

VANISHING WITNESSES

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FADE IN:

EXT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - NIGHT

The blinds are pulled on the office windows, but we see the shadow of a man inside looking around with a flashlight.

We hear desk drawers opening and being slammed shut.

We hear the door of a steel safe slamming shut.

He knocks over a desk lamp.

We hear the man stomp around the room before exiting.

The man, U.S. Special Deputy Marshal GLENN ABBOT (60), exits the front door in a black suit, trench coat, and hat pulled over his eyes. He has a LARGE BRIEFCASE in one hand.

He shuts the door, looks both ways down the street (but we don't see his face), takes two fast steps away, then returns to the door, removes keys from his pocket, locks the door, and races away on foot.

Night transitions into dawn.

EXT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - DAWN

Deputy U.S. Marshal EVA SANTOS (25), a curvy woman, wears street clothes that don't draw attention to herself. She's mostly Latina, but her DNA, like everyone's, is mixed. She unlocks the front door and steps in.

INT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The office is a mess. Papers and files are everywhere. The broken desk lamp is on the ground.

As Eva moves around to the desk, she sees a U.S. Marshal's badge, a pistol, and a handwritten note on the desk.

INSERT NOTE: "I resign, effective immediately. I'll mail in my keys." The ID and badge read, "Special Deputy Marshal Glenn Abbot."

Eva sits up straight at her desk and focuses her laser-like eyes around the room. One desk drawer is partially open.

The photo of President Biden that hides the wall safe is slightly tilted.

The comically ugly photo of Marshal Abbot's family on the desk has not been touched. She stares at the photo.

EVA

I would have left it too.

One large file on the corner of the desk is undisturbed. The tab on the file reads, "Wells: Jay, Pat, Mary."

Eva pushes aside Marshal Abbot's badge, note, and pistol, and grabs the Well's file.

As she speed-reads through a thick file with designer eyeglasses. We sense she is the smartest person in every room she's in.

EVA (V.O.)

The U.S. Marshal Service deals with two types of people: our nation's most dangerous killers, and our biggest liars -- those are the criminal accomplices who lie like hell to reduce their sentences and get into WITSEC, the Witness Security Network, better known as the Witness Protection Program.

She glances at Marshal Abbot's badge, note, and pistol.

EVA (V.O.)

The stress of the job dealing with killers and liars becomes too much for most deputies because you never know who to trust.

Eva looks at the photos of three people labeled "2008": JOHN "JAY" WENDALL (28), a bookworm born with a dopey look on his face; his wife, PAT WENDALL (25), who looked like a ditzy swimsuit model; and sweet, little MARY WENDALL (3), who looks strangely confused.

EVA (V.O.)

A bright young man named Dhar Mann said, "Trust takes years to build, seconds to break, and forever to repair."

Eva stands and heads to the wall safe behind the tilted photo of President Joe Biden.

Eva's eyes open wide when she finds the safe door is unlocked.

EVA

You would have been fired for this
lack of security anyway, Abbot!
Left in a hurry. What scared you?

(beat)

I hate to see you go, but this will
give me a chance to earn my
"Special Deputy" badge as an
investigator.

She removes a file marked "Case History" and shuts and locks
the safe.

Eva picks up the pages on Case History and acts surprised.

EVA (CONT'D)

Mr. Wendall's testimony sent
billionaire Charles Zano away for
life on murder and racketeering.

EXT. PRISONER TRANSPORT VAN - DAY

We see the back of CHARLES ZANO (35), shackled in an orange
jumper, riding in a dark prison transport van, glaring at
Three Armed Guards.

EVA (V.O.)

Charles Zano. Street thug turned
billionaire. Money launderer for
multiple cartels. Frozen assets in
his three bank accounts in
Switzerland, Panama, and the Cayman
Islands. No wonder he's pissed!

Zano glares down at his handcuffs and tries to break free
until his wrists bleed.

ZANO

No one steals from me! No one!

The Guards snicker at Zano.

EVA (V.O)

Mr. Wendell, a junior personal
banker for Zano, testified that he
was forced to witness the torture
and killing of Zano's senior
banker, Enrico Martinez, for
embezzlement.

Eva imagines the SCREAMS of Enrico Martinez as Zano rattles
his chains and grunts like a madman.

INT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - NIGHT

Eva checks the last page of the large file with current photos of Jay (43), Pat (41), and Mary (18). Jay looks fit and handsome, but as confused as ever. Pat has puffy eyes and a red nose from drinking. Mary looks like a teenage daughter from Hell.

EVA

I would have turned Zano in, too,
just to stay alive. Jay was married
and had a kid, too. What was he
thinking?

She studies the photos.

EVA (CONT'D)

Tonight, I gotta tell 'em the Feds
let Zano walk.

Eva packages up the file and puts it back in the wall safe and locks it.

EVA (CONT'D)

I'm asked to trust criminals and
liars who would say anything to
reduce their prison sentences or
vanish into oblivion with stolen
loot!

She looks into the camera.

EVA (CONT'D)

I know you hear a lot about
criminal masterminds, but from what
I've seen so far...

She glances at the photo of Marshal Abbot's family.

EVA (CONT'D)

They're all a bunch of idiot
criminal mini-minds!

INT. HOUSE - SAME

Mary paces angrily across the room, waving an old photo in her hand as Jay and Pat squirm on the couch. Pat has a large glass tumbler of red wine in her hand. Jay has a bottle of beer. They are all dressed in new and expensive outdoor wear. Mary has a new BRAND Tablet Computer and smartphone.

MARY

When the hell were you going to
tell me?

JAY

I told you. When you were old
enough to understand, dear.

Pat snickers at Jay.

PAT

She turned eighteen today, Jay! You
gotta tell her.

JAY

(angry with Pat)
I know! I know!
(softly to Mary)
It was for you're own good, Mary.

Mary looks with pity at her parents.

MARY

For years, I thought it was me who
was crazy! My earliest and fondest
memories were being hugged and
called Marva Wendall.

She paces again.

MARY (CONT'D)

Then, at three years old, I was
told my name was Mary Wells, and we
moved.
(yells)
At night.

Mary looks around sadly.

MARY (CONT'D)

And when I woke up here one day,
you both told me I always lived
here and that my name was always
Mary, so explain this!

Mary shows Jay and Pat the old photo of a nice upper-middle-class house with manicured landscaping, palm trees, and a smiling three-year-old girl. The numbers on the house are blurry but visible as "12130," along with four large columns in the front of the house. The name "Marva" is written in Pat's handwriting.

Jay stands and rips the photo from Mary's hands.

JAY
Where did you get this?

Pat slurs her words as she looks away.

PAT
I must have dropped it.

Jay attacks Pat, and they push and shove each other.

JAY
Like a hint? Or like the car keys
on Tuesday, and your wallet last
Saturday? "No photos," they said!

Mary stands between them to break up the fight.

MARY
Keep the photo, Dad, or Jay, or
whatever your name is.

MARY (V.O.)
I won't tell them that I took
photos of everything I could find
on them since I was twelve.

Pat points to Mary's tablet computer sticking out of her
backpack.

PAT
I have never seen you use that
thing, and I've never seen you use
our computer and our printer.

Mary picks up her backpack. We see her new TABLET computer
and SMARTPHONE.

MARY
Nobody needs computers and printers
anymore.

JAY
You've been learning bad things at
that damn library, haven't you?!

MARY
That's right! Ace helped me. He's
like a wizard asking for help from
the librarians.

Mary paces in the room, shaking her head in disgust.

MARY (V.O.)

I won't tell them that I found our old house. There were a thousand addresses of 12130 where palm trees grow, but only seven had large columns like our house showed in the photo, and only three of those had swimming pools.

PAT

Don't dwell on the past, Dear.

JAY

Our family looks in the windshield, not the rearview mirror, Mary.

Mary shakes her head but holds her tongue.

MARY (V.O.)

Oh, I remember our swim parties and wearing my pink floaties on my arms. And only one of those three houses sold for cash fifteen years ago. 12130 Ponce de León Court, Palm Beach, Florida.

Mary snickers, but Jay and Pat don't know why.

PAT

Let's all go out and celebrate your birthday.

JAY

You name the restaurant.

Mary looks away.

MARY (V.O.)

I know I can't tell them I called the current owners. They remembered you for selling fast for cash, no questions asked. He said your names were Jason and Patti Wendall!

They are all stunned to hear a loud KNOCK on the door.

They turn to stare at the door like idiots.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Deputy Marshal Santos KNOCKS again on the front door of an unassuming house in a middle-class neighborhood in a particular rhythm. KNOCK-KNOCK (pause) KNOCK (pause) KNOCK-KNOCK.

The door opens one inch, and Deputy Santos slips in her ID and badge.

Jay opens the door with Pat and Mary right beside him.

Mary stares at the U.S. Marshal's badge as Eva pushes her way in and shuts the door.

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Eva sees their eyes open wide.

EVA

Deputy Marshal Eva Santos. I'm your new caseworker. I'm not interrupting anything, am I?

Mary raises her hand as Jay introduces the family.

JAY

No. No. I'm Jay, this is my wife, Pat, and that's our daughter, Mary.

Mary looks proud, then confides in Eva.

MARY

I overheard your phone call to my dad this morning, saying you were coming by after dark, and I knew a U.S. Marshal meant trouble.

PAT

Mary was sharing some ancient history with us.

Jay hands Eva the old photograph, and Eva studies it.

EVA

You were all told, "Take no photographs!"

Pat is tipsy and defensive.

PAT

Someone else took that one, because all three of us were in it!

Eva ignores the comment and looks compassionately at Mary.

EVA
Your daughter's eighteen now and
has a right to know. Happy
Birthday, by the way, Mary.

Mary is sarcastic and angry.

MARY
Best birthday ever! Did I get my
car yet?

Eva motions for them to sit down as she paces and whispers.

EVA
And I have some bad news to share.

Jay sits between Pat and Mary on the couch. Jay and Pat
clutch hands. Mary distances herself on the couch.

MARY
There's no new car, is there?
What's going on?

EVA
(to Mary)
I'm getting to that. I've only been
a Deputy Marshal for three years,
and I was assigned your case this
morning after my supervisor
abruptly quit and left town.

Jay and Pat squirm on the couch.

JAY
Glenn quit?

PAT
Why?

EVA
I'm not at liberty to say.

MARY
(snickers)
I thought liberty was a statue or a
bell.

PAT
(laughs)
That's your daughter, Jay!

Eva talks slowly and compassionately to Mary.

EVA
You've been in WITSEC for fifteen
years.

MARY
WITSEC?

Eva continues as Jay and Pat look on sadly.

EVA
The Witness Security Network,
commonly known as Witness
Protection. Your dad's testimony
put a very bad man behind bars. He
and your mother did what they had
to do to keep you safe.

JAY
Why are you here tonight? Our
annual check-up with Marshal Abbot
wasn't scheduled for three more
months.

Mary looks confused. Eva glances away for a second.

PAT
Is something wrong?

EVA
(to Jay)
The case against the man you put
away was reopened a year ago when
new DNA evidence was discovered.

MARY
DNA?

EVA
Modern techniques and analysis
raised enough questions that a
judge ordered a retrial.

Jay and Pat lock eyes in fright.

PAT
They let that monster out?

Mary stands and paces angrily.

MARY
We're in danger?

EVA

I came to warn you that Mr. Charles Zano is out on bail, but he's under house arrest with an ankle monitor, and he's under our surveillance.

Mary gets in Eva's face.

MARY

What happens if all your other marshals quit and skip town too?!

EVA

The FBI also has a Special Agent assigned to watch him day and night.

JAY

Do we have to move again?

Pat yells at Eva.

