn't result in the type of  
sideshow we just experienced.

JASON

Yeah, listen, I'm truly sorry about  
that. Unfortunately, it happens all  
the time.

PHILLIP

Perhaps Jason, stopping for  
cigarettes and candy wasn't such a  
great idea.

SEBASTIAN

That's exactly the type of poor  
decision making that concerns me.

PHILLIP

Dr. Marks, clearly we got off on  
the wrong foot.

SEBASTIAN

Clearly.

PHILLIP

But Jason desperately needs to complete this program.

SEBASTIAN

He's really not a good fit.

JASON

Don't turn me away, Sea- Sebastian, we're brothers fer chrissakes.

SEBASTIAN

Actually, ex-brother-in-laws. And I have the divorce papers to prove it.

JASON

Look man, I'm sorry things didn't work out between you and Elise, but that's not my fault.

SEBASTIAN

We have a lot of high profile residents that insist on privacy and/or anonymity.

JASON

Look, Sebastian, I'm sorry. I promise to respect the rules from now on.

SEBASTIAN

The first sign of trouble and I'll toss you out of here with no hesitation.

JASON

We're even willing to pay double.

SEBASTIAN

The first thing you need to realize is that it's not a question of money.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT PAULA'S ROOM - DAY

David enters room quickly. Paula lies on bed, turns, smiles.

PAULA

So what was all the fuss about out in the hall?

DAVID

Apparently someone named J-Rock is going to be a patient here. What the fuck kind of name is J-Rock?

PAULA

You don't know who J-Rock is?

DAVID

I mostly listen to Reggaeton. Anyway, I think we need to speed things up.

PAULA

And how do we go about doing that?

DAVID

That's really up to your father now, isn't it?

Paula stands, walks over to David, taking his hand.

PAULA

I'm worried, David. He might have you killed if he figures out you're behind this.

DAVID

Don't think I haven't thought about that.

INT. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON'S DOWNTOWN OFFICE - DAY

CONGRESSMAN VERNON RICHARDSON, AFRICAN-AMERICAN, (50's), is going over some paperwork when FELIX WALTERS, AFRICAN-AMERICAN (31), his CHIEF AIDE enters room.

FELIX

Congressman, these new attacks by your opponent are going to be all over social media tomorrow.

Should I prepare a strong rebuttal or do we counter-attack?

CONGRESSMAN

I don't give a fuck about what Anderson's people have to say!

(MORE)

CONGRESSMAN (CONT'D)

It's a cheap move by a man who knows he can't win.

FELIX

The story makes mention of your daughter's recent indiscretions.

CONGRESSMAN

Attacking my family? That's a bullshit move. He couldn't win a high school election pulling this type of shit.

FELIX

Still, we do have things on him we can use to shift attention away from her.

CONGRESSMAN

Not necessary, Felix. By the time his ad campaign kicks into full gear this election will already be over.

FELIX

There's still that other problem sir.

CONGRESSMAN

You told me you had that under control.

FELIX

We've had a little snag. Apparently that leak didn't come from our people after all.

CONGRESSMAN

I had a nagging feeling that Paula was somehow involved in this.

FELIX

It's likely she's become involved with this Madera person, unwittingly or otherwise.

CONGRESSMAN

And you have proof of this?

FELIX

Again sir, it seems likely that, by honey trapping, he's using info he's gathered to attempt to blackmail you.

CONGRESSMAN  
Honey trapping? What the fuck is that?

FELIX  
By engaging in, er, sexual activities, he's possibly attempting to get Paula to reveal harmful information about you.

CONGRESSMAN  
If this is true then you need to handle it.

FELIX  
Meaning?

CONGRESSMAN  
Pay Paula a visit, find out what she knows, and put a stop to this nonsense. I don't care how, just get it done.

FELIX  
Yes sir.

CONGRESSMAN  
And take J.R. with you. He's a man I can trust to get the job done.

Felix turns, walks out of room. Vernon stares after him.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - DAY  
Sebastian, Jason and Phillip talking as Gloria enters.

GLORIA  
Oh, I'm sorry doctor, I didn't realize-

SEBASTIAN  
It's quite all right. Gloria, this is Jason and his attorney, mister Kline.

GLORIA  
Pleased to meet you both.

SEBASTIAN  
Jason, Dr. Gloria Sanders, the Assistant Director of this clinic.

Gloria walks over, extends her hand to Jason.

GLORIA

So, is it my understanding you'll be staying with us?

Sebastian stares at Jason, then turns to Gloria.

SEBASTIAN

We're still working out the details.

GLORIA

Dr. Marks, after my rounds I'll be leaving for the day. Will there be anything else needed from me?

SEBASTIAN

No, but you know what, I'll have David complete your rounds. That'll give you a head start.

GLORIA

That's really not necessary.

SEBASTIAN

Gloria, he can use the experience. You're free to take the rest of the afternoon off.

Gloria's face twists into a slight frown.

GLORIA

Okay, I'll just have a look in on Simon before I go. Thank you, Doctor.

Gloria throws a quick half-smile at Jason, leaves the room.

JASON

Not a bad looking girl. Single?

SEBASTIAN

She's over eighteen, so she's definitely not your type.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - DAY

Gloria enters room 203. SIMON DALTRY, BRITISH (38), a resident at the clinic lies in bed. Simon has sandy-blonde hair, slender build, with his leg in a splint.

SIMON

Well, my Guardian Angel, how good of you to drop by.

GLORIA  
Someone's in a better mood today.  
How's the leg feeling, Simon?

Gloria reads a chart hanging at the end of the bed. Several pieces of equipment surround the bed, not turned on. Hanging from the headboard; an ordinary steel cane.

SIMON  
The pain has been manageable.

GLORIA  
Perhaps Dr. Marks can stop by with an update on your condition.

SIMON  
That quack. For the love of God, keep him the hell away from me.

GLORIA  
Now Simon, Dr. Marks is the best clinical psychologist in the state.

SIMON  
Do I detect a little May-December romance hatching?

Gloria moves closer to the bed.

GLORIA  
Don't be silly, he's much too old for me.

Simon grabs Gloria's waist, pulls her onto the bed.

SIMON  
Like them a little younger, do you?

Gloria lies down and they kiss, fondling one another.

INT. SHOWBIZ DIRT OFFICES - DAY

SEVERAL REPORTERS on computers, phones, and cell phones dispensing and gathering stories.

The EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, HENRY CHANG, ASIAN (47), has assembled three REPORTERS, along with Peter and Katey in a corner of the room. Henry is balding, slim, in a Brooks Brothers suit.

HENRY  
Did anyone happen to see the entertainment report on CBS?

REPORTER #1

No, I was finishing my update on the Las Vegas double-homicide.

HENRY

Well, that was the story they broke! We're coming up a day late and a dollar short, people.

REPORTER #1

Henry, I swear I had that story prepared and ready to go.

HENRY

We didn't have our sources locked, therefore you weren't ready to go.

REPORTER #1

I was pretty sure about my sources.

HENRY

Pretty sure isn't a lock and without a lock we don't upload conjecture. Showbiz Dirt is getting it's ass kicked day in and day out.

No one has a comment. Henry scans the faces of the reporters.

HENRY (CONT'D)

You call yourselves reporters? You're the most worthless bunch of-

REPORTER #2

Henry, there's a rumor Hollywood's hottest couple is getting divorced.

HENRY

And who is it this week, sweetheart, and why should anyone care? Christ I want a fresh story people! Lincoln, nice of you to join us.

PETER

Henry, J-Rock's making headlines again.

HENRY

He's almost as washed up as you are! Burnt out rock stars checking into rehab, that's not fucking news.

KATEY

The place is usually full of celebrities, Chief, so maybe there's a story there.

HENRY

Maybe.

KATEY

I've got a friend over at the D.A.'s office that owes me a favor.

HENRY

Good, Katey look into it and find us an angle. If there's really no story there, then drop it.

KATEY

Copy that, Henry. We'll get on it tomorrow. Looks like I get to play.

PETER

Henry, I'll start working my sources too.

HENRY

Lincoln, in my office, now!

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - DAY

Simon, Gloria still lying in bed. Gloria stands up, adjusts her uniform. She looks slightly agitated.

GLORIA

I have to get going Simon. I'll check in on you tomorrow, okay?

SIMON

What's the matter Gloria? You seem a little out of sorts.

GLORIA

It's nothing. I just-

SIMON

Just what? Come on, if you can't tell Simon, who can you tell?

GLORIA

I think Sebastian is grooming David to take my place.

SIMON

That seems odd, I mean, you practically run this place single-handedly.

GLORIA

It wouldn't be the first time that I lost my position to a man with less qualifications.

SIMON

Well, don't worry darling. I'm sure everything will work out just fine.

INT. SHOWBIZ DIRT HENRY'S OFFICE - DAY

Henry looking at today's copy of Showbiz Dirt, Peter enters.

PETER

Am I gonna hear the speech?

HENRY

No Peter, no speeches today.

PETER

Great, cause I like that so much better.

HENRY

Either you don't give a shit, or you simply no longer have what it takes.

PETER

Henry, just give it to me straight, I'd prefer you not sugar-coat it.

HENRY

The time has come, Peter, for you to either shit, or get off the pot.

PETER

What is this, Throwback Thursday?

HENRY

I'm too old to put up with your bullshit. I'm tired. Can you see that I'm tired?

PETER

Katey has gotten the lead story for what, four straight weeks?

HENRY

She deserves it. At least she shows up for work.

PETER

You enjoy embarrassing me, don't you?

HENRY

You embarrass yourself. Get out of here and give me a reason to keep you around.

EXT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT COURTYARD - DAY

GARDENERS are grooming the lawns and hedges.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT PAULA'S ROOM - DAY

Paula is asleep, but smiling. David leans over, kisses her cheek waking her.

PAULA

David, What are you doing here?

DAVID

We gotta to speed things up.

PAULA

Why?

DAVID

I'm just feeling some bad vibes.

PAULA

Are you still planning to leave tomorrow night?

DAVID

Yup. Just taking care of a couple of minute details.

PAULA

Such as?

DAVID

Such as, don't worry your pretty little head about it. Just remember the plan.

PAULA

How do I know that-

DAVID

That I won't take the money and run? You don't. That's why they call it trust.

PAULA

We have that, you and I, we trust each other, don't we?

DAVID

Implicitly.

David kisses her long and hard. Smiling, he winks at her, opens door making sure hallway is empty, exits room.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT BRIAN'S ROOM - DAY

Brian standing, long black hair covers his face. Door opens, David walks over, gives Brian a sharp punch in the side.

DAVID

Get up freak! Time to go downstairs and drool on yourself.

David walks over to bed, picks up package, ripping paper off to reveal a tin of cookies. He smiles, opens lid, eats one.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Your mom make these for me?

David spits out bits of cookie onto floor, tosses tin down. Cookies spill out. David grabs Brian by arm, pulls him close.

DAVID (CONT'D)

They taste like shit and I expect you to clean this mess up when you get back. Now get moving!

David pushes Brian towards door. He opens door, after looking out, pushes Brian into hallway.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - DAY

Phillip, Jason seated. Sebastian, wearing reading glasses, hands Phillip some papers.

SEBASTIAN

I think that is all we will require from you today, Mr. Kline.

PHILLIP  
I'll speak to you in a few days.  
Don't screw this up.

Jason stands, after a brief hug, Phillip exits.

JASON  
So what do we start with,  
electroshock or do we go straight  
to the frontal lobotomy?

Sebastian takes off glasses, lays them on desk.

SEBASTIAN  
Your first counseling session is at  
one-thirty today.

JASON  
Fer chrissakes, loosen up a bit, we  
are family after all.

Sebastian presses an intercom, speaks. He addresses MS.  
WELLS, CAUCASIAN (60's), his Administrative Assistant.

SEBASTIAN  
Ms. Wells, please call David into  
my office. I need him to escort a  
new patient to his room.

Sebastian depresses switch. Jason searches jacket, pulls out  
an empty pack of Dunhill's.

JASON  
Got any smokes in that desk of  
yours?

SEBASTIAN  
Jason, this isn't a game. If you  
don't conform to my rules, I'll  
have to send you packing.

JASON  
I'll take that to mean no, and  
don't worry, I get it. We do this  
your way.

David enters office, awaits instructions.

SEBASTIAN  
David, wonderful job the other day.  
You're really stepping up.

DAVID  
Yes sir, Dr. Marks, thank you sir.

SEBASTIAN

I'd like you to accompany Jason to his room.

