

TRIO

Feature - Thriller

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TRIGGER WARNING

Please be aware that this feature has themes of anti-social behaviour, bullying and suicide. Discretion is advised.

TICK. TICK. TICK, goes the clock.

CHYRON: 25 YEARS AGO

INT. HOSPITAL - DELIVERY ROOM - DAY

TESS (late 20s, white brunette, rounder than a blowfish) sits on her bed staring blankly.

TICK. TICK.

14:01. She sweats. Stares.

All is quiet.

The clock's big hand ticks forward once and --

BURST -- in comes WAYNE through the 2-way swinging double doors -- silence broken. (He's late 20s, smartly suited, also sweating). Wayne pushes a stroller fit for triplets.

Tess looks nauseated all of a sudden.

Wayne clumsily sets himself by her, breathless.

WAYNE
Not here yet?

A look from Tess: *not yet*.

Wayne removes his blazer. Unbuttons his shirt a little.

WAYNE (CONT'D)
Can I get you anything? Coffee?

Another look from Tess, this time more of a scowl.

TESS
No. I'd be sick.

Wayne pulls up a stool and sits. Decides to lean over Tess for a kiss --

TESS (CONT'D)
Don't. I'll be sick.

She looks at the stroller.

TESS (CONT'D)
That need to be out like that?

WAYNE
 (embarrassed)
 Folding it back is kinda awkward.
 (off Tess's look)
 But I'll do it.

He immediately gets up and does his best to put the stroller into its folded state.

Tess rolls her eyes without rolling her eyes; she doesn't have the strength.

Wayne is awkward with the stroller; but mission accomplished.

He's back beside Tess. She reaches for his hand. Squeezes it.

A beat. The definition of a calm before the storm.

LATER

BURST -- through the doors come a NURSE, a MIDWIFE and a DOCTOR. All in their hospital garms, all tend to Tess immediately.

Stroller folded against a wall.

SCREAMS -- Tess WAILS as she goes through labour.

Her monitor BLEEP-BLEEP-BLEEPS hysterically.

The nurse guides Wayne back --

WAYNE (CONT'D)
 No. What's going on? What's wrong?

His hand slides from Tess'.

WAYNE (CONT'D)
 I won't --

NURSE
 Please sir.

The nurse pulls him away.

WAYNE
 I --

Tess' hand goes weak. Terror in Wayne's eyes as he backs off toward a wall.

DOCTOR
 (to the midwife)
 She was expecting triplets?

Anguish on Wayne's face.

BLEEP-BLEEP-BLEEP -- the doctor seems to pause for thought.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
The child has to come out.

Wayne looks confused. He realizes Tess has lost consciousness.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
(off Wayne's look)
Can someone get him outta here?

The nurse goes to Wayne and literally pushes him out of the delivery room --

WAYNE
No -- my kids -- my wi --

She manages to get him to the hall.

INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY - DAY

The nurse has her hands firm on Wayne's chest.

NURSE
Please stay here sir. We will do everything we can --

WAYNE
My wife --

Wayne looks like he's about to lose it.

NURSE
You gotta let me back in alright?
Stay here.

Wayne nods, holding his head, tears form. Anguish.

The hallway is much quieter than the chaos of the delivery room. Almost eerie.

INT. HOSPITAL - DELIVERY ROOM - DAY

The doctor and the midwife do their jobs.

REVEAL: the BABY(?)... *We take a beat to absorb... this...*
It's horrifically abnormal. The head is 3x the size of its body. Bald. Deformed. An uglier homage to Sloth from the Goonies. Its body seems so tiny. So... normal.

The midwife supports the head. The doctor carries the body.

MIDWIFE
Incubator?

DOCTOR
(nods)
An adult one. The head won't fit.

The midwife takes a beat to absorb what she's seen. The doctor looks at "it" too.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
Triplets?

MIDWIFE
(nods)
Yes. There were definitely three heartbeats on the ultrasound.

The midwife wipes a half-formed tear. The doctor looks at the child's body.

DOCTOR
There won't be three hearts in there now.

He touches the child's head. It's expressionless, like that eerie feeling's just entered the room.

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
The brain. We'll need scans. Check feasibility of survival for a child like this.

Doctor and midwife both stand in shock and awe.

BLEEEEEEEEEPPPP -- They turn --

DOCTOR (CONT'D)
The mother!

The doctor and midwife rush to her, but there's a slow-motion beat as monitors confirm; Tess is dead.

BABY POV: The child's eyes are wide open. It's just seen its mother die.

The baby blinks. We notice its eyes change colour; denim blue, apple green, coffee brown.

INT. HOSPITAL - WAITING ROOM - NIGHT

Wayne sits with a cup of water in his hand.

He looks at the clock: 23:33. *It's been a long day.*

The nurse from earlier comes by. Wayne wipes his tears.

NURSE

Your baby. It's stable.

Wayne looks at her. He snuffles.

WAYNE

Stable?

The nurse nods.

NURSE

We've made sure of that. Our job is to make sure a child is fit to go home. Its vitals are fine...
Normal.

Wayne holds back tears.

WAYNE

(nods)

Good. That's good.

He doesn't move.

The nurse puts a hand on his shoulder.

NURSE

I'm sorry about your wife.

Wayne's nodding becomes exaggerated. His every emotion wants to explode, but he manages to keep it all in.

A deep breath.

He looks at the nurse --

WAYNE

Wait. You said the baby is stable?
Not babies?

She nods. Wayne looks confused. She guides him to stand.

INT. HOSPITAL - POSTNATAL ROOM - NIGHT

Wayne enters the room slowly.

The baby lays, cleaned up and breathing well. As Wayne approaches he moves a blanket, perhaps thinking he'd reveal the baby's body; but it's the head. Horror all over Wayne's face.

The baby's body moves normally. But its head remains in one place. Wayne's tears form again.

Wayne can see has a special support for the child's neck. DOUBLE TAKE -- there is no neck. The support is to keep the child's head upright and in line with its body.

Wayne steps back. Covers his mouth. Begins to cry.

The whole time the baby's head faces Wayne. It stares at its father. Barely blinks. Barely looks human. *And did we just notice that it hasn't made a sound?...*

EXT. HOSPITAL - PARKING LOT - DAY

SHHHHHHHH -- rain falls heavily.

Wayne carries the baby in a basket. It's head lop-siding the weight balance.

He unlocks his car. Puts the basket in the passenger seat. Shuts the door.

He waits. The rain drenches him while he stops to think.

INT. CAR - DAY

Wayne gets in the driver side. Looks at the baby. An eerie beat. Looks at the dashboard clock: 07:08.

He puts the key in the ignition. Starts the car. Drives.

INT. SUV - DAY

07:56. Different car. Different dashboard.

ELEANOR ("El," early 30s, blonde, well dressed) puts her arm around JINNY (late 20s, Asian-American, comfortably dressed). A quick hug and kiss on the lips.

JINNY

Thanks babe.

El puts Jinny's hood over her head.

EL
It's all good. You sure you'll be
good to get home?

JINNY
Yeah. I'll be home before you will.

They hug tighter.

Jinny opens her door and gets splattered by rain right away.

EXT. KINDERGARTEN - STREET - DAY

RAIN POURS. Jinny keeps hold of her hood and rushes to the
door -- there's a basket on the doorstep.

El yells from the SUV --

EL
Bye!

She drives off.

Jinny's attention is on the basket. She kneels down to it.

JINNY
(sotto)
What the hell?

She moves the blanket and the baby's eyes meet hers -- she
stands upright in shock. Her hand over her mouth.

She looks around; El is long gone.

She opens the door to the kindergarten. Lifts the basket
awkwardly and takes the baby through.

INT/EXT. SUV - DAY

El drives through the rain.

Types on her dash-screen.

EL
(commands)
Call work.

DIAL TONE TRILLS...

SECRETARY (V.O.)
Eleanor Green's office, how may I
help you today?

EL

Yeah it's me. Rain's caught me, so I might be late. Has the first client arrived yet?

SECRETARY (V.O.)

Not yet Miss Green.

EL

Keep them away from the entrance. I don't want them to see me come in late, understand?

SECRETARY (V.O.)

No problem Miss Green.

EL

Great.

El taps the dash-screen to hang up.

INT. KINDERGARTEN - STAFF ROOM - DAY

The baby remains in its basket.

Jinny bites on a cookie. Walks with her phone in her hand.

SPLIT SCREEN - JINNY/PHONE

Jinny searches "abandoned children."

News stories pop up.

Jinny searches "what to do if..."

She eats the remainder of her cookie. Shakes her head.

There's movement in the basket. Jinny puts her phone down and walks over. The baby tries to sit up. *This feels like when the toys come to life to scare Sid in Toy Story.*

Jinny mouths "what the fuck" as she instinctively rushes over to it. She puts her arms either side of its body, ensuring its head remains leaned back against the support.

Jinny's eyes meet what the baby's been laying on -- paperwork. She makes eye contact with the baby. *This seems to last a beat. And still; the baby makes no noise.*

KNOCK AT THE DOOR -- Jinny jumps, startled.

She looks around. *Must be time to open up.* She awkwardly lifts the baby out of the basket and lays it in a play area.

JINNY

Coming!

She exits --

INT. KINDERGARTEN - MAIN DAYCARE AREA - DAY

Jinny marches to the door. Opens it. LAUREN (early 20s, bubbly) comes in, soaked from the rain.

LAUREN

Oh thanks -- sorry I'm late.

JINNY

You're good. Come in.

Jinny locks the door as Lauren goes toward the staff room --

JINNY (CONT'D)

Wait!

Lauren halts, turns to face her as she removes her coat.

LAUREN

What's up? You OK?

Jinny thinks on the fly --

JINNY

It er, might be dead today. Bad weather and all.

LAUREN

(nods)

Sure.

Jinny's on-the-fly isn't great. A beat as she searches for what to say next. Lauren begins to move.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Can I make you something? I wanted to buy more cookies on the way in --

Jinny goes after her -- Lauren's already through the door --

INT. KINDERGARTEN - STAFF ROOM - DAY

LAUREN

Got so caught up in traffic. I --

Lauren sees the baby and freezes. Shock. Wonder. Confusion.

Jinny's at her tail. She can't fucking explain it either.

INT. HOWELL TOWER - FIFTH FLOOR - DAY

DING, the elevator arrives. El exits and marches past the secretarial desk -- no one there. She heads to her office --

INT. HOWELL TOWER - FIFTH FLOOR - EL'S OFFICE - DAY

El wakes up her computer.

She sees the clock and -- a hand on her hip -- she jumps --

EL
Oh, jeez.

MAC HOWELL (late 20s. Cocky and expressively rich) stands smiling. He leans into El for a kiss. She pushes him off.

EL (CONT'D)
Stop, what are you doing?

Mac grins.

MAC
Thought a kiss would be a good way
to start the day.

El's eyebrows raise.

EL
I'm in work mode.

MAC
Weren't you working when we?...

El sits at her desk and types to log in to her computer, trying to busy herself.

EL
You have to get over that. What are
you doing here anyway?

Mac sits opposite El. Relaxes.

MAC
Dad had me come by. Wants me to
watch him finish some deal or some
shit.

El is busy on her computer, typing away.

EL

Well maybe you'll learn something.

Mac can see El doesn't have time for him.