PAT

You people were supposed to keep us safe! New identities, moving us across the country to this godforsaken place, finding us stupid, low-paying jobs, and now you let a torturer and a killer loose!

Mary yells and attacks Jay.

MARY

Torturer and a killer? You never told me anything!

Eva steps between them.

EVA

Break it up, you two! We have to move you three to a safe house.

JAY

I thought this was our safe house!

Mary pulls out a local college brochure and throws it on the floor.

MARY

I'm moving out and going to the community college.

Eva stares at the brochure.

EVA

This is a time for caution, not exposure. Mr. Zano has dangerous connections in the underworld.

BEGIN EVA'S DAYDREAM

INT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - NIGHT

A small target is drawn on a large whiteboard. Eva posts photos of Jay, Pat, and Mary in the bullseye.

She posts a photo of Mr. Zano outside the target with an arrow to the target.

She posts a "? Contract killer" below Mr. Zano with an arrow between Mr. Zano and the "?" And between the "?" and the target.

END EVA'S DAYDREAM

Mary flips out her new Student I.D. card with her name and color photo on it, and Eva examines it. Mary wears a blue jacket in the photo.

EVA

Oh, mierda!

MARY

It's Mary. Or Marva. I've never heard of Mierda.

Mary throws on a blue "designer" jacket and looks for the keys to the family car in her pockets while she rants.

MARY (CONT'D)

To Hell with you all, especially you, Dad, for choosing to work for a torturer and killer in the first place. You brought this all on to us. I'd tell the bad guys where to find you if I could! I'm out of here!

Mary throws on a full backpack and races out the front door.

Eva, Jay, and Pat stare helplessly at the door.

They HEAR her car RACE away.

CUT TO:

INT. BASEMENT COMPUTER ROOM - SAME

A HACKER (20s) in a dark basement hovers over a computer keyboard with three large, brightly lit screens filled with passport photos, driver's license photos, and student I.D. photos flashing by.

Mary's new college ID card shows up on the first screen with the name "Mary Wells." She wears her blue "designer" jacket in the photo.

The Hacker gets excited and taps furiously at his keyboard.

Moments later, Mary's driver's license shows up on the second screen.

The Hacker screams in delight and types in the address on the driver's license.

Moments later, Jay's and Pat's driver's licenses appear on the middle screen, and a map shows up on the far screen with the address blinking.

The Hacker picks up a "burner phone," spins in his chair, and sends a text message that reads, "I found them, Mr. Tosca. Pay up or shut up!"

The Hacker smiles.

BACK TO:

INT. HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Eva, Pat, and Jay pace and think aloud.

EVA

Facial recognition software linked
to facial-aging algorithms...

PAT

Where will she go?

EVA

I'll need the make, model, and
license plate of the family car.

JAY

She has a dozen girlfriends, and
that creep, Ace, who is always
trying to put the moves on her.

EVA

I've got to get you out of here
tonight.

(MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)

Same drill, six suitcases, packed in two hours. Next week we'll get you new IDs and passports, the works.

(yells)

No photographs! I'll pick you all up in two hours. I suggest you keep calling to get your daughter back here. She could be in grave danger! And so could you!

Eva steps out the door, shaking her head in disgust.

INT. GATED MANSION - NIGHT

Charles Zano (now 65) wears an elegant bathrobe with a police ankle monitor with a GPS locator on it.

He paces and waits. We see an ENVELOPE (probably containing cash) on the corner of a table.

His doorbell RINGS. Zano picks up a Glock pistol and puts it behind his back. He yells.

ZANO

Come in, Agent Nichols!

FBI AGENT JIMMY NICHOLS (55) enters in a black suit and overcoat with a slightly bulging pocket.

Zano glances up at a security camera and then smiles at Nichols.

ZANO (CONT'D)

Agent Nichols. Did you bring the item?

NICHOLS

Yes, I did, Mr. Zano, and you can drop the "agent" stuff. I'm here to make sure your ankle monitor is properly functioning.

Nichols steps over to Zano.

ZANO

I assure you, I haven't left my home.

Nichols investigates Zano's ankle monitor.

NICHOLS

I knew you wouldn't. It's a third-class felony to tamper with or remove an ankle monitor.

(smirks)

I thought so. It's the high-priced GPS model.

Nichols pulls out a hand-held bug-detector and camera finder with a frequency dial on the front of it and turns it on by Zano's ankle monitor.

ZANO

This thing better work. It costs me twenty dollars a day.

Nichols scans the room with his bug detector.

NICHOLS

Four security cameras have been detected since I walked in.

ZANO

Can't be too careful.

NICHOLS

(snickers)

If you were too careful, you wouldn't be wearing the monitor.

Zano grips the pistol tighter behind his back.

ZANO

You'll retire in a few years to live on a lousy government pension.

Nichols stares at Zano's arm behind his back.

NICHOLS

If you get caught with a firearm or consorting with a felon, you'll be retiring in prison.

(upbeat)

It looks like everything's in order here.

Zano glances at the envelope on the table.

ZANO

It could be different for you.

Nichols glances at the envelope, then glares at Zano, before turning to exit.

NICHOLS
Yeah? I don't think so.

Nichols exits.

Zano rests the pistol on the table with the envelope and glares at the front door.

He whips out a burner phone, turns his back to the camera, and sends a text message, "You know what to do."

EXT. BEACH - MORNING

Sheriff DEPUTY (Warren) EASTMAN (24) looks like a high school football player in the wrong uniform as he takes photos of a wet, blue "designer" jacket on the beach.

Behind Deputy Eastman, we see his new Sheriff's patrol vehicle next to Mary's used sedan in the parking lot.

We hear Eva's voice over the Sheriff's radio attached to his uniform shirt.

EVA (V.O.)
Deputy Eastman, this is Deputy Santos, over.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
This is Eastman, over.

Deputy Eastman picks up the wet jacket with his ungloved right hand.

EVA (V.O.)
I'm one minute out. Thanks again for notifying me. Please don't touch anything until I arrive, over.

Eastman drops the jacket and looks around.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Copy that.

Eva races up in her sedan (unmarked, private car) and hops out.

She glances at Mary's car to see that the front two windows are rolled down.

She sees Eastman standing over the blue jacket with a guilty expression on his face and races to the jacket.

Eva stomps over to Eastman while slipping on latex gloves.

EVA

Good morning, Deputy. Did you touch anything?

Eastman looks away.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

No.

He looks back and drops his chin, while Eva glances at the jacket, the coastline, the high-tide line behind them, and the waves crashing into the beach.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (CONT'D)

Except for the jacket.

(points to Mary's car)

And the passenger door to check the registration.

Eva looks upon Deputy Eastman with pity.

EVA

And that's how you knew to call me?
From my BOLO last night?

(smiles compassionately)

You know you could have called me
after confirming the license plate.

Eastman nods, 'yes,' as he hands Eva his phone.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

I know it's your missing persons
case, Federal Marshal and all. I
wanted to help. I got a photo of
the jacket before...

EVA

I'd like to see it, thanks.

Eva examines the photo of the jacket, and scrolls back to see a selfie of the Deputy smiling by Mary's sedan.

She hands back the phone and points to the waves.

EVA (CONT'D)

You wanna help? This beach is
notorious for its rip tide and
undertow. Walk up and down the
beach for a half-mile each way and
look for other articles of
clothing, or...

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Or what?

EVA

Or the body of an 18-year-old woman.

Eastman's eyes open wide.

EVA (CONT'D)

I've got to go inform her family.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Their address is 4422 Grove...

EVA

I moved them last night.

(stern)

Don't...

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Touch anything. I won't!

Eastman heads down the beach.

Eva stares at Mary's wet jacket.

BEGIN EVA'S DAYDREAM

INT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - NIGHT

Eva circles Mary's photo on the whiteboard. Underneath it, she writes: "missing person, possible robbery, or possible abduction, suicide, or murder."

She draws a dotted line between the "? Contract killer" and Mary's photo.

She adds a "?" Under the dotted line.

END EVA'S DAYDREAM

EXT. HUNTING CABIN - DAY

Eva parks out of sight and sneaks up to the back door of a small, wooden cabin.

EVA (V.O.)

I can't tell them I suspect foul play.

She knocks on the back door with her signature pattern: KNOCK-KNOCK (pause) KNOCK (pause) KNOCK-KNOCK.

Jay opens the door and peeks out.

EVA
Have you seen or heard from your
daughter?

Jay is bitter.

JAY
No! And this dump doesn't have
Internet or Wi-Fi!

PAT (O.C.)
We're already out of wine and food.

Jay sees Eva looks sad, and she pushes her way inside.

INT. HUNTING CABIN - CONTINUOUS

We see a sparsely furnished, rustic hunting cabin.

EVA
You may want to sit down.
(beat)
Mary's missing.

Pat races up to Jay's side. She's furious.

PAT
What do you mean, missing?

EVA
We found her car at the beach,
and...

JAY
The only beach she goes to has a
rip tide. It's her excuse not to
swim. She can't swim well.

Pat gets in Eva's face.

PAT
And what? What else did you find?

EVA
Her blue jacket.

Eva looks away.

EVA (V.O) (CONT'D)
I couldn't tell 'em it was wet.

JAY
She'd never leave it on the beach!

PAT
It's her favorite jacket.

EVA
We're treating this as a missing persons case, but it's been less than 24 hours missing, so there isn't much we can do. The Sheriff has been notified.

SILENCE

EVA (V.O.)
But I do suspect foul play!

EVA
At this point, we have to assume she wandered away from her car.

PAT
(screams)
She wandered away?! I forget where I park the car all the time. But she doesn't!

EVA
Her car doors were unlocked. We have a team searching the beach and the area now. There was no sign of your daughter's backpack.

JAY
Unless she was robbed!

Pat glares at Jay.

EVA
If she calls, get her location and call me immediately. You can't leave the cabin. It's for your safety.

JAY
She'll call when she cools off.

PAT
(yells at Jay)
This is all your fault! I hope she turned your location over to Zano!

Eva gets in Pat's face.

EVA

Do you think she'd know how to find
Mr. Zano?

PAT

She says her idiot friend, Ace,
surfs the web better than the
ocean.

JAY

Dark web too! Whatever that is!

Eva turns to Jay.

EVA

Dark web?

Jay and Pat argue.

JAY

She told me that Ace told her how
to buy bitcoins if she had the
cash.

PAT

Did you ever buy any of those
bitcoins? You're a bigger idiot
than she is!

Eva steps between them, shaking her head in disgust.

EVA

Can you describe the contents of
her backpack?

SILENCE

PAT

Tell her, Jay!

JAY

(looks)

When we packed up our things, I
noticed some of my cards were
missing.

EVA

Credit cards.

JAY

(hesitates)

Debit cards and gift cards.

EVA
We didn't find any in her car. How many cards are missing? How much are we talking about?

JAY
Ten, maybe fifteen...

EVA
Dollars, big...

PAT
Thousand.

Eva is stunned.

JAY
Like a lot of people during the pandemic, we converted our savings into gift cards and debit cards.

EVA
I don't know anyone...

PAT
You can't walk around with all that cash.

Eva looks at Jay and Pat suspiciously.

EVA
You told us that buying and selling things online is your only source of income.

JAY
We also buy and save gift cards and coupons. We're fungal.

EVA
Frugal.

PAT
But no credit cards. We never go out.

EVA (V.O.)
Something's sketchy here. New tablet and phone, designer clothes, and they don't go out? They're tapping another source of income, and I'm gonna find out what!

Eva throws up her arms in disgust.

EVA

I'm going back to help find your daughter. I want a complete list of every card you own when I get back! And text me a list of her closest friends. Did she work?

Jay holds out a handful of gift cards and debit cards.

JAY

She never had to work.

Eva shakes her head in disgust.

EVA

We'll talk about where you got all those cards when I get back!