DAVID

Sir, if you'll come with me.

SEBASTIAN

Jason, perhaps you should consider this a reality check of sorts.

JASON

It's certainly starting to feel like one.

SEBASTIAN

And, please, stop referring to me as Seabass. I find it a bit demeaning.

JASON

No problem, Sea-bastian.

Jason smiles, stands, grabs guitar case as he walks out door, followed by David. Door closes, Sebastian grabs cell phone, hits record, speaks into it.

SEBASTIAN

Patient name: Jason Jambowski. Date of admittance: November 3rd. Reason for stay: By Court appointment. Treatment for alcohol and substance abuse.

Sebastian stops recording, places cell phone on desk. His private phone line rings, he picks up.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Yes? Oh, Hello Ellen.

(beat)

No, I'm afraid there's been no change.

(beat)

It's an awful lot of expense for you both and frankly, it might be all for naught.

(beat)

Of course, I'll keep you posted as to any changes.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT PAULA'S ROOM - DAY

Paula opens door to find Chester standing there.

CHESTER  
Miss Richardson, if I may have a moment?

PAULA  
Actually I was on my way to breakfast.

CHESTER  
This will only take a minute.

Paula steps aside, Chester enters room, Paula closes door.

CHESTER (CONT'D)  
As you probably know, I'm a partner in one of the premiere law firms in Los Angeles.

PAULA  
No, I didn't and I don't need an attorney.

CHESTER  
Are you aware of a David Madera who works here?

PAULA  
I've seen him around, yes.

CHESTER  
He's a two-bit con man, involves himself in extortion, blackmail, that sort of thing and usually for large sums of money.

PAULA  
Why are you telling me this?

CHESTER  
Your father is a very powerful politician and therefore a likely target.

Chester turns, opens door to leave.

CHESTER (CONT'D)  
At any rate, Mr. Madera isn't to be trusted. Oh, and you didn't hear any of this from me.

The door closes. Paula looks concerned.

INT. KATEY KAMURA'S CAR - DAY

Katey, Peter driving to D.A.'s office. Katey behind the wheel of her Jaguar XKE.

PETER  
I could've driven.

KATEY  
No thanks, I want to get there in one piece.

PETER  
I could really use a drink. Why don't we stop by the Frolic Room on the way?

KATEY  
Do you do this to hurt me, or is this just how you suppress your feelings?

PETER  
Both, I suppose. Sorry.

KATEY  
Are you? Because, really, it's impossible to tell sometimes.

EXT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT - AFTERNOON

A limousine pulls up with Felix and J.R. (30's, African-American, with a bodyguard's physique, behind the wheel.

FELIX  
You stay here. I'm going to find out what I need to know. This shouldn't take long.

J.R.  
Not a problem. Just let me know if I need to set anything right.

FELIX  
For the love of God, let's hope not.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DINING ROOM - DAY

Paula enters, looks around room. A full buffet, several people sitting, others lined up, filling plates with food. Paula spots Samantha alone, approaches her.

PAULA  
I Googled you.

SAMANTHA  
I didn't realize that you knew how  
apps work.

PAULA  
You really are a horrible human  
being.

SAMANTHA  
What tipped you off?

PAULA  
You once had an affair with a man,  
and when his wife found out, she  
later killed herself?

SAMANTHA  
Shit happens.

PAULA  
And you have absolutely no remorse.

SAMANTHA  
Remorse is for people who give a  
shit what others think.

Paula walks away. Samantha just smirks and shrugs.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT MAIN HALLWAY - DAY

As Paula walks down the hall she sees Felix approaching.

PAULA  
Why are you here? Is my father here  
as well?

FELIX  
No, he's not and nothing to be  
alarmed about, he just wanted to  
make sure that you're comfortable  
here.

PAULA  
Good old Felix, a worse liar God  
could not created if he had all of  
the time in the world.

FELIX

Paula, as you know, your father is coming up for re-election as he's concerned that you might be an issue.

PAULA

And why is that? I'm in rehab, so doesn't that earn him some sort of "Father of the Year" accolades?

FELIX

Seriously, there are people who are always seeking information that could be construed as harmful or damaging.

PAULA

And?

FELIX

Well, if someone were to approach you asking questions of a sensitive nature, it would be in his best interests if you didn't comment, if you get my drift.

PAULA

I not only get it, I'm insulted that my father didn't have the balls to come and say as much to my face.

FELIX

He's a very busy man.

PAULA

Yeah, I've heard that my entire life, never gets old.

FELIX

I guess what I'm trying to say is to keep your mouth shut.

PAULA

Message received.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT JASON'S ROOM - DAY

David and Jason enter Jason's room. Jason places guitar case on bed, David gives Jason a tour of the suite.

DAVID  
Your balcony has a view of the  
entire courtyard and pool.

JASON  
Boy, I really scored. Best room in  
the entire prison.

DAVID  
This is so much better than prison.  
You should be thankful.

JASON  
Turn around, I want to find the  
little box that turns you off.

DAVID  
I see. Rich, famous and an asshole-  
I guess we hit the trifecta.

JASON  
I'll be out of here in less than a  
week if I have to kill someone. You  
just made the list.

DAVID  
Will there be anything else?

JASON  
Any chance you can get me some  
smokes?

DAVID  
Hundred bucks and I'll be happy to  
pick you up a pack on my way in  
tomorrow.

Jason pulls out his wallet, hands David two one hundred  
dollar bills. David takes the bills, pockets them.

JASON  
Plus the money for the cigarettes.  
Make it a carton. Actually two. I  
could be here for a while.

DAVID  
No problem.

David leaves, Jason walks onto balcony, surveys the grounds.  
He sees two gardeners, one mowing, one with hedgers.

He also notices Chester laying facedown near the lily garden,  
unseen or ignored by the gardeners.

JASON  
What the fuck have you gotten  
yourself into?

EXT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT - DAY

Felix re-enters the limousine where J.R. is waiting, leaning against the car, vaping. J.R. also enters the vehicle.

FELIX  
She hasn't changed much. I don't  
know if she's a part of this or  
not, but we need to make sure she  
keeps her distance from any ticking  
time bombs.

J.R.  
So then, what's the plan?

FELIX  
Take me to the airport and you  
stick around and see if you can  
find out anything more and just how  
involved Paula actually is in this  
whole mess.

J.R.  
Copy that.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SUNSET ROOM - NEXT DAY

Richard, Dan, Samantha and Chester are assembled as Sebastian addresses them.

SEBASTIAN  
Good afternoon everyone. Apparently  
some of us are running a bit late.

Quiet. Those present seem a bit somber. Gloria enters.

GLORIA  
I'm sorry. Who's still unaccounted  
for?

SEBASTIAN  
Paula and Jason have yet to arrive.  
I sent David up to Jason's room.

GLORIA  
What about Brian?

SEBASTIAN

He experienced one of his violent episodes, so he's been sedated.

GLORIA

I'll go and check for Paula in her room then.

As Gloria heads for door it bursts open. Paula enters, agitated, there's a momentary silence.

PAULA

Sorry I'm late, but someone's been in my room and my necklace is gone.

SAMANTHA

You mean that one with all the diamonds in it?

PAULA

Bitch, don't play dumb.

SAMANTHA

I'm just asking, you know, out of concern.

PAULA

How long has she been here? The necklace was there when I went to breakfast.

SAMANTHA

You're accusing me of stealing your necklace? Honestly-

PAULA

If I find out you took my shit, so help me God-

SEBASTIAN

Now before this goes any further-

PAULA

Fuck this shit!

Paula storms out.

RICHARD

Who the hell is Jason?

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT JASON'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Jason lies in bed, a sheet covers his lower body. Door opens, David peeks in. Jason's face buried into pillow.

JASON  
I don't recall leaving a wake-up call.

David enters, tosses two cartons of Dunhills onto the bed.

DAVID  
You always sleep this late?

JASON  
No man, this is when I usually go to bed.

DAVID  
Ah, the life of a rock star. I bet you've had your share of groupies.

Jason struggles to sit up.

JASON  
My share, your share, and a couple of more shares I'd imagine.

DAVID  
Well, there's nothing better than a chick with a few issues.

JASON  
By the way, who was that fine, dark skinned beauty I saw you talking to yesterday?

DAVID  
Congressman Richardson's daughter, Paula.

JASON  
I thought I recognized her, she's fucking beautiful.

DAVID  
Yeah, she's got that going for her.

JASON  
So, you hitting that?

DAVID  
A gentleman never tells.

JASON  
You don't come off as the  
gentlemanly type- more like a  
playa.

David smiles mischievously.

DAVID  
Listen, I've got to go do the  
inventory. I woke you up, the rest  
is up to you.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SUNSET ROOM - DAY

Sebastian is addressing the group's questions about Jason.

SEBASTIAN  
Jason joins us today because, like  
many of you, he faces issues he  
needs to address.

CHESTER  
I've heard that he's some sort of  
musician.

SEBASTIAN  
I think I'll let him divulge that.

The door opens and in walks Jason.

JASON  
Hey Seabass, I mean Dr. Marks,  
sorry I'm late, but I'm really not  
a morning person.

SEBASTIAN  
It's two p.m. Anyway, Jason please  
take a seat next to Miss Kent.

Sebastian points to empty chair next to Samantha. Jason walks  
over, takes seat as Paula re-enters.

JASON  
Hi. We met once, at the Golden  
Globes.

SAMANTHA  
I'm very happy for you.

SEBASTIAN  
Jason, tell the group a little bit  
about yourself.

JASON

Well, I like to party way too  
fucking much, which coincidentally,  
is how I ended up here.

DAN

Rumor has it you and Dr. Marks are  
old friends.

JASON

Brother-in-laws, ex- actually.

PAULA

We know who you are, you're J-Rock!  
Well, most of us do anyway.

DAN

Hey, does anyone else smell smoke?

Silence. Suddenly the alarm sounds.

SEBASTIAN

Everyone please remain calm. Let's  
all head towards the exits.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT INVENTORY CLOSET - DAY

David trapped under shelf in inventory room engulfed in  
flames and smoke; he struggles to break free.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT MAIN HALLWAY - DAY

Crowded with people moving towards exits while several  
FIREFIGHTERS enter facility.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT INVENTORY CLOSET - DAY

Sebastian, firefighters in front of supply closet. Smoke  
emanates, FIREFIGHTER approaches door WITH AXE.

INT. SHOWBIZ DIRT OFFICES - AFTERNOON A WOMAN NEWS REPORTER  
ON TV reads report.

NEWS WOMAN

Fire broke out at Starlight Haven  
Retreat, a posh rehabilitation  
clinic in Rockland, Maine yesterday  
afternoon.

(MORE)

NEWS WOMAN (CONT'D)

An employee named David Madera was trapped in the blaze and was later rushed to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Katey, Peter sit in office watching the TV.

PETER

Hey Chief! Things are heating up over at Starlight!

Katey gives Peter a friendly slap on shoulder.

NEWS WOMAN

Dr. Sebastian Marks, Head Administrator of the clinic, in a statement released today, says he is very saddened by the tragedy.

Faint sound of tv reporter in background. Henry enters.

HENRY

Fire broke out, worker trapped in closet dies of smoke inhalation, end of story.

PETER

Maybe so, but I see an opportunity unfolding.

KATEY

You think the clinic will be hiring a replacement? You?

PETER

You know me too well. I'm thinking I should approach this in an orderly fashion.

Henry stares at Peter, slowly shakes head, walks away.

HENRY

Both of you get on a plane. And no room service, you hear me?

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SUNSET ROOM - AFTERNOON

Sebastian, Gloria, Paula, Samantha, Dan, Jason, Chester and Richard are all assembled.

SEBASTIAN

I want to start off by going over the recent events which led to the tragic loss of David Madera.

Everyone is quite somber.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

David perished as a result of a chemical fire. He must have panicked and become trapped.

Paula bursts into a fit of tears, runs out of the room.

RICHARD

Wow, you'd think she'd been fucking the guy.

DAN

You can be a real prick sometimes Richard. Why don't you shut the hell up!

SAMANTHA

Dan, you're right, he is a prick and Richard, you're right, she was fucking him.

RICHARD

I fucking knew it.

SEBASTIAN

People, this is neither the time nor the place for this conversation.

CHESTER

Have his relatives been notified?

SEBASTIAN

His parents will arrive tomorrow from New York and will be taking his body home to rest.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - EVENING

Gloria walks into room, Simon is awakened by her entrance.

SIMON

You seem a little upset? Something wrong?

