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LAW & ORDER:

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

"RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON"

Written by

Warren Leight & Julie Martin

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LAW & ORDER:SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT"RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON"CASTCHARACTERACTOR

CAPT. OLIVIA BENSON MARISKA HARGITAY
SGT. ODAFIN TUTUOLA ICE T
DET. AMANDA ROLLINS KELLI GIDDISH
ADA DOMINICK "SONNY" CARISI, JR. PETER SCANAVINO
OFC. KATRIONA "KAT" AZAR TAMIN JAMIE GRAY HYDER
DEPUTY CHIEF CHRISTIAN GARLAND DEMORE BARNES

DET. ELLIOT STABLER CHRISTOPHER MELONI
JACOB PETERS ALEX BREAUX

YURI LENSKI
COUNSELOR STEPHEN CRYER ERIC KIRCHBERGER
SACHA LENSKI JESS BARBAGALLO
KATHY STABLER ISABEL GILLIES
CARL DERASI LOUIS VANARIA
DICKIE STABLER JEFFREY SCAPERROTTA
CORRECTION OFFICER
JUDGE COLIN MCNAMARA STEPHEN BRADBURY
COUNSELOR SPENCER COCHRAN * MATTHEW RAUCH
NURSE
KATHLEEN STABLER ALLISON SIKO
DOCTOR
UNI #1 GIOVANNA WONG-BROWN
EMT #1 CEZAR WILLIAMS
SGT. PHOEBE BAKER [OMITTED] *
DETECTIVE TK [OMITTED] *

LAW & ORDER:

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

"RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON"

SETS

INTERIORS:

PRECINCT
SQUADROOM
BENSON'S OFFICE
BREAK AREA *
INTERROGATION ROOM #1

ARRAIGNMENT COURT
COURTHOUSE
CONFERENCE ROOM
ROTUNDA
ONE-P-P
CHIEF GARLAND'S OFFICE
MERCY HOSPITAL
CHAPEL
CORRIDOR
KATHY'S ROOM
WAITING ROOM
GREEN HAVEN PRISON
MEETING ROOM
RIKERS
CELL
HALLWAY

DERASI AUTO BODY SHOP *
RESTAURANT
BAR
BENSON'S SUV
FIN'S SUV

EXTERIORS:

QUEENS *
IRON TRIANGLE *
DERASI AUTO BODY SHOP *
CSU AUTO BODY SHOP
GREEN HAVEN PRISON
SALLY PORT
PRECINCT ROOFTOP
MIDTOWN STREET
DOWNTOWN STREET
STREET NEAR MERCY HOSPITAL *
MERCY HOSPITAL

VEHICLES:
BENSON'S SUV
FIN'S SUV
SQUAD CARS
AMBULANCE
FORENSIC FLATBED TRUCK
RENTAL CAR
CADILLAC
FIRE ENGINE *

LAW & ORDER:SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT"RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON"TEASER

FADE IN

1 EXT. MIDTOWN STREET/INT. BENSON'S SUV - NIGHT ONE 1

RAIN. BENSON drives. Anxious. Her phone buzzes -- she looks at caller ID: Fin. As Benson ignores the call -- *

CUT TO:

2 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT ONE 2

CU FIN, in suit, hanging up cell. PULL BACK to REVEAL a socially-distanced event. Signage behind podium: "NYPD Honors Women in Law Enforcement." Fin crosses to ROLLINS, CARISI, KAT, who hold drinks. *

ROLLINS

Where's Liv?

FIN

Went straight to voicemail.

KAT

But she's on her way, though? *

CARISI

I'm sure she'll be here.

ROLLINS

The Zoom goes live in five minutes, I'm supposed to introduce her. *

FIN

Worst case, you might have to read her speech, too. *

ROLLINS

Seriously? *

FIN

You'll be fine. Just use your hands when you talk. *

Off our guys --

CUT TO:

3

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET/INT. BENSON'S SUV - NIGHT ONE

3

RAIN CONTINUES. On Benson's face, as SUV pulls up to taped-off crime scene. A half-dozen squad cars, cherries flashing. Bomb Squad van, fire engine, ambulance on scene. A car-bombed rental car smokes and smolders. Benson emerges from SUV, flashes badge to UNI #1 --

*

BENSON

Captain Benson -- What happened here?

UNI #1

Car bomb. The vic, she barely survived, they're taking her to Mercy --

*

Benson and Uni #1 walk toward EMTs, who load unconscious, wounded KATHY STABLER into back of ambulance --

*

BENSON

Kathy --

Benson tries to approach, EMT #1 pushes by her --

EMT #1

-- We've got to go --

EMTs load Kathy in, put oxygen mask on her, slam ambulance door closed -- ambulance heads off, SIREN BLARING -- On Benson's face, hear --

*

STABLER (O.S.)

Liv --

Benson turns to see ELLIOT STABLER, in a suit, grim-faced -- approaching -- Stabler stumbles toward her -- anguished --

BENSON

Elliot...

STABLER

They tried to kill her... They tried to kill Kathy.