Eva storms out, yelling.

EVA (CONT'D)

If she calls you, you call me! Got it! Stay put!

INT. BASEMENT COMPUTER ROOM - DAY

It's dark and gloomy when Danny "GLOVES" Tosca (60) slips down the basement stairs to see the Hacker typing away in front of his three computer screens. Mr. Gloves wears dark clothes, a fedora, and a black overcoat.

Gloves pulls a thick stack of \$100-bills and shows the bundle to the Hacker.

The Hacker's eyes open widely when he sees that the man wears flesh-colored latex gloves on his hands. He's frightened.

HACKER

Mr. Tosca? I'm sorry if I'm wrong.

GLOVES

If you want your money, stop talking.

HACKER

I used facial recognition software to find your target. And you. You could have sent the money digitally.

Mr. Gloves steps closer in a menacing way.

GLOVES
I said, Stop talking!

The Hacker stands and steps back in fear. He is trapped. He takes out his cellphone and looks down at it to punch in 9-1...

HACKER
You wouldn't hurt someone who
helped you, would you?

Gloves fires a tranquilizer dart gun and hits the hacker in the chest with a dart.

The Hacker falls to the ground.

GLOVES
You helpful kids should stay away
from fentanyl.

Gloves returns the stack of bills to his pocket and steps over to remove the dart from the Hacker's chest.

Gloves takes the Hacker's cell phone and puts it in his pocket.

He pulls out an EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE from his pocket and plugs it into a USB port on the main server.

He steps up the stairs and presses a remote control button.

The external hard drive EXPLODES like a fire bomb.

EXT. HUNTING CABIN - DAY

Jay and Pat exit the cabin disguised as "joggers." They wear wigs with different hair colors, baseball caps, and wrap-around sunglasses. Jay wears a fake mustache, Pat wears a neck scarf, and both have their collars pulled up on their shirts. They stand out like sore thumbs, but we don't see what they're wearing for shoes.

JAY
We'll split up when we get to town.

PAT
We'd better find her before the
Marshal does!

Jay snaps at Pat as he heads off.

JAY
Or Mr. Zano! I know that!

They jog away angrily on a trail behind the cabin. We don't see their shoes.

EXT. TRAIL - CONTINUOUS

Pat now leads Jay along the trail, but we don't see their shoes.

She stops suddenly and pulls out a burner phone.

Jay stops and is breathing hard.

JAY

Why are we stopping?

Pat glares at Jay as she dials.

PAT

I'm calling Mary again. Every half-hour, remember?

JAY

She didn't answer at all last night, which you wouldn't remember 'cause you were drunk.

PAT

I was stressed out.

No answer on the phone.

JAY

You were passed out.

PAT

(looks away)

What's the name of that creepy guy who's always stalking her?

JAY

She calls him Ace. I never heard his real name.

PAT

Do you know where he lives?

JAY

No, but I bet she's either at the library, the park across from the high school, or that guy Ace's house.

Pat looks around suspiciously before whispering.

PAT
How many cards did Mary find?

JAY
I don't know. She only had one
backpack.

PAT
You're our banker, and you were
robbed! Idiot!

JAY
She's our daughter, and you've been
slipping her cards for years for
gas, clothes, and food.

PAT
But I talked to her about using
them one at a time!
(angry)
How many did she take?

Jay looks away.

JAY
Twenty or thirty, maybe.

Pat slaps Jay in the face and whispers in an angrier tone.

PAT
So she's eighteen and walking
around town with untraceable debit
cards worth ten to fifteen thousand
dollars?!

Jay is defiant.

JAY
She stole them from our emergency
bag! She must have been snooping
around all week!

Pat gets in his face.

PAT
Did she take anything else?
Anything incriminating?

JAY
No. I don't think so.

Pat slaps him again, and Jay turns humble.

JAY (CONT'D)
She could have photos of the
ledgers, I don't know!

Pat glares at Jay and starts jogging down the trail, but we
don't see their shoes.

PAT
You'd better hope not! Mr. Zano and
his friends are killers!

INT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - DAY

Eva impatiently stares at her radio.

EVA
Deputy Eastman, come in. Over.

Eva stares at the computer on her desk.

EVA (CONT'D)
Jay Wells and Pat Wells. No records
of income, savings, or taxes being
paid -- presumably because they
didn't make enough money.
(angry)
Where did they get the dough for
Mary's fancy tablet computer and
all the high-end electronics in the
house? I'm betting they had their
smartphones, satellite Wi-Fi, and
double-encrypted communications...
and they probably have them now.
They're not as dumb as they pretend
to be when I'm around!

Eastman marches in with a notebook and a smile.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Deputy Marshal, I've got something
for you.

EVA
Where have you been? I've been
calling.

Eastman reads from his notebook.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
The search of the beach came up
empty.

EVA
That's bad.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
The Wells' car was towed to the police parking lot, and they started going through it like you said.

EVA
That's good.

Eastman continues reading.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Word must have spread around town because teenage girls kept showing up at the beach with candles and flowers, except for one guy who brought a small bottle of whiskey.

He looks up sadly at Eva.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (CONT'D)
Cute and sad! It's like a shrine.

EVA
Did you get their names and numbers?

DEPUTY EASTMAN
I thought it would look creepy if a handsome deputy like me harassed mourners for their phone numbers.

Eva tries to be understanding.

EVA
It's your job, and we need to follow up with them! Especially the guy with the whiskey.

Eastman looks away.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Some of them are still there. I'll get their numbers for you.

EVA
Thanks so much, Deputy.

Eastman smiles warmly at Eva, who looks away.

EVA (CONT'D)
We may be looking at an abduction
or worse.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Worse?

EVA
Suicide or murder.

Eastman's eyes open wide.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
I'll go get their names and numbers
ASAP! I won't fail you!

Eastman races out.

Eva smiles, but her cell phone RINGS, and she answers it.

EVA
Deputy Marshal Santos.
(pauses)
You're saying that my predecessor
learned Zano was released, and he
resigned immediately and
disappeared.
(pauses)
Okay, he went dark! That's the same
thing to me.
(pauses)
You don't know where he is?!
(pauses)
Sounds highly unusual. I need to
ask him some questions. I don't
care if Mr. Zano is safely under
house arrest. I want to know...

Her phone goes dead.

EVA (CONT'D)
Hello? Hello?

Eva paces, frustrated and angry. She exits in a huff.

INT. GATED MANSION - SAME

Charles Zano sits in a leather lounge chair with his feet up.
His grandson, RICARDO, is a flamboyantly dressed gay young
man with a devilish grin.

RICARDO
The Digital Radio Frequency
Identifier and emulator with
Bluetooth costs you almost three
grand, but it should do the job.

ZANO
How?

Zano slaps his grandson hard on the shoulder and yells.

ZANO (CONT'D)
In English!

RICARDO
This device will find the exact
frequency used by your ankle
bracelet to report your location
and movement patterns in your
estate.

ZANO
How does that help me?

RICARDO
I'll wear it in my backpack and
stay in your house while you're...
gone.

ZANO
How can I go anywhere?

Ricardo takes out a roll of aluminum foil and tears off
enough to wrap around Zano's ankle bracelet.

RICARDO
Like this, Honey.

As Ricardo wraps the ankle bracelet, Zano gets angry.

ZANO
Dumbest idea I've ever seen.

RICARDO
We'll test it. Tonight, I'll go
grab a sandwich and fine wine in
your kitchen. You'll get a
disguise, take my car, and drive a
mile away. Facial recognition is
more difficult at night if you're
disguised. If your ankle monitor is
pinged, you'll feel it. Race back
and we'll claim I was with you the
whole time.

ZANO

And if it doesn't ping?

RICARDO

You're free to roam the world. And I'm in big trouble if you don't come back!

ZANO

Because they'll assume you're me?

RICARDO

And you're me! Exactly, Honey.

ZANO

I suppose you expect to be handsomely rewarded? College tuition paid in full? New Ferrari?

RICARDO

Half-a-mill cash, Dearie! Before you go.

ZANO

I'm not an idiot. Upon my safe return.

RICARDO

It's a deal, Grumpa!

ZANO

It's Grandpa! And you'll live a long life as a brain-dead dance queen if you screw me over!

Ricardo laughs and hugs Zano.

RICARDO

I've missed you, Grumpa!

Zano hugs his grandson without emotion.

EXT. BEACH - AFTERNOON

Eva drives up to the beach parking lot to see Aaron Kittle, known as ACE (24), wiping tears from his eyes at the shrine for Mary. Ace dresses like a thug in sweat clothes and a black hoodie, but he smiles when he sees Eva. There are several small bouquets and candles at the shrine.

Eva steps out of her car and ambles over to Ace.

EVA
Are you Ace?

ACE
How did you know it was me?

Eva flashes her badge and takes out a notebook to take notes.

EVA
I'm a Deputy U.S. Marshal looking
for Mary Wells.

ACE
I've already talked to the Sheriff.

EVA
When was the last time you saw or
heard from Mary?

ACE
Yesterday at the library. About
four PM. I had to leave for my tap
dancing lesson.

EVA
Tap dancing?

ACE
It's becoming a lost art.

EVA
Do you play the accordion too?

Ace is flattered.

ACE
Don't I wish?

EVA
What did you talk about at the
library?

ACE
Stuff. Like how to find people on
the web. I didn't know either, so I
asked the librarian, Mrs. Stewart.

Eva takes notes.

EVA
So, did Mrs. Stewart help you?

ACE
No, but she gave us instructions on
how to use Googler and Wicked
something.

EVA
Google and Wikipedia?

Ace gets excited.

ACE
Oooh. I bet I could Googler and
Wicked-whatever to look for Mary!

Ace starts to walk away, but Eva grabs his arm.

EVA
I need to see some ID, and I'd like
to get your phone number.

Ace acts embarrassed as he removes his wallet.

ACE
We just met, but okay.

Eva snaps a photo of his driver's license.

EVA
Aaron Kittel.

ACE
The two "A"s in Aaron are why
everyone calls me Ace.

EVA
Clever. Where were you between 7 PM
last night and 9 AM this morning?

ACE
Home with Bobby Boucher. All night.

EVA
How do you spell "Boucher?"

ACE
I don't know. B-o-o then S-h-a-y, I
suppose.

EVA
Is Mr. Boucher home now? Can I
speak to him?

Ace lifts his sleeves to show Eva scratches all over his
arms.

ACE
You can try. He scratches like hell
if you don't feed him.

EVA
He's a cat? Can anyone else vouch
for your whereabouts last night?

ACE
I was pretty tired after tap
lessons.

Eva prepares to write in her notebook.

EVA
Who is your tap instructor?

ACE
She's on You-Tuber.

Eva puts away her notebook and looks away in disgust.

Ace and Eva see Easton drive up in his patrol car.

Ace waves happily to Easton.

EVA
I see you've met Deputy Eastman.

ACE
Warren. Great guy. Gave me a lift
over here.

EVA
You don't drive?

ACE
Nope. No car. Can't afford the gas.

Eastman steps out and waves over Eva.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Hi, Ace. Can I speak to Deputy
Santos?

ACE
Hi, Warren. Sure.

Ace begins to walk with Eva to Eastman's car.

EVA
Go home, Ace. I'll be by later with
more questions.

Ace looks dejected as he begins to walk away.

ACE
Please find Mary. I've got to tell
her about your accordion idea.

EVA
You're quite a catch for Mary, Ace.
(beat)
If you hear from Mary, please let
me know immediately.

Ace smiles at Eva as she walks over to Eastman.

Eva whispers to Eastman.

EVA (CONT'D)
What have you got for me?

DEPUTY EASTMAN
I tracked down three girls from the
shrine. Ace put up fliers all over
town with a hand-drawn picture of
Mary.