MAC

You want er, want me to hang out
till lunch?

EL

No.

MAC

What seriously?

El looks at him. Mac's expression far less friendlier than
before --

MAC (CONT'D)

You can't just mess with me like
that. El, I --

EL

Mac I don't care. I don't care. I
have clients, meetings -- important
ones. Go do what your dad says and
leave me be.

She puts her attention back on her computer.

Mac slowly stands.

BEEP, goes El's desk phone. She touches a button --

EL (CONT'D)

Yeah?

SECRETARY (V.O.)

Miss Green, are you ready?

El looks at Mac.

EL

Mister Howell's just leaving. Send
them in right away.

SECRETARY (V.O.)

Yes Miss Green.

El looks at Mac. The expression says *fuck off*. Mac does
exactly that.

INT. KINDERGARTEN - MAIN DAYCARE AREA - DAY

NURSERY RHYMES play in the background as Lauren is with a number of babies and toddlers. Jinny was right; they're not exactly hard-pressed at work today.

INT. KINDERGARTEN - STAFF ROOM - DAY

Jinny looks at the documents from the basket. She studies them. The baby meanwhile; still in the play area.

Lauren enters. Passes Jinny.

JINNY
You good out there?

Lauren grabs diapers from a cupboard.

LAUREN
(nods)
I'm fine. Just can't believe what we got here. You read them papers? Any clue where the kid came from?

JINNY
(shakes her head)
No. This is medical information. Skeletal stuff and scans.

BABIES CRY -- Lauren swiftly exits --

LAUREN (O.C.)
Good luck with it.

A beat as Jinny looks at the documents. Information registers.

JINNY
(sotto)
Three brains?

A short beat to ponder.

She looks to the play area. The baby attempts to crawl; head first and aimlessly along the floor. *It's creepy, especially given the kid was only born that morning.*

Jinny stares at its attempts to move, almost in awe.

She finally rushes over.

INT. HOWELL TOWER - FIFTH FLOOR - DAY

El exits her office and goes to the secretary's desk to leave some documents there.

Mac walks by with his dad, DERRICK HOWELL (early 60s. Confident, but not as brash as his son). Mac goes to the elevator, but Derrick stops to greet El. He puts out a hand --

DERRICK

Eleanor.

El shakes --

EL

Mister Howell.

DING -- elevator arrives --

MAC

Dad?

Derrick takes El's hand in both of his, doesn't let go.

DERRICK

(to Mac)

Wait a moment.

(to El)

You've done a fine job of late.
Fine job.

EL

I don't book the meetings sir.

DERRICK

No, but as a recruitment agency our reputation is built on closing deals and putting our clients in high end jobs. You're, you're just fuckin' fantastic.

Mac's holding the elevator rolling his eyes.

El smiles at Derrick.

EL

I appreciate that sir.

MAC

Dad?

Derrick releases El's hand and starts toward the elevator.

DERRICK

You keep placing our clients
Eleanor. You'll move up fast in
this business, I promise you will.

EL

(nods)

Thank you sir.

She smiles. Derrick turns his back to step into the elevator.
Mac side-eyes El -- who flips him the bird.

The elevator door closes.

El looks up and around, realizing there are cameras
everywhere.

EL (CONT'D)

(sotto)

Shit.

She heads back to her office.

INT. HOWELL TOWER - FIFTH FLOOR - EL'S OFFICE - DAY

El sits at her desk. Takes a moment to check her phone --
multiple missed calls and texts from Jinny.

INT. LOCAL DOCTOR SURGERY - PEDIATRICIAN'S ROOM - DAY

Jinny holds the basket. It's covered up as she places it on a
table. The PEDIATRICIAN walks over and takes a drastic step
back as Jinny moves the blanket -- he gasps.

INT. LOCAL DOCTOR SURGERY - HALLWAY - DAY

Jinny sits in the hall. El approaches in a hurry.

EL

I got here as fast as I could.

They embrace.

JINNY

Sorry. I didn't wanna wait in case
the baby was in any danger. You
want a coffee? I can getcha
something?

El shakes her head. They sit.

EL
What's going on?

Jinny looks overwhelmed.

INT. LOCAL DOCTOR SURGERY - PEDIATRICIAN'S ROOM - DAY

Jinny and El stand side by side as the pediatrician talks to them. Jinny is close to the child. It moves gradually on the table. El is visibly a step back, albeit close to Jinny. El looks *scared* of the child.

PEDIATRICIAN
What you got here is a miracle.

A *yeah right* look from El.

PEDIATRICIAN (CONT'D)
The child's head does indeed carry three brains. Everything on the paperwork is accurate. I got in touch with the hospital and they said the mother died during childbirth. It must've been the father that dropped the baby to you.

EL
Why us?

Jinny looks at her. Turns her attention back to the child who awkwardly moves, a turtle's pace. They all stare at it.

PEDIATRICIAN
That I don't know. I'm happy to refer you to Child Services --

JINNY
No.

EL
(surprised)
No?

Jinny looks at El. Looks at the pediatrician. Back at El.

JINNY
No. I don't wanna give him up. This kind of baby, no one will want him. Hell you know how the world works, they'll probably experiment on him.

El looks at the child. Takes a step closer to the table.
Jinny reaches for a little leg, rubs it caringly.

PEDIATRICIAN

I can't promise anything on behalf
of Child Services, but I do know
that disabled or deformed children
don't get adopted for years.
Usually get allocated in the foster
system.

JINNY

Allocated? --

EL

That's something right? --

JINNY

(shakes her head)
This kid won't have a life.

Short beat.

EL

(to the pediatrician)
Can you tell us more about the
family? Can we find the father?

PEDIATRICIAN

The most I can give you is the
hospital name. But usually in these
situations the father is long gone.

Dejected look from El.

PEDIATRICIAN (CONT'D)

If you want to keep the child, I
can process adoption papers. I'll
get the senior doctor here to sign
off on them.

JINNY

Yeah --

El squeezes her arm.

EL

Can we talk?

BABY POV: it's looking at the surrounding adults. Seems to
focus on El's most unwelcoming expression.

INT. LOCAL DOCTOR SURGERY - HALLWAY - DAY

El looks at the child through the window -- it's as if their eyes are locked. The baby blinks and its eyes change colour, from denim green to coffee brown, *blink* -- to apple green.

Jinny snaps her out of the trance, holding her hands, flicking at El's wedding ring.

JINNY

What an opportunity we have.

EL

This won't be easy.

JINNY

No parent finds life easy.

El turns to face Jinny.

A beat.

JINNY (CONT'D)

Babe this --

EL

I know you --

INT. LOCAL DOCTOR SURGERY - PEDIATRICIAN'S ROOM - DAY

The pediatrician keeps an eye on the child. It shuffles on its back and turns over. Shuffles again, using its legs. It looks through the window on the door -- BABY POV: eying El.

INT. LOCAL DOCTOR SURGERY - HALLWAY - DAY

EL

You and I both have jobs --

JINNY

We'll make do. I'll run something from home --

EL

Quit the kindergarten!?

JINNY

I've thought about it. It's all I've done all day. I can become a nanny of sorts.

El shakes her head, unsure.

JINNY (CONT'D)

Really, it'll be fine. You can stay at your job.

EL

And the money? Raising a kid isn't something we planned.

JINNY

I know. Look if you don't want to...

Jinny looks sad.

El puts her hands to Jinny's shoulders. Hugs her.

JINNY (CONT'D)

I don't want the kid to be out there alone. I --

EL

We'll look for its father.
(opens the hug)
Is that fair? Try get him to take responsibility.

JINNY

Really?

El nods as Jinny's smile becomes wider.

INT. LOCAL DOCTOR SURGERY - PEDIATRICIAN'S ROOM - DAY

The pediatrician entertains the child.

Jinny and El enter and approach the table.

EL

Can you give us some time to look for the dad, before we sign the papers?

Jinny holds and squeezes El's hand.

PEDIATRICIAN

Few weeks. But I should talk you through a care plan for him. His head outweighing his body will mean that you need to try get the body to catch up. It'll take certain meal plans and frankly might not work at all, but you can try. And, his three brains --

El's looking at the baby's hands and at its feet; both seem to be webbed between fingers and toes --

PEDIATRICIAN (CONT'D)
 -- means that this child may not
 develop in a traditional way.

Jinny reaches to touch the child's hand.

EL
 What do you mean?

PEDIATRICIAN
 He's a day old and he's been trying
 to crawl. It means the child has
 three times the normal human brain
 power. It also means that each
 brain may carry its own
 personality. He might actually be
they.

JINNY
 Is that why he hasn't cried?

PEDIATRICIAN
 Possibly. At this stage there's no
 way of telling if the brains
 communicate with each other or if
 they're working as one. The child
 might be trying to do both.

EL
 Why's it trying to move so much?

PEDIATRICIAN
 Survival instinct.

JINNY
 Trying to get away?

PEDIATRICIAN
 No. It's searching. Maybe for a
 home. Maybe for its purpose.

EL
 You're talking as if it's an animal
 Doc --

JINNY
 (matter of fact)
He's not.
 (off eye contact with the
 baby)
 They just need some love.

El and the pediatrician exchange a look of uncertainty.

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jinny attends to the baby on the floor. She already has cuddly toys for him.

El is on her laptop on the couch.

EL

We have exactly three weeks. Three weeks to find the father of the three brained baby.

She sees Jinny who's happily playing. Concentrates on the laptop. Tabs and search windows open; "biological parents"...

INT. HOWELL TOWER - FIFTH FLOOR - EL'S OFFICE - DAY

El's on her computer researching the same things.

The clock winds forward into the evening. We see El go through a normal day; meeting clients and taking calls.

The clock rolls to regular speed and El's still at work. She clicks on an open tab on her laptop. She looks exasperated. Doesn't look like she's in a rush to get home.

INT. LOCAL DOCTOR SURGERY - PEDIATRICIAN'S ROOM - DAY

Jinny has the baby in a stroller. El is with her, but jittery. El checks her watch.

The pediatrician enters with paperwork.

EL

(to Jinny)

I have to go soon.

PEDIATRICIAN

Alright, paperwork is done.

Eye contact between El and Jinny --

EL

Work --

PEDIATRICIAN

Any luck locating the father?

A *don't ask* look from El. Jinny seems content.

PEDIATRICIAN (CONT'D)
 Alright, well if you two would sign
 here and here. You brought your
 marriage certificate?

Jinny looks to El.

A beat.

El realises --

EL
 Oh, right.

She takes their marriage certificate out her bag.

Jinny smiles as El hands it to the pediatrician.

EL (CONT'D)
 Will this take much longer?

Jinny rocks the stroller.

PEDIATRICIAN
 Almost there.

He marks off some paperwork.

PEDIATRICIAN (CONT'D)
 So... you guys got a name?

Jinny and El look at each other. *They hadn't thought about that part.*

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - BEW'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Jinny is by the door, watching.

The crib is much larger than a regular baby's bed. There's a newly made plaque above it; BLAKE EVAN WILLIS.

El arrives by Jinny, who smiles.

JINNY
 Baby BEW.

El musters a smile. She rubs Jinny's shoulders and seems to pull her away from the doorway. Jinny's happy. She closes the door as BEW sleeps.

FOCUS ON: BEW; they're not asleep. Blinking, their eyes continue to change between the three colours.