RAIN CONTINUES. Off Benson -- looking to Stabler --

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

4 EXT. MERCY HOSPITAL - NIGHT ONE 4

Benson waits. Off her face -- FLASHBACK TO 909
"Paternity." Benson with Kathy in back of ambulance.

FIN (O.S.)

Liv --

Benson breaks out of flashback, looks up -- sees Fin --

BENSON

Fin...

FIN

You okay?

BENSON

I followed Elliot here, I barely had a
chance to talk to him... They're taking
Kathy into surgery... How did this
happen? -- Why --

FIN

Uni at the scene said it was a rental,
parked on the street, Kathy started the
car, boom. Bomb squad says it
misfired. Threw her clear.

BENSON

A rental car? Where are they in from?

FIN

They've been living in Italy. Elliot
had to fly in for some task force
meetings, he and Kathy decided to make
a trip out of it.

(off Benson)

I might have mentioned your award... I
felt like enough time had gone by
between you two... He said he wanted to
surprise you.

BENSON

Well, he did. Task force? Who's he
working for?

FIN

NYPD.

(off Benson)

(MORE)

CONTINUED

FIN (CONT'D)

He's their International Liaison in Rome.

BENSON

-- Since when? --

FIN

Liv, that's all I got. You'll have to ask him.

At this -- Benson and Fin are joined by haggard Stabler --

STABLER

Fin...

FIN

I'm here, whatever you need.

BENSON

How's Kathy?

STABLER

Still in surgery. Burns, concussion, fractured pelvis...

Benson looks to Stabler, as he goes into cop mode to Fin --

STABLER (CONT'D)

What do we know?

FIN

Nothing yet. Local precinct's canvassing, explosion guys are tearing the car apart.

(to Benson)

Rollins is still at the scene, okay if I head back?

Off Benson's nod, Fin looks to Stabler, goes. Stabler looks to Benson -- silent moment --

STABLER

... She shouldn't even have been driving... I had to take a call... I stepped away, gave her the keys... She was worried about being late for your award...

(off Benson)

I should have let you know we were coming... I'm sorry, I just...

BENSON

Not the time, not the place.

CONTINUED

4

Stabler nods, the stress wearing on him -- a beat --

*

STABLER

Tell me she's going to be okay.

BENSON

Kathy's a fighter, Elliot.

Stabler wants to believe this. Benson puts a hand on his arm. Now DICKIE STABLER and KATHLEEN STABLER arrive --

DICKIE

Dad -- what the hell happened? --

STABLER

(masking stress)

-- We're not sure -- she's alive. For now, that's the good news.

*

KATHLEEN

Olivia... You're here --

BENSON

Of course... just trying to help.

*

Stabler nods at Benson, takes Dickie and Kathleen under each arm -- walks away. Off Benson --

*

*

CUT TO:

5

INT. BREAK AREA/SQUADROOM/BENSON'S OFFICE - NIGHT ONE

5

*

Benson walks with Kat, who having just changed clothes, closes her locker --

*

*

BENSON

Anything yet?

KAT

Nothing. Car was parked under the bridge. No witnesses.

*

*

BENSON

Traffic cams?

*

*

KAT

Still going through footage.

*

*

*

(off Benson)

Also, may be unrelated, but there was a curfew protest just south on Centre Street, guys in pick-up trucks and flags, met by counter-protesters -- went from a brawl to a riot. Someone started targeting cops.

*

*

(MORE)

CONTINUED

KAT (CONT'D)

Two police vans were set on fire, over
on Madison Street.

BENSON

A few blocks from where their rental
car got blown up. Any arrests?

KAT

A dozen, maybe.

BENSON

Talk to all of them.

GARLAND enters -- Benson, Garland head to Benson's Office --

GARLAND

Captain, I heard what happened. How's
the victim?

BENSON

Seriously injured. But hanging on.

(off Garland)

Just so you know, she's the wife of my
former partner. Detective Elliot
Stabler.

GARLAND

So I was told. I thought he left the
force.

BENSON

He did... but apparently he's now
NYPD's man in Rome.

GARLAND

Any idea why he's in town?

BENSON

Some department meetings, I'm not sure.

GARLAND

Local precinct on the scene?

BENSON

They're doing what they can, but you
know they had a riot tonight.

GARLAND

I'm aware. Cops were targeted. Were
the Stablers driving an NYPD vehicle?

BENSON

It was a rental.

(off Garland)

(MORE)

CONTINUED

5

BENSON (CONT'D)

I'm close to the family, I'd like us to
take the lead on this.

GARLAND

Family. He's got kids?

BENSON

Five. I've known them since they were
in diapers.

GARLAND

I'll put in a call to One-P-P. To be
clear, you're running the
investigation, not him.

Off Benson, nodding --

CUT TO:

6

EXT. DOWNTOWN STREET - NIGHT ONE

6

Fin joins Rollins, UNIS, ARSON & EXPLOSION UNIT, who work
scene, keeping LOOKIE-LOOS back. CSU AUTO UNIT has just
finished putting remains of rental car onto FORENSIC
FLATBED TRUCK. Rollins looks to Fin, off remains of car --

ROLLINS

How's Kathy?