Eastman hands Eva a flier, which doesn't look anything like
Mary, who is cross-eyed in the picture.

Eva looks horrified at the flyer.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (CONT'D)
Local TV got a hold of the flier
too, but nobody's seen her.

EVA
I wonder why?

DEPUTY EASTMAN
None of her friends has a solid
alibi, but I have names, addresses,
and likes and dislikes.

Eastman shows Eva his notebook.

EVA
This isn't for a dating site,
Deputy.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
I wanted to show you...

EVA

Diane likes shopping for shoes,
watching the men's wrestling team,
and chocolate, but only dark
chocolate.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

I underlined it three times.

EVA

Did anyone have a grudge against
Mary? Or know anybody who did?

Deputy Eastman looks away.

EVA (CONT'D)

Would you mind returning to those
women and getting pertinent
information? And get a recent photo
of Mary on fliers around town with
a copy to the local TV station.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Good idea. I could give Ace a ride
home to feed Bobby Boucher and pick
up a few items at the store.

Eva hands him back his notebook.

EVA

Don't say dark chocolates, soft
socks, or diamond earrings.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Yes, Ma'am. I mean, no, Ma'am.

Eva rolls her eyes as Easton races away.

Eva gets in her car but notices Jay and Pat (in their jogger
disguises) panting for air across the street. Jay has a
roller suitcase beside him. They stand out like sore thumbs.

Jay and Pat make a run for it, but don't get far down the
street when Eva easily catches up to them in her car because
Jay is lugging a suitcase.

EXT. STREET NEAR THE BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Eva gets out of her car with an angry face, as Pat and Jay
pant for air.

EVA
I told you to stay put! Are you
supposed to joggers?!

Eva looks down at Jay pulling a small roller suitcase. He wears Oxford shoes. Pat is wearing pumps.

PAT
We had to look for her.

JAY
Mary's our only daughter.

EVA
That's good, but you weren't
supposed to leave the cabin. You
could have been calling her
friends.

Eva looks around. None of them sees Gloves taking a photo of them with a telephoto lens from way down the street in his gray SUV.

EVA (CONT'D)
Please tell me you didn't jog by
your old house.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Eva IMAGINES Jay and Pat jogging, huffing, and puffing up to their old house.

They fail to see Gloves in his SUV, taking telephoto pictures of them from down the street.

JAY (V.O.)
Pat needed to pick up more
underwear.

PAT (V.O.)
Jay forgot to pack socks.

BACK TO:

EXT. STREET NEAR THE BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Jay lifts his sweatpants to reveal that he wasn't wearing socks.

JAY
My feet are killing me.

EVA
So might the thugs that are
probably after you.
(furious)
Get in the car!

They fail to see Gloves in his SUV, taking a close-up of
Eva's license plate.

INT. SEDAN - CONTINUOUS

Eva pulls out to see in the rearview mirror that she is being
followed by a grey SUV.

EVA
That's what I was afraid of. Buckle
in, duck down, and hold on. We're
being followed.

Eva speeds ahead with one eye on the review mirror.

Gloves catches up as the road turns rural.

Eva calls Eastman on her radio while racing away. Pat and Jay
turn to look back.

EVA (CONT'D)
Deputy Eastman, Over.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (V.O.)
Eastman, over.

EVA
I'm traveling north on the Park
Road. I need backup to intercept a
gray SUV on my tail. Over.

Eastman's voice CRACKLES and SPUTTERS due to poor reception.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
You're... broken... didn't hear...

Eva hangs up and takes a hard right turn up a dirt road.

EVA
Hang on.

Jay and Pat have open eyes filled with fear.

After a series of turns and bumps, Gloves remains behind
them.

Eva races ahead and sees a spur road to the left after a bend in the road. The road goes straight uphill, but Eva skids to a stop and takes the road.

Fifty yards up the road, Eva sees the grey SUV skid to a stop and slowly turn up the spur road as Eva slams on the brakes and throws her car in reverse.

Gloves's POV sees Eva's car barreling toward his car, and it's too late for him to change course before Eva plows into the SUV, forcing it across the first dirt road and down the bank.

Eva turns her sedan back down the first road and races away with Jay and Pat, as frightened as can be in the back seat.

The back of Eva's sedan is mangled but operational.

Eva races down the dirt road but yells at Jay and Pat.

EVA (CONT'D)

Someone besides Mr. Zano is out to kill you. You're hiding information from me. You're going to tell me everything when we get back to my office, or I won't be able to help you or your daughter!

JAY

What else do you know about Marva?

Pat glares at Jay at the word, 'Marva.'

Eva turns back sadly to drive on.

EVA

Her name is now Mary! Her jacket on the beach was wet. It had been in the ocean!

Jay and Pat are sad and stunned.

EXT. GATED MANSION - SAME

Mr. Zano is dressed in a black silk shirt and matching bellbottom pants, a pink scarf around his neck, and a black wig floppy black French beret hat. His grandson, Ricardo, wearing a neon backpack, laughs up a storm as Zano heads to a yellow Mini Cooper car.

RICARDO

Keep your head back and slightly down while driving.

ZANO
(angry)
I look ridiculous.

RICARDO
(laughs harder)
The bell-bottoms conceal the ankle
monitor; the wig, scarf, and beret
hide your face from cameras, and
facial expression will ward off all
suiters, I assure you.

ZANO
I drive one mile away, wait for ten
minutes, and if the bracelet
doesn't buzz, I can keep going,
right?

RICARDO
If it buzzes, come right back and
I'll try something bolder.

Zano turns in a threatening way.

ZANO
If it buzzes, it will be the last
thing you hear!

Mr. Zano slowly heads away in the Mini Cooper.

INT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - NIGHT

Eva glares across her desk at Jay and Pat, who sit like
frightened schoolchildren.

Pat looks down at her smartphone and sobs uncontrollably.

PAT
She hasn't called. It's been 24
hours. I think Mary's dead.

Jay moves to hug Pat, but she resists and moves her chair
away.

Jay looks at Eva with his head down.

JAY
It's all my fault.

Jay looks away.

JAY (CONT'D)
Off the record?

Eva stands and yells.

EVA
Are you insane? Nothing's off the
record! Ever! What did you do?

JAY
I lied.

EVA
About what?

JAY
About seeing Mr. Zano torture and
kill my supervisor, Enrico
Martinez, for embezzlement.

EVA
He was Mr. Zano's senior personal
banker. You worked under Mr.
Martinez, and you swore, under
oath, that you saw Zano skin him
alive with a knife. You identified
the knife found at the scene and
saw Mr. Zano fleeing the scene.

JAY
That part was true.

Pat stands and gets in Jay's face.

PAT
Tell her what you didn't tell them!

JAY
I didn't tell them there could have
been another man in the room, a
trained killer who no one ever saw.
We all just whispered about him. He
was a ghost assassin.

Eva takes notes, then glares at Jay.

EVA
So, you fingered Mr. Zano for the
hit, and this nameless, ghost
assassin goes free, is that it?

PAT
(in Jay's defense)
He would have found us and killed
us.

JAY

The killer fled the scene before I ran into Zano's office with the police. Pat and I feared the killer more than Mr. Zano, but our only chance to get into Witness Protection was to rat out Zano.

EVA

And you told no one about this ghost killer?

Everyone hears Deputy Eastman's voice on Eva's radio.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (V.O.)

Come in, Marshal Santos. This is Deputy Eastman. Over.

Eva accepts the call.

EVA

Go ahead, Deputy, but be advised I'm not alone. Over.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (V.O.)

Are you on a date or something? I don't want to interrupt...

EVA

(interrupts)

What did you find in that rental car?

DEPUTY EASTMAN (V.O.)

The driver was gone. No blood, but the airbag was deployed. And it was the strangest thing. Not a single fingerprint on the steering wheel, gear shift, window buttons, or door handles.

Jay is terrified and whispers (loudly) to Pat.

JAY

Gloves!

PAT

It's him!

Eva glares at Jay and Pat.

EVA
Keep looking for the perp. Then get
back to the beach. I'll call you
later. Over.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (V.O.)
Copy that!

EVA
Gloves?

PAT
That's what they called the trained
killer.

JAY
Rumor had it that he wore latex
gloves that looked like hands his
entire life.

PAT
Since he was a baby. Maybe before.

JAY
So he'd never leave a trace he was
anywhere.

Eva's face lights up. She gets on her radio to Eastman.

EVA
Deputy Eastman, are you still at
the scene? Over.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (V.O.)
That's affirmative. Over.

EVA
Please cut out that airbag and have
it analyzed for DNA.

Jay and Pat open their eyes with weak smiles.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (V.O.)
No can do. It's already been cut
out.

Eva pounds her fist on her desk.

EVA
Get me all you can on a perp known
only as "Gloves."

DEPUTY EASTMAN (V.O.)
Copy that.

Eva looks sadly at Jay and Pat.

EVA

I sure hope he doesn't have your daughter! I called in the FBI since it's a possible abduction case.

PAT

The FBI?

EVA

Agent Nichols will be leading the investigation into your daughter's disappearance.

Pat sobs, but Jay snaps his fingers like he has an idea.

JAY

Can I borrow a car? I think I know where Mary may be.

EVA

Where is that?

JAY

Her old Nanny's house.

EVA

Her old Nanny's house?

JAY

We couldn't let her stay in Florida when we moved out here.

Eva puts her hands over her face.

EVA

You brought your nanny with you? What part of 'no former associates' didn't you understand as part of your WITSEC contract?

PAT

It wouldn't be safe for her. Fran Demonte. Lives in the next town, Pinedale. Our secret's safe with her. She's single! Jay's been like an uncle to her.

Eva looks at Pat like she's crazy.

JAY

I check in on her every Thursday
night, my bowling night in
Pinedale.

(excited)

Hey, that's tonight!

EVA

Give me her address and phone
number immediately. You two are
going back to the cabin. I'll check
on Ms. Demonte.

Eva shakes her head in disbelief.

EXT. HUNTING CABIN - NIGHT

Eva lets Jay and Pat out near the back of the hunting cabin.

EVA

You two stay put! Understand?

They nod 'yes.'

EVA (CONT'D)

I'm going to drop in on Ms. Demonte
to see if Mary is there, and to
tell her she is in danger from the
same people who are after you!

They nod 'yes.'

EVA (CONT'D)

Then, I'm coming straight back here
to talk about all these gift cards
and debit cards I keep hearing
about, and your answers better be
truthful. Got it?

They nod 'yes.'

EVA (CONT'D)

And don't answer the door for
anyone! Got it?

They nod 'yes,' as Eva drives off.

Jay walks briskly to the back door with Pat following him.
They have a fast conversation.

JAY

I've got to go tell my bowling team
that I can't make it tonight.

PAT
Can't you call them?

JAY
Don't be silly. This is the kind of sad news that has to be delivered in person.

PAT
How are you going to get to Pinedale?

JAY
I have an extra set of keys to the car. I'll sneak it out of the police parking lot. Wait for me here.

PAT
No way. Tonight is my book club.

JAY
What are you reading? I hope it's a cookbook.

PAT
Don Quixote. I've got to get to Cindy's house in town, and I can barely lift the book. It's huge.

JAY
Did you read it?

PAT
No, but they serve wine. Maybe you can drop me off.

JAY
Sure. Why not! We'll keep our eyes out for Mary along the way.

They disappear into the cabin.

INT. FRAN'S HOUSE - EVENING

FRAN DEMONTE (late-30s) opens the door on the first knock. She's a stunningly beautiful woman in a long pink negligee. Eva enters a deluxe house with the finest furnishings and decorations. Candles are lit and light music is playing.

EVA
Expecting me?

Eva flashes her badge and pokes around the house as she speaks.

FRAN

No. I was expecting someone on the other side of the law.