MONTAGE

-- Jinny is at home, looking after BEW, playing with him in the living room.

-- Jinny feeds BEW, all the while keeping their head upright.

-- El sees Jinny try to support BEW's movements. El just watches.

-- Jinny encourages El to play with BEW, but she's by no means a natural.

-- Lauren visits and plays with BEW, Jinny watches happily, but looks disappointed at El who's lurking in the doorway. El leaves.

END MONTAGE

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Lauren grabs her coat. Jinny follows her to the front door.

JINNY

Thanks for coming over.

LAUREN

Glad to.

She looks over to BEW who's asleep on the couch.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

I love the little guy. You sure you don't want me to hang out till El gets home? Give you a chance to have a shower at least?

JINNY

Hey, what are you tryna say?

They share smiles. Half-hug.

JINNY (CONT'D)

Thank you, but go. You've already helped so much.

Lauren exits.

LAUREN

See you tomorrow?

Jinny nods as she closes the door.

EXT. ROOFTOP BAR - NIGHT

LOUD MUSIC. Lots of people mingle with drinks in their hands. Derrick is in the mix, as is Mac.

El is by a balcony. Another WOMAN is with her, giving her a business card.

WOMAN

You can call any time.

El smiles, nods and takes the card.

The woman walks away and El lets the card go off the balcony. She takes a big gulp of her drink. Turns to the crowd and people-watches for a moment.

She spots Mac. He's flirting with what could only be an intern.

BUZZ -- El looks at her watch, a message from her secretary.

CHYRON/WATCH: CLIENT FROM VENEZUELA IS WITH THE DJ.

She puts her glass down and starts toward the DJ. There are three guys there; the DJ, a guy in a blazer, a guy in a white collar shirt.

Looks at her watch --

CHYRON/WATCH: WHITE COLLAR.

She goes to the guy in the white collar shirt -- big smile --

EL

(faux tipsy)

Hiiiiii!

She links the guy's arm and gets talking. Derrick notices this from across the rooftop.

INT. LOCAL DOCTOR SURGERY - PEDIATRICIAN'S ROOM - DAY

Jinny is all smiles as BEW plays on the floor. He's a little older, but his head still too heavy for his body to carry. Not a hair on him either.

Jinny is with the pediatrician at the table.

PEDIATRICIAN

He seems to be doing real well.

JINNY

I think they. They're responding individually to their names.

PEDIATRICIAN

Fascinating.

JINNY

I wanna thank you for keeping them, well their way quiet.

PEDIATRICIAN

Doctor patient confidentiality is a big deal. But I presume you don't get him out in public often? Sorry, them.

Jinny shakes her head. An understanding with the doctor that she keeps BEW home to protect them.

PEDIATRICIAN (CONT'D)

And how's your wife doing?

Jinny avoids eye contact. Clears her throat.

JINNY

It's been an adjustment, lets put it that way.

PEDIATRICIAN

Has she been there for you? For support?

Still no eye contact.

PEDIATRICIAN (CONT'D)

Are you alright financially?

Jinny smiles, nods.

BEW plays. Their head stationary, but the body moves around. *It's cute, not scary, as it might have been before. Eyes and colour changes seem welcoming...*

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Jinny pushes the horizontal stroller. Lauren is with her holding a basket.

JINNY

Grab me some of those?

Lauren reaches on tip-toes to get an item off a high shelf. Jinny notices Lauren's top lift revealing her tummy. JINNY POV: her eyes notice the curve of Lauren's ass. She blinks, looks away.

Lauren brings the item to the basket.

JINNY (CONT'D)

Thanks.

A couple of TEENAGERS walk by and glance toward Jinny's stroller.

TEEN 1

Oh damn --

TEEN 2

What the hell is that?

Jinny tries to move along quickly, but Teen 1 blocks the stroller with his leg. He leans over to take a closer look, getting his phone out.

JINNY

Can you not --

TEEN 2

Man, what a freak. Is this your kid? You gave birth to an alien yo?

Teen 1 tries to take a photo, but Lauren swats the phone out of his hand.

TEEN 1

Yo bitch, what the fuck?

LAUREN

Get lost, both of you --

Teen 1 picks up his phone. A CLERK comes by --

CLERK

There a problem here?

The teens back off, giggling and mocking as they leave.

TEEN 2

You see what I saw yo?

TEEN 1

I don't have evidence man, but shit

--

TEEN 2

Maybe we just high!

TEEN 1 (CONT'D)

Maybe we just high!

They cackle as they exit.

The clerk addresses Lauren and El.

CLERK
You two alright?

Lauren nods. Jinny's upset.

INT. HOWELL TOWER - FIFTH FLOOR - EL'S OFFICE - DAY

El's at her computer. She sees an email from Derrick;

CHYRON/EMAIL: VENEZUELA HAZZAA! GREAT JOB! PULL IN A FEW MORE FROM THAT REGION AND YOU'LL GET A PROMOTION. I'LL HAVE MAC TALK YOU THROUGH THE DETAILS.

El sighs. Types.

CHYRON/TYPING: VERY WELL SIR, LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

A beat. El ponders a longer response. Hits send.

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

El's by the cooker. Jinny enters, goes to wash her hands.

JINNY
BEW's down.

El cooks.

EL
Good.

JINNY
We missed you at the doc's today.

EL
It was all routine right?

Jinny nods.

EL (CONT'D)
So you were fine. You didn't need me.

She moves away from the cooker.

Jinny looks dejected. She notices El's wedding ring isn't on.

JINNY

I don't really think it's about me.
BEW is your son too. You could
spend more time with us.

A beat.

El opens some cupboards, moves utensils.

FLASH TO:

INT. HOWELL TOWER - FIFTH FLOOR - EL'S OFFICE - DAY

Mac enters. Closes the blinds.

El slips off her wedding ring and places it by her computer.
She moves to sit on her desk invitingly.

Mac approaches. Lays El back and begins to kiss her.

BACK TO:

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

EL

Work's just tough Jin, what do you
want me to do?

JINNY

Your work is separate from home. It
would just be nice to see you put
us first once in a while.

El is rough with clanging the utensils.

FLASH TO:

INT. HOWELL TOWER - FIFTH FLOOR - EL'S OFFICE - DAY

El is humped mercilessly by Mac. She lays seemingly glad to
take it.

BACK TO:

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

EL

First? I don't provide? That's not
putting you first?

JINNY
Us! See what I mean?

EL
 No, why don't you see that you
 aren't putting us first? That kid's
 ruined our whole relationsh --

JINNY
Kid? Kid?

El realises what she's said. Her mannerism calms.

EL
 Look I --

Jinny storms off, furious.

JINNY
 I'm checking on the kid.

EL
 Shit -- we need to talk about this!

JINNY (O.C.)
And why don't you have your wedding
 ring on?

FLASH TO:

INT. HOWELL TOWER - FIFTH FLOOR - EL'S OFFICE - DAY

El straightens herself up. Mac applies the belt to his pants.

El sits. Mac sits opposite.

MAC
 We make a hell of a team.

El smiles.

BACK TO:

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - KITCHEN - NIGHT

El sighs. Throws a tea towel at the worktop. Shakes her head.

INT. KINDERGARTEN - MAIN DAYCARE AREA - DAY

Jinny and Lauren are with a bunch of children including BEW.

BEW seems to be OK. With the back support; they're holding their head up. Their head doesn't align with their body.

The other children vary in their response to BEW. Some keep their distance. Some actively try and play/engage with them.

Lauren smiles at Jinny as they see BEW begin a head-stand --

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BEW's body moves and it manages to perform a head-stand. Jinny applauds cheerfully from the couch. BEW is a little older -- maybe only 7 -- but they're supporting their own head now. Their body's strong enough.

Denim blue eyes --

BLAKE

That was what I was trying to do.

With every blink -- apple green eyes --

EVAN

I wanted to do a cartwheel.

We notice each of them speak -- coffee brown --

WILLIS

Our arms can't reach above our heads, moron --

Jinny laughs.

JINNY

Guys come on, it's really good. You're working together.

El is by the door, looking in. Watching.

JINNY (CONT'D)

Can you get to your feet?

BLAKE

Alright, on my cue --

WILLIS

Why not my cue?

EVAN

We don't need a cue at all --

BEW's body moves and falls. They don't instantly stand and their head remains planted on the floor.

Any time any one of them wants to speak, it's their eye colour that is present. However, there doesn't seem to be a default; if they're quiet, the last eye colour is based on who last spoke.

Jinny's still smiling, as if she's seen a Jenga tower fall.

JINNY

Guys, go easy. You have to connect.

EVAN

Yeah, mentally.

Blink; from apple green to coffee brown --

WILLIS

Right.

Blink; from coffee brown to denim blue --

BLAKE

Right, so why don't you all take *my* lead --

Blink; back to coffee brown --

WILLIS

There is no lead --

Blink; back to apple green --

EVAN

There's no lead --

Jinny laughs and goes to help BEW upright.

El rolls her eyes and closes the door. Jinny notices.

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

El is by the cooker preparing a pot. Jinny enters, leaving the kitchen door ajar.

JINNY

Hey. I didn't hear you come in.

No response from El.

Jinny approaches, puts a hand on El's arm. We notice both their wedding rings are on.

EL
 (stern)
 What are they gonna do Jin?

Jinny removes her hand.

JINNY
 What do you mean?

EL
 Head-stands? Is that their future?
 They'll be a fuckin' circus act?

Jinny is taken aback. She didn't expect this tone.

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Our focus is on BEW as they are sat on the couch with a video game controller in their hands. BEW listens through the gap in the door -- all the while continuing to play the game --

TAP TAP TAP on the controller...

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

JINNY
 They're having fun, what do you want me to tell you?

EL
 And in the outside world? We haven't enrolled them anywhere. They've had no normality --

JINNY
 I'm trying to get them used to each other, before the big bad world. Kindergarten wasn't easy for them, elementary wo --

EL
 That's the real world Jin. You're coddling them.

El continues cooking, angrily.

JINNY
 I'm protecting them. What about you?

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BEW listens with his eyes.

JINNY (O.C.)
You could take them out? We could
even go to the park as a family --

EL (O.C.)
No we can't.

BEW's stoic expression seems to wilt.

TAP TAP, TAP-TAP on the controller. Body language *angry*.

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Jinny watches El make dinner --

JINNY
Why not?

El SLAMS a pot --

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BEW jumps at the noise.

TAP TAP, TAP.

EVAN
You jump?

We're used to the blinks/eye colour changes by now.

WILLIS
I did.

BLAKE
I did too.

EVAN
Listen listen --

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

El's cooking continues. Hot water boils as she grabs a bag of dry pasta. Jinny helps her lift the bag --

EL
It's not right, for me to be seen --

JINNY
With them?

EL
Right --

Jinny pours the pasta --

JINNY
Why the hell not?

El helps her with the bag. There's probably too much in the pot, but El takes the bag to seal it. Jinny turns the heat up.

A beat.

EL
My clients see me as a role model.
They need to see that I have
success --

JINNY
A family makes you unsuccessful?

EL
No --

JINNY
You're not rich enough?

EL
No. I am. We are --

JINNY
So what the hell? Why can't you
just be? Why don't you love them
like I love them?

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BEW looks toward the kitchen door and stops the game --

EL
I don't love them!