FIN

Touch and go.

ROLLINS

She's lucky to be alive. Arson thinks
the blast must have gone up and back,
throwing her out before the fireball.

FIN

Any witnesses?

ROLLINS

Quiet block. The action was on Centre
Street.

(re: rental car)

The car had a NYPD placard in the
windshield. Local detectives were
asking if any of the protesters knew
about the NYPD award ceremony?

FIN

How would anyone know that?

CONTINUED

ROLLINS

I don't know, Fin, one of the cater waiters? After the election, lockdowns, it's not like everybody's loving the NYPD --

Before Fin can answer, he gets a call --

FIN

(into phone)

Sergeant Tutuola... Okay.

(hangs up; to Rollins)

Intelligence picked up a guy who threw a Molotov cocktail into an empty police van, three blocks south. They're bringing him in.

Off Fin and Rollins --

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM #1 - NIGHT ONE

Fin and Rollins, with iPad, question JACOB PETERS (30s, white, black paramilitary garb), who leans in, obsessed.

JACOB

The government is using the pandemic as an excuse to deprive us of our liberty. If my brothers and I don't fight back now, we'll lose all our rights.

ROLLINS

Fight back? By bombing police cars?

Fin shows iPad photo of burning police van.

FIN

You did this?

JACOB

That's antifa.

FIN

How about this?

Fin shows more clear photo of Jacob, lighting a Molotov cocktail near a squad car --

JACOB

Proves my point. Big Brother is everywhere, cell phone monitoring, facial recognition --

CONTINUED

7

ROLLINS

So it is you?

*

JACOB

This isn't real. Someone Photoshopped
me into this. I'm being set up.

Off Fin and Rollins --

*

CUT TO:

8

INT. BENSON'S OFFICE - NIGHT ONE

8

Benson, Carisi, Kat watch Fin, Rollins, Jacob in I.R. #1 --

*

BENSON

Jacob Peters, unemployed. Five arrests
last year, all at protests, for arson,
vandalism, brandishing a gun, attacking
marchers, punching reporters.

KAT

He's right about Big Brother. I was able
to get his Google search history, he's
been going down a rabbit hole of YouTube
conspiracy videos, ten, twelve hours a
day for the last five years.

BENSON

He believes Covid's a hoax, the election
was rigged, liberals are all pedophiles.
He shows up at rallies, sometimes in
militia garb, sometimes in antifa black,
tears everything up.

CARISI

So he basically likes chaos. He hasn't
asked for a lawyer?

BENSON

Not yet.

CARISI

Good. Better, anything to put him near
Kathy Stabler's blast?

KAT

No. But he was IDed by multiple UCs
tonight as an instigator who threw
Molotov cocktails into two police
vehicles. And he had explosives and
accelerants in his backpack.

During this -- Stabler enters -- goes to window --

CONTINUED

STABLER

This the guy --

BENSON

Elliot --

STABLER

Patrolman at the hospital said you
picked up a suspect.

BENSON

We just started talking to him.

They watch into Interrogation Room #1 --

JACOB (ON INTERCOM)

It doesn't matter what I say, you're
just going to railroad me.

ROLLINS (ON INTERCOM)

That's not what we're doing -- I know
what you're talking about when you say
we're losing our rights. You have a
lot of support among cops.

*

JACOB (ON INTERCOM)

I know. So you understand, if we don't
bring things to a head, fast, you'll
all lose your guns, too --

BACK TO Benson, Carisi, Kat, Stabler --

STABLER

What's his deal? He's targeting cops,
to protect cops?

KAT

The world's changing, guys like him are
losing their power -- this is how they
fight back --

STABLER

Elliot Stabler, and you are --

KAT

Officer Kat Tamin --

CARISI

ADA Dominick Carisi --

STABLER

The ADA's here, so you think he's good
for this?

CONTINUED

CARISI

We know he's good for two other fire bombs, on cop cars, tonight.

BENSON

He's got a record, he's been escalating.

STABLER

How would he make me and Kathy as cops?

BENSON

You had a placard in your windshield.

They all turn back to window --

JACOB (ON INTERCOM)

You want to take me down for this, you're just playing into their hands.

FIN (ON INTERCOM)

So it wasn't you. Maybe you saw something?

*

Fin shows photo of Kathy's bombed rent-a-car on iPad.

*

FIN (ON INTERCOM) (CONT'D)

How about this car? The woman inside might not make it.

*

JACOB (ON INTERCOM)

That blast, I heard. I was half a block away --

ROLLINS (ON INTERCOM)

So you were nearby --

Stabler reacts, looks to Benson --

STABLER

Let me talk to him?

Stabler moves toward door to Interrogation Room #1 --

BENSON

Elliot, I can't --

STABLER

He puts himself half a block away. Close enough for him to see her get in, set the bomb off remotely --

BENSON

Possible --

CONTINUED

STABLER

It's an opening. Let's work it.