EVA

I can see that. Jay won't be bowling tonight. Have you seen or heard from his daughter, Mary?

FRAN

Not in a few days. She dropped by to borrow some gift cards for a restaurant in town.

Eva takes out her notebook.

EVA

Which one?

FRAN

This town, silly.

Fran glides around the room like a goddess.

EVA

No. Which restaurant?

FRAN

Fanciest one in town. I can't remember the name. The only one without a drive-thru lane.

EVA

You just gave her the gift cards?

FRAN

I was her nanny for twelve years. I couldn't let her starve.

EVA

You moved from Florida when they did?

FRAN

Jay and Pat moved me so I wouldn't lose my job, and Mary loves me.

Eva looks around in awe.

EVA

I see. How do you afford all this?

FRAN

Jay paid cash for the house when they sold their house in Florida. He even put it in my name. Imagine that?

Eva looks at Fran's negligee.

EVA

Not that hard to imagine.

FRAN

It reverts to Mary when she turns eighteen.

EVA

Mary? Not Pat?

FRAN

She's been unfaithful to Jay, and he knows it.

Eva sees gift cards on a table.

EVA

Where do you get all these gift cards?

FRAN

From Jay, silly. That's how Witness Protection pays him, so he can't be traced.

Eva looks at Fran with pity.

EVA

Ms. Demonte, do you believe everything you're told?

FRAN

I believe in God... oh, and Bigfoot, witches, communicating with the dead, exorcisms...

Eva drops her business card on a table with a dozen gift cards on it.

EVA

(interrupts)

If Mary comes back, call my number right away. Our records show you didn't change your name when you moved, so you may be in danger. If we find you, others will.

Eva shakes her head in disgust as she exits.

EXT. FRAN'S HOUSE - SAME

Zano is spying on Fran's house as Eva exits and drives off.
We see his Mini Cooper parked down the street.

Zano sends a TEXT MESSAGE as he approaches the house.

INT. FRAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Fran hears a light knock on the door.

ZANO (O.S.)
Miss me, Baby?

Fran opens the door to see Zano aiming his pistol at her.

ZANO (CONT'D)
Why don't you tell me everything
you know? First, who was that woman
who just left your house?

Fran sways in a sexy way.

FRAN
That was a U.S. Marshal.

Fran leaps to the table to fetch Eva's card.

FRAN (CONT'D)
Deputy Marshal Eva Santos. Jay's
new caseworker, I think.

ZANO
What happened to his last one?

FRAN
How should I know? I'm not a mind
reader, but I do believe in them.

Zano isn't listening. He's watching her sway in her negligee.

ZANO
Okay, where's Jay now?

Fran's swaying distracts Zano even more.

FRAN

Probably at home with his boring,
drunken, stupid, old wife, where he
is every night, except on
Thursdays, his bowling night.

(beat)

I heard you got sprung. It's nice
of you to come see me. Who dressed
you so funny? I would have never
recognized you in a million years.

Zano looks at himself and turns angry.

ZANO

That's the point. My grandson was
right, for once!

Zano cocks his pistol and aims at her head.

ZANO (CONT'D)

Where's Jay?

Fran drops Eva's card on the table, then collapses on the
couch and pouts.

FRAN

Okay. Okay. I'll talk. They moved
him. He called me from a burner
phone. I don't know where he is. He
was supposed to be here tonight,
but he may have noticed I'm busier
than Grand Central Station.

Zano drools over Fran on the couch and can't contain himself.

He unzips his fly and motions to Fran.

ZANO

I've been in lockdown, and you're
still on my payroll. Get busy.

Zano takes out an envelope of cash and drops it atop Eva's
business card, which is atop scattered gift cards.

ZANO (CONT'D)

After this, you're going to tell me
everything you know!

An unidentifiable black-clad figure is peeking in the window
at Fran and Zano.

EXT. ACE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jay lets Pat off in front of a nice house. She carries two bottles of wine and a thick book ("Don Quixote" by Miguel Cervantes).

Pat waves as Jay drives off.

Pat waits until Jay is out of view, then crosses the street to a seedy apartment complex.

INT. ACE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Ace is in tacky boxer shorts and a wife-beater T-shirt when he opens the door for Pat. It's a poorly furnished, filthy apartment.

Pat growls like a cougar as she steps in, tosses aside the book, and holds up the two bottles of wine.

ACE

Did you bring your tap shoes?

Pat kicks the door shut.

PAT

Did my husband bring his bowling ball?

Pat starts to remove Ace's T-shirt.

ACE

I didn't know Jay bowls. Does he suspect anything?

PAT

Jay's too stupid to suspect anything.

Ace's T-shirt is off, and Pat goes after his boxer shorts.

ACE

Did they find Mary yet?

Pat looks away sadly.

PAT

No, they think she's been abducted or killed, but...

ACE

But what?

PAT
Our ungrateful daughter threatened
to tell very bad people where to
find us and kill us!

Ace raises his voice.

ACE
After all you and Jay did for her?

PAT
Exactly.

Pat glances at the coffee table filled with pizza boxes and beer cans, as Ace stares at Pat's book on the floor.

ACE
What's the book?

PAT
Donkey something.

ACE
Cool. I don't know anything about
donkeys.

Pat moves in for a long, wet kiss. We see a light on in the back bedroom.

ACE (CONT'D)
We gotta stay out here tonight. I'm
having the back of the house
fumigated.

Ace kisses her, pulling her down to the floor.

EXT. HUNTING CABIN BACK - NIGHT

Eva rolls up to the cabin and knocks on the back door in her usual cadence.

No answer. She is furious as she enters the unlocked cabin.

INT. HUNTING CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Eva is searching the cabin when Eastman joins her.

EVA
Deputy Eastman, we have to issue
another BOLO on my two vanishing
witnesses! Idiotas!

Eastman sees that Eva is stressed to the max.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

I'll issue the BOLO from my patrol car right now, Ma'am.

EVA

Ma'am means bitch in my neighborhood. Can I call you by your first name?

DEPUTY EASTMAN

It's Warren.

EVA

Like "War and Peace." Easy to remember.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

I don't know who that is. What's your first name, Eva?
(looks away)
Sorry. I already Googled you.

Their eyes meet, and they share a moment before Eastman exits.

Eva begins to search the suitcases she finds under the bed.

Eastman rejoins her and helps search the first four of the six suitcases.

EVA

I bet we don't find a bowling ball!

They each open the last two suitcases and find them filled with gift cards and debit cards.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Must be thousands of them. How much money is on each one?

EVA

The max is five hundred bucks. Two thousand cards could be a million dollars.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Where did they get that kind of money?

EVA

We'll each take a suitcase until we find them. Let's go!

EXT. HUNTING CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Eva and Eastman carry a suitcase each to their cars and load them in the trunks.

A black-clad figure spies on the cabin with night-vision binoculars far away from the cabin.

EVA

Warren, on second thought, could you please stay here and wait for my vanishing witnesses to return?

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Sure, Eva.

EVA

And cuff the idiotas together to the bedpost so they don't escape again!

(beat)

I need to stop at the office to alert my superiors about them breaking protocol on many occasions.

(smiles sweetly)

Thank you once again for your support and assistance.

Eva kisses Eastman on the cheek before leaving, then admonishes herself as she gets in her car.

EVA (CONT'D)

Why did you do that? Do you want to jeopardize the case?

(beat)

Shut up and enjoy life!

Eastman glances back at Eva with a worried look as he returns to the cabin.

EXT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - NIGHT

From across and down the dark street, we see a pair of night-vision binoculars focused on the Marshals Office. The blinds are pulled so we only see a faint shadow of someone walking around inside the office.

Anxious moments pass.

Suddenly, the office EXPLODES. Glass windows and bricks go flying.

Moments later, we hear a siren in the distance.

EXT. FRAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jay finally shows up in the family car.

He sees lights on in the house and backs away to wait in the car down the street.

INT. FAMILY CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jay sees an awkwardly dressed, unrecognizable man (Zano in his disguise) exit Fran's house and heads his way on the sidewalk. Jay doesn't recognize Zano.

Jay cringes and ducks in the car. He doesn't see a small green light on a device attached under the dashboard.

Jay peeks up just enough to see the strange man get in the Mini Cooper parked right in front of Jay's car.

Jay sees that the Mini Cooper fails to start. Zano tries again, and the car finally starts and pulls away.

Jay exits the car slowly and strolls up to Fran's door.

A dark-clad figure is watching all of this with night-vision binoculars further down the street.

EXT. FRAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Jay uses a key to get in the door.

INT. FRAN'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Jay enters Fran's house like a seasoned detective. Fran tries to look innocent in her negligee, but Jay is suspicious.

JAY

Who was leaving your house?

Fran sways in her negligee.

FRAN

The cleaning lady.

JAY

Odd hours for a cleaning lady.

FRAN

She was picking up her check, I mean, her gift cards and debit cards.

Jay looks at the table and sees a large envelope (of money) on the table.

Fran moves quickly to pick up the envelope.

FRAN (CONT'D)

She asked me to hold an envelope of receipts for taxes until she completes one more job.

Jay is distracted by the negligee.

JAY

Mary's missing! Have you seen her?

FRAN

(acting surprised)

No! I hope she's okay! Does she know that she gets this house now that she's eighteen?

JAY

I haven't told anybody about that but you!

Fran looks away.

JAY (CONT'D)

And they let Zano out of prison, but don't worry, he's under house arrest with an ankle monitor.

FRAN

(acting surprised)

No! He's a monster, or so I'm told!

Fran sips a glass of scotch.

JAY

And Gloves may be in the area looking for me!

FRAN

(under her breath)

I hope he knows where to find you.

JAY

What's that?

FRAN
(louder)
I hope he doesn't find you!

Fran winks at Jay as she sways in her negligee.

FRAN (CONT'D)
Why don't you slip into something
more comfortable?
(under her breath)
Like the La Brea Tar Pits?

Fran discreetly dials a number on her phone.

FRAN (CONT'D)
I'll call out for pizza. Why don't
you pour us a couple of drinks?
There's some strychnine, I mean,
quinine soda water, under the bar.

Jay laughs.

JAY
Such a kidder.

EXT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - NIGHT

A block away from the office, Eva sees fire trucks, an FBI car, and a smoldering building, surrounded by yellow tape.

INT. EVA'S CAR - SAME

Eva stops her car a block away and shakes her head in disgust.

EVA
Vandalism? Or somebody doesn't like
me. Either way, I'll let the FBI
handle that shit-show. I've got
work to do.

She turns around and drives away.

INT. ACE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Ace is asleep on the couch when he hears a loud KNOCK on the door.

Ace jumps up in his boxer shorts and looks around the room. He races down the hall to peek in the bedroom and bathroom as he hears another KNOCK.

He races to the door, opens it up, and Eva bursts in.

EVA
Mind if I have a quick look around,
Mr. Aaron Kittel?

ACE
Um. You could call me Ace. And, I
watch a lot of TV shows, and I
think you need a warrant.

Eva searches the apartment as she speaks.

EVA
You can't believe a lot of what you
see on TV, Ace. Do you watch all
those shows on "Finding Bigfoot?"

Eva places a wine bottle in an evidence bag.

ACE
I love those shows.

Eva disappears into the bedroom in the back.

EVA (O.C.)
Do they ever capture him or her?

ACE
Not exactly.

EVA
Have you ever seen a photo of
Bigfoot that wasn't fuzzy or out of
focus?

Eva ducks into the bathroom.

ACE
Well, no, but...

Eva reappears in the hallway with a second plastic evidence bag with a pink toothbrush in it. She holds up the evidence bags and stomps slowly back to Ace.

EVA
Those shows lack evidence. I don't.

ACE
You can't take those.