Our focus is on BEW's face. Their gaze stays toward the door.

Blink -- eye colour change.

Blink -- again...

A prolonged beat...

Sound of POTS. Pans CLANG.

BEW's eyes sad...

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

Jinny watches the pasta in the boiling pot. Looks at El. The pasta water begins to overflow.

EL
Shit, careful!

A stern expression on El's face as she turns the heat down.

Jinny's at a loss.

EL (CONT'D)
Look I don't wanna disappoint you.

Jinny smirks, nods --

JINNY
Oh you don't? That's not what
you're doing this exact very
second?

EL
It was always a tough ask, you know
that.

JINNY
It wasn't an ask. It was the right
thing to do -- I thought we were in
this together?

El looks at the pot. Monitors the heat.

JINNY (CONT'D)
You're supposed to love us,
supposed to be a partner to me in
parenting them. They're three
gorgeous boys --

EL
(yells)
They're not! They're not! They're
freaks with changing eyes -- you
can't pretend this is a normal life
Jin. I married you I shouldn't have
to live with *your* decisions.

JINNY

(angry)

It was *our* decision. And our vows mean nothing to you? In sickness and in health --

EL

Sickness -- exactly. Exactly Jin, there, you just said it.

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BEW's expression hasn't changed. They're still listening. Still angry.

The video game controller loose in one hand. Body language forlorn.

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - KITCHEN - DAY

EL

What they are is a sickness --

JINNY

That's not what I meant. I mean that you're supposed to stick with me, and I you, no matter what.

EL

This, this sickness isn't a no-matter-what situation. You chose this and it means I have to suffer. When was the last time we went out? When did we last go on vacation? We had a great fucking life and they --

JINNY

They ruined it. That's it? They ruined it?

EL

You're admitting it yourself. This life isn't the one I signed up for.

El looks at the pot. It's calm. Pasta cooked.

INT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Focus on BEW's face.

BLAKE
Just keep playing.

WILLIS
Can't.

EVAN
He's right.

BLAKE
Try guys.

A beat.

BLAKE (CONT'D)
Try.

BEW refrains from crying. The controller drops to the floor.
A beat on their sadness.

EXT. JINNY AND EL'S HOME - STREET - DAY

BEW is in an Uber. The driver closes the door, seemingly
disgusted by the sight of him.

Jinny loads a couple of bags in the trunk. She looks toward
the house. El stands in a window. Both of them carry the same
sad expression.

Jinny gets in the Uber.

JINNY
We can go.

BEW's eyes firm on El. She doesn't look at them.

The Uber drives down the long street. BEW's eyes fixed on El.
Blinks and colours change.

A long beat.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

TICK. TICK. TICK, goes the clock.

CHYRON: PRESENT DAY

BEW is all grown up (25). Their stoicness and expressions are
the same. They wear a smart suit. Their fingers large and
webbed. Their head square to their body, which is built,
almost bursting out of the suit. They've grown well, albeit
abnormally.

Their head remains significantly bigger than what's normal, but they have the neck muscles to support themselves. *Imagine Brock Lesnar's body frame with a Spongebob head that's 3x bigger than a normal skull, even uglier -- their features not dissimilar from Quasimodo of Notre Dame fame.*

A young woman, KEIRA (late 20s. She looks tired) is in the interrogation room with them. She's staring at BEW. They blink and their eyes change colour -- she VOMITS...

LATER

BEW hasn't moved. The vomit's been cleaned up, but there's a watermark.

KEIRA
Sorry about that.

A beat.

BLAKE
You weren't the first.

EVAN
Happens a lot. You lasted a few
Mississippis at least.

Keira nods. Ponders as she notices their eyes change colour.

Another beat.

KEIRA
You blink a lot when you speak. How
do I know which one of you I'm
talking to?

BLAKE
You don't. We're not here to make
this easy for you.

As Keira stares we notice BEW's eyes change colour without blinking. They seem to have learned how to control it.

KEIRA
Right.

A beat. Keira tries to be composed.

KEIRA (CONT'D)
Tell me what happened on the day.

INT. GROCERY STORE - SELF SERVICE - DAY

LATE TEEN BEW is packing their bags having done a shop. 3 SHOPPERS close by are laughing at BEW because BEW can't always grip their groceries properly. BEW looks at them.

A GUY rolls along in a wheelchair.

SHOPPER 1
(laughs)
Oh look, another freak.

BEW eyeballs the shoppers.

The guy in the wheelchair only has a few items on his lap, but he can't reach the self service screen. BEW goes to him, reaches for his items --

WHEELCHAIR GUY
Hey don't touch that!

The 3 shoppers laugh.

EVAN
Just trying to help --

WHEELCHAIR GUY
Don't, I didn't ask you to. I ain't know where your damn claws been. Look at you, so damn ugly.

SHOPPER 2
Ugly's right.
(laughs)
What is this store a collection of freaks?

SHOPPER 3
Is this the mutant isle?

BEW looks at the shoppers.

WHEELCHAIR GUY
I ain't with him you jerks.

Shopper 1 steps toward BEW.

SHOPPER 1
Looks like no one's with him.

Shopper 2 and 3 get closer too.

SHOPPER 2

Maybe we should see what he has
left after his shop huh?

SHOPPER 3

Or we could just take his shop.

The shoppers look around: no staff.

A fight ensues -- all three shoppers punch and kick at BEW.
But BEW is unmoved. He pretty much stone-walls them.

SHOPPER 2

His face! Punch his face --

The guy in the wheelchair meanwhile tries to scan his items.

BEW looks as if they're studying their opponents' hit
patterns -- there's no method to their madness.

Finally -- BEW counters. Their strength is beastly as they
move almost in slow motion.

CRACK -- goes shopper 1's arm.

CRUNCH -- goes shopper 2's knee.

BEW then sends shopper 3 flying into the guy on the
wheelchair. They tumble to the floor.

Shoppers 1 and 2 writhe in pain.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

A stoic BEW.

KEIRA

What happened with the wheelchair
guy? You didn't break any of his
bones?

EVAN

No. But he's filed some kind of
reckless endangerment complaint.

KEIRA

Did you apologise?

BEW looks at Keira. Eye contact averted by her.

KEIRA (CONT'D)
 And you admit that you hurt them?
 Broke the shoppers' bones
 intentionally?

BLAKE
 We defended ourselves.

EVAN
 We only told you what happened.
 Didn't tell you we did anything.

A beat as Keira gradually looks BEW in the eyes.

KEIRA
 What's that supposed to mean?

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - COURT ROOM - DAY

LOUD MURMURS from the onlookers in the gallery.

JUDGE
Order! Order!

The murmurs calm as we notice an almost fully grown BEW (19).
 Different suit to the one in the interrogation room.

The JUDGE (50s, stern but fair) commands --

JUDGE (CONT'D)
 To the stand mister Willis.

BEW's LAWYER (50s, grey and grizzled male) sits by BEW.

The jury watch. The opposition PLAINTIFF LAWYER waits.

BEW doesn't move.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
 Mister Willis. Blake Evan Willis,
 come to the stand, now.

BEW stands. A collective gasp from all in the court room as
 BEW's excessively large head is amplified upon standing up.

BEW walks to the stand. Sits.

JUDGE (CONT'D)
 You've been here before BEW. I
 address you as such as that's who
 you are, a single entity.
 (MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

You are on trial for a crime,
committing gross bodily harm to
four men. Do you understand that?

BLAKE

We do.

EVAN

Sure do, judge.

A beat.

The judge looks toward the lawyers.

JUDGE

Proceed.

In the gallery we notice Jinny. A few grey hairs, but she
looks much the same.

Plaintiff lawyer probes right away --

PLAINTIFF LAWYER (O.C.)

Mister Willis, could you tell us
about your upbringing?

A sad expression from Jinny.

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - BEW'S BEDROOM - DAY

BEW is maybe 11 years old. They're awkward on their feet as
they approach the closet. They open it.

EVAN

The yellow's good.

WILLIS

It's not, you have no taste.

EVAN

We're going to a party, what's it
matter?

BLAKE

I think black.

WILLIS

Black gets stains.

BLAKE

You make it get stains.

WILLIS

As if --

EVAN

We have to choose something.

Jinny enters. Her shadow overcomes BEW and they notice.

BLAKE

Oh hey mom.

They turn toward her.

EVAN

Mom, what do you think? Yellow shirt or black?

Jinny looks anxious to speak. A sadness in her eyes.

BEW sifts through some more shirts.

BLAKE

Wait.

A beat on BEW as they turn to face Jinny.

WILLIS

What's wrong?

Jinny sits on the bed.

JINNY

You guys wanna go to a park? Maybe we can go for a long drive?

BEW's eyes scrunch. Their arms slump.

BLAKE

We're not going to the party?

WILLIS

What happened? What excuse they got this time?

JINNY

(shakes her head)

It's not an excuse. But where they're going --

BLAKE

It's a jungle gym.

WILLIS

An obstacle course.

JINNY

Right. It means...

(takes a breath)

It means your head may not be able to fit in between the bars and cages. They called to say they didn't want you to get stuck, or be embarrassed.

WILLIS

Embarrass them you mean.

BLAKE

This sucks.

A beat.

BEW puts the yellow shirt back and closes the closet.

JINNY

Evan? Talk to me?

BEW awkwardly moves. Their head vertical to their body, unable to turn unless the body turns, like a person suffering from whiplash or wearing a neck brace.

JINNY (CONT'D)

Evan?

Blink; apple green eyes --

EVAN

Doesn't matter mom.

BEW goes to their toybox and pours out some toy cars. They sit and begin to play.

Blink; denim blue eyes.

BLAKE

Don't worry about it.

Jinny watches them with the cars. She looks defeated. Her eyes drip tears and she wipes them.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Keira's sat opposite BEW.

KEIRA

Why did they care about that?

BLAKE

Who?

KEIRA

The court. What's your upbringing have to do with why you hurt those guys?

WILLIS

Psychology. The kind of intruding stuff that they want you to talk about, just so they can conclude some kind of reasoning behind what you do, or what you did.

KEIRA

Was there a reason?

BEW looks at her. She immediately refrains from eye contact. *We notice their eye colour doesn't change. Only upon blinking. Maybe their staredown with Keira was a party trick.*

BLAKE

Isn't it obvious?

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - COURT ROOM - DAY

Jinny is on the stand. Her eyes look pitifully at BEW.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

Were parties all he was uninvited to? What about school?

A beat.

JINNY

School was something we tried for BEW. They went to kindergarten. Elementary.

Jinny spots Lauren in the gallery; a look of compassion.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

And then what happened?

Jinny's eyes go from Lauren to BEW. She then spots the door open at the far end of the court room. An older, maybe better kept El enters. An older Mac is with her.

JINNY

Schools wouldn't accept them.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Wouldn't accept them? Well why not?

JINNY
Other parents, they er, they argued that BEW was a distraction. That he would take away from their kids' education.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Some even said that your son, I'm sorry sons, were too scary to be around. Is that right?

Jinny nods.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER (CONT'D)
Out loud please?

JINNY
(nods)
That's right.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
So from a key stage in development. An early age where young boys want to roam and explore. They want to be free -- is it fair to say that BEW had built up an animosity to humanity, for the way he'd been excluded?