*

CARISI

Detective, all due respect, you shouldn't even be in the squadroom right now.

STABLER

Said the lawyer to the cop. Sorry.

(off them)

Guys like this, whatever their stripes, basically they're terrorists. I've worked a lot of these cases the last few years. I need to talk to this guy.

BENSON

You need to be at the hospital.

STABLER

Liv, I give you my word, I'll behave.

Off Benson, reluctantly nodding --

CUT TO:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM #1 - NIGHT ONE

Benson and Stabler now join Fin and Rollins with Jacob. On table, iPad photo of Kathy's bombed car. Stabler, trying to be a changed cop, keeping it together.

*
*
*

BENSON

Fin, Rollins, can you give me and Detective Stabler the room?

*
*
*

ROLLINS

Of course.

*
*

FIN

No problem, Captain.

*
*

Fin and Rollins eyeball Stabler, exit. Benson, to Jacob --

*

BENSON

I'm Captain Benson, and this is Detective Stabler.

*
*
*

STABLER

Terrorism Task Force.

*

JACOB

You think I'm a terrorist now?

CONTINUED

STABLER

Not saying that. Tell me about
yourself. Who you're with.

JACOB

I'm just fighting for our freedom.
Like I told that blonde detective.

Benson shows iPad photo of Kathy's bombed rent-a-car.

BENSON

We heard you tell her, you were half a
block away when this car went up?

JACOB

About that... I guess...

STABLER

About? You guess? Yes or no, Jacob?

Benson looks at Stabler, who now tries to keep his cool --

STABLER (CONT'D)

Can you tell us what you saw? Anyone
running from the scene?

Jacob studies Stabler -- realizing --

JACOB

When the police arrested me, I heard
them saying the woman in the car was a
cop's wife.

STABLER

... That's right...

JACOB

I could hear her moaning...

Stabler reacts -- Benson shoots him a look ---

JACOB (CONT'D)

Oh... you know the vic? She wasn't
your wife, was she?

STABLER

-- Yeah, she is --

JACOB

That's gotta be tough. What are you
doing here? You should be with her --

Stabler goes toward Jacob, who stands --

CONTINUED

STABLER

Two options, Jacob. Either you saw who
did this --

(off Jacob)

Or you did it --

BENSON

-- Detective -- do you need a break?

JACOB

I don't think it'll help, he's a black
and white thinker.

(to Stabler)

Instead of asking who, you should be
asking yourself why --

STABLER

You think this is a game?

Stabler walks closer to Jacob, who backs against wall.
Jacob puts his hands up --

JACOB

No, I don't. This is as real as it
gets.

STABLER

So did you do this? Yes or no? --

BENSON

Detective --

JACOB

Look at you, all bowed up -- You gonna
take me out? There'll be a hundred
more just like me tomorrow --

STABLER

Yes or no? --

BENSON

Detective, that's enough --

Benson looks to Stabler -- Stabler backs away from Jacob --

JACOB

Hey, Detective. Sorry for your loss.

(off Stabler)

There's a war going on. Your wife?
Bleeding out on the sidewalk? She's
just another casualty.

CONTINUED

9

Stabler goes back at Jacob, Benson gets in between. Off
Stabler and Jacob -- Stabler wants to throw this guy into
the wall -- Is he going to? -- On Benson now, coming face
to face with Stabler, firm --

*
*
*

BENSON

Detective Stabler. Get out. NOW.

Stabler hesitates -- looks back at Benson -- realizes --
backs away. Off Benson --

10

OMITTED

10

11

COMBINED WITH SCENE 9

11

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

12 EXT. PRECINCT ROOFTOP - NIGHT ONE

12

Benson with alternately contrite/angry Stabler.

BENSON

I never should have let you in the
room, Elliot --

STABLER

-- I knew what I was doing --

BENSON

So did he. He was baiting you.

(off Stabler)

I get it, you're raw, Kathy's in a
hospital bed. You've been long gone.
But we don't --

STABLER

-- Do things that way anymore? I know
that. I've been in Europe, not a cave.

BENSON

Look, even if this guy is good for it,
any confession we elicit --

STABLER

-- Gets thrown out.

BENSON

And did you also know there are cameras
in interrogation now?

*
*

STABLER

Brave new world... What are you going
to do, write me a rip? --

*

BENSON

You know what, Elliot --

Benson stops herself from saying more -- HEAR NOW --

DICKIE (O.S.)

Dad -- Dad --

Benson, Stabler turn, see Dickie arriving, escorted by UNI.

DICKIE (CONT'D)

Dad -- you ever check your phone?

CONTINUED

12

STABLER

What happened? Your mother --

DICKIE

She's awake, Dad. Mom's awake.

Off Benson and Stabler, relieved --

CUT TO:

13

INT. BENSON'S OFFICE - NIGHT ONE

13

Benson enters -- Fin and Carisi watch Rollins and Kat with Jacob in Interrogation Room #1, as Jacob writes statement.
INTERCOM OFF. Fin, off Benson --

FIN

How'd that go?