EVA
The rules change when we're dealing
with terrorists.

Ace collapses onto the couch, terrified.

ACE
Terrorists?

EVA
Somebody bombed my office tonight.
Can anyone vouch for your
whereabouts over the past three
hours?

Eva shows him the bottle of wine.

ACE
Uh... Uh... No.

Eva shows him the pink toothbrush.

ACE (CONT'D)
Uh... Uh... That's private.

EVA
Do you know what they do to
handsome boys in prison?
(beat)
I know everything, Ace. You may as
well tell me.

Ace trembles on the couch.

ACE
It's Mary's toothbrush.

Eva glares at Ace.

EVA
It looks well used.

ACE
Mary spent little time here. She
liked hiding out from her parents,
but...

Eva holds up the wine bottle.

EVA
She knew you liked older women with
expensive wine tastes.

ACE
Mary was too immature for a worldly
guy like me. Pat told me that!

Eva is not shocked. She yells.

EVA
Pat Wells? You can come out now.

Pat emerges angry from the bedroom.

PAT
Shut up, Ace! Just keep your mouth
shut!

Eva looks at the two of them.

EVA
That's twisted!

PAT
You can't use that as evidence!

Eva points to the small Bodycam on her belt.

EVA
My video searching for a terrorist
should help, don't you think? And
you'll have to explain why you left
the safe house you were ordered to
stay at! Let's go.

Eva hands her business card to Ace as she pulls Pat out of
the apartment.

ACE
I'll talk. I'll talk.

EVA
Sorry, Ace. I'm not interested in
you. If Mary contacts you, let me
know right away.

EXT. ACE'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Eva loads Pat into the back seat of her car while checking
her phone.

Eva puts away her smartphone and smiles.

EVA
This is timely. Let's go pick up
your husband.

EXT. SHERIFF'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Eva sits in her car, in the dark, with a view of the vehicle
impound lot.

She sees Jay driving slowly into the lot with the headlights off. He stops and rolls forward a few times while looking side to side.

Eva turns on her portable red and blue "patrol car" lights and shines a blinding handheld spotlight in Jay's eyes.

Jay's POV. He steps out of his family car and throws his arms up in the air to surrender. He freezes.

EVA

Where have you been, Jay?

Jay recognizes Eva's voice, but can't see her in the blinding light.

He puts his arms down and relaxes.

EVA (CONT'D)

We've got guns on you, Jay. Lie down on your stomach, hands out front.

Jay quickly obliges Eva.

EVA (CONT'D)

Where have you been, Jay?

Jay sounds frightened.

JAY

Just to the beach to look for Mary!
Honest to God!

Eva steps forward to Jay.

EVA

You're on my police camera, Jay. I hope you've been honest with me. We already have you on disobeying a direct order to stay in the hunting cabin and grand theft auto.

JAY

It's our car?

EVA

Not when it's in our impound lot.

JAY

I didn't know...

EVA
And impeding an investigation by
contaminating evidence.

Eva leans into the car and removes the tracking device under the dashboard as Jay watches helplessly from the ground.

JAY
Oh, that's not fair!

EVA
You can join your wife in the back
of my car, but I would advise you
not to speak.

Jay gets up and trudges to Eva's car. He's disgruntled.

JAY
Sure! Now you tell me not to speak!

INT. EVA'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Jay and Pat glare at each other as Eva drives.

PAT
Idiot! Where'd you go?

JAY
Bowling night, Moron! Where'd you
go?

PAT
Book club?

JAY
Where's your book?

Pat kicks Jay in the ankle hard.

PAT
Same place as your bowling ball!

Jay yelps.

Eva looks back in the rearview mirror.

EVA
What part of the "right to remain
silent" did both of you not
understand?

Silence.

EVA (CONT'D)
Don't say another word until we get
to the hunting cabin.

Eva looks beyond Pat and Jay to see she's being followed.

EVA (CONT'D)
Hang on again.

EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Chase scene. Eva makes defensive maneuvers. A SHOT is fired and Eva's back window SHATTERS.

Eva makes a hard right turn onto a dirt road and grabs her radio.

EVA
Deputy Eastman, come in. Over.

Eva speeds ahead. Eastman is in a panic.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (O.S.)
Eva? I mean, Deputy Santos? We
thought you were dead! Over. I
mean, exploded all over the place
in your office and...

EVA
(interrupts, angry)
I'm being followed south on Spruce
Road. Shots fired. Send backup.

Another SHOT. Jay and Pat duck.

EVA (CONT'D)
Hang on! We're going dark.

Eva turns off the headlights and speeds ahead on a windy road.

EVA (CONT'D)
I know this road.

She speeds up more and is lucky to stay on the road.

Jay and Pat peek ahead and behind them.

Eva doesn't see the car behind her.

Eva sees an intersection sign to the left up ahead.

EVA (CONT'D)
Sharp left coming up.

Eva makes a hard left. The tires screech. She pulls over and stops.

She pulls her pistol and turns to aim out the shattered (now open) rear window.

EVA (CONT'D)
Stay down.

Eva sees a yellow Mini Cooper RACE down Spruce Road and continue south.

EVA (CONT'D)
Mini Cooper! Gotcha!

Eva turns on her headlights and drives on.

JAY
Where are you taking us?

EVA
To jail. After you're booked,
you'll both be tossed out of
WITSEC!

PAT
What about Mary?

Eva slams on the brakes, turns around, and yells.

EVA
I can't imagine two parents
carrying any grief for their
missing daughter.

JAY
But...

EVA
(interrupts, angrily)
Jay, with your daughter missing,
maybe abducted, maybe murdered, you
both escape for booty calls. Not to
find your daughter! For booty
calls. I'm turning you over to the
local authorities and the FBI. I'm
done with you two!

Eva turns and drives on. Pat turns to Jay.

PAT
I'm leaving you.

EVA
Oh, Pat. You deserve each other.

Jay appeals to Eva.

JAY
You can't desert us. Somebody just
tried to kill us!

EVA
It's a pity they missed!

Eva drives on.

INT. JAIL - NIGHT

Jay and Pat are being booked as Eastman enters with the two
suitcases of gift cards and debit cards.

Jay's eyes light up.

JAY
That's private property. You had no
warrant.

Eva hands Jay a warrant.

EVA
We're looking into a claim that the
funds used to purchase these cards
were stolen.

PAT
You can't hold us here.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
We're holding you as suspects in
your daughter's disappearance. We
have a few more questions for you.

Jay and Pat sit quietly.

EVA
About \$1 million here.

JAY
Take it. I'll just get more.

EVA

Fifteen years ago, we froze three offshore accounts associated with Mr. Zano. This week, I found two additional accounts in Belize and Montenegro.

Jay's and Pat's eyes open wide, which Eva sees.

JAY

Belize?

EVA

I hoped you would say that. That was a guess on my part based on a travel brochure we found in one of your suitcases.

Pat charges Jay and slaps, punches, and wrestles until Eastman and Eva tear them apart.

PAT

You're such an idiot, Jay. Were you planning on escaping with our former nanny to Belize?

JAY

You have Ace! He's quite a catch.

EVA

(glares at Pat and Jay)
You may stay here one more night. Tomorrow, I'm tossing you out of WITSEC and setting you free!

JAY

We'll be killed?

PAT

Or tortured, then killed.

Eva prepares to leave as Jay and Pat collapse in chairs.

EVA

(to Jay and Pat)
You'll be safe here while we continue our investigation.
(to Eastman)
Can you please check the traffic cameras in town for a yellow Mini Cooper and run the plates for me? Can't be too many of those in the area. And, put out an APB on it.
(MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)
(begins to exit)
I need to speak to the librarian.

Eva exits quickly.

EXT. LIBRARIAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

We join Eva and a sleepy LIBRARIAN (60s, female) in conversation. Eva takes notes in a notebook.

EVA
So, Mary was the smart one, and Ace was dumber than a rock? That's not what Mary sounded like to me.

LIBRARIAN
I gave Mary her study room because of her bad home life. She was driven to complete her GED.

EVA
Can you provide me with a list of websites she visited?

LIBRARIAN
Yes, I can connect to the server from here and check the sites linked to her library card. Just a minute.

The Librarian disappears for a minute and comes back to the door with a smile and a short piece of paper.

LIBRARIAN (CONT'D)
See! All local high school sites for her GED.

EVA
Could you run Ace's, I mean, Aaron Kittel's library card for me?

The Librarian hesitates.

LIBRARIAN
I'm afraid that would be an invasion of privacy.

EVA
This could save Mary's life. I just need a glance at it.

The Librarian disappears for a minute.

She returns and shows the 8-page printout to Eva.

Eva scans the pages like a speed reader.

Ace's library card printout shows hundreds of websites. As Eva scans the pages, she sees "BS degree in Criminal Science" in bold on page 3, and "Master's in International Banking" on page 8.

Only seconds have gone by when Eva turns to leave.

EVA (CONT'D)

Thanks. That's all I need.

LIBRARIAN

Amazing!

Eva stops a few feet away.

EVA

One more question: did Mary ever walk out with you at the end of the day? Maybe watching you arm the alarm?

LIBRARIAN

Yes, I guess so.

Eva gets in her car and races away.

EXT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Eva cruises by the library and sees a tiny light in the back of the library.

Eva watches a light turn off.

EVA

Safest place in the world for you right now, Smartie Pants!

EXT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - DAWN

Yellow Police Tape surrounds the building.

A Coroner and Assistant (in Blue scrubs and full face masks, and shower caps) remove a body in a body bag. The Assistant returns to the building as the Coroner drives off.

INT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

FBI Agent Nichols stands inside the dark office, which was demolished by a fire bomb.

The Coroner's assistant removes her mask to reveal it's Eva in disguise.

NICHOLS

So you see, Deputy Santos, that's why my FBI team will take over all aspects of this investigation! My team is looking for Mary Wells as we speak. You should stay locked away for a few days... maybe in that old hunting cabin on the "safe house" list. Nobody's used it in decades.

EVA

Good idea, Agent Nichols. But I have a few questions for you first.

NICHOLS

(snickers)
Fire away.
(looks around)
Get it.

Eva is stone-faced.

EVA

Did you ID the vic?

NICHOLS

Too badly burnt. We're running tests...

She points to the slightly opened safe door.

EVA

It's Special Marshal Glenn Abbot, my predecessor.

NICHOLS

How can you...?

EVA

Height, and he's the only one who could have opened the safe.

Nichols is stunned as Eva looks at pieces of the desk.

NICHOLS
The safe was empty.

EVA
It wasn't empty when I locked it
yesterday.

Nichols looks perplexed.

EVA (CONT'D)
I'm betting the incendiary device
was in the desk.

NICHOLS
That's what I determined. I'll add
it to my report.

EVA
That photo of Special Marshal
Abbot's family is on the desk. Was
that his family?

NICHOLS
Abbot was single. We think he was
seeing a woman named Fran something
in Pinedale, based on phone
records.

EVA
(acts surprised)
Huh?

NICHOLS
I'd like you to remain in contact
with me, and only me, until I
complete my investigation. Is that
clear?

EVA
(exiting)
Perfectly clear.

NICHOLS
I'll have one of my agents drive
you to the safe house with one of
our radios.

EVA
(while leaving)
You got it, Sir. I'll just ask
Deputy Eastman to bring me out some
food and supplies.

NICHOLS

Sure. We're all partners in this investigation, remember?

(glares at Eva)

One more question. We found the charred remains of a dozen plastic gift cards in the vic's pockets. Would you know anything about that?

Eva keeps a deadpan face.

EVA

No, but good luck with your investigation.

Eva turns to exit as Nichols glares at her.

NICHOLS

That's our investigation.

INT. HUNTING CABIN - EVENING

Eva hears footsteps approaching the cabin.