JINNY
(snaps)
My son is human.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA
Shit.

BEW hasn't moved.

KEIRA (CONT'D)
That must've been rough. So you didn't go to High School?

WILLIS
No. There were some schools that accepted us, but it cost too much for mom to send us there, so.

KEIRA

Did she claim any financial aid?
Maybe that would've helped?

BLAKE

We don't carry a disability or a
disease. Mom refused to treat us
anything other than normal.

A beat.

KEIRA

But, the world said you're not...
So what happened with your
education?

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BEW sits on the couch.

DING-DONG goes the door bell.

Jinny answers. A MAN stands in the doorway, looks at BEW. He
turns away.

MAN

Sorry. No.

Jinny looks over to BEW, a sorry look on her face.

MONTAGE

-- Another man at the door, turns away at the sight of BEW.

-- A woman at the door, puts her hand over her mouth and
pretty much runs.

-- Another woman at the door, turns away crying.

-- Jinny opens the door and there are flashes from a camera.
Jinny yells at them and slams the door in their face.

-- Newspaper images show BEW "the beastly boy" at home.

-- BEW's images reach national and international media.

END MONTAGE

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Keira seems angry.

KEIRA

Then what?

BLAKE

Mom tried to teach us. She studied to teach High School, but still teach us.

WILLIS

Shit for her 'cause she couldn't have a life of her own.

EVAN

That wasn't our fault.

BLAKE

It was.

WILLIS

We should've kept going when we had the chance.

KEIRA

Chance to what?

EXT. BUS STATION - NIGHT

BEW is 15. His body so large that it looks like a rug covers him. He has a make-shift "hood" covering his head as he walks to the ticket booth.

The TICKETER is uninterested. Inattentive.

BLAKE

Three --

BEW stops.

TICKETER

What?

WILLIS

One. Ticket for one.

TICKETER

To where?

BEW puts money on the counter.

WILLIS

Wherever this gets us.

BEW looks around. Keeps an eye on the computer, sees where the ticketer is sending them.

TICKETER
You need a return?

WILLIS
One way.

The ticketer counts the money and processes the payment.

BEW takes the ticket.

TICKETER
Stop five. It'll be there in twenty minutes. You want a membership or --

BLAKE
We're good, thanks.

BEW walks off, the ticketer finally looks up. Has no idea who or what he just served. *Expression shows that maybe the ticketer thinks twice on why this person used the terms "us" and "we."*

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - COURT ROOM - DAY

The plaintiff lawyer continues grilling Jinny.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Why did they run away?

Jinny doesn't answer.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER (CONT'D)
Because of you?

A death stare from Jinny.

JINNY
(quiet, almost talking to herself)
I did everything I could.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
I'm sorry can you speak up?

JINNY
I said I did everything. A mother looks after her kids. Nothing matters aside from their safety.

Lauren's annoyed in the gallery.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Safe? How did you make them safe
while they were running away?

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

EVAN
She found us. She came to the
station. Stopped the bus and got us
out.

WILLIS
Almost caused an accident --

BLAKE
That's mom. She'd do anything for
us.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - COURT ROOM - DAY

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Including lie?

BEW'S LAWYER
Objection!

The judge looks at the plaintiff lawyer.

JUDGE
Keep your questions succinct.

A beat.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
(to Jinny)
So you found them. Got them home.
Taught them a lesson?

No answer from Jinny.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER (CONT'D)
Were there any repercussions to
them running away? I'll ask openly;
were there times that you found
yourself disciplining them in their
lives? At all?

Jinny looks down.

El's eyes know the answer. Mac looks at El. He squeezes her
hand. She abruptly moves it from Mac.

JUDGE
 (to Jinny)
 You need to answer, please Miss.

A beat.

JINNY
 No I didn't --

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
 Sorry?

JINNY
 (louder)
 I didn't discipline them.

The plaintiff lawyer looks at the jury.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
 So it's fair to say that any human.
 Any normal human boy -- or boys --
 would feel pretty proud of
 themselves if they could get away
 with stuff right? I mean, a
 household with no discipline -- I
 know I would have loved that as a
 boy. I could get away with whatever
 I want.

Jinny's gaze is down.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER (CONT'D)
 Maybe, it's the mother that should
 be on trial here. Maybe, all of
 this is in fact her fault -- as a
 result of bad parenting --

BEW stands abruptly, their lawyer stands with them -- the
 whole court room faces BEW. They're quite a sight.

A beat as people freeze in fear of them.

JUDGE
 (stern)
 Sit down young man.

BEW looks at Jinny. Her eyes tell them to sit.

BEW looks around the court room. They spot Eleanor.

BEW blinks --

FLASH TO:

El looking at BEW through the glass pane of the door at kindergarten.

FLASH TO:

El standing away from BEW at the pediatrician's table.

FLASH TO:

El arguing with Jinny --

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA

Your other mom.

BEW sits, gritting their teeth.

BLAKE

She was there.

EVAN

She was there for that.

WILLIS

For the trials.

KEIRA

Did she talk to you? In between?

EVAN

No.

WILLIS

But we remembered her.

Keira seems astounded.

KEIRA

From when you were a toddler?

BLAKE

Even earlier than that. Our brains connect us to work our body, but it also connects the detail and capacity of our memory.

FLASH TO:

Eleanor at the window of their family home, avoiding eye contact with BEW as he and Jinny were taken away in an Uber. BEW blinks, each of them take a long look at El.

A long beat.

BACK TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

WILLIS
We knew her face.

EVAN
And her voice. Loud and clear.

Keira sneaks a look at BEW, immediately looks away.

A beat.

KEIRA
Can you go back to your education?

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jinny opens the front door. RAFA stands (late 30s, heavy accent Hispanic. Overflowing backpack over his shoulder). BEW is on the couch. Rafa smiles at Jinny.

RAFA
Miss?

He puts out a hand to shake Jinny's.

JINNY
I'm Jinny.

RAFA
Rafa. Thank you for seeing me.

JINNY
Sure. Come on in.

LATER

BEW is sat on a different couch. Rafa is on his knees by the coffee table. Jinny has documents in her hand.

RAFA
That's the idea I had to best feed information. I'm pleased what you say about their memories. That can make learning real easy, but there are practical elements I hope we can expand on.

Rafa moves pages around the coffee table.

RAFA (CONT'D)

If you see here, for the sciences
and phys-ed, we will have to go out
from time to time.

Jinny seems content. She looks at BEW. They're indifferent.

JINNY

(to Rafa)

You've put in a lot of thought of
how best to do this. But I hope you
understand how their development
has been different from other kids.

Rafa looks at BEW. Doesn't turn away. Doesn't seem disgusted.

A long beat.

BEW finally looks at Rafa.

Rafa smiles.

RAFA

I think we can do this.

Jinny smiles.

Rafa pats BEW on their leg.

RAFA (CONT'D)

So -- how is it we should speak?
Shall I talk to each of you
individually or --

BLAKE

Call us BEW.

Rafa notices the eye colour change --

EVAN

Yeah, it's easier. Else you might
charge mom for three students
instead of one.

*-- BEW blinks quite a lot. The colour/personality changes
don't seem to register with Rafa.*

Rafa points at BEW and looks at Jinny.

RAFA

Aah.

(laughs)

(MORE)

RAFA (CONT'D)
Funny. Real funny, good good. We'll
get along.

Jinny raises her eyebrows; *not so sure about that.*

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - COURT ROOM - DAY

Rafa is on the stand. The plaintiff lawyer questions him.

The stenographer types away.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Please tell the court for how long
you taught Blake Evan Willis?

RAFA
Just two years.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Was that before or after they'd
tried to run away?

RAFA
I think after.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
So he was a teenager?

RAFA
They were, yes.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
How was your relationship?

RAFA
(positive)
I'd say BEW is the best challenge
I've ever had. Maybe the best
student.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
I see. Did BEW ever talk to you
about things aside from school?

RAFA
I don't know what you me --

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Were there times where Blake, Evan
or Willis spoke to you and I don't
know, maybe told you something in
secret? Divulged thoughts to you?

RAFA
(nods)
Well, yes --

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Suicidal thoughts?

Jinny is in the gallery. She's sat far from El. Mac is no longer there.

Rafa looks toward Jinny.

RAFA
I don't, I can't speak of these things.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Why not?

RAFA
My student sees me as a confidant. Betraying trust is not in my nature.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
So there was something said?

No answer.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER (CONT'D)
Judge, may I take this moment to remind Rafa here that he is under oath?

The judge looks at Rafa.

RAFA
(to the judge)
It's private, judge.

The judge looks at the plaintiff lawyer. Looks back at Rafa.

JUDGE
Answer the questions. Completely and honestly.

Rafa looks at BEW; *sorry*.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

All's quiet between BEW and Keira, as if tumbleweed could go by.

KEIRA
So all that was true?

BLAKE
The thoughts were true.

EVAN
The conversations between us and
Rafa; true.

KEIRA
But there was never any truth to
the media?

WILLIS
They blew it up.

MONTAGE

-- Newspaper cartoons of a man the size of BEW trying to hang himself.

-- Social media gifs and memes of a "monster" without a neck trying to hang himself.

-- Mocking imagery of a "monster" not knowing whether he'd swallowed 300 pills or 500, showing that the monster is too supposedly uneducated to count.

END MONTAGE

KEIRA
My God. That must've been horrible.

EVAN
We felt for Rafa. He tried to have
our back.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - COURT ROOM - DAY

Picking up where we left off from Rafa.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Please tell us how the conversation
began?

RAFA
It was while we were out...

EXT. PARK - DAY

Rafa does sit-ups. BEW does press-ups. BEW's head is so heavy that it almost topples them to the grass, but their body strength is impressive.

Rafa sits to his side and grabs a water bottle, exhausted.

RAFA

Alright, stop, stop. You'll put me to shame.

BEW stops the press-ups and sits. His body had grown to be as wide as his head. A lot better proportioned than his early years.

RAFA (CONT'D)

You'll do great wrestling or any weight-lifting one day. Have you ever thought?

BLAKE

About?

RAFA

About? About what you want to be? What you want to do with your life?

BEW sips water. Looks around.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA

That was it? That was all he asked?

WILLIS

He asked that. We spiralled.

EVAN

Putting it lightly.

BLAKE

It wasn't that bad.

A beat.

EVAN

It could have been.

WILLIS

It wasn't.

BLAKE

It was just a thought.

By now Keira's puzzled which eye colour links to which of them is speaking.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Rafa sits with BEW.

EVAN

It's not that I haven't thought about it.

BLAKE

But we think the same on one thing.

RAFA

What's that?

WILLIS

Because it's the truth.

EVAN

Right.

RAFA

What, truth?

A beat. BEW moves and stands. Rafa stands and follows. *Rafa is aware that it's hard to know which of them is speaking without looking them in the eye.*

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - COURT ROOM - DAY

RAFA

They told me they didn't see the point in dreaming about a life. They told me they'd never be accepted, to go anywhere, to do anything.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

So what did they admit to you? --

RAFA

They thought about dying!

Jinny wipes a tear. Lauren is by her side, she puts an arm around her for comfort.

El looks agitated. She stands to leave. No sign of Mac.

BEW's lawyer puts a hand on his shoulder.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - FOYER - DAY

El marches to leave. Mac approaches.