BENSON

Well... Good news, Kathy Stabler's conscious.

CARISI

Can she make a statement?

BENSON

Elliot's heading to the hospital.

CARISI

If she can tell us anything, another detective needs to be in that room.

FIN

He's not going to blow the case, Carisi. End of the day, he's a good cop.

CARISI

Stop. I know you all have... history, but he can't be anywhere near this.

Carisi indicates into I.R. #1 -- points at Jacob --

CARISI (CONT'D)

And Jacob here? Now he's claiming he was following an antifa guy who threw the Molotov cocktail into Kathy's car.

BENSON

It wasn't a Molotov cocktail.

CONTINUED

13

CARISI

And he doesn't know that. If I had to guess, he's good for the first two, not Kathy Stabler.

Off Benson --

CUT TO:

14

INT. CORRIDOR, MERCY HOSPITAL - DAY TWO

14

Benson, Stabler walk down corridor. GUARD OFFICER, in mask, sits in folding chair outside Kathy's Room --

*
*

STABLER

He's saying all three were antifa? We know he's good for two of them.

BENSON

Right. Molotov cocktails... He's not going anywhere, Elliot. We're searching his apartment, his truck.

STABLER

The size of that blast... What's taking the arson squad so long?

BENSON

They're working it, they're looking at three different explosions.

(off Stabler)

Is Kathy lucid enough to tell us what she remembers?

Stabler nods --

CUT TO:

15

INT. KATHY'S ROOM, MERCY HOSPITAL - DAY TWO

15

Benson, Stabler with Kathy, in hospital bed. Weak, concussed but lucid. Kathy looks to Benson --

KATHY

I'm sorry I ruined your big award ceremony...

BENSON

You did me a favor. I hate making speeches... Can we go back to last night?...

CONTINUED

KATHY

... I don't even remember starting the car.

BENSON

What about walking to it? Anything you saw or heard, any small detail...

KATHY

Elliot was on the phone... It was dark... it was raining... I didn't see anything. I'm sorry.

BENSON

It's okay, Kathy --

STABLER

You're doing fine.

KATHY

Just like the old days... The two of you together... You two were always so in sync... You really didn't talk for ten years?

BENSON

No. I didn't even know he was back on the job.

KATHY

That's what Elliot told me, I didn't believe him...

BENSON

It's true, Kathy...

Kathy closes her eyes, woozy --

STABLER

Kathy --

KATHY

I'm okay... I'm just so tired...

Benson and Stabler exchange a look, as Kathy dozes off.

STABLER

We'll let you get some rest.

Stabler goes to kiss Kathy. Off Benson, watching --

CUT TO:

A16 INT. CORRIDOR, MERCY HOSPITAL - DAY TWO

A16

Benson waits, Stabler joins. Guard Officer in front of Kathy's Room in b.g. --

*
*

CONTINUED

STABLER

She's asleep... Liv.

(off Benson)

I was acting like it was back in the
day when I had the run of that place.
But it's your house now. I know
better. And I get the pressure you're
under...

BENSON

Thank you. I appreciate that.

A moment between them. Then --

STABLER

Liv... I'm sorry.

BENSON

... You don't need to --

STABLER

For everything...

Benson reacts, a little angry --

BENSON

So I guess we're doing this.

(off Stabler)

So you're sorry... For leaving? Or not
giving me the courtesy of telling me?

STABLER

Both. I think, I thought if I tried to
talk to you about how I...

After a long pause, Benson loses patience --

BENSON

Walked away? Because that's what you
did. I had to find out from Cragen?

(can't stop now)

-- You knew you were the most important
person in my life, and you just --

STABLER

Olivia --

BENSON

-- You just disappeared.

STABLER

I know. I was afraid if I saw you, I
wouldn't have been able to...

CONTINUED

Benson now gets a text -- to Stabler --

*

BENSON

I have to go. My chief wants me in his office.

Off Benson --

CUT TO:

16

INT. CHIEF GARLAND'S OFFICE, ONE-P-P - DAY TWO

16

CU interrogation video -- Stabler moving in on Jacob. PULL BACK to Benson with Garland, who shows her tape on iPad --

GARLAND

Your former partner always this aggressive? He shouldn't have even been in the precinct.

BENSON

I know. That's on me.

GARLAND

It is. My sense from his affect and his record, this is a cop who's used to taking things over the line and getting away with it.

BENSON

You went over his record?

GARLAND

Multiple firearm discharges, six fatal shootings. I'm still going through the IAB logs. Disposition on multiple charges, referred for counseling.

BENSON

We were both referred.

GARLAND

Why did he resign from the force?

(off Benson)

There's no official reason.

BENSON

His last shooting was a sixteen-year-old girl who brought a gun into the station house... My guess, he didn't want to go through the hoops, IAB interviews, the counseling. He was burned out. Done.

CONTINUED

GARLAND

You guess? He didn't tell you?

BENSON

We never spoke after he left.