GLORIA  
Simon, haven't you heard what's  
happened?

SIMON  
No, why? Was there an accident?

Gloria looks stunned.

GLORIA  
Why would you say that?

SIMON  
Oh, I don't know, perhaps the  
shocked tone in your voice.

Gloria looks at Simon, who remains expressionless.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT MAIN LOBBY - MORNING

Sebastian sees Peter, holding resume, standing near front  
entrance, arguing with Ms. Wells. Sebastian approaches.

MS. WELLS  
I'm sorry, but you really must  
leave and schedule a proper  
appointment!

SEBASTIAN  
Thank you Ms. Wells. I'll take it  
from here.

Ms. Wells scowls at Peter, turns away, proceeds down hallway,  
muttering. Peter holding resume in hand.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)  
Perhaps I can be of some  
assistance?

PETER  
My name is Scott Williams. I was  
interested in obtaining a position  
with your clinic.

Gloria walks up, joins conversation.

GLORIA  
I'm afraid we aren't currently  
hiring.

PETER

I'm sorry, it's just that when I heard you recently lost a member of your staff-

GLORIA

My God, he hasn't even had a proper funeral!

Sebastian reaches out to Gloria, but she walks away, obviously upset.

PETER

I meant no disrespect, fact is I really need a job and well, this facility is highly regarded.

SEBASTIAN

Yes, well leave your resume with me and I should have an answer for you in a couple of days.

Peter hands Sebastian his resume.

PETER

I appreciate it, Dr. Marks, and my condolences by the way, I also do have stellar references.

SEBASTIAN

I will certainly consider that when making my decision.

Sebastian glances at resume.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

You've come here all the way from California. You must really want a job.

PETER

It's been difficult finding work, even with my experience.

SEBASTIAN

Okay, Mr. Williams. I'll call and let you know.

Sebastian walks down hallway, Peter smiling, reaches into shirt pocket, places ear bud into ear.

PETER

Did you get all of that Katey?

KATEY (O.S.)  
You didn't exactly charm the pants  
off of them, did you?

PETER  
True, I make a lousy first  
impression but I grow on people.

KATEY (O.S.)  
Yeah, like a fungus.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Sebastian sits at desk, Jason sits across table from him.

SEBASTIAN  
I'm not sure this arrangement is  
working out.

JASON  
No, it's great, everything's great,  
really.

SEBASTIAN  
I want to help you Jason, but  
frankly-

JASON  
Look, I don't like this any more  
than you do. Bottom line is I have  
to be here.

SEBASTIAN  
On top of everything else, this  
unfortunate incident yesterday just  
increases my concerns.

JASON  
Yeah, now that was a real bummer.

SEBASTIAN  
A man dies and all you can say is,  
that was a real bummer?

JASON  
I'm sorry, you're right, that was  
pretty insensitive.

SEBASTIAN  
I'm a little concerned about the  
comment Samantha made about Paula  
and David.

JASON

Kid sorta gave me the impression  
that he'd been hooking up with her  
as well.

Sebastian, looks at Jason, picks up stress ball from desk,  
gently squeezes it.

INT. ROCKLAND MOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Katey sits on one of twin beds, Peter enters.

KATEY

You know, I just got off the phone  
with Henry - he thinks this J-Rock  
story's a big waste.

PETER

Well, it's not about J-Rock  
anymore. Now it's about David  
Madera's death.

Cell phone rings, Peter pulls it out of coat, answers it.

PETER (CONT'D)

Hello?

(beat)

Yes, this is Scott Williams.

(beat)

Thank you, and I'll see you  
tomorrow.

Peter hangs up the phone.

PETER (CONT'D)

You're now gazing at the newest  
employee of Starlight Haven  
Retreat, thank you very much.

KATEY

Be careful tomorrow. I'm starting  
to get a bad feeling about this  
whole business.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT JASON'S ROOM - DAY

Jason sits on bed, strums guitar. Knock on door.

JASON

Come in, it's open.

The door opens and Gloria looks in.

GLORIA  
It's almost time for session. That  
music sounded nice by the way.

JASON  
Thanks babe!

GLORIA  
It's Dr. Sanders.

JASON  
I didn't know you were a fan.

GLORIA  
I'm not.

JASON  
Maybe you should try to lighten up  
just a bit.

GLORIA  
You knowing Dr. Marks doesn't mean  
you get preferential treatment.

JASON  
Then I'll just have to turn into  
Prince Fucking Charming.

GLORIA  
(under her breath)  
You do that. And try to be on time.

JASON  
Yes, m'lady.

GLORIA  
You're going to be a problem, I can  
see that now.

Gloria walks out, Jason smiles, picks up guitar.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SUNSET ROOM - DAY

The group assembled, door opens, Sebastian enters with Peter.

SEBASTIAN  
Everyone, if I could have your  
attention. This is Scott Williams,  
our new orderly.

PETER  
It's a pleasure to meet all of you.

A smattering of salutations as Gloria enters room.

SEBASTIAN

I'm going to show Scott around the facility. Dr. Sanders, I'd like you to take charge of the session today.

GLORIA

Certainly, Dr. Marks. May I have a word with you in private?

Gloria, Sebastian exit room together.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT MAIN HALLWAY - DAY

Gloria, Sebastian standing just outside the Sunset Room.

GLORIA

Sebastian, don't you think hiring him was a knee jerk reaction. You know almost nothing about him.

SEBASTIAN

My decisions are based solely on the needs of this facility, plus I don't need your approval.

GLORIA

I'm sorry, I was just voicing my opinion.

SEBASTIAN

I'm sorry as well Gloria, but I've got a facility to run and I think maybe the pressure is getting to me.

GLORIA

I was out of line. Of course it's your decision to make.

SEBASTIAN

Rest assured, we're all going to get through this.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SUNSET ROOM - DAY

Gloria, Sebastian re-enter room, she gives Peter a heavy glance, returns to her seat. Peter leaves with Sebastian.

SAMANTHA

Can we talk about your accident today, sweetie?"

GLORIA

That's not up for discussion.

SAMANTHA

Consider it therapy. Might be good for you to talk about it. I'm sure we're all curious.

Gloria freezes up, takes breath. Jason enters, sits down.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Come on darling, share with the group. It's good for the soul.

GLORIA

My personal history has nothing to do with these sessions. So just drop it, okay?

SAMANTHA

What's wrong? Not as much fun when you're the topic of discussion?

PAULA

Leave her alone. Why don't you give it a rest?

SAMANTHA

No one's speaking to you. By the way, did David break things off, so you called daddy and had his goons come up and-

PAULA

You've got some nerve, bitch, watch your fucking mouth!

SAMANTHA

Truth hurts, doesn't it?

PAULA

This ain't over between you and me.

SAMANTHA

You and I.

Paula stands, faces Samantha.

PAULA

You better watch your back!

Paula walks out door. Mumbling and whispering among the group.

JASON

Dr. Sanders, are you gonna be okay?

GLORIA

Jason, why don't you share with the group your experiences with drug and alcohol abuse and just why you're here?

JASON

If you don't mind I think I'll pass.

CHESTER

Dr. Sanders, about David Madera, I keep thinking I saw someone else.

GLORIA

Saw someone else where?

CHESTER

Heading into the closet maybe, it's all a bit hazy.

GLORIA

That's the problem with these blackouts you're prone to. You lose focus of what's going on around you.

SAMANTHA

Is he trying to say that David was murdered? So maybe I was right.

GLORIA

Now before we go off on a tangent-

SAMANTHA

David was no saint, I'll say that much for him. It's time we all came to that realization.

Brian is walked into room by LARGE ORDERLY, seated in chair.

GLORIA

Why don't we all give a Starlight welcome to a new addition to our group today, Jason Jambowski.

BRIAN

Fuck me!

The group is shocked as Brian stands, walks over to Jason.

BRIAN (CONT'D)  
Shit, J-Rock, I can't fuckin'  
believe it. You're J-Rock!

JASON  
Guilty as charged, and in the  
flesh.

Samantha sitting next to Jason looks absolutely shocked.

GLORIA  
Brian? How... how are you feeling?

BRIAN  
A little parched, actually.

GLORIA  
I'm going to get you a glass of  
water. In the meantime, please sit  
down, you should relax.

Gloria stands, walks to table to get a glass of water as  
Brian grabs a chair and sits next to Jason.

CHESTER  
Fucking extraordinary.

BRIAN  
Man, I've seen you play almost  
every year you've gone on tour. I  
never missed a show, that is, until  
my accident.

Dan and Richard look at one another in utter disbelief.

JASON  
So tell me what's the story with  
you, exactly?

Gloria returns from cooler, hands Brian glass of water, takes  
her seat, a shocked look on her face.

BRIAN  
Some dudes wailed on me at the  
Staples show in L.A. and I ended up  
in the hospital.

Brian takes a sip of water, smiles a big, toothy grin.

RICHARD

Well now that the Comatose Kid is awake, why don't we all call it a day so these two can reminisce?

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Marks and Peter sit across from one another. Peter holding a briefcase in hand.

SEBASTIAN

Well Mr. Williams, do you have any questions concerning your position here at Starlight?

PETER

I feel comfortable that I will be an asset to you and your clinic. I have a solid work regimen.

SEBASTIAN

That remains to be seen. You will be working directly with the patients in my current group.

Sebastian hands a piece of paper to Peter.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

You should familiarize yourself with this list of patients.

PETER

Yes sir.

SEBASTIAN

Mr. Williams, many people come to me knowing that their stay will be kept confidential, and it's a trust that I value.

PETER

I understand perfectly.

SEBASTIAN

The staff room is up on the second floor. There are uniforms and lockers and a snack machine and coffee maker.

PETER

Thank you again for this opportunity, sir.

Peter, briefcase in hand, stands, the two men shake hands. Peter exits office and pulls an ear bud from his jacket inserting it into his ear.

PETER (CONT'D)

I'm in.

KATEY (O.S.)

And the Academy Award for best performance in the bullshit category goes to.

INT. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON'S DOWNTOWN OFFICE - DAY

Vernon in his office speaking with Felix.

CONGRESSMAN

So it's my understanding that the problem has resolved itself?

FELIX

Yes sir, it's a nonissue now. It seems-

CONGRESSMAN

Good. I don't need to hear another word. The less I know, the better.

FELIX

I'm glad that things worked out to your satisfaction, sir.

CONGRESSMAN

So I understand from my wife that our daughter has called begging us to take her out of the facility.

FELIX

Yes sir, your wife asked if I could make that happen.

CONGRESSMAN

And the story goes that the Madera boy was killed accidentally in a fire. Again, spare me any details, I don't want to know.

FELIX

I'm still looking into whether or not we-

Vernon raises a hand, waving off further comments.

CONGRESSMAN

Eh, eh, I don't want to know. Am I making myself clear?

FELIX

Yes sir. What do you want to do about Paula?

CONGRESSMAN

I don't want her coming here and making a mess of things so close to election time. She stays there for now.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT STAFF ROOM - DAY

Peter, making sure the room is empty, closes door, sets up a small camera near a light fixture.

He pulls a laptop out of his briefcase, opens a program which reveals views from several lipstick cameras set-up throughout the facility.

He smiles, then takes laptop and briefcase placing them in a locker, takes a uniform out, locking the locker.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SAMANTHA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Samantha sits reading a book when there's a knock on her door.

SAMANTHA

Come in, it's open.

Peter enters.

PETER

Good evening Miss Kent. Dr. Marks asked me to formally introduce myself to the members of his group.

SAMANTHA

You're the one replacing David. I imagine people get trapped in burning closets all the time.

PETER

That was very tragic and unfortunate.

SAMANTHA

Or fortunate in your case. Probably time for me to leave here.

PETER

Understandable, given the circumstances.

SAMANTHA

Yes, I suppose.

They stare at one another for what seems like an eternity.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

I've told everyone that would listen that there was something going on between David and Paula.

PETER

And what do you base that on?

SAMANTHA

Woman's intuition.

PETER

I think you probably know more than you're willing to admit.

SAMANTHA

Probably. At any rate you should keep an eye on her.

PETER

I'm not a detective.

SAMANTHA

No, you're a reporter.

Peter gets a worried look on his face.

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

Don't worry, your secret is safe with me. You stay out of my way and I'll stay out of yours.

From the window of Samantha's room, Dr. Marks can be seen speaking to a man and a woman in the courtyard.

EXT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT COURTYARD - AFTERNOON

Sebastian is talking with detectives Morton and Roberts.