She pulls out her pistol and hides behind the door.

Anxious moments.

The door handle wiggles, but the door is locked.

The door is pushed open, breaking the lock.

Eastman barges in carrying a big box of food and wine.

Eva steps out in anger. Eastman drops the box of food.

EVA

Warren, you could have been killed!
Announce yourself!

He bends over to pick up the food like a scolded schoolboy.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

I thought you'd be gone. You'd never listen to a blowhard like Agent Nichols.

Eva bends and helps with the groceries.

EVA

He's right about one thing. Someone was trying to kill me.

(MORE)

EVA (CONT'D)

It could have been Gloves, Zano,
Fran, or even Mary.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Mary?

EVA

Or someone else, but whoever it is,
they can spot my car from a mile
away.

They lock eyes and share a moment.

EVA (CONT'D)

We'll take your car.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

My car? But...

She grabs his hand and begins to pull him out the door.

EVA

We'll solve the case, then come
back here for a romantic dinner.

Eastman looks around nervously before being pulled out the
door.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Where are we going?

EVA

Fran Demonte's house in Pinedale. I
hope we're not too late!

INT. SHERIFF'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Eastman drives slowly, and it bugs Eva.

EVA

Step on it. Who's going to pull you
over?

He laughs, speeds up, then smiles sweetly at Eva.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

No one, I guess.

Eva grabs Eastman's radio.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (CONT'D)

What are you doing now?

EVA
It's called swatting.
(on the radio)
Dispatch, over.

A young DISPATCH OFFICER responds.

DISPATCH OFFICER (V.O.)
Dispatch.

EVA
We have reports of suspicious
activity at the home of Mr. Charles
Zano, who is under house arrest and
may be considered armed and
dangerous. Send in a SWAT Team,
over.

DISPATCH OFFICER (V.O.)
Copy that, Sheriff.

Eastman drives on nervously.

EVA
We had to be sure of Zano's
location.

EXT. BEACH - DUSK

Ace paces on the site where Mary's jacket was found. Ace wears a similar high-end blue jacket. The beach is empty, and the waves are loud and ominous.

He checks his phone. Nothing.

Ace collapses on the beach and mumbles to himself in despair.

ACE
What did I do? What did I do?

Ace's POV. He stares at the waves and the undertow.

He checks his phone again. Nothing. Anxious moments.

From a distance, we see an unidentifiable man (Gloves) sneak up on Ace, and they talk for a while without Ace turning around. We don't hear them.

From closer up, we hear the ZIP of a pistol with a silencer.

Ace's back straightens up and pushes forward a bit. His eyes open wide in shock.

ZIP!

The second shot hits Ace in the back of the head.

He collapses to one side, bloody and dead. His phone is by his side.

The next moment, the phone is gone.

EXT. GATED MANSION - NIGHT

The SWAT Team (six, well-armed officers in full protective uniforms) arrives outside the mansion.

They use hand signals to surround the house.

Inside the house, we see Ricardo in a white fluffy bathrobe with a backpack on his back and swaying to music.

EXT. FRAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Fran's house is being monitored with a silent and small drone fitted with a camera. From the drone's POV, we see Agent Nichols closing the blinds in the front windows.

Down the street, we see Eva watching the house from Eastman's car. She has night-vision binoculars.

EVA

We've got trouble.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

I can see Agent Nichols' car parked right in front of her house. What's he doing?

EVA

Maybe trying to draw out the bad guys.

Eva spots the drone.

EVA (CONT'D)

It might be working. He needs backup. Get in there and tell him you have some concerns with Ms. Demonte's alibi the night Mary went missing.

Eastman looks stunned.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

What if Nichols starts drilling me
with detailed questions?

EVA

Provide vague responses. Stall them
until I can find out who's watching
them. Go! Get in there! And keep
your Bodycam on.

Eastman nervously exits the car and walks up to the house,
looking around suspiciously.

We see the drone's POV tracking Eastman to the door.

He KNOCKS and hears the footsteps of two people.

INT. FRAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Fran answers in a hastily tied robe, revealing her heaving
chest.

Eastman presents his badge and takes a half-step into the
house.

FRAN

Won't you come in?

DEPUTY EASTMAN

I'm not falling for that old hiding-
behind-the-door trick, Nichols.

Nichols steps out and holsters his pistol.

NICHOLS

What are you doing here, Deputy?

Fran races to blow out candles around the living room as
Eastman studies her and speaks.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

I'm glad you asked me that very
important question, Agent Nichols.
(stalling, pacing)
I might begin by detailing the site
where I found Mary Wells' wet
jacket.

Nichols and Fran roll their eyes in disgust.

NICHOLS

Is this necessary...?

DEPUTY EASTMAN
(interrupts, pacing)
It was a beach. A sandy beach. A
sandy, wet beach...

CUT TO:

INT. SHERIFF'S CAR - SAME

Eva scans the streets with her night-vision binoculars. She sees the yellow Mini Cooper parked way down the street.

She pulls her pistol and sneaks out of the Sheriff's car.

She sneaks down the opposite side of the street, ducking behind trees, shrubs, and houses, working her way toward the Mini Cooper.

In the shadow of a house, she takes out her phone and gets a photo of the license plate of the Mini Cooper.

She pockets her phone and readies her pistol.

The silent drone sneaks up on Eva, who sees the tiny camera eye-to-lens.

Eva spins her pistol towards the drone and fires a SHOT.

BAM!

The Mini Cooper starts up, spins out in a U-turn, and RACES away.

Eva shoots at the back tires but misses.

EVA
I need glasses!

She picks up the shattered remains of the drone and carries them back to the Sheriff's car.

As she's almost to the car, she sees Eastman exiting Fran's House, with Nichols pushing him out the door.

NICHOLS
She'd better be at the hunting
cabin!

Nichols slams the door shut.

As Eva and Eastman near the car, they HEAR the Dispatch Officer calling.

DISPATCH OFFICER (V.O.)
Eastman, are you there? Over.

Eastman reaches into the car and answers the call.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Eastman here. Over.

DISPATCH OFFICER (V.O.)
We have reports of a shooting at
Riptide Beach. Over.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
On our way. Over.

They hop in the car.

INT. SHERIFF'S CAR - NIGHT

DEPUTY EASTMAN
I've got to get you back to the
hunting cabin.

EVA
I've gotta see the crime scene at
the beach!

DEPUTY EASTMAN
I'll get in trouble for that!

EVA
(smiles)
I'll make it up to you. But first,
let me see your Bodycam footage
from Fran's house. And tell me
everything that you heard and saw.
Everything!

Eva grabs Eastman's tablet computer to watch the video, as
Eastman drives slowly ahead.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
They didn't say much.

EVA
Fifty percent of communication is
in body language.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Huh!

Eva doesn't lift her eyes from the tablet.

EVA
Step on it, Warren.

Eastman drives like a madman.

EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

Yellow tape (on the beach) surrounds the murder site. The Coroner (female; 40s) is taking photos. A small crowd of Onlookers (6, various types) gathers to look on.

Eva and Eastman step over the crime tape.

Eva stares at the body and whispers so the crowd can't hear her.

EVA
Two shots. One in the back, one in the head, both from behind, but close range. Six, maybe eight feet.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Geez! That's how he was killed?

EVA
That's how he was executed.

Eva addresses the Coroner.

EVA (CONT'D)
Let me guess. Wallet but no phone.

The Coroner shakes her head 'yes.'

EVA (CONT'D)
(to Eastman)
I've seen enough. Let's go.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
But my report...

EVA
I'll fill you in on the way to the cabin. I know who did it. But I need Jay and Pat there. Let's spring them from jail and take them to the cabin, too.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
They didn't kill anyone?

EVA
No. And we need them to draw out
the mastermind!

Eva turns and ushers the crowd of Onlookers to Eastman's car, pretending to answer questions. Eastman follows. Eva glances around from within the crowd.

EVA (CONT'D)
There's nothing to see here.
(looks around)
We can't answer questions as part
of an ongoing investigation.
(looks around)
As soon as we have any information,
we'll notify the press.

They reach Eastman's car and duck into it.

INT. SHERIFF'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

EVA
Drive slowly to the jail and the
cabin.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Slowly? That's a change...

EVA
We'll be followed, and I don't want
them to lose us.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Them?

EVA
I'll explain on the way.

Eastman drives slowly away.

EXT. HUNTING CABIN BACK - NIGHT

Eva guides Jay and Pat to the back door of the cabin and lets them in with a key.

INT. HUNTING CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Jay and Pat are alarmed to see that the front door is ajar and the lock is broken.

JAY

Not much of a safe house anymore.

Eva closes the front door.

EVA

Deputy Eastman broke down the door,
carrying in the groceries and wine.

Pat heads straight to the wine.

PAT

At least there's wine in our unsafe
house. Why did you drag us back out
here?

JAY

That hack of an FBI agent told us
his entire team of people couldn't
find Mary!

Eva turns in controlled anger to them.

EVA

I'm setting you free.

JAY

We don't want to be free. We like
witness protection.

EVA

But you don't deserve witness
protection. You broke the law...
Many laws, and you lied to me, my
predecessor, and your daughter. I'm
having Deputy Eastman and Agent
Nichols arrest you for
embezzlement, dealing in stolen
property, money laundering, and...

Jay's and Pat's eyes are wide open in fright.

EVA (CONT'D)

For being bad parents!

Pat chugs a glass of wine and gets in Jay's face.

PAT

Mary stole from us!

JAY

Shut up, Pat! Don't say nothin'
without a lawyer.

EVA
You don't need a lawyer, you need
bulletproof vests.

Jay and Pat spin their heads to Eva.

EVA (CONT'D)
We found Ace on the beach tonight,
shot dead execution-style.

They HEAR a car race up to the front of the cabin and skid to
a stop. Pat clings to Jay.

PAT
Is that Ace's killer? He's after
us, isn't he?

Eva peeks outside.

EVA
No, that's Agent Nichols.

EXT. HUNTING CABIN FRONT - CONTINUOUS

Nichols exits his car, which turns on the interior lights.

We see Zano handcuffed in the back seat.

NICHOLS
It's over, Deputy Santos. Send out
Jay and Pat Wells.

Eva is defiant from inside the cabin. She yells.

EVA (O.C.)
It isn't over, Agent Nichols. You
see, there's a killer on the loose.

NICHOLS
(scoffs)
I've got Mr. Zano handcuffed in the
back seat. He was easy to catch. A
SWAT team was sent to his mansion,
expecting to find him and his ankle
monitor, but he wasn't there!

EVA (O.C.)
Imagine that?

NICHOLS
He thought that wrapping aluminum
foil around the ankle monitor would
deactivate it. What an idiot!

EVA (O.C.)
Yes, what an idiot.

ZANO
It was my grandson's idea, as was
my disguise.

NICHOLS
(laughing)
The road apple doesn't fall far
from the horse's ass.
(angry)
Now send out Jay and Pat. They're
wanted for perjury!

Nichols takes out his pistol.

INT. HUNTING CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Jay and Pat cling together and whisper to Eva.

PAT
We don't trust him.

JAY
He could kill us, saying we tried
to escape.

Eva yells.

EVA
Sorry! We still have a killer on
the loose. Jay and Pat are still
under my protection.

They all hear the loud voice of Gloves from the back of the
cabin.

EXT. HUNTING CABIN BACK - CONTINUOUS

Gloves points a pistol at Eastman (who we see from the waist
up).

GLOVES
Listen up! I've got a gun pointed
at Deputy Eastman's head. All I
want is to know where Mary Wells
is, and I'll let the Deputy go.

EXT. HUNTING CABIN FRONT - CONTINUOUS

ZANO

Gloves?

Nichols sounds completely baffled.