(off Garland)

Look, he got too rough back in the day,
but it wasn't just testosterone, it was
because he cared so much.

Garland takes this in -- looks at Benson --

GARLAND

And he was your first partner, the one
who had your back. You were his
junior, when there weren't that many
female detectives. I get it.

BENSON

I'm not apologizing, or making excuses.
But I think he's changed.

GARLAND

I hope so. Forgive me if I have my
doubts... A grunt former marine, a
night college degree, and a CPI like
this? After a six-year walkabout,
somehow the old-boy network got him
back on the force.

BENSON

Because he's a good cop.

GARLAND

And lucky. It wouldn't happen today...
We can agree to disagree on his
evolution. But so we're clear, I will
not have this behavior in one of my
captains' squadrooms.

BENSON

Understood.

Off Benson --

CUT TO:

EXT. CSU AUTO BODY SHOP - DAY TWO

Fin and Kat on the walk up --

KAT

So this Detective Stabler? You worked
with him?

CONTINUED

FIN

For years. We had each other's backs.

KAT

He always go off on suspects like that?

FIN

You're looking at things the way they are now, not the way they were then.

KAT

Times have changed?

(off Fin)

Not enough. Guys like him, the Irish Mafia at One-P-P, it's not their time anymore.

FIN

Tell them that.

KAT

NYPD's majority-minority now. We've got to speak out.

FIN

(paternal)

Kat, listen to me. You don't have the rank to carry that. They see you making noise, they'll take you out.

KAT

So that's it? What are we supposed to do, stand by and say nothing? --

Before Fin can answer Kat -- Rollins steps away from Arson & Explosion Squad, joins them --

ROLLINS

Fin, Kat --

FIN

Rollins, what've you got?

ROLLINS

I was talking to Arson -- they found a cell near a piece of the gas tank, must've been the trigger.

KAT

Prints, DNA?

CONTINUED

ROLLINS

Guy was thorough, but he used an old burner. Maybe they'll get lucky, find something under the cellphone case.

FIN

Do they know the vic was an NYPD spouse?

ROLLINS

They do... For what it's worth, they said it wasn't an antifa or boogaloo improvised device. More sophisticated. Maybe terrorist-related. Do we know why Stabler was back in New York?

Off Fin and Kat, exchanging a look --

CUT TO:

INT. BAR - NIGHT TWO

Fin with Stabler. Fin has beer, Stabler has coffee --

STABLER

Like I said, task force meetings on terror, training sessions, a Homeland Security reset, after the election.

FIN

Anything else?

STABLER

Yeah. Next week I'm supposed to testify at a trial. Two thugs, accused of extortion and money-laundering, hiding out in Puglia. I picked them up six months ago.

(off Fin)

They're minor players.

FIN

You said terror investigations?

(off Stabler)

Arson says the signature is more international than domestic.

STABLER

Okay... I'll call my supervisor at Intelligence. Half of these cases, I can't even talk about.

CONTINUED

FIN

Okay.

(off Stabler)

... Kathy doing better? *

STABLER

Hanging in there... You know, Kathy's the one who insisted on going to Liv's ceremony. *

FIN

Liv told me she didn't know you were coming. She didn't even know you were in New York.

STABLER

Yeah, I know. I should've called her. I guess I just thought it would be easier to talk, when I saw her in person. *

(off Fin)

Look, I know I didn't handle the way I left well.

FIN

You didn't handle it at all. I worked next to you for ten years.

STABLER

I kept waiting for the right moment. Then days went by, months...

(off Fin)

The more time went on, the harder it was to reach out. Maybe I was afraid of what she was going to say.

FIN

You should know, it took a while, but Liv's moved on. She has a son, been in a couple of relationships. One that was really solid.

Stabler reacts to this -- covering --

STABLER

A son, good for her... Who was the guy?

FIN

Just talk to her.

At this, they turn to see Benson approaching --

BENSON

Lab found DNA on the cell phone.

CONTINUED

STABLER

Any matches --

BENSON

He's not in the system. They're
checking familial DNA.

Benson, Fin use 2021 shorthand, Stabler's a beat behind --

*

FIN

We have enough of a sample for
genealogical?

BENSON

Not enough to match to the perp once we
find him --

STABLER

-- SVU runs genealogical now?

*

FIN

Has to be back-door. To the ancestry
sites, or these new private DNA banks.

Stabler now receives a text, looks alarmed --

STABLER

I have to get back --

Stabler grabs coat, rushes out. As Benson follows --

*

CUT TO:

A19 INT. CORRIDOR, MERCY HOSPITAL - NIGHT TWO

A19

Benson, Stabler arrive as CRASH CART manned by DOCTORS,
NURSES is run toward Kathy's Room -- HEAR CODE BLUE --

*

*

STABLER

What's going on? -- Is it my wife --

DOCTOR

-- Step back, sir --

*

Benson follows Stabler, who chases Doctor, Nurse -- as they
rush into Kathy's Room --

*

STABLER

I just spoke to her --

NURSE

Sir, you have to move back --

CONTINUED

BENSON

Elliot, let them through --

*

*

STABLER

I want to see my wife --

NURSE

I'm sorry, you can't be in here --

Door slams in Stabler's face. Off Benson and Stabler --

*

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

19 INT. WAITING ROOM, MERCY HOSPITAL - NIGHT TWO 19 *

2AM. Benson with Fin, on phone -- they sit and wait. *

FIN (INTO PHONE)

Okay. Thanks... You, too.