JAMES

Dr. Marks, I'm Detective James Morton and this is my partner, Detective Ashley Roberts.

SEBASTIAN

How may I assist you?

ASHLEY

During a prior investigation we were able to conclude that Mr. Madera was involved in a major blackmail scheme.

JAMES

He was also suspected of stealing from patients.

SEBASTIAN

I'm shocked. Are you sure?

JAMES

Sir, we've been able to confirm that he ran several scams at a facility in Fort Lauderdale.

ASHLEY

That's where he worked prior to coming here.

SEBASTIAN

Let me get this straight, David was some type of a con artist and thief?

ASHLEY

We've been able to verify this.

JAMES

Has it been confirmed that David's death was accidental?

SEBASTIAN

The investigation is ongoing, but we believe it was an accident.

JAMES

Was David, to your knowledge, involved with any of the patients-

ASHLEY

-or have any items of value come up missing since his arrival here?

SEBASTIAN

Rumors suggest that Congressman Richardson's daughter, Paula, may have become involved with him, but I've no direct knowledge of this.

ASHLEY

Interesting. May we interview her?

SEBASTIAN

Certainly. I was told she complained a necklace had gone missing from her room.

ASHLEY

We definitely would like a word with her. Are there any other recently admitted patients?

SEBASTIAN

Jason Jambowski, He's actually my brother-in-law, sort of.

ASHLEY

Oh my God, J-Rock's a patient here? He's hot, and so talented!

James gives Ashley a disapproving look. She changes back to a professional demeanor.

JAMES

We would also like to speak to Mr. Jambowski as well.

SEBASTIAN

I can arrange for you to speak to both of them.

JAMES

Very well. We can wait in your office, if that's okay?

Sebastian looks at the two detectives.

SEBASTIAN

That's fine. You can interview them in their rooms, respectively. I'll let them both know.

Sebastian leaves, the two detectives head to his office.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT CHESTER'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Chester sits at desk reading book. There's a knock on door.

CHESTER  
Yes, who is it?

Chester walks to the door and unlocks it.

PETER (O.C.)  
It's me, Scott Williams. I thought  
maybe we'd have a few words before  
dinner.

Chester turns knob, quickly opens door. Peter steps in and  
Chester shuts door behind him.

CHESTER  
Make it fast.

PETER  
Dr. Marks asked me to check in on  
you.

CHESTER  
And are you done?

PETER  
I could be, if that's what you'd  
prefer.

CHESTER  
Yes, that works for me. I've got  
some blackouts I was planning on  
catching up with.

PETER  
I was made aware of your situation  
and if there's anything I can do to  
help-

CHESTER  
You can't.

Peter exits room, walks down hall.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT PAULA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Paula packs a suitcase on her bed when there's a knock on  
door. She quickly puts suitcase under bed, answers door.  
Sebastian stands there.

PAULA  
Hi. Can I help you?

SEBASTIAN  
Paula, the police are here and would like to ask you some questions.

PAULA  
Regarding?

SEBASTIAN  
They're interested to know what you know about David Madera.

PAULA  
I know that he worked here and of course that he's dead now.

SEBASTIAN  
They want to ask you about any close ties the two of you shared.

PAULA  
None. It was pretty much hi and bye when we passed in the hallway.

SEBASTIAN  
There's been speculation the two of you were seeing each other.

PAULA  
That came from Samantha, no doubt. She's an old drunk and doesn't know what the hell she's talking about.

SEBASTIAN  
Still, they're in my office waiting to speak to you.

PAULA  
Yeah, this is bullshit. Let's just get this over with.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT UPPER HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

Peter runs into Gloria in hallway.

PETER  
Oh, hello. It's Gloria, right?

GLORIA  
It's Doctor Sanders. Listen, I  
won't hide the fact that I don't  
like you're being here-

PETER  
Believe me, it's evident.

GLORIA  
And the minute you do anything  
wrong, you're history.

PETER  
I promise to do my best to not to  
get in your way.

GLORIA  
See that you don't.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - EVENING

The sun makes its slow decent towards the horizon.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT UPPER HALLWAY - AFTERNOON

A male ORDERLY, (20's) mops floor as Gloria walks down  
hallway, stops, fusses with uniform, enters Simon's room.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Gloria walks in as Simon stands by window leaning on cane.

GLORIA  
You half startled me Simon.

SIMON  
I was hoping you'd come by and pay  
me a visit.

Gloria grabs a chart from the end of the bed and studies it.

GLORIA  
I see they've had your splint  
removed, but still, you shouldn't  
try walking on it just yet.

SIMON  
I just wanted to take a look  
outside.

GLORIA  
Did Dr. Marks look in on you?

SIMON  
Yes, doctor incompetent was here.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - FLASHBACK

Sebastian, earlier that day standing at the foot of Simon's bed looking over his chart.

SIMON (V.O.)  
He just stood there, staring at that stupid chart, not saying a word.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

SIMON  
Are you quite sure he knows anything about being a doctor?

GLORIA  
Honestly Simon, I don't see why you're so hostile towards him.

SIMON  
He done nothing since I arrived here.

GLORIA  
He updates your parents constantly as to your status.

SIMON  
I suppose you're right. So, is everything back to normal around here?

GLORIA  
Normal? I don't know if normal is quite the right term, Simon.

SIMON  
What's wrong, precious? You always seem a bit out of sorts when you visit me.

GLORIA

Samantha has been doing her best to disrupt things, bringing up my accident, and generally just trying to get under my skin.

SIMON

I'm sorry you have to deal with that. Tired, old women should know their place and stay there.

GLORIA

She doesn't understand boundaries. Plus, David's death has got everyone on edge.

SIMON

Well, at least now he won't be trying to steal your job.

Gloria looks at Simon with some uncertainty.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARK'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Paula sits while detectives Morton and Roberts question her.

JAMES

Ms. Richardson, how close were you to the recently deceased Mister Madera?

PAULA

Actually I barely knew him.

ASHLEY

We understand that you reported a necklace missing from your room?

PAULA

Yes, but I only discovered it missing after David- I mean, Mister Madera had perished in that fire.

JAMES

But still, he could have taken it, no?

PAULA

I suppose it's possible, yes.

JAMES

Had he ever been in your room, with or without your knowledge?

PAULA  
I don't think so, I mean, certainly  
not to my knowledge, no.

JAMES  
Was the necklace very valuable?

PAULA  
It was very expensive, a gift from  
my mother. I have my suspicions  
about who took it.

ASHLEY  
And who do you think took it?

PAULA  
Samantha Kent, although I have no  
way of proving it.

ASHLEY  
Samantha Kent, the actress? I love  
her.

JAMES  
Detective Roberts, let's try to  
stay focused on our investigation.

ASHLEY  
Of course, my bad. Miss Richardson,  
is it possible the necklace went  
missing prior to Mister Madera's  
tragic accident?

PAULA  
I suppose so. I really don't recall  
when I last saw it.

ASHLEY  
Maybe David took it after you  
passed out, you know, after the two  
of you fucked.

PAULA  
I already told you-

ASHLEY  
I know, except they recovered some  
rather incriminating photos on his  
phone that was only slightly  
damaged in the blaze.

PAULA  
I think I'd like to speak with a  
lawyer.

JAMES

That won't be necessary, just tell us what you know about Mr. Madera.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT UPPER HALLWAY - LATE AFTERNOON

Gloria exits room, stops orderly still mopping the hallway.

GLORIA

Will you make sure that they turn down the sheets on Mr. Daltrey's bed.

ORDERLY

Certainly, Dr. Sanders. I'll see to it right after I finish up out here.

Gloria walks off down the hall, the orderly shakes his head.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT JASON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jason lays in bed reading a copy of Showbiz Dirt. There's a knock on the door, Sebastian enters.

SEBASTIAN

I was about to leave but I thought we should talk.

Jason puts the magazine down, sits upright.

JASON

The police were just hear asking me questions about David.

SEBASTIAN

Yes, they're questioning Paula in my office now.

JASON

They think that she was involved?

SEBASTIAN

They're just trying to get some idea of what occurred in the hours leading up to his death.

JASON

I told them that he dropped off some cigarettes I asked him to get me, said something about doing inventory and that was about it.

SEBASTIAN

He was doing the inventory in the closet when the fire broke out. The question is, what started that fire?

JASON

Someone may have set it up beforehand so that when he went in there the room was immediately engulfed in flames.

SEBASTIAN

That's a scary thought, but then the question is who, and why?

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT PAULA'S ROOM - MORNING

Paula draws back her curtain and sees the limousine parked out front. She looks angered and storms out of her room.

EXT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT - MORNING

Paula walks up to the driver side window of the limo. J.R. rolls the window down.

PAULA

So my father has no shortage of henchman to throw my way.

J.R.

Good morning, Paula. You're looking fine as usual.

PAULA

Cut the crap. What're you doing here?

J.R.

They just asked me to keep an eye out, make sure you're okay is all.

PAULA

I'm handling my business and you can tell my father that when you leave, which is now.

J.R.

Listen, if anybody in this joint is giving you problems, J.R. is the right person to set them straight.

PAULA

I can take care of my own affairs,  
so seriously, fuck off!

Paula sashays away as J.R. admires the view.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Katey and Peter having breakfast together.

PETER

You look very nice today.

KATEY

You just watched me getting ready.

PETER

I just felt like I don't say it  
enough. So the police aren't ruling  
out foul play in his death.

KATEY

Based on?

PETER

There wasn't anything flammable  
kept in that closet.

KATEY

Do you think Paula Richardson is  
involved?

PETER

If Samantha isn't blowing smoke up  
my ass, it's possible she realized  
David was using her and may even  
have told her so.

KATEY

Her father's been indicated in a  
number of scandals, so maybe David  
was attempting to blackmail him?

Peter

Paula may inadvertently fed info  
about her father to David, maybe  
she later killed David to protect  
her father.

KATEY

Don't forget that Paula was an  
embarrassment to the family, so no,  
that doesn't really fly.

PETER

Maybe the Congressman got wind of what was going on and David paid the price.

KATEY

That right there's not a bad theory. Who knows who else may have had it in for him.

PETER

Oh, by the way, Samantha Kent knows who I am, but said she would keep my secret.

KATEY

Well, you better hope so, for your sake.

PETER

Run a check on everyone there. There's got to be a missing piece to this puzzle.

KATEY

Henry called and told me to tell you he's coming in for a face-to-face.

PETER

You need to buy me more time.

KATEY

I have to admit, you're more lucid now than you've been in weeks.

PETER

Thanks. Look, I gotta get to the clinic. See you tonight!

Peter places money on table, gently lifts Katey up by her shoulders, plants a kiss on her lips.

KATEY

Well, there's that Lincoln charm!

EXT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT LILY POND - DAY

Jason and Brian sit by lily pond. Jason, holding guitar, starts to nod off.

BRIAN  
J-Rock playing a private concert  
for me. This is fucking incredible!  
Okay If I post this?

JASON  
Sure. It's the least I can do.

Jason rubs his eyes with his hand.

BRIAN  
You've been my favorite artist  
since I was ten.

JASON  
Listen, I'm sorry about what  
happened to you. You're lucky to  
still be here.

BRIAN  
Well, thanks for caring. It really  
does mean a lot coming from you.

JASON  
Shit like that should never happen  
to anyone, anywhere.

Brian looks up, starts to stare off into distance. Jason  
notices Brian's stare.

JASON (CONT'D)  
What're you thinking about?

BRIAN  
That guy that was killed.

JASON  
David Madera. What about him?

BRIAN  
From what I've heard, he was a real  
scumbag. Sounds like he got what he  
deserved.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT MAIN HALLWAY - DAY

Peter walks down hallway nearly runs into Samantha.

PETER  
Are you heading to breakfast,  
Samantha?

SAMANTHA

No, I'm going back to my room first to take a shower, then I might come down for coffee and a roll.

PETER

Well, enjoy.

Samantha walks away towards her room, smiling. Peter walks down hall, runs into Paula.

PETER (CONT'D)

Good morning, Miss Richardson.

Paula watches Samantha disappear down hall.

PAULA

Hi, do I know you?

PETER

I'm Scott Williams, the new orderly.

PAULA

Oh, David's replacement. I noticed you were talking to the trash.

PETER

You mean Ms. Kent?

PAULA

Yeah, what do you think of her?

PETER

Great actress in her day.

PAULA

Well I think, she's a fucking bitch!

PETER

So you're not a fan then?

PAULA

I wish she would've died in that fire.