NICHOLS

Gloves? You mean Danny "Gloves"
Tosca?

EXT. HUNTING CABIN BACK - CONTINUOUS

GLOVES

Can it, Agent Nichols, or I'll
shoot you next!

INT. HUNTING CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Eva is furious.

EVA

Everyone, stop telling people to
shut up. I hate that!
(softly but loud)
Warren, are you okay?

EXT. HUNTING CABIN BACK - CONTINUOUS

We see Eastman, cuffed behind the back, with his pants down.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Gloves got the drop on me when I
was taking a pee. He cuffed me with
my handcuffs behind my back and
pulled down my pants so I couldn't
run away.

INT. HUNTING CABIN - CONTINUOUS

EVA

(to herself)
Why do I always fall for the dumb
ones?
(worried, loud)
But are you okay?

DEPUTY EASTMAN (O.C.)

A little cold. My pants are
still...

EVA
(interrupts, paces)
Okay, people, listen up! I'll solve
these cases one at a time.

NICHOLS (O.C.)
We don't have to listen to this!

Eva ignores the comment and IMAGINES the WHITEBOARD in her
office with all the suspects and dozens of arrows everywhere.

EVA
Mary's disappearance.
(beat)
Mary's disappearance was
premeditated... for 15 years!

JAY & PAT
What?

EVA
She didn't trust her parents after
they changed her name, joined
WITSEC, and moved.
(sad)
That night on the beach, she didn't
want to kill herself. She wanted to
vanish!

Jay and Pat collapse in tears.

JAY & PAT
No!

EXT. HUNTING CABIN FRONT - CONTINUOUS

Zano rattles his handcuffs in anger.

ZANO
She stole from me! Nobody steals
from me!

INT. HUNTING CABIN - CONTINUOUS

EVA
I know! Mary has the ledger Jay
stole from you. Your bank accounts
and passcodes. Jay and Pat have
been skimming off you for years!
That's why you hired Gloves...
again.

GLOVES (O.C.)
Again? What do you mean, again?

DEPUTY EASTMAN (O.C.)
I'd like to know too.

EVA
The DNA evidence that overturned Mr. Zano's murder conviction was a reanalysis of perspiration on Enrico Martinez's face. They found the DNA of Enrico, who was sweating from being tortured, and the DNA of sweat that didn't match Mr. Zano, and that placed Danny Gloves Tosca at the scene of the crime.

EXT. HUNTING CABIN BACK - CONTINUOUS

Gloves POV.

GLOVES
You can only prove I sweat on somebody, not that I killed them!

DEPUTY EASTMAN
(laughs)
And he's sweating now!

Gloves presses his gun into Eastman's ribs. Eastman sees that he's wearing latex gloves that look like hands.

INT. HUNTING CABIN - CONTINUOUS

EVA
Gloves, you were the most predictable of the criminals. When you chased Jay, Pat, and me in your rental SUV and fired on us with your pistol, you crashed the car and cut out the front airbag because you were afraid of leaving DNA from your sweat.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (O.C.)
She sent me back to get it, but it was gone!

GLOVES (O.C.)
So you got nothing.

EVA

So I went back and cut out the roof upholstery and, sure enough, the DNA from your sweat was a match to the DNA at Enrico Martinez's murder scene. We have you for attempted murder of a federal officer, and the kidnapping and sexual assault of a sheriff's deputy! I have two witnesses who saw the attempted murder.

DEPUTY EASTMAN (O.C.)

(yells)

I wouldn't say he sexually assaulted...

JAY

We'll tell them everything! Will have to join WITSEC again.

PAT

We'll be better behaved. We promise.

EVA

We've got you, Gloves! I'm sure Deputy Eastman will testify against you, and when we check the ballistics of the bullets that killed Aaron "Ace" Kittel, I'm sure we'll find a match. And then there's a recent strangulation...

EXT. HUNTING CABIN BACK - CONTINUOUS

GLOVES

(interrupts)

I never strangled no one.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

That's a double negative.

GLOVES

You forget! You don't have me...!

Three SWAT Team members (various types) appear, cock and aim automatic weapons at Gloves.

Gloves eyes open widely.

GLOVES (CONT'D)

I'd like to speak to my attorney!

The SWAT team captures him and handcuffs him. They un-cuff Eastman, who pulls up his pants and races to the back door of the cabin.

EXT. HUNTING CABIN FRONT - CONTINUOUS

NICHOLS
What's going on back there?! This
is my investi...

INT. HUNTING CABIN - CONTINUOUS

Eva hugs Easton as he enters the cabin.

EVA
(interrupting)
Cram it, Nichols. I'm getting to
you!

Eva and Eastman share a moment before opening the front door with pistols drawn to confront Nichols.

EXT. HUNTING CABIN FRONT - CONTINUOUS

NICHOLS
What's this about?

EVA
You almost got away with it.

Eva and Eastman distance themselves while aiming at Nichols.

Nichols aims alternately at Eastman and Eva as Zano looks worried.

EVA (CONT'D)
You visited Ms. Fran Demonte on at
least two occasions, both times
forgetting to use your Bodycam.

NICHOLS
I'm forgetful.

EVA
I matched a serial number on a
drone I shot down to FBI equipment.
Who monitors the outside of a
house, but not the inside?

Nichols looks away and scoffs.

NICHOLS

You just admitted to impeding my investigation.

EVA

And who blows up a U.S. Marshals Office, and kills an innocent man, my predecessor, Marshal Abbot?

NICHOLS

A terrorist, I suppose.

EVA

Maybe after me, or at least the file on Jay and Pat Wells that was in the safe, and they didn't get it.

NICHOLS

This has nothing to do...

EVA

(interrupts)

Loose ends. I suspect Abbot wanted a little more cash for his sudden retirement.

(to Zano)

You offer retirement benefits to people on your payroll, right, Mr. Zano? Right, Agent Nichols?

Zano looks away.

NICHOLS

You can't prove any of this.

EVA

Why don't you call Fran Demonte, who we know was intimate with Jay, Mr. Zano, Ace, and probably you?!

Everyone hears fighting and wrestling in the cabin as Jay and Pat go at it.

Nichols pulls out his phone but hesitates to call.

Eastman gets a call on his radio.

DISPATCH OFFICER (V.O.)

Deputy Eastman, come in. Over.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Eastman here, over.

DISPATCH OFFICER

We discovered the body of Ms. Fran Demonte. Strangled. No fingerprints, so latex gloves, like Marshal Santos thought. Over.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

Thanks, we'll take it from here. Over.

Gloves is pushed in handcuffs to the front of the cabin by three members of the SWAT team.

EVA

Bank records show that Fran was on Mr. Zino's payroll, and collecting a house and gift cards from Jay. We got a warrant to install tiny cameras in Fran's house.

We hear a SLAP, and Jay screams.

EVA (CONT'D)

(to Nichols)

When Deputy Eastman was in the living room with you and Fran, he plugged in a camera that looked like a USB phone charger.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

They are cool. They're right there, but nobody sees them.

EVA

And Gloves was at the beach killing Ace when Fran was killed.

Jay and Pat stop fighting to glare at Nichols from the cabin's front door.

ZANO

I'll talk. I'll tell 'em everything. You're an idiot, Nichols.

NICHOLS

(points to Zano)

He killed Fran.

EVA

In that outfit? I doubt it.

Nichols panics and aims at Zano.

NICHOLS
He's trying to escape!

BAM. Nichols kills Zano.

JAY
We witnessed that, too!

Pat starts dancing with a glass of wine in hand.

PAT
More Witness Protection!

Nichols shoots his pistol at Jay and Pat, but they dive into the cabin, so Nichols aims at Gloves.

Eva shoots the pistol out of Nichol's hand, while Eastman shoots him in the leg.

EVA
Damn! I was going for the heart!

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Me too!

Nichols tries to hobble away, but three other members of the SWAT team are there to arrest him.

NICHOLS
I want to see my attorney.

They HEAR Jay and Pat slam the back door and run away.

Eva turns to the cabin.

EVA
There they go again!

INT. U.S. MARSHALS OFFICE - DAY

Eva looks around the scorched, disheveled office with a wry smile as Eastman strolls in.

EVA
My boss is putting me in for a raise and a new title: Criminal Investigator.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
That's fantastic. My boss gave me two weeks off.
(excited)
With pay!

EVA
I need a vacation, too, while they
renovate the office. Let's go!

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Go where?

EVA
Montenegro.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Shouldn't we be looking for Jay and
Pat?

Eva kisses Eastman on the lips and smiles.

EVA
They've had a rough week. We'll
find them when we get back!

She grabs his arm and leads him to the door.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Where's Montenegro?

EXT. BEACH IN MONTENEGRO - DAY

Eva and Eastman, in tourist outfits with sun hats and
sunglasses, hold hands and walk on a beach, but Eva is
looking curiously at every sunbathing young woman.

Eva spots Mary on a lounge chair in a bikini and drinking a
tall tropical drink.

Mary spots Eva and takes off running down the beach.

Eva, with a burst of speed, tackles Mary, and Eastman arrives
to help constrain her.

MARY
How did you find me?

EVA
You were a hard woman to hunt down,
you little Smartie Pants.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
(bewildered)
You knew she was here?

EVA
(to Mary)
Montenegro was your father's hiding
place for Mr. Zano's money.

Mary lifts her sunglasses.

MARY
I don't know what you're talking
about.

EVA
Yes, you do. You played dumb since
you were three years old, hell-bent
on revenge for your parents
changing your name and moving you
from Florida.

MARY
I'm not following you.

EVA
You couldn't let on you were smart
or they would distrust you and
watch you like a hawk!

MARY
(acts dumb)
Little ol' me?

EVA
As a young teen, that library
became your home away from home. I
tracked down your SAT and GRE
scores. Off the charts. So I
checked out online schools, and
that's where I found you completed
online degrees in Criminal Science
and International Banking. You had
your parents completely fooled.
(laughs)
Not very hard to do.

MARY
They couldn't know. I didn't want
Mr. Zano or Gloves to kill them. I
just wanted to get away from them
and WITSEC.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
I can see that, but how could you
afford it on gift cards and debit
cards?

EVA

(to Eastman)

She found out her dad had access to Zano's offshore account here in Montenegro.

MARY

(looks away sadly)

I had to hope my parents would get the help they needed from you two to hide from the killers.

(looks back to Eva)

You can tell Mr. Zano that if anything happens to my parents, I'll turn the ledger over to the authorities.

DEPUTY EASTMAN

(impressed)

Wow! You thought of everything!

EVA

(to Mary)

I know why you picked Montenegro.

Eastman looks baffled.

MARY

It's the only European country without an extradition treaty with the U.S.

(smiles)

And where the drinking age is eighteen.

EVA

And some of the best privacy policies of any modern country.

MARY

I was twelve when I found my dad's ledger with Mr. Zano's offshore bank accounts and passcodes. My dad had a joint account number, and when I turned eighteen, I had my dad add me to the account.

EVA

Did he know you did that?

MARY

Of course, not.

DEPUTY EASTMAN
Now that Mr. Zano is dead...

MARY
Only my dad and I can draw from the account. There's plenty of money for us all. My parents can keep Fran's house.

EVA
Mr. Zano's hitman, Gloves, will never see daylight again, so I guess you're all free.

MARY
My parents will find me eventually.

Eva looks around and smiles.

EVA
I'll have their passports revoked when we get back in a few weeks, but there may be some very bad people after Mr. Zano's money.

MARY
Why are you helping me?

Eva looks into Mary's eyes.

EVA
Everyone needs someone to trust.

Eva and Mary hug.

The three of them turn and walk back down the beach.

MARY
I'm thinking of becoming a U.S. Marshal.

EVA
I'd assign you to watch your parents.

They laugh.

FADE OUT:

THE END