Fin hangs up. Benson looks to Fin --

BENSON

"You, too"? Phoebe just said "I love you," and you couldn't say it back?

FIN

Her ex-husband was a cop. She knows the drill.

Stabler joins now -- Benson and Fin rise --

BENSON

How is she? *

STABLER

She went into cardiac arrest. But her heart rate's stable now.

BENSON

Thank God. *

STABLER

They're trying to figure out what caused it... *

An awkward pause -- *

BENSON

I'm sorry. I hate to ask you in the middle of all this...

STABLER

You need my case files. I'll ask Intelligence to get them to you. *

Off Benson, nodding --

CUT TO:

20 INT. BENSON'S OFFICE - DAY THREE 20

Benson, at her desk -- on phone, with Rollins and Kat --

CONTINUED

BENSON (INTO PHONE)
Whatever you can send us. Thank you...
We'll keep each other in the loop.

Benson hangs up -- looks to Rollins, Kat --

BENSON (CONT'D)
Turns out Stabler's been working
antiterrorism, international sex
trafficking, organized crime.

ROLLINS
Doesn't exactly narrow it down.
(off Benson)
This particular cell-phone trigger?
Pretty common in the Mediterranean
region, Middle East, North Africa.

BENSON
Kat, put in a call to Threat
Assessment. Find out if any groups or
individuals targeted by NYPD overseas
might have a presence in New York.

KAT
On it.

Kat goes -- Rollins closes door, looks to Benson --

ROLLINS
You think Stabler was the target?

BENSON
... I don't know. Seems like it.

Benson shrugs, rubs her forehead.

ROLLINS
You doing okay?

BENSON
... I've been better.

ROLLINS
You and Kathy were friends?

BENSON
Not at first. It's a long story...
Over time, we got close.

ROLLINS
Kind of like us? You never talked to
me about Stabler.

BENSON

I didn't?

ROLLINS

We didn't talk much the first few years... I just remember his desk was empty. Like a shrine.

BENSON

He was a big presence in the squadroom.

ROLLINS

I know Nick always felt the brunt of trying to fill his shoes... To be honest, from what he told me? It sounds like you and Stabler had a... complicated relationship.

BENSON

We did... But back then? No one cared about me as much as he did.

ROLLINS

I get that.

Kat enters --

KAT

We just caught a break. Lab found a familial match, to the DNA on the cell-phone trigger.

Off Benson and Rollins --

CUT TO:

INT. MEETING ROOM, GREEN HAVEN PRISON - DAY THREE

Fin and Carisi with YURI LENSKI (40s, career criminal), who looks at Carisi --

YURI

-- You're a district attorney? I would've taken you both for cops.

FIN

He gets that a lot.

YURI

A DA drives up to Green Haven just to talk to Yuri Lenski? What do I have that you want?

CONTINUED

CARISI

Any cousins or nephews who went into
your line of work?

YURI

Gambling? You wouldn't come all the
way here for slot machines.

(off Fin)

The guard told me you were SVU. That
cop's wife who got blown up, wasn't
that your unit?

Fin and Carisi exchange a look --

FIN

Whatever you tell us, nobody will know
it came from you.

YURI

People really fall for that?

CARISI

Okay. You're a smart man, Mr. Lenski.
And you're coming up for parole in a
couple months?

YURI

Seventy-nine days.

FIN

You help us, Mr. Carisi helps you.

Yuri looks from Fin to Carisi --

YURI

I've already done four years, I can do
three more with my eyes closed. I
don't turn on family.

(stands, cues GUARD)

What is it you cops always say? "It is
what it is."

*

Off Fin and Carisi --

CUT TO:

EXT. SALLY PORT, GREEN HAVEN/INT. FIN'S SUV - DAY THREE

Fin, Carisi sit in SUV outside guard gate -- Carisi on
phone to Benson -- on speaker --

CONTINUED

22

CARISI (INTO PHONE)

Mr. Lenski wasn't very forthcoming. We checked his visitor logs. No nephews or cousins.

FIN (INTO PHONE)

But he's got a wife and two goomahs visiting. One on Tuesday, one on Thursday, one on Saturday.

Off Fin --

INTERCUT WITH:

A23 INT. BENSON'S OFFICE - DAY THREE

A23

Benson, on phone --

BENSON (INTO PHONE)

He can't be making much money while he's in Green Haven. I'll have Rollins and Kat follow up. At least one of these women wants him home.