Paula touches his chin, smiles, heads down hall in direction Samantha walked. Peter watches, heads opposite direction.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SAMANTHA'S ROOM - DAY

Samantha walks into bathroom, turns on shower, disrobes while room steams up.

As she steps into shower, knob on door to room slowly turns.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT LILY POND - DAY

Jason sits on ledge of pond, smoking cigarette, looks up at sky. He turns, sees Gloria walk towards him.

GLORIA

Hello Jason.

JASON

Come to warn me to stay out of your way?

GLORIA

No, and I'm sorry for being a bit harsh earlier.

JASON

You just need to get to know me better.

GLORIA

I know your type.

JASON

Really? I'm a type?

GLORIA

All men are types. Controlling, passive, sociopaths, mama's boys...

JASON

And what category did I land in?

GLORIA

Chick magnet, but you never scratch the surface to see what lies beneath.

JASON

Well, my schedule doesn't always allow for much soul searching, but maybe now's a good time to start.

GLORIA

You're a smoker? Such a nasty habit.

JASON

I always crave a cigarette after a good meal, or sex.

GLORIA

Still, nasty habit... smoking, not sex.

JASON

I'm so glad you cleared that up.

Gloria chuckles and takes a seat next to Jason.

GLORIA

Jason, I wanted to thank you. I saw how you've been interacting with Brian. That's been a real game changer.

JASON

He's a huge fan, and he's here because of what happened at one of my shows. I'm just happy that he's getting better.

GLORIA

Well, he has you to thank for that. You know, you did a good thing by coming here.

JASON

You think?

GLORIA

There are no accidents in life. When I first came to work here, Sebastian was quite broken up over his divorce.

JASON

He hasn't gotten over it even after all this time.

GLORIA

He's a workaholic, you know.

JASON

He was so consumed with his work and it put a huge strain on my sister, Elise.

GLORIA  
I can see how that could happen.  
I'm sorry she had to go through  
that.

JASON  
She got tired of coming in second  
to the job and she finally left.

GLORIA  
That explains quite a lot.

Jason doubles over and grimaces in pain. Gloria grabs Jason  
by the hand, puts an arm around him.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
You're gonna be okay, just hang in  
there. Withdrawal is the most  
difficult part of your journey.

Gloria suddenly notices Simon looking at them through a  
window of the main hall. She releases Jason's hand and stands  
up, backing away from him. Jason looks up at her.

JASON  
What's the matter?

Jason turns and looks in same direction, doesn't see anyone  
or notice anything unusual.

GLORIA  
I'm sorry, but I have to go.

Gloria stands, walks towards the main hall leaving Jason  
sitting there, puzzled look on his face.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT UPPER HALLWAY - DAY

Gloria walks along hallway towards Simon's room, enters.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - DAY

Simon looking at coffee table book of 19th Century art,  
Gloria walks in.

GLORIA  
You seem to be getting around  
rather well on that leg of yours.

Simon puts book down.

SIMON

I trust you're going somewhere with this? You do realize my leg is the least of my problems?

GLORIA

Simon, I don't appreciate you-

SIMON

Don't appreciate me what?

GLORIA

I saw you just now. Simon, are you spying on me?

SIMON

Your suspicious nature is very unattractive.

GLORIA

What is it Simon? Are you jealous that someone finds me attractive and is paying me some attention?

SIMON

Don't confuse attention with pity.

GLORIA

You're a real son-of-a-bitch!

SIMON

Stop deluding yourself with these childish fantasies.

GLORIA

Fuck you!

Gloria makes a dash towards the door.

SIMON

Is this anyway to talk to the man you love?

Gloria turns to respond to Simon.

GLORIA

Simon, you don't know anything about love. This is all just a game to you.

Gloria starts to exit, ignoring Simon.

SIMON  
Hey, you're the one creating this  
fantasy. I've just come along for  
the ride.

Simon's face grows a wide smile, he chuckles as Gloria walks  
out, closing door behind her.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - DAY

Sebastian standing by desk, about to leave for the evening  
when Peter rushes in.

SEBASTIAN  
What in Heaven's name! Scott, don't  
you know that you're supposed to  
knock before entering?

PETER  
Forgive the intrusion, Doctor  
Marks, but I'm afraid we've had  
another incident.

SEBASTIAN  
What is it this time?

PETER  
Samantha Kent was found dead in her  
room moments ago.

SEBASTIAN  
For God's sake, what on earth is  
going on!

PETER  
Should I notify the police, sir?

SEBASTIAN  
I'll handle it myself. Who else  
knows about this?

PETER  
Just you and I and the intern who  
found her.

SEBASTIAN  
Lisa Peyton.

PETER  
Yes, I asked her not to say  
anything, then I came to notify you  
immediately.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT LISA'S QUARTERS - DAY

Detective Morton and Roberts questioning intern, LISA PEYTON, CAUCASIAN (25), a red headed girl. Dr. Marks stands by witnessing the interview.

LISA

So I heard the water running in the shower.

(beat)

That poor woman. She was staring up at me.

(beat)

I'll never forget that cold, dead look on her face.

JAMES

Miss Peyton, did you see or hear anything out of the ordinary prior to entering the room?

LISA

Nothing, and no one.

ASHLEY

Miss Peyton, we just wonder if someone may have been in the room before you?

LISA

Are you trying to say she was killed?

JAMES

No, but we don't want to rule out anything just yet. You didn't see anyone in the hallway on your way to her room?

LISA

No, sir. No one.

ASHLEY

I think that's all for today, Miss Peyton, If you think of anything else, please contact us.

LISA

Of course. May I go now?

James and Ashley both nod. Lisa stands up, exits room. Sebastian turns his attention to the two detectives.

SEBASTIAN

Was it really necessary to suggest that Miss Kent was murdered?

JAMES

What we are trying to do Dr. Marks, is conduct an investigation.

SEBASTIAN

Listen, you've just sent a twenty-five year old girl out of here believing that Michael Myers is wandering the grounds!

ASHLEY

Dr. Marks, I had a look at the body, and I'm no coroner, but-

Sebastian starts to say something, then stops. He walks over to chair, sits down.

SEBASTIAN

If Samantha was murdered, as you are suggesting, and David as well-

JAMES

Then you might very well have a killer running amok.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT MAIN HALLWAY - DAY

Paula overhears Ms. Wells talking to a NURSE about Samantha's death.

NURSE

So she's dead? Miss Kent was murdered?

MS. WELLS

And of course, you-know-who had been fighting with her all week, so I wouldn't be surprised if the cops haul her ass in for questioning.

Paula walks down main hallway to her room, enters and closes door, then quickly grabs suitcase.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - DAY

SEBASTIAN

I don't want you causing wide spread panic and damaging the reputation of this clinic.

ASHLEY

Doctor, our primary concern is the safety of every individual at this facility.

SEBASTIAN

Mine as well.

ASHLEY

We're going to have to continue to conduct our investigation.

JAMES

We need to know who saw the vic-Miss Kent, prior to her death.

SEBASTIAN

I need to inform the Board of Directors of this clinic about what has occurred.

The two detectives look at one another.

ASHLEY

We're also going to need a list of all employees and residents, including the grounds crew.

Sebastian looks a little deflated.

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

We understand your desire to keep things low key.

JAMES

If she was murdered, chances are we're dealing with a sociopath, or someone with a vendetta against-

SEBASTIAN

Against me? Against the clinic? Is this where you're headed?

JAMES

It's quite possible. We certainly can't rule it out.

SEBASTIAN  
This is preposterous!

ASHLEY  
If this has nothing to do with you  
or Starlight then we need to find  
out who had a reason to want Ms.  
Kent and David Madera dead.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT MAIN HALLWAY - DAY

Morton and Roberts walk along hallway with Peter who opens  
the front door to throng of reporters. Peter quickly closes  
door.

ASHLEY  
That's as could be expected. She  
was, after all, a pretty famous  
celebrity.

PETER  
Sebastian is going to have a heart  
attack.

JAMES  
Can you shed any more light on this  
situation, Mr. Williams?

PETER  
Well, I was probably the last  
person to see Ms. Kent alive.

James pulls out his cell phone to take notes.

JAMES  
What time would you say that was?

PETER  
Breakfast started at nine-thirty.  
So a little before then.

JAMES  
And where was this?

PETER  
In the main hallway, she was on her  
way to her room.

ASHLEY  
Did anyone else see her?

PETER  
Congressman Richardson's daughter,  
Paula. She's a patient here too.

James and Ashley look at one another.

ASHLEY  
This is beginning to seem like more  
than just a coincidence.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - DAY

Gloria enters Sebastian's office.

GLORIA  
I got your text, is it about David?

SEBASTIAN  
I'm afraid we've had another  
tragedy, Samantha Kent was found  
dead in her room by Lisa Peyton.

Gloria covers her mouth with one hand, visibly shaken.

GLORIA  
Sebastian, what's going on?

SEBASTIAN  
She apparently slipped in her  
shower. The police however have  
their own theories on the matter.

GLORIA  
Meaning?

SEBASTIAN  
Meaning, if they have their way,  
they'll close us down and launch a  
thorough investigation.

GLORIA  
That's ridiculous! Who would want  
to kill Samantha?

SEBASTIAN  
I don't know. Also, Paula  
Richardson isn't anywhere to be  
found.

GLORIA  
You mean she's missing?

SEBASTIAN

I just got off the phone with her father. He's furious, of course.

GLORIA

I'm sure that didn't go well, and his being on the board certainly doesn't help.

SEBASTIAN

Two deaths, and his own daughter nowhere to be found. No, he didn't take the news too well.

INT. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON'S MANSION - EVENING

Vernon on phone when his wife, AMANDA, AFRICAN-AMERICAN (42), extremely attractive, enters room.

CONGRESSMAN

Yes, Barry. Well, keep me informed will you? I want up to the minute updates.

Vernon hangs phone up, walks over to Amanda.

AMANDA

Was that about Paula? Have they found her yet? It's been nearly two days!

He hugs Amanda, kisses her on the lips.

CONGRESSMAN

Amanda, honey, if she is anywhere in the area, they'll find her.

AMANDA

She's my baby, Vernon. I don't know what I'll do if anything's happened to her.

CONGRESSMAN

Darling, you know I feel the same way about her that you do.

AMANDA

Sometimes I wonder.

CONGRESSMAN

She hasn't always been good for my political aspirations, But she does come first.

The phone rings, Vernon walks over to phone and answers.

CONGRESSMAN (CONT'D)  
Yes? What is it Nate?  
(beat)  
I see. Any idea who or what?  
(beat)  
Keep me posted.

Vernon hangs up the phone.

AMANDA  
What's the matter, Vernon?

CONGRESSMAN  
Apparently someone has breached the  
east wall of the estate.

Vernon and Amanda turn at the sound of footsteps. In through  
the French doors walks Paula.

PAULA  
Mom, daddy!

Amanda runs over to Paula, puts arm around her.

AMANDA  
Oh, my baby! I can't believe you  
made it home. Vernon, our baby is  
home! Isn't this wonderful?

CONGRESSMAN  
Paula, we were terribly worried  
that you might've come to some  
harm. Two people have died at the  
clinic. And apparently they were  
both murdered.

PAULA  
I know daddy. I knew the police  
would be asking me questions.

CONGRESSMAN  
Asking you questions, why?

PAULA  
Trying to say I was somehow  
involved.

CONGRESSMAN  
Well that's just great!

PAULA

I didn't want to cause you any more trouble. I got here as quickly as I could.

AMANDA

Darling, you are more important to us than anything else in the world. And we know you had nothing to do with this, isn't that right, Vernon?

PAULA

They're going to try to say I had something to do with it, but I didn't kill that woman, or David.

CONGRESSMAN

Okay, enough of this nonsense.

Vernon walks over, hugs his wife and daughter together.

CONGRESSMAN (CONT'D)

You two go upstairs and get some sleep. Tomorrow this will all be forgotten.

Amanda and Paula both kiss Vernon on his cheek, then stroll out of the office. Vernon gets on phone.

CONGRESSMAN (CONT'D)

Nate. Paula's here.  
(beat)  
Yes, that's who tripped the alarm. She's deep in the middle of this fucking mess and it's going to ruin my campaign. So I need you to make this problem disappear.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Peter and Katey having breakfast. A TV overhead broadcasts the news.

NEWS WOMAN

We have a breaking report that yet another death has taken place here in Rockland-

KATEY

Man, people are starting to drop like flies over there.