MAC

Hey. I was having a smoke.

EL

Doesn't matter. Lets just go.

Mac follows her stride.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - COURT ROOM - DAY

RAFA

They told me; they had no dreams.
No foresight of possibility. I
realized these boys were so dark.
So daunted, I felt so bad.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

So what did you teach them?

RAFA

Well I did my best, to show them
life. I would take them out more
often. We'd exercise together, play
games in the park. I tried to show
them and often told them clearly --

Rafa looking at BEW.

RAFA (CONT'D)

You aren't bound by who you are,
you're amplified by it.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

Amplified?

Rafa looking back at the lawyer --

RAFA

(eager)

Yes. That they could do anything
and live lives of purpose.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

That they could do anything they
want?

RAFA

Yes.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

Absolutely anything, and get away with it?

A double take from Rafa --

RAFA

Well, no -- I mean --

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

Is it fair to say you helped BEW have a different take on life?

RAFA

I, I, I think so.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

Some might even say, you saved BEW's life am I right? Stopped them from committing suicide?

Jinny wipes more tears.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER (CONT'D)

Maybe.

(to the judge)

Dear judge.

(to the jury)

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury. Maybe it's Rafa here who should be on trial? Maybe it's his teachings that got BEW to be the way he is --

RAFA

No! I wanted the boys to be free!

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

Free from responsibility?

RAFA

No!

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

Free from repercussion?

RAFA

No, of course not.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

But given their upbringing and their teachings it seems like a recipe for a person to do exactly what they want and get away with it, ain't that right?

RAFA

No!

The gallery begins to MURMUR. The jury TALK amongst themselves, debating.

The judge bangs his gavel --

JUDGE

Order! Order!

INT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - EL'S BEDROOM - DAY

El lays lifeless as Mac has sex with her. He breathes heavily as he thrusts in missionary position.

El finally realises Mac's there. She puts an arm over him. Continues taking his pounding.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA

What was the lawyer's point? What was he getting at?

WILLIS

That we didn't care about ourselves.

BLAKE

So why would we care about what we did to others.

KEIRA

And the guy blamed your mom as well as your teacher?

BLAKE

Yeah. But the argument eventually backfired.

KEIRA

For real? How?

EVAN

Our lawyer was no chump.

KEIRA

What happened? What did he do?

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - COURT ROOM - DAY

BEW's lawyer stands and --

BEW'S LAWYER

I would like to call Doctor Penum
Curtis to the stand.

BEW's lawyer goes to the judge and hands over documents. Goes
to give copies to the jury as well.

DOCTOR PENUM CURTIS (South Asian female, late 40s, well
dressed and equally well-mannered) takes her seat on the
stand.

She's sworn in.

A beat.

BEW'S LAWYER (CONT'D)

Doctor Curtis, thank you for being
here. The reason I have asked you
in is so the court can get an
expert analysis on the state of
being of my client Blake Evan
Willis.

The judge looks at the documents, as do the jury. The
documents show BEW's brain scans over the years: three
separate entities.

BEW'S LAWYER (CONT'D)

What I wanted to get you to clarify
is that this person, while one
body, indeed is three people within
the shell of that body.

PENUM

Yes that's right.

BEW'S LAWYER

It's accurate and true, given the
images the judge and jury are
currently seeing, that BEW, without
a shadow of a doubt is three
people?

PENUM
Yes, absolutely.

BEW'S LAWYER
Thank you Doctor.

BEW's lawyer looks at the judge.

BEW'S LAWYER (CONT'D)
With this evidence in mind, I would like to motion for this case to be dismissed.

The gallery MURMUR.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
Objection! On what grounds?

BEW'S LAWYER
On the grounds that this case against Blake Evan Willis is a crime in and of itself against human rights. There is no way of telling who we are talking to, no way of addressing the matter against the actual culprit.

Jinny's proverbial jaw drops. Her eyes wide and hopeful.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER
(to the judge)
Judge this can't be. BEW is right there, we know that person has committed serious assault and battery here.

BEW'S LAWYER
Allegedly! And we don't. We don't know which of Blake, Evan or Willis supposedly committed this crime. For two brothers to go to prison for the crime of another would be unethical.

The plaintiff lawyer is lost for words. The court room stunned. The judge ponders.

GAVEL --

JUDGE
Order!
(beat)
(MORE)

JUDGE (CONT'D)

I am going to take this under consideration. Court is in recess. Recommence at 3PM this afternoon.

The judge looks at BEW's lawyer; *well played*.

BEW's lawyer turns to BEW: *we may have an out*.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - DEFENCE WAITING ROOM - DAY

BEW sits quietly as his lawyer sifts through paperwork.

BEW's lawyer stands as Jinny enters. He walks to her.

BEW'S LAWYER

How you doing?

Jinny nods. Looks at BEW.

BEW'S LAWYER (CONT'D)

You want a coffee or is there something --

Jinny shakes her head. Body language says she wants time with her sons. The lawyer leaves.

Jinny sits beside BEW. She puts a hand on theirs. Tries to make eye contact.

EVAN

Don't bother mom.

Jinny's expression is hurt. She doesn't know where to start.

JINNY

I, I'm sorry I --

She stops herself from crying.

JINNY (CONT'D)

I didn't know.

She reaches for BEW's hand. They're receptive. They finally look at her. *Their eyes a deep black; no colour at all*. A subtle gasp from Jinny, maybe in fear.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA

You were mad at her?

EVAN

No.

BLAKE

Not anymore, by then. But she thought we were.

KEIRA

Well I can understand. For a mom to find out her kids considered suicide... How was she?

EVAN

We reminded her it was old news.

BLAKE

She was... trying to be upbeat.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - DEFENCE WAITING ROOM - DAY

Jinny has BEW's hand. She tries to change the subject.

JINNY

I think we have a shot at getting you guys outta here.

BEW doesn't respond.

JINNY (CONT'D)

What's the matter? That not good news? Hopefully we can --

EVAN

Won't matter.

BLAKE

One of us did this.

Jinny looks closer at BEW. No deciphering the deep black eyes.

JINNY

(tentative)

Willis? Do you have hope?

A beat. BEW makes eye contact. *Pretty much eye contact with us from Jinny's POV. This is fucking scary.*

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA

Did you, have hope?

No response initially from BEW.

WILLIS

The law's the law. Someone had to be held accountable.

KEIRA

So what happened? Was there a fair way of dealing out a punishment?

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - JUDGE'S CHAMBER - DAY

The judge sits at his desk.

The plaintiff lawyer and BEW's lawyer enter.

They wait.

JUDGE

I've looked into the circumstances of this assault charge. What's fact is that Blake Evan Willis broke some bones, leaving a few people out of work and unable to commence their regular lives. For anyone to do this is simply unacceptable.

BEW's lawyer looks nervous all of a sudden.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

However, given the facts at hand and given the law about how we are supposed to protect people while upholding justice in a fair manner... I suggest what I consider a fair bargain.

BEW's lawyer looks upbeat. Plaintiff lawyer seethes.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

Bargain? Judge, who's gonna be held accountable?

JUDGE

There will be a fine to pay, to cover medical costs of the guys in hospital. And community service for BEW to see out. Until the fine is paid, he will be held here in solitary.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

I don't understand. You expect us to agree on this?

JUDGE

It's a suggestion. This court cannot be seen putting innocent lives to jail. What's obvious with this case is that there's a media frenzy and everyone wants to see the supposed freak show. That's not happening on my watch, so this goes down as quietly as possible, meaning BEW can maintain their dignity and their mother doesn't have to deal with a shit storm of press.

BEW'S LAWYER

I certainly appreciate that --

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

That all you got to say?

BEW'S LAWYER

The judgement's fair; no jail time.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

I can find more evidence, that they worked together -- they were all angry -- their cognitive instincts took over --

BEW'S LAWYER (CONT'D)

It wouldn't be fair, you heard what the judge said, just accept it. We can't put innocent people away for something they had no control over --

JUDGE

Enough!

Silence.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Talk it over with your clients. Get this damn trial over with.

The plaintiff lawyer storms off.

PLAINTIFF LAWYER

(sotto)

I can't believe this.

BEW's lawyer loiters for a beat.

JUDGE

There something else?

BEW'S LAWYER

I'm curious as to what the
community service is judge? I hope
you won't put BEW out in public?
He'll get bullied...

The judge nods in thought.

JUDGE

There will be a spot for him. Them.
They'll serve a purpose.

The judge hands BEW's lawyer a document.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Go and advise their mom of the
fine. Sooner she pays, sooner he
can be free. They, the sooner they
can be free.

BEW'S LAWYER

Thank you judge. You can be assured
our public statement will be ever
thankful for the way you have
conducted this trial.

The judge nods. The lawyer leaves.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - DEFENCE WAITING ROOM - DAY

Jinny holds the document from previous in her hands. BEW's
lawyer is there with her, as is Lauren.

BEW is being taken away by officers.

Jinny reaches for BEW, but BEW's lawyer holds her back --

BEW'S LAWYER

You can't.

Jinny looks at him, looks at the document --

JINNY

This price? I can't, I've never
seen money like this.

BEW's lawyer puts a hand to Jinny's arm.

BEW'S LAWYER

There's no time limit on it.

JINNY

There is! I can't let them stay
locked up. They'll suffer.

BEW'S LAWYER

I'll do what I can for their
community service. I've already
talked to the judge on that.
Hopefully it's something that keeps
them safe and secure. That's most
important right?

Jinny stares tearfully at the document. Lauren rubs her
shoulders.

BEW's lawyer leaves. As he does, Eleanor enters.

A long beat. Lauren looks at El, seems intimidated.

LAUREN

I'll give you two a minute.

Lauren squeezes Jinny's hand. Jinny nods.

Lauren exits.

El looks at Jinny unsure of how to approach.

EL

(uneasy)

There's money involved?

Jinny folds up the document and goes over to her bag, puts it
in. Her back half-turned to El.

JINNY

Is that what you're here to do?
Gloat?

EL

Jin.

JINNY

To tell me you were right? Tell me
I told you so?

EL

I'm not here for any of that. I
came to supp --

JINNY

Support?
(tearful)

Support?

(MORE)

JINNY (CONT'D)

Be there for someone you love,
someone you're married to, and now
you turn up when I'm at my lowest?
When we are in trouble -- you think
that's support?

El goes to stand by Jinny and she puts a hand on hers.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - CELL - DAY

BEW sits.

Rafa enters the room, on the other side of the cell bars. He loiters by the cell.

BLAKE

Thank you Rafa.

EVAN

Big time.

WILLIS

Yeah.

Rafa smiles. Steps closer to the cell. Holds one of the bars.

RAFA

I heard the deal, it's good. But, I
know your mom doesn't have the
money... I'm sorry. Part of life's
normality is laws and rules. It's
sad that you are here. You're all
so incredible.

BEW eventually looks at Rafa. *Deep black eyes.* Rafa doesn't look away.

BLAKE

You were never afraid of us.

EVAN

Never treated us any different to --

WILLIS

A regular human.

BLAKE

We do appreciate that. But none of
what's happened is a responsibility
on you.

Short beat.

WILLIS
That lawyer's an asshole.

Rafa nods in agreement. Smiles.

RAFA
Is there anything I can do for you
guys?

EVAN
Look out for mom.