Off Benson --

*

CUT TO:

23 EXT. DERASI AUTO BODY, IRON TRIANGLE, QUEENS - NIGHT THREE 23

*

CU ID photo of SACHA LENSKI (26, sweet face, low-level thug) on Kat's phone. PULL BACK to REVEAL Rollins being shown photo by Kat. Two UNIS behind them --

*

*

KAT

So Liv was right, Lenski's second mistress gave up his nephew. Sacha Lenski, twenty-six. No record.

ROLLINS

Well, he doesn't look like an international terrorist.

KAT

The mistress says he's been playing with matches since he was five. At seventeen, he was supposed to blow up the neighbor's boat for the insurance, ended up burning both houses down.

CONTINUED

As they approach, see into Garage -- Sacha, with face covering, aims blowtorch at bolts on wheels of late-model Cadillac, as ALBANIAN/RUSSIAN THUG takes apart a stolen car. Garage boss CARL DERASI (50s, mobbed up) approaches. Rollins badges -- *

ROLLINS

-- NYPD --

DERASI

What's this about?

KAT

We need to speak to one of your workers.

Sacha lifts face protector, clocks cops, alarmed -- *

DERASI

Let me call the local precinct, we're tight with them.

KAT

Your buddies can't help you. We have a warrant. If we have to, we'll shut you down for the day -- *

ROLLINS

Make it easy on yourself -- Which one of these guys is Sacha Lenski? *

At this -- Sacha drops the blowtorch, still on. Thug scatters -- Sacha runs out the back. *

KAT

We got a runner --

As Rollins and Kat take off after Sacha, Unis restrain Derasi and Thug -- ANGLE ON -- Sacha, running through junkyard of car parts -- Rollins and Kat run behind --

ROLLINS

NYPD -- stop --

Sacha turns, looks, keeps going -- Rollins and Kat catch up -- Kat gains on him. He slows, turns around -- hands on knees, out of breath --

KAT

-- Stop -- on the ground --

Sacha doesn't listen, turns -- Kat is on him now, tackling him from behind, bringing him down --

CONTINUED

KAT (CONT'D)

Stay down --

As Kat grabs her cuffs, Rollins now, on radio --

ROLLINS (INTO RADIO)

-- Suspect apprehended --

SACHA

It wasn't me. I didn't do it --

KAT

Didn't do what? Let's go.

As Kat cuffs Sacha, pulls him up -- she and Rollins haul him off, as backup Units arrive --

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

24 EXT. STREET NEAR MERCY HOSPITAL - NIGHT THREE

24 *

CU ID photo of Sacha on iPhone --

BENSON (O.S)

Sacha Lenski, twenty-six --

PULL BACK to REVEAL Benson, Stabler walking down street.
Stabler hands back iPhone.

STABLER

He means nothing to me. Who the hell
is he --

BENSON

No record, no known connections to any
radical groups. As far as we can tell,
a low-level earner for random crews,
used to do odd jobs in electrical, now
works at an auto body repair shop in
Willets Point.

*

STABLER

And this kid's DNA was on the cell
phone?

BENSON

We're waiting for the lab to confirm,
but likely. No alibi, claims he had
nothing to do with it. Hasn't lawyered
up yet.

STABLER

So he's no mastermind. Look into his
financials. The Iron Triangle? Could
be Italian mob, Russian mob, Albanian.

*

BENSON

He also lived in Malta three years as a
teenager. Maybe the question isn't who
paid him, but why?

(off Stabler)

Aside from the defendants you're
testifying against, who else knows
you're in the States?

STABLER

The Joint Task Force, my boss at
Intelligence. My kids.

CONTINUED

BENSON

Any of them post on social media?

STABLER

Their accounts are locked, I've told them not to... Can you give me five minutes with Lenski?

BENSON

Do you hear yourself, Elliot? Not a chance.

STABLER

Okay, the two of us go in.

BENSON

I already told the Deputy Chief I wasn't letting you in that room again.

STABLER

Garland? He ever put cuffs on anybody?

BENSON

... How's Kathy?

STABLER

There's internal bleeding. They're running a CT scan on her spleen.

BENSON

So she may go back into surgery?

STABLER

They don't want to unless they have to.

BENSON

... How are the kids taking it?

STABLER

It's their mom, they're... scared. Visiting's been tough, hospital only allows one family member in the room at a time. Covid.

BENSON

So you need to be here. And I should get back...

(off Stabler's nod)

Just be here for Kathy.

*
*

Off Benson and Stabler --

CUT TO:

25

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM #1 - DAY FOUR

25

Dawn. Fin and Rollins with Sacha. Coffee cups on table.
They've been up, and they've kept him up, all night.

*

SACHA

For the hundredth time, I don't know
anything about this car.

FIN

We found the cell phone that was used
as the trigger. There's DNA on it,
it's going to be a match for yours.

SACHA

Did you? You know, now that I think of
it, I lost a phone. At Coney Island.
You have my new one.

ROLLINS

We do. And did you know, even if you
turn off tracking, we'll be able to
trace it to underneath the Manhattan
Bridge on Friday night? When the bomb
went off.

*

*

SACHA

I don't think so. I was at the shop,
the whole day. Ask my boss.

FIN

Because he'