## NEWS WOMAN

Screen and stage actress, Samantha Kent, was found dead in her room at the Starlight clinic, scene of another unfortunate death earlier this week.

Originally ruled an accident, police are now saying it's an open investigation due to suspicious circumstances...

The reporter is heard droning on in background.

## PETER

We had throngs of press covering her death at the clinic. I had to stay out of sight to avoid being discovered.

## KATEY

You absolutely cannot blow your cover.

## PETER

J-Rock looks at me like he remembers me from somewhere. Luckily it's been a few years since our paths crossed.

## KATEY

I'd avoid too much contact with J-Rock or you just might jar his memory.

## PETER

Henry still giving me heat?

## KATEY

Of course, but as long as you provide the headlines you'll still have a job.

## PETER

Run a story implicating all the key suspects.

## KATEY

So you're actually willing to accuse Paula Richardson of murder. He'll probably have you killed.

PETER

I don't think she killed her, but I won't quit digging until I have some answers.

KATEY

If you do, Henry will probably top the short list of people that will have you killed.  
(beat)  
Peter, about us-

PETER

There is no us right now Katey. Let's just get through this and we can have that talk.

KATEY

Maybe their should be an "us".  
Maybe then you'd stop drinking.

PETER

I don't drink because I have to, I drink because I like to.

KATEY

Your a different person now.

PETER

We're both different people now. They say change is a good thing.

KATEY

Provided it's a positive change. I think there's still a chance for us to be happy. I hope you do as well.

Peter looks at Katey, not sure how to respond.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - DAY

Detectives Morton and Roberts are present. Dr. Marks is ending a phone call.

SEBASTIAN

Very good then. We'll talk tomorrow when I know more. So Detective Morton, where do we stand in this investigation of yours?

JAMES

Samantha Kent's injuries were the result of a blunt force trauma to her head. Not consistent with a simple fall in the shower.

ASHLEY

I'm afraid, Dr. Marks, that your resident was bludgeoned to death.

SEBASTIAN

My God, is this nightmare ever going to end?

JAMES

We're going to need to speak with all the members of her group now, as well as the rest of the staff.

ASHLEY

Other detectives have paid a visit to Congressman Richardson and his wife.

SEBASTIAN

Have they heard from Paula?

ASHLEY

They maintain that they've had no contact with Paula since her disappearance.

JAMES

Obviously a lie.

ASHLEY

Detective!

SEBASTIAN

Is it possible that Paula was also a victim of foul play?

JAMES

We don't like to rule anything out, Dr. Marks.

SEBASTIAN

Well, I can't tell you how happy I am to hear that.

ASHLEY

We're going to dispatch several officers to search for the murder weapon.

SEBASTIAN

So how do you want to handle these interviews?

JAMES

Perhaps you have a suitable place where we can have some privacy.

Sebastian picks up phone.

SEBASTIAN

Scott? Please gather the remaining members of Samantha Kent's group, I'll be there shortly.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SUNSET ROOM - DAY

Sequence of interrogations intercut between the two detectives and the residents. Chester, Brian, Dan, Richard and Jason, individually, being questioned by James or Ashley.

JAMES

Would you happen to know the whereabouts of Paula Richardson?

CHESTER

No, I'm afraid I don't. They say she'd been sleeping with the Madera kid, although as far as I know, this is unsubstantiated. He's dead, you know.

ASHLEY

Who do you feel might have benefited from Samantha's death?

BRIAN

I don't know, who's Samantha?

JAMES

When did you last see Samantha Kent alive?

DAN

The last session we had, I guess. To be frank, I didn't notice if she was there. I slept through the whole thing. It can be pretty boring, if you get my drift.

ASHLEY

Were you aware that Samantha Kent was killed in her room two days ago?

CHESTER

Are you sure she's not just acting? From what I hear, she's pretty good at it.

JAMES

Two people were murdered here- How does that make you feel?

RICHARD

Like getting a refund. I didn't sign up to be in an Agatha Christie Murder Mystery Dinner Theatre extravaganza.

ASHLEY

When was the last time you saw Paula Richardson?

BRIAN

Man, I suppose at dinner, but I don't know for sure. I try to avoid her cause she's as mean as a snake. They say she sleeps around a lot, which makes sense, cause she's totally hot.

JAMES

Can you tell me anything about David Madera's death?

CHESTER

I suffer from blackouts, so I'm afraid my memory's not so good. David's dead you say. Which one was he again? Oh, the one sleeping with the Congressman's daughter.

JASON

I didn't kill anybody. I promise.

ASHLEY

Anyone ever say anything negative about Dr. Marks?

RICHARD

Besides me?

JAMES

People here seem to be under the impression that David and Paula were having an affair.

DAN

Well, Samantha certainly thought so. Do you think that's why Paula killed her?

INT. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON'S DOWNTOWN OFFICE - EVENING

Vernon at his downtown office, fielding questions from several NEWS REPORTERS.

CONGRESSMAN

I'll start off by saying there is no truth to the allegations that my daughter was involved in the deaths at the clinic in any way.

NEWS REPORTER #1

Congressman Richardson, where is your daughter now?

CONGRESSMAN

I'm afraid, for her own protection, that's information I couldn't disclose, even if I were privy to it, which I am not.

NEWS REPORTER #2

Congressman Richardson, doesn't the disappearance of your daughter suggest that she might know something about these crimes?

CONGRESSMAN

Not at all. I firmly believe that my daughter removed herself voluntarily because she didn't feel safe there.

NEWS REPORTER #3

Congressman Richardson, how can you be sure your daughter is not involved in these two murders?

CONGRESSMAN

I think I know my daughter. And from what I understand, these were merely unfortunate accidents, and not murders.

NEWS REPORTER #3

To follow-up, rumor has it she may have been intimate with the first victim, David Madera.

CONGRESSMAN

I think we leave the rumors and innuendo to the tabloids.

NEWS REPORTER #1

It was also reported that your daughter and Samantha Kent hated one another, that would possibly link her to both victims.

CONGRESSMAN

More tabloid nonsense! I'm only interested in the facts, ladies and gentlemen. Now if you'll excuse me.

NEWS REPORTER #2

Congressman, was David Madera attempting to blackmail you or your daughter?

CONGRESSMAN

No further questions.

Vernon walks off. Felix, his Chief Aide, helms the podium. The reporters fire off one or two more questions.

FELIX

I'm afraid that's all the time we have today. I'll be happy to field one or two more questions and then this conference will come to an end.

NEWS REPORTER #4

Two people are dead. Doesn't the Congressman think that his daughter needs to come out and at the very least, clear her name?

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - DAY

The press conference is on the TV in Dr. Marks' office. Gloria and Sebastian are watching intently. Felix still stands at the podium fielding questions.

FELIX

The Congressman doesn't know the current whereabouts of his daughter.

A barrage of questions from throng of reporters.

FELIX (CONT'D)

Furthermore, no charges of any kind have been brought against her at this time. Our primary concern is her safety and well being.

Sebastian and Gloria are watching press conference on TV.

GLORIA

Well Sebastian, we certainly didn't come off too well in those statements.

SEBASTIAN

What could we expect him to say? He trusted us to keep Paula safe and we failed.

There's a knock on the door.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Yes, who is it?

PETER

Scott Williams, Dr. Marks.

SEBASTIAN

Come in Scott.

The door opens, Peter enters office. Telephone rings, Sebastian answers it.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

Hello Starlight- oh, hello- Yes, well I see your point.

(beat)

You may certainly speak to him and get his position on this matter.

Sebastian hangs up.

GLORIA

Who was that?

SEBASTIAN

Phillip Kline, Jason's Lawyer. He wants Jason to, in his words, bolt the hell out of here as soon as possible.

PETER

Dr. Marks, Dr. Sanders, the gardeners discovered Chester lying in the grass just outside the main room.

SEBASTIAN

Is he okay?

PETER

He's fine. He suffered another blackout. It's what they found next to him that is in question.

SEBASTIAN

And what exactly might that be?

PETER

It's a cane, Dr. Marks and from the looks of it there's blood on it.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - DAY

Gloria bursts into room. Simon lies in bed.

GLORIA

Simon! They've just discovered a bloody cane in Chester's possession.

SIMON

Well, they've finally got their murderer, so perhaps things can finally get back to normal.

GLORIA

Simon, it was your cane.

SIMON

Well then I guess the old bugger must've borrowed it.

GLORIA

Simon, I don't believe Chester killed anyone, and neither do you!

SIMON

Gloria, are you now doing my thinking for me?

GLORIA

Simon, please don't play games. This is serious.

SIMON

I suppose it is, so what?

GLORIA

So, why don't you just be honest for once and tell me what you know about all this?

SIMON

I only know what you tell me.

Gloria sits on edge of bed, a tear roll down her face.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Gloria, first you waltz in here and accuse me of spying on you, take the other night for example.

Gloria looks at Simon, her face full of worry.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Think for a minute. How could I possibly get back to this room that quickly?

GLORIA

I don't know, maybe- I don't know, Simon.

SIMON

Now you suggest I placed my cane in Chester's hands and crawled back up here, with no one to witness such a pathetic display.

GLORIA

But your cane was likely used to kill Samantha Kent.

SIMON

Okay, let's suppose that it was, but anyone could have come in here, taken the cane, and killed that woman.

Paula, perhaps.

(MORE)

SIMON (CONT'D)

I hear she disappeared shortly after it was discovered that this Samantha was dead.

GLORIA

Is that what you're going to tell the police when they come to see you.

SIMON

Why would the police want to see me?

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Sebastian enters conference room for Zoom meeting. Vernon on on screen, cuts tip off cigar, lights it.

SEBASTIAN

Oh, I was expecting the entire board to be here for this meeting.

CONGRESSMAN

This isn't a board meeting Sebastian. This is about you, me and my daughter.

SEBASTIAN

I do want to apologize, Vernon.

CONGRESSMAN

It's Congressman to you, Dr. Marks. We're no longer on a first name basis.

SEBASTIAN

Congressman, surely you don't blame me for everything that's happened?

CONGRESSMAN

On the contrary, who am I to blame, if not you? Why are your residents suddenly being hunted and killed?

SEBASTIAN

Sir, I'm truly sorry I couldn't protect Paula any better than I have.

CONGRESSMAN

I understand they've arrested this man, Armstrong.

SEBASTIAN

He was taken in for questioning,  
but I don't believe there were any  
formal charges brought.

CONGRESSMAN

That boy Madera was pure evil.  
Trying to take advantage of my  
daughter. Pretty ballsy move.

SEBASTIAN

I had no idea that he and your  
daughter were mixed up together,  
Congressman.

CONGRESSMAN

Apparently he, or both of them were  
plotting to blackmail me. He's  
lucky he died, because what I  
might've done to him would've been  
far worse.

SEBASTIAN

I get it, Congressman.

CONGRESSMAN

You're goddamn right you get it!  
This is my life, my career we're  
talking about, and I will do what's  
necessary to protect it.

SEBASTIAN

Where is your daughter now?

CONGRESSMAN

My daughter is my business now, she  
is no longer your concern.

SEBASTIAN

If there's anything-

CONGRESSMAN

You can do? You've done quite  
enough. Stop jeopardizing my  
campaign with your nonsense. That  
would be a good start.

Vernon puffs on cigar, blows out a huge plume of smoke.

CONGRESSMAN (CONT'D)

Marks, this will be your last week  
as head of this facility. The board  
has already met and decided to  
vote you out.

SEBASTIAN

I was expecting as much. Tell me Congressman, was Samantha Kent in your way as well?

CONGRESSMAN

Samantha Kent wasn't killed for my benefit, Marks. She wasn't my problem.

SEBASTIAN

Perhaps your daughter felt differently?

CONGRESSMAN

Don't you dare try to put your blood on my daughter's hands.

Congressman Richardson stands up, about to leave the Zoom meeting. Sebastian gets in one final barb.

SEBASTIAN

By the way Congressman, don't expect my vote.

He disconnects the Zoom meeting call.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Peter enters expecting to see Katey alone, but Henry is there.

PETER

Hey Katey, I called a lunch meeting because- Henry! Damn glad to see you. You springing for this meal?

HENRY

Cut the crap, Lincoln, where the hell is the rest of my story?

PETER

Oh, so now it's Lincoln, and we've been on a first name basis for so long.

HENRY

Your cover was nearly blown, two people are dead, and we've got zero.

PETER

I need to eat something. Have you two ordered yet?

KATEY

Peter, just tell Henry what you know so far before he has an aneurysm.