Eye contact. An understanding. Rafa nods.

INT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - DISCHARGE - NIGHT

BEW's handcuffs are released. Guards either side of them.

Jinny signs some paperwork and BEW notices a cheque on the
desk -- *signed by Eleanor*.

Jinny smiles at the desk sergeant.

BEW's lawyer approaches.

BEW'S LAWYER
Ready to go?

Jinny goes to BEW. Puts a hand on their arm.

WILLIS
We're out?

BEW'S LAWYER
(beams)
You guys are out! I waited to make
sure it got dark to avoid much of a
media scrum. We'll go out the back
door anyways --

EVAN
Mom?

JINNY
(smiles)
It's all good, guys. There are some
terms, but you don't have to worry
about that for now. Lets get you
home.

EXT. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE - NIGHT

BEW, Jinny and BEW's lawyer use a back alley to get into a car. Lauren's in the driver seat.

INT/EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Lauren drives. BEW is uncomfortable. Jinny and BEW's lawyer settle. Jinny squeezes BEW's leg. Smiles at Lauren by way of the rear-view mirror.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA

Must've been a relief, getting out.

(beat)

You didn't seem too excited.

BLAKE

None of us were.

WILLIS

What was there to be excited about?

KEIRA

Freedom?

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jinny and BEW enter the apartment. Jinny removes her coat.

JINNY

You guys hungry? I have food I can defrost from the freezer? Who am I kidding, pizza right? I'll call for delivery?

BEW moves into the living room. Through to --

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - BEW'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

BEW begins to undress, getting out of their suit. REVEAL: They release contact lenses from their eyes and slide them in their case/solution. *We notice in their mirror; their eyes change colour when they blink.*

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jinny talks at them --

JINNY

You know, I realize you've been through a lot. Now you're all being so quiet, probably don't wanna talk, I get it. I just want you to know how brave you've been. How I'm proud of you --

BEW appears from out their room, making Jinny jump. *Regular eyes, Jinny seems to take comfort from their familiarity.* BEW's in far more comfortable attire. They march to the couch. Collectively sigh.

WILLIS

Proud of what exactly?

BLAKE

How you raised us?

Jinny looks at BEW, her cellphone in her hand ready to call for food.

EVAN

(to Blake and Willis)

Go easy guys.

Jinny goes to sit on the couch close by.

JINNY

Easy? You mean, go easy on me?

A beat as we focus on BEW. It's as if they're having an internal conversation.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA

You were mad at her then?

BLAKE

It was hard not to be.

KEIRA

Why? What did she do?

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jinny seems smaller somehow.

BLAKE

Of all the people --

JINNY
She offered --

EVAN
She kicked us out, mom --

WILLIS
Betrayed is the word. She's a
betrayed --

JINNY
But don't you see? You'd have been
locked up for months, maybe years
before I could raise that money.
And it's not as charity, I'll pay
her back.

WILLIS
So we're indebted to her? Cunt.

Jinny puts a hand on BEW's leg.

JINNY
Yes. Financially, for a few years
until I pay it off. But you're home
and that's the most important
thing. Don't look at the money as
coming from El. It's a loan guys,
come on.

Denim blue eyes.

BLAKE
Did you even want us home?

JINNY
(shocked)
What do you mean? Of course I did.

Apple green eyes --

EVAN
Guys --

Coffee brown eyes --

WILLIS
Shut up Evan. Let him ask. We've
been wondering.

A beat.

JINNY
Evan? Wondering what?

No response.

JINNY (CONT'D)

Blake?

A volcano erupts --

BLAKE

You never wanted us!

Jinny puts her hands to her face in shock. Tears form and begin to drop.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA

That was how you felt? All of you?

No response.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

But she was there throughout your lives. There through the trial, managed to get you out --

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

WILLIS

Out of duty, not out of care.

Jinny's tearful.

JINNY

How can you say that? I have always been here. I can't tell you how happy I am for the way you've all grown...

She wipes her tears for a beat.

EVAN

We remember mom. That's the thing. We remember when you once referred to us as a sickness.

BLAKE

It's why we wonder whether you love us or not.

Jinny looks at them.

WILLIS

Or whether you're simply a good person, always tryina do the right thing.

Jinny holds's their hands in both of hers as she kneels by their knees.

JINNY

You boys were never referred to as a sickness. The point I was making back then was to El. She was supposed to be your other mom and she was doing a shitty job of it. She wasn't supporting me and my point was that she was supposed to; in sickness and in health.

BEW looks at Jinny.

JINNY (CONT'D)

You boys are the best thing that's happened to me. I love being your mom. It hasn't been easy. But you know how grateful I am that you embraced your studies? Grateful that there aren't teenage girls breaking your heart? Grateful that you stand up for yourselves --

BLAKE

Even though we ended up in jail?

A light smile from Jinny looking up at BEW. She puts a hand to their oversized face.

JINNY

Grateful that you can take care of yourselves. I love you, so much.

Jinny stretches up and BEW leans over for a hug. BEW's eyes are closed.

BLAKE

We love you.

EVAN

I love you mom.

WILLIS

Love you.

The hug remains.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Keira sips some water.

KEIRA

So you and your moms cleared the
air?

No response, but their eyes say yes. Keira refrains from
looking any longer than she has to.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

How much was it? The fee to get you
out?

No response.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

Is your mom still paying El back?

Still no response.

A beat.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

Alright... Tell me about the
community service. What did you
have to do?

INT. JAIL - FRONT OFFICE - DAY

The office is a busy environment. Not much space between
desks and people as they climb over one another. Some are
desk sergeants, some police officers.

BEW arrives at the front desk and checks in. They're called
over to the staff entry door. They enter and they're given a
lanyard.

BEW looks around and realizes everyone has stopped what
they're doing. The staff look at him; some try to hide their
judgement, some not so subtle at all. BEW's handed a uniform
and pointed toward a place he can get changed.

INT. JAIL - CELLS - DAY

BEW is given a tour of the cells.

INMATE 1

What the fuck is that?

INMATE 2

Freak!

Inmates give BEW disgusted looks as the tour goes on.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA

What were you there to do? A
janitor's job?

EVAN

No...

INT. JAIL - CELLS - NIGHT

BLAKE (POSTLAP O.S.)

We were a warden.

BEW sits outside a row of cells. They're calm and unmoved.

A SCRAWNY INMATE hangs an arm outside the jail bars. He looks malnourished, almost like a zombie.

SCRAWNY INMATE

Hey... Hey you hungry? I ain't got
meat, but you won't mind that. An
animal can know through my bones.

(laughs)

Come come, eat me. Fuckin' animal!
Eat me I fuckin' dare ya!

BEW sits, unmoved.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Keira looks concerned.

KEIRA

That's a horrible place to be. The
judge might as well have put you in
jail, least you'd have a cell of
your own.

EVAN

The judge had his motives. I
figure, anyway.

KEIRA

Such as?

WILLIS

Such as toughen us up. The world's full of prejudice. I think it was his way of getting us used to it.

BLAKE

But it wasn't that, was it?

A beat.

EVAN

The judge was using us.

KEIRA

Using? For what?

INT. JAIL - CELLS - NIGHT

BEW is exactly where he was.

We hear VOMIT -- an inmate pukes.

INT. JAIL - FRONT OFFICE - DAY

BEW loiters, perhaps looking for instruction as to where to go or what to do. They overhear --

POLICE 1

Got DNA from the puke.

POLICE 2

That's great, now we don't have to wait on that court order.

BEW looks toward the police. Ponders.

INT. JAIL - CELLS - DAY

RANDOM INMATE (O.C.)

(yelling and screaming)

AAAAAHHHHH --

BEW sits at their regular spot.

Within a cell --

INMATE 3

Please go away, please go away --
No! No! AAAAAHHHHH!

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA

The perp was scared of you?

BEW smirks.

EVAN

Yep.

BLAKE

They all were.

WILLIS

We were giving people nightmares.

KEIRA

Even in broad daylight?

BLAKE

Most of them wouldn't sleep if we were there overnight.

WILLIS

Probably scared we'd eat'm.

KEIRA

What was the point of all that?

INT. JAIL - FRONT OFFICE - DAY

BEW watches as the desk sergeant completes paperwork.

BLAKE (POSTLAP O.S.)

The perps wanted to leave.

The desk sergeant date-stamps a document titled "confession."

EVAN (POSTLAP O.S.)

They were doing all they could to get out.

Inmates are released from their handcuffs.

WILLIS (POSTLAP O.S.)

Even tell the truth.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Keira sits avoiding looking at BEW.

A beat.

KEIRA

Is that what you do now? Sit in rooms like this, expecting to get something outta people?

BEW looks at Keira. She doesn't make eye contact.

A beat.

EVAN

We got lucky.

KEIRA

Lucky, how?

EVAN

After our official community service was up, we landed a job.

BLAKE

A promotion really.

EVAN

Suppose you could call it that.

WILLIS

And here we are now. With you, Keira.

BEW maintains their gaze on Keira. Suddenly there's a chill in the room.

Keira stands up. Nervously paces a little.

KEIRA

So you're here to what? Scare me?

BEW shrugs.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

You can't. You ain't even an official lawyer or cop -- whatever I give you won't mean shit in court.

Keira continues pacing.

WILLIS

You sure about that?

She ignores the question.

EVAN

How do you know we haven't already
got what we need?

She paces.

BLAKE

Maybe we didn't even need anything.
Maybe we just sat here minding our
own business.

EVAN

Wasn't she the one talking to us?

WILLIS

Asking all the questions --

KEIRA

Shut up! Shut up alright. What the
fuck --

BLAKE

Keira. We've been in here with you
for hours. Given your thirst and
now your sudden shivers... You're
going into withdrawal.

Keira shivers as she paces.

KEIRA

I'm not.

BLAKE

You are. You've been mistreated and
drugged for a long time. For
someone in your position, you know
you're in the safest place you can
be right now.

Keira's fidgeting increases.

KEIRA

And so what? I'm out the public
eye, big deal. I'll be back with
them soon, back at another party --

EVAN

You don't have to be.

WILLIS

You can take control.

KEIRA

I can't.

(angry)

I'm under their control, don't you get it?

WILLIS

Look we know that you get used and abused. We just want the names of the people that put you in the store. The name of your boyfriend.

KEIRA

Screw you; he's not my boyfriend.

A look from BEW.

BLAKE

But you know who we're talking about?

Keira's expression is searching for answers, but she knows. She definitely knows.

FLASH TO:

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Keira's in a puffer jacket and shades as she walks along the street and enters the store.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Keira walks past the service kiosk and toward the aisles. Posters of Keira in much more glamorous ways advertise perfume behind the kiosk.

She looks up and down the aisles. She finds some TEENAGERS. She goes to the teens and puts an arm into her jacket. Looks at them.

KEIRA

Don't buy anything, don't say anything. I need you to fuck off.

TEEN 1

Hey, aren't you --

The teens look at her. She shows them the back end of a gun.

KEIRA

Fuck. Off.

They leave.

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

As the teens rush off we see Keira through the window. She raises the gun toward the GUY in the kiosk.

TEEN 1
Call the cops?

TEEN 2
Yeah.

GUY (O.C.)
No, please!

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

Keira's pointing the gun toward the guy.

KEIRA
Where are the boxes?

GUY
They, they were late.