PETER

Okay, they took Armstrong in for questioning, but the murder weapon was an obvious plant.

HENRY

I'm listening.

PETER

Look, run the story on Chester's arrest. It'll create some fresh buzz.

HENRY

I stopped listening.

PETER

Look Henry, this whole thing is coming to a head.

KATEY

We've got a dead actress, and a dead con man, plus a congressman with pretty behavior-

PETER

Along with a drugged out rock star, and a kid in a coma with homicidal tendencies.

HENRY

Quite a cast of characters.

PETER

So you agree that we have a story we can run with?

HENRY

Okay, I'll give you that much, it's something at least.

PETER

We're liable to end up with the biggest story of the year. You just gotta give me a little more time.

HENRY

Look, if the cops charge this Chester, as I'm betting they will, I'll have you snapping pictures of kittens up for adoption.

KATEY

Henry, we've come through in the past with a lot more support from you.

Henry stares at them both.

HENRY

It's called the past for a reason. Look you have two more days.

PETER

Thank you.

HENRY

I figure they'll close the clinic down by then and story or no story, we all move on. You got it?

Henry stands up and walks away.

A half hour passes, Katey and Peter are finished with meal. A waitress is removing some plates from table.

KATEY

So what's our next move?

PETER

I have a feeling we're missing something important. Please, finish getting me background on everyone at the clinic.

KATEY

Okay.

PETER

Listen, I better get back. I'll be waiting to hear from you.

Peter gets up, heads out of restaurant. Katey picks up check, looks towards door, makes a face, pulls out her wallet.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT GLORIA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Framed picture hangs on wall; Allison (26). Gloria sits looking in photo album; old picture of a young man hugging her.

There is a knock on door - Dr. Marks enters. Gloria closes album, inserts it into drawer in desk.

SEBASTIAN

Gloria, there's a few things I need to discuss with you.

Gloria bites her lip and waits to hear what he has to say.

SEBASTIAN (CONT'D)

I met with Vernon Richardson earlier. He and the board have voted to remove me as head of the clinic.

GLORIA

Guess we kind of saw that coming.

SEBASTIAN

So far, apart from Chester, the police have no real suspects at the clinic.

GLORIA

I don't see how Chester could have had anything to do with this.

SEBASTIAN

I agree with you there, but who else could've killed them?

GLORIA

Do you think it's possible that Paula killed Samantha and David?

SEBASTIAN

I don't buy it. However, she does come from a pretty powerful family.

GLORIA

Are you suggesting her father was involved?

SEBASTIAN

Something about my meeting with him just didn't feel right.

GLORIA

I just thought about something else. What's going to happen with Simon?

SEBASTIAN

Simon will be well placed. I promised his parents he'd get the best possible care and that I will personally see to it.

GLORIA

You've done an awful lot for Simon since he came here.

SEBASTIAN

Not as much as I would have liked to.

INT. ROCKLAND MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Katey is asleep. Peter looks bad as he stands over sink, retching. He picks up bottle of vodka, pours into sink.

He puts bottle down, picks up glass from sink filled with vodka. Holding glass, just stares at it.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Gloria stands at the end of bed, talks to Simon.

GLORIA

Simon, I just heard some news from Dr. Marks that I think you need to hear.

SIMON

Sure. What's up?

GLORIA

Simon, they're going to remove Sebastian as Head Administrator.

SIMON

Well, that's cause for celebration!

Simon's smile quickly turns to a frown.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Actually, that does pose a problem.

GLORIA

Don't worry, you'll be taken care of. Dr. Marks says he'll see to it.

SIMON

I see. I suppose this mean our time together is coming to an end?

GLORIA

I plan on finding out where they place you- Perhaps I'll even get a job there.

SIMON

Or perhaps this is the perfect excuse to rid yourself of me for good.

GLORIA

Don't say that.

SIMON

After all, we both know you want someone else, someone whole.

GLORIA

Don't say that. You know I care deeply about you.

SIMON

Cut the bullshit. Without me, you're not complete. And without you, I'm nothing.

Gloria heads for door. She turns, speaks to Simon.

GLORIA

Stop, please. I can't do this anymore. I can't Simon, I can't!

Gloria opens door. As door closes behind her Simon yells.

SIMON

This conversation isn't over Gloria!

INT. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON'S ESTATE OFFICE - NIGHT

Congressman sits at desk, on phone with one of his advisors.

CONGRESSMAN

Just make sure Paula stays put. Drug her if you have to.

Vernon hangs up phone as Amanda enters office.

CONGRESSMAN (CONT'D)  
Amanda, dear, you look a bit out of sorts. What's the matter?

AMANDA  
You know exactly what the problem is Vernon.

CONGRESSMAN  
Amanda, you need to look at the big picture.

AMANDA  
I don't give a damn about your re-election, Vernon. I want to know where my baby is.

CONGRESSMAN  
Are you not aware she's a suspect in, not one but two murders?

AMANDA  
Vernon, what exactly do you know about those two deaths?

CONGRESSMAN  
I had nothing to do with that and I resent you thinking that I did.

AMANDA  
I know what you're capable of.

CONGRESSMAN  
I was willing to pay the boy for his silence, and I had no involvement with Ms. Kent, whatsoever.

AMANDA  
So where is Paula now?

Amanda takes deep breath, takes a seat. She looks up at Vernon, a tear rolls down her cheek.

CONGRESSMAN  
She's fine.

AMANDA  
I want to speak to Paula, Vernon. I want to speak to my little girl.

CONGRESSMAN  
Of course you do.

The Congressman presses speaker mode, dials and it rings.

VOICE ON THE PHONE (O.S.)  
Yes, Congressman.

CONGRESSMAN  
Put Paula on the phone.

VOICE ON THE PHONE (O.S.)  
She's currently sleeping sir.

CONGRESSMAN  
Wake her ass up, her mother wishes  
to speak with her.

VOICE ON THE PHONE (O.S.)  
Right away sir.

The Congressman and his wife sit staring at each other.  
Paula's voice can be heard over phone.

PAULA (O.S.)  
Hello?

AMANDA  
Baby! Are you okay?

PAULA (O.S.)  
Yes momma, I'm fine.

AMANDA  
Where are you?

PAULA (O.S.)  
I'm not sure-

AMANDA  
(to Congressman)  
Where is she Vernon?

CONGRESSMAN  
She's safe. Better you not have any  
details for now.

AMANDA  
Are you eating okay? Are they  
feeding you?

CONGRESSMAN  
She's fine Amanda. Paula go back to  
sleep now. We'll be in touch.

PAULA (O.S.)  
Daddy, when can I-

The Congressman disconnects call. Amanda rises from her chair, furious.

AMANDA  
You son-of-a-bitch! I wasn't through talking to her.

CONGRESSMAN  
Yes, you were. Now let me handle this.

AMANDA  
She wants to come home Vernon.

CONGRESSMAN  
Do you know what would happen if the police found out we were hiding her?

AMANDA  
We aren't doing anything Vernon, you are!

CONGRESSMAN  
We are all in this together.

AMANDA  
You tell whoever that bastard is, he's to bring my daughter home!

The Congressman stands up.

CONGRESSMAN  
You had your chance with her. Now it's my turn.

The Congressman walks past his wife out the door. Amanda staring after him, takes out her cell phone.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT LILY POND - NIGHT

Jason finds Gloria sitting, facing the pond.

JASON  
Hey lady! You seem pretty deep in thought.

GLORIA

These last two weeks have been, well, pretty overwhelming. I just needed a moment to myself.

JASON

Oh. Sure, I'll give you your space.

Gloria reaches a hand out, touches Jason on the arm.

GLORIA

No, stay. I could use some company right now.

Jason takes a seat next to Gloria. They both smile.

JASON

It's been pretty crazy since I arrived, I know. Sebastian's feeling the strain.

GLORIA

I suppose he's told you they're asking him to step down?

JASON

Yeah, he's taking the heat for everything that's happened.

GLORIA

He'll find a good clinic for you to finish out your treatment if you want to leave here.

JASON

Are you staying?

GLORIA

I haven't decided, but I think so.

JASON

Well, doc, if you're staying, then so am I.

GLORIA

You know, I have a first name.

JASON

Are we on a first name basis now?

GLORIA

You know Jason, it's just not appropriate, not to mention it's very unprofessional.

Jason grabs her gently, kisses her passionately.

JASON  
I'd really like us to spend some time, you know, getting to know one another.

GLORIA  
Yeah, no, not possible right now. I don't know Jason. I do feel something for you, it's just-

JASON  
Just what?

Gloria puts a hand to his face, rubs his stubbly chin.

GLORIA  
I need a little time to sort some things out.

Gloria stands, bends down, kisses Jason's cheek, walks away.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT GLORIA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Gloria sits at desk, looks at newspaper clipping in a photo album with headline, "Paramedic rescues woman from burning vehicle."

The sub-headline reads "Sole survivor in tragic accident lucky to be alive." Picture shows a young Simon standing, arm around Gloria wrapped in a blanket. Gloria closes photo album, stands, exits room.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Sebastian is on phone.

SEBASTIAN  
Yes- I'm sure you've seen the news. We've had some problems and the clinic will be under someone else's authority soon.

ELLEN (O.S.)  
But what about our son? What about Simon?

SEBASTIAN  
He'll be okay. Trust me, I will relocate him to a clinic that can help him in his recovery.

ELLEN (O.S.)  
Harold will be quite upset!

SEBASTIAN  
I understand Ellen. I certainly  
wish the circumstances were  
different.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Gloria is visiting Simon in his room.

GLORIA  
This has all got to stop Simon.

SIMON  
I see.

GLORIA  
I need time to think- I don't know  
what you expect of me.

SIMON  
I expect you to play the game to  
it's conclusion.

GLORIA  
What do you mean? What are you  
saying? What game?

SIMON  
Simply bring him here. I'll take  
care of the rest.

Gloria stops, looks at Simon, a look of horror on her face.

GLORIA  
No, Simon, I fucking won't do it!

SIMON  
Don't be such a drama queen! This  
has to be done.

GLORIA  
Simon, I-

SIMON  
You what? You've lost your nerve?  
Then you obviously don't love me,  
so just get the fuck out!

Gloria walks over to bed, strokes his hair, kisses his cheeks  
over and over.

GLORIA  
I do love you. I don't think I  
could go on another day without  
you.

SIMON  
Well then... let the games begin.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT JASON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jason sits at desk, hears a faint rap on door, glances at  
clock on night stand, (11:55 p.m.) He walks over, opens door.

JASON  
This is an unexpected surprise.

Gloria, hair down, smiles at Jason as she enters the room.

JASON (CONT'D)  
And let me add a very pleasant one.

GLORIA  
I've been wanting to come and see  
you.

JASON  
Then we've probably got some lost  
time to make up for.

GLORIA  
(smiling)  
I've got an idea. Do you want to do  
something, well, a little kinky?

JASON  
Hmmm, sure. As long as I wake up  
with all of my organs in the  
morning.

Gloria laughs. She pulls out a blindfold from her pocket.

GLORIA  
I want to take you to my special  
place.

JASON  
Why the blindfold?

GLORIA  
Come on, I thought you were the  
adventurous type?

Gloria takes the scarf and begins tying it around Jason's head, making sure to cover his eyes well.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT STAFF ROOM - NIGHT

Peter on cell phone talking to Katey. His laptop on, scene intercuts between Peter and Katey.

PETER  
Did you run those background checks  
like I asked you?

CUT TO:

INT. ROCKLAND MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Katey sits at table, computer on.

KATEY  
You should have it any time now.

CUT TO:

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT STAFF ROOM - NIGHT

PETER  
I wish this connection was faster.

Peter switches to remote camera screen on laptop. Gloria is standing at Jason's door.

PETER (CONT'D)  
Looks like a little midnight  
rendezvous between J-Rock and  
doctor Sanders.

INT. ROCKLAND MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

KATEY  
You might want to keep an eye on  
them. CUT TO:

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT STAFF ROOM - NIGHT

Peter switches back to his mailbox screen.

PETER  
I plan to- looks like that file  
just arrived.

INT. ROCKLAND MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

KATEY

Well check it over. I'm heading over there.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT STAFF ROOM - NIGHT

PETER

See you when you get here.

Peter puts down cell phone, clicks on computer keyboard. Reading, he switches back to remote video screen.

Seeing no movement, he heads out door, misses Gloria walking out of room with Jason blindfolded.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Sebastian sits at desk, holds bottle of prescription pills. He hears a slight rap on door, puts pills in a drawer.

SEBASTIAN

Yes, come in.

Peter enters room hurriedly, shuts door behind him.

PETER

Dr. Marks, you're not going to like what I have to tell you.

SEBASTIAN

Go on Scott, you have my full attention.

PETER

I think I know who the person is behind the killings. Listen, I'm also a reporter from Showbiz Dirt working undercover.

Sebastian looks extremely angry.

SEBASTIAN

Get the hell out of here!

PETER

Dr. Marks, there's no time for this-

SEBASTIAN

Get out! You've violated too many trusts with your presence here.

PETER

Sebastian, someone may die here tonight, now!

SEBASTIAN

Fine, if you won't leave I'll call the police.

Sebastian picks up phone, begins pressing numbers.

PETER

It's Jason, and he's in real danger.

Sebastian hangs up the phone.

SEBASTIAN

What are you talking about, where is Jason?

PETER

He was in his room and he wasn't alone.

Sebastian grabs keys from desk, heads for door. Peter follows.

PETER (CONT'D)

On the way there I'd like you to tell me what you know about Simon Daltrey.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Door opens, Gloria enters with Jason. Holding hands, Jason blindfolded. She leads him to chair, he sits down.

JASON

So I assume we've arrived?

GLORIA

You've assumed correctly, baby.

Gloria pulls a cord out of her pocket, begins tying Jason's hands to chair.

JASON

Now hold on sweetheart, you didn't say anything about being into bondage.

GLORIA

It's all part of the game.

His hands tied firmly, Gloria puts a pair of noise canceling headphones on Jason's head.

GLORIA (CONT'D)  
And here's some music to help set the mood. Now I want you to count backwards from one hundred.

JASON  
What happens when I get to zero?

GLORIA  
I'll be ready for you.

Headphones in place, Jason begins counting down.

JASON  
One hundred, ninety-nine, ninety-eight, ninety-seven, ninety-six, ninety-five, ninety-four...

Gloria looks over at Simon, holding large knife, puts it to his lips. He runs blade along his lips. Jason counting.

JASON (CONT'D)  
Eighty-nine, eighty-eight, eighty-seven...

Simon looks at Gloria, then turns his eyes to door. Gloria very quietly walks over to door.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT JASON'S ROOM - NIGHT

The door opens, Sebastian and Peter enter room, now empty.

SEBASTIAN  
I thought you told me they were in here.

PETER  
They were, where would she have taken him?

SEBASTIAN  
This is a big place, they could be anywhere.

PETER  
How about Simon's room?

SEBASTIAN  
Why on earth would they go there?

PETER  
Look, I don't think we have much  
time and at least it's a start.

The two exit room quickly.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jason still tied up, still blindfolded, continues counting.

JASON  
Sixty-one, sixty, fifty-nine, fifty-  
eight, fifty- seven, fifty-six...

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT MAIN HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sebastian races down hall, followed closely by Peter.

SEBASTIAN  
It's halfway down the hall, top of  
these stairs.

PETER  
Hurry up Doc! I've got a very bad  
feeling about this.

The two men race up stairs two steps at a time.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jason still counting. A shadow on the wall, knife over head,  
moves in close to shadow of Jason sitting in chair. Jason  
tries to wriggle out of binds.

JASON  
Thirty-two, thirty-one, thirty, you  
know, I think I've had enough.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT UPPER HALLWAY - NIGHT

Sebastian searches for correct key on key ring, Peter puts  
ear to door, can hear Jason yelling.

PETER  
Jason! Are you okay?

Jason doesn't respond.

JASON (O.S.)  
Untie me, now!

Dr. Marks fumbles with key. Peter moves Sebastian aside, slams foot into door breaking it open.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Peter falls backwards while Sebastian rushes into the room, knocks Gloria to floor, knife flies from her hand. Gloria starts yelling, struggles with Sebastian.

GLORIA

Simon! Help me! Are you just going to lie there? I need your help, Simon!

Peter stands, looks towards bed, turns looks at Sebastian laying on top of Gloria, turns to Simon lying in bed.

PETER

Is she talking to him? Tell me she's not talking to him. Is she out of her mind?

Simon lies motionless. Tubes from machines attached. Simon lies quietly with machines functioning to keep him alive. Simon is in a coma.

EXT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT - NIGHT

A police car is heading down the driveway of Starlight Haven Retreat. Gloria sits in the backseat.

Katey, walking up driveway, their eyes meet. Katey continues walking up to where Sebastian and Peter are standing, the three enter the facility.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Sebastian, Jason, Peter and Katey going over recent events. Jason sits in a chair looking bewildered.

SEBASTIAN

Frankly, I'm in a bit of a shock.

PETER

Whatever was going on inside that woman's mind finally exploded.

SEBASTIAN

How could I not see what she was going through?

JASON

I was starting to fall hard for her, a little too fucking hard.

KATEY

So I guess that chick was a few fries short of a happy meal. I'm Katey by the way.

PETER

Sebastian, Jason, this is Katey Kamura, a close friend and associate.

KATEY

So, we're referring to me as a close friend now?

PETER

I mean, she's my girlfriend, I guess. Sounds like we're still in high school.

SEBASTIAN

Very nice to meet you. How is it that you two were able to connect her with Simon?

PETER

Well Doc, we did a check on every patient in the joint- er, facility.

KATEY

When we came upon the name, Simon Daltrey, we discovered he was a paramedic some eight years ago.

EXT. HIGHWAY - FLASHBACK

Car on side of secluded highway, burning out of control. Simon reaches into car, pulls Gloria from burning wreckage.

PETER (V.O.)

There was a story in the paper about a car accident. Simon was a member of the EMT's that rescued Gloria.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT GLORIA'S OFFICE - FLASHBACK

Gloria's finger rests on edge of a picture of her with her boyfriend. She looks to picture of ALLISON hanging on wall.

KATEY (V.O.)

Gloria Sanders, the only survivor of a fiery wreck that claimed the lives of her boyfriend and her best friend, Allison.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - NIGHT

JASON

So how did they both end up here?

SEBASTIAN

Gloria got her certification and came to work here about a year ago.

JASON

How about Simon?

SEBASTIAN

Simon and I actually go way back. I knew about her accident and I knew that Simon had been a paramedic. I just never connected the two.

EXT. HOSPITAL - FLASHBACK

A young Simon standing outside of ambulance, alone, fumbling with a bottle of prescription pills. He downs a handful, takes a drink from a flask.

SEBASTIAN (V.O.)

I'm close friends with his parents and just over a year ago Simon began abusing pills, probably due to the stress of the job.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - FLASHBACK

HAROLD and ELLEN DALTRY, (40ish) are sitting, signing papers. Sebastian looks over documents while Simon leans against wall.

SEBASTIAN (V.O.)

His parent's came to see me and I agreed to admit Simon about a month before Gloria arrived.

PETER (V.O.)

So how did he end up in a coma?

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT PHARMACEUTICAL ROOM - FLASHBACK

Simon rummaging through cabinets, finds pills, fills pockets with several vials.

SEBASTIAN (V.O.)

He broke into the office where drugs are stored, particularly ones that have been confiscated. Perhaps his intention was to commit suicide, I don't really know.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - NIGHT

SEBASTIAN

I have never forgiven myself for allowing that to happen.

PETER

I assume, because of the close family ties, you agreed to keep him here at Starlight.

SEBASTIAN

Yes, I felt an obligation, there was really nothing anyone else could do for him.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - FLASHBACK

Simon lying comatose, machines around bed functioning.

SEBASTIAN (V.O.)

Simply keep him on life support, make sure he got cared for, and hope for a possible miracle.

JASON (V.O.)

And that's what his parent's wanted?

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - NIGHT

SEBASTIAN

Yes, they felt he would be better cared for here. Plus, the expenses would be quite high at a hospital, so I wanted to help.

PETER

Gloria must've recognized him.

KATEY

What I think happened is she grew attached to him, so much so, that she came to believe he was capable of interacting with others.

PETER

Simon was her way of dealing with her issues, real or otherwise. Maybe she felt threatened by David, maybe it was her dislike for Samatha that drove her desire to punish them.

KATEY

And for her, Simon carried out these attacks on her behalf.

SEBASTIAN

But what about Jason?

KATEY

Ah, when he became a love interest of sorts, she created this jealous side of Simon. So despite her affections toward Jason, Simon came first.

SEBASTIAN

As crazy weird as that sounds, it kinda makes sense.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SIMON'S ROOM - FLASHBACK

Gloria stands over bed, Simon lies comatose. Gloria speaking as both herself and Simon.

GLORIA

Simon, you don't know anything about love. This is all just a game to you.

GLORIA (CONT'D)

(in Simon's voice)

Hey, you're the one creating this fantasy. I've just come along for the ride.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT INVENTORY CLOSET - FLASHBACK

Inside supply closet, David trapped and Gloria starting a chemical fire.

PETER (V.O.)  
Gloria managed to trap David under  
a shelf and start the blaze.

KATEY (V.O.)  
In her mind it was Simon who killed  
David. She convinced herself that  
he was responsible for the murders.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT SAMANTHA'S ROOM - FLASHBACK

Samantha in shower, stands under running water, eyes closed,  
as a shadow passes over her body.

Samantha opens eyes, Gloria raises metal cane, blood  
splatters along back wall of shower.

PETER (V.O.)  
With Samantha, she simply waited  
until she got her alone and killed  
her.

SEBASTIAN (V.O.)  
Why do you think she wanted  
Samantha dead?

PETER (V.O.)  
Samantha was a pain in the ass to  
Gloria and her death caused more  
confusion as to motive.

INT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT DR. MARKS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Sebastian, Jason, Peter and Katey still discussing.

JASON  
Man, you guys are good. Thanks for  
saving my life, by the way.

PETER  
No worries. We better get going,  
we've one hell of a story to write.

SEBASTIAN  
Scott, or rather Peter, and Katey,  
thank you for everything.

PETER  
No problem, by the way, I won't be  
back for my shift tomorrow.

SEBASTIAN

Me neither.

Peter and Katey walk out of office together.

EXT. STARLIGHT HAVEN RETREAT - NIGHT

Peter and Katey walking towards her car.

KATEY

We make one hell of a team!

PETER

We have something more important  
then the story right now.

KATEY

What are you talking about?

Peter grabs Katey, passionately kiss.

Graphic: TWO WEEKS LATER

EXT. MAINE STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL - ESTABLISHING

INT. MAINE STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL - DAY

DR. SYLVIA ANDREWS, HISPANIC (38), attractive, hair tied  
back, sitting at desk. Dr. Marks enters.

SYLVIA

Come in Sebastian.

SEBASTIAN

Hello Sylvia, I just thought I'd  
drop in and see how the patient was  
doing.

SYLVIA

She's been taking her medication  
daily. She seems to have toned down  
a bit in the past few weeks.

SEBASTIAN

I'm quite pleased to hear that. She  
was a sweet girl, Sylvia. It all  
still seems so unreal.

SYLVIA

She's still delusional. Maybe over time she'll break from her schizophrenia, only time will tell.

SEBASTIAN

Do you suppose it would be alright if I looked in on her?

SYLVIA

There's a good chance she's knocked out from her medication, but I'll be glad to escort you to her room.

EXT. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON'S DOWNTOWN OFFICE - DAY

Congressman Richards exiting office, hounded by group of reporters. Congressman, assisted by aides, enters limousine, rides away.

ANCHORWOMAN (V.O.)

Today Congressman Vernon Richardson has been indicted on charges he was involved in misappropriation of funds and obstruction of justice.

INT. CONGRESSMAN RICHARDSON'S MANSION - DAY

Amanda sits in living room, Paula lies with head in her mother's lap. They are watching the report on TV.

ANCHORWOMAN (V.O.)

Sources say the Congressman was being blackmailed scheme by David Madera, an attendant at Starlight Haven Retreat, and recently died in a fire.

Mr. Madera, and former actress and screen star, Samantha Kent were both murdered at the facility by Gloria Sanders, the Assistant-

INT. MAINE STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL PATIENT WING ROOM SIX - DAY

Inside cell on bed lies Gloria, dressed in white robe, Simon next to her, Sebastian watches. Gloria unaware he is there.

SIMON

No television, no radio, no windows. This simply won't do.

GLORIA

Why didn't you help me Simon? Why did you just lie there?

SIMON

Don't forget, I did all of the heavy lifting. You blew the one assignment I gave you.

GLORIA

I just wanted us to be together, that's all I ever wanted.

FADE TO BLACK.