KEIRA
Late? So?

GUY
So what do you want me to do?
Please, tell your boss, I --

POLICE SIRENS wail.

Keira looks out the window in shock.

BACK TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

KEIRA
I don't know how those fuckers were
so close by.

BLAKE
They knew you were coming.

EVAN
Were expecting you.

WILLIS

Not her.

EVAN

Right.

BLAKE

Were expecting your boss.

Keira realizes --

KEIRA

No shit. A sting? Were the boxes --

BLAKE

Boxes weren't really gone. They were delivered as scheduled. Cops used the "lack of delivery" angle to anger your boyfriend and try get him to come ask the guy at the store himself.

WILLIS

Too bad they got you.

KEIRA

Yeah. You got me. And I told ya before, he ain't my boyfriend.

She goes to sit. She looks at her cup; no water. She stands to think. Fidgety.

KEIRA (CONT'D)

What happens now?

EVAN

Now, nothing. We're just sittin' here with you.

KEIRA

You can't just do that.

BLAKE

Why not?

KEIRA

Well what's the point?

EVAN

To put you in trouble --

KEIRA

Trouble? How the fuck --

BLAKE

You're not in the cells. You're not cuffed. You don't have a lawyer.

EVAN

Meaning that people in the cells think that you are talking to the police.

KEIRA

And? So what?

EVAN

So, the longer they think that, the longer time they have to think that you are ratting someone out or working out a deal.

BLAKE

Either way; as soon as you're let free outta here, you're in trouble.

WILLIS

With the boyfriend, among others, probably.

Keira looks at BEW.

She slams her hands on the table.

KEIRA

You can't do that. You get that I didn't call my agent or my lawyer because they got me in here with you? I know how your career's progressed, I know how this works with you.

WILLIS

So?

EVAN

We're not doing anything.

BLAKE

We're not cops.

WILLIS

Nor lawyers.

BLAKE

We're just making conversation. But if you do divulge the information we need, your presence in the investigation can be deleted.

Keira looks at them. She tries to focus.

EVAN

No association with the ex boyfriend. And you can go back to your music career.

Keira's look doesn't waver...

A beat...

She PUKES.

INT. POLICE STATION - FRONT OFFICE - NIGHT

BEW closes the *interrogation room* labelled door and walks through the office.

Some people look at them. Some don't. The office is quiet.

BEW goes to a printer and clicks on the keypad to get the transcript for the interrogation room.

The printer buzzes and proceeds. BEW waits.

SOMEONE IN THE ROOM

Freak.

INT. POLICE STATION - FOYER - NIGHT

BEW signs some paperwork. Passes it to the desk sergeant.

Lauren enters at the door.

LAUREN

Hey. You ready?

BEW follows her out the door.

INT/EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Lauren drives. BEW in the back taking up pretty much the whole space.

LAUREN
So? Is it better for you? How many
times did the girl hurl?

EVAN
Twice.

LAUREN
(laughs)
You have that affect on people. But
I'm proud of you, you know? Got
yourself a job --

BLAKE
We might have a new one actually.

LAUREN
Oh yeah? Wait don't tell me, your
mom will wanna know. Save repeating
yourself.

The drive continues.

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

BEW is sat on a couch, eating. Lauren eats too, close by.
Jinny enters, hangs up her coat.

JINNY
Hey guys.

Lauren stands and kisses her cheek.

LAUREN
Hey. We started without you --

JINNY
That's fine, I'm sorry I'm late.

Jinny looks at BEW, they exchange smiles.

JINNY (CONT'D)
You all good?

BEW eats.

JINNY (CONT'D)
(to Lauren)
Let me clean up. I'll join you.

Lauren sits.

LAUREN
(to BEW)
Your mom,; friggin' angel.

BLAKE
Don't doubt that.

LAUREN
I wish I could do more for her.

EVAN
You've always been good to us.

LAUREN
Yeah well, all this work must be driving your mom crazy. She shouldn't have to work shifts so late all to pay off the court debt.

WILLIS
That's why she's doing it?

LAUREN
You guys didn't know?

Lauren looks at BEW as they eat.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Good ol' Eleanor's going through another divorce. She's asked your mom for the money back ASAP.

BEW stops eating.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Bitch is making your mom suffer.

Lauren continues eating. Jinny finally arrives and sits to eat. Peck on Lauren's lips before she digs in.

A beat.

JINNY
(to BEW)
So? What's news with that celebrity today? You guys get what you need for the case?

BEW nods.

LAUREN
And, there may be a new job offer?

BEW nods again.

WILLIS
I'm thinking we'll take it.

EVAN
Agreed.

BLAKE
Yeah.

JINNY
(excited)
Well wait hold on, what's the job?

EXT. KEIRA'S MANSION - DAY

A vehicle arrives. BEW exits, dapper. They approach the front door. Two guards stand either side of the door. They allow BEW to pass through the doorway to --

INT. KEIRA'S MANSION - FOYER - DAY

Keira is present with her back to BEW. She's fiddling with flowers on a table under a chandelier. She's exquisitely dressed. Looks over her shoulder.

KEIRA
(smiles)
Hey.

BEW looks around, astounded by her richness.

KEIRA (CONT'D)
I'm glad you took up this job. As you can see I heightened my security.

EVAN
Keep the riffraff away.

Keira turns to face BEW.

WILLIS
Are we leaving right away?

Keira walks --

KEIRA
Not yet. Make yourself at home alright? Be five minutes.

Keira leaves the foyer and BEW remains. Looks around. The place is huge. *We've noticed their contacts aren't in.*

EXT. MUSEUM - DAY

Lots of celebrities.

Lots of press. E! News, CNN, SKY News, Fox News, BBC. Variety, Deadline etc.

A Humvee arrives.

REPORTER 1

(addressing her cameraman)
She may not be fully recovered
folks, but she promised she'd be at
this gala and she is --

REPORTER 2

(into a microphone)
Keira Priestley, a modern day
darling of Hollywood. The singer-
actor makes a public appearance so
soon after having overcome the
trauma inflicted by --

Other reporters MUTTER and gather around the Humvee. The being first stepping out of it is Blake Evan Willis. *Eyes a deep black; contacts are in.*

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jinny and Lauren sit on the couch watching the TV, seeing BEW exit the Humvee.

LAUREN

Look look!

JINNY

(smiles)
I know.

Lauren holds Jinny's hand.

On the TV screen there are tons of camera flashes as --

EXT. MUSEUM - DAY

BEW holds the Humvee door open for Keira. Camera's flash a-plenty. BEW doesn't flinch at the flashes.

They hold their hand out and Keira takes it as they begin to walk together.

INT. JINNY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Jinny and Lauren watch proudly.

LAUREN

This is the biggest gala this city's ever seen. Everyone's gonna be talking about BEW.

JINNY

(smiles)

In a positive way. They could've kept their contacts off though.

LAUREN

Ah, you know the press. BEW don't trust'm.

She squeezes Jinny's hand.

On the TV the press go wild with camera flashes and questions. Keira politely smiles and doesn't answer any of them. BEW is close by her at all times, hand in hand.

EXT. KEIRA'S MANSION - NIGHT

Lauren's car pulls up and BEW exits the mansion. They enter the back seat of the car.

INT/EXT. CAR - NIGHT

Lauren drives. She seems pretty happy.

LAUREN

Your mom and I downloaded all the pictures. That gala had every celebrity going. Gosh, weren't you excited?

BEW seems unmoved in the back seat.

Lauren looks at them in the rearview mirror. *Deep black eyes.*

LAUREN (CONT'D)

What's the matter?

A beat.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Tell me, or you want your mom to grill you?

A look from BEW...

EVAN

I thought it was fun.

WILLIS

We were arm candy.

EVAN

So what? We got paid to be there.
That'll help mom.

Lauren in the rearview --

LAUREN

It will help her. Did Keira say if
this will be a permanent thing?

BLAKE

So long as we appear in public with
her, yeah.

WILLIS

Seems like we're improving her rep.
As she's so *welcoming* and so *kind*
to allow us to hang out with her.

Lauren looks at BEW via the rearview. She's coming to
understand.

LAUREN

Is she disingenuous, when you talk?

EVAN

No.

LAUREN

She mistreat you, or mock you?

WILLIS

No.

LAUREN

Then good. You're there to do a
job. If things are cordial, just
enjoy it. Hey, better than being at
the jail right?

BEW nods. A beat as Lauren drives.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Well I'm proud of you. Your mom is
too, obviously. You're brave,
you're steadfast.

(MORE)

LAUREN (CONT'D)

You're out in the public eye. Got yourself some respect. After everything, you guys just amaze me -
- you can do anything.

BEW sits pondering.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

To think how far you've come. I mean I still can't believe how you guys actually beat the system.

BLAKE

What do you mean?

LAUREN

Well think about it right? You avoided jail time and got yourself a career -- after beating people up. You got off on a technicality that no one can argue with. None of you can be trialled for a crime, ever. Because there's no real way of a lawyer to prove which one of you did it. You can get away with anything. And now after a few years getting confessions outta people, you're basically a model. An Escort, without the sex --

Lauren suddenly glances from the rearview to over her shoulder --

LAUREN (CONT'D)

Wait, are you fucking her?

Death stare from BEW with those deep black eyes. Lauren turns back to focus on driving.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

You're not fucking her. What was I thinking.

The drive goes on. BEW looks out the window. Lauren continues TALKING, but it's all background noise as we focus on BEW and the journey.

A beat.

Suddenly --

BLAKE

Hey, can you drop us here?

LAUREN
Here?

WILLIS
Now.

BLAKE
Yeah, just pull over.

Lauren stops the car.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

Lauren winds down her window as BEW exits the car. We notice their contact lens case in their hand. They seem to be thinking about something.

LAUREN
You guys alright?

EVAN
Sure, we just need a debrief.

BLAKE
And a walk. Home's not far, we'll be back at the apartment soon.

Lauren looks up and down the street.

LAUREN
You sure? I can wait? Or go pick up some food and come back for ya?

WILLIS
It's fine.

BLAKE
Really. We'll see you at home.

Lauren shrugs and drives away.

A beat as BEW looks around. They put their contact lens case back in their pocket. They walk...

A FEW BLOCKS OVER

BEW walks, seemingly searching for something.

WILLIS
I know it was round here.

EVAN

I do too, but maybe she changed the door? Or the lawn's changed?

They walk for a beat.

They look toward a familiar house. Recognition. *We've been here before.*

EXT. ELEANOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Seems like there's a house party going on.

BEW loiters. They eventually approach the house.

El answers. Her body language coils, but she immediately steps out onto the porch with BEW. BEW's gaze is low.

EL

(tentative)

What are you doing here?

BEW tries to look through the gap in the doorway. El notices the black of their eyes. She's scared.

EL (CONT'D)

I'd invite you in, but the -- well I have people over. I'm kinda busy celebrating my divorce, you know?

BEW looks through the windows.

EL (CONT'D)

Really, if you wanna come over another time, I can give you my nu -

-

-- BEW's hands reach for El's face; one on the side of her head, one on her jaw -- CRACK...

El's body drops to the ground.

BEW's black eyes are deeper and darker than ever. No remorse. *In fact they might've enjoyed their crime.*

They close the door gently.

Walk away from the porch.

Walk down the street.

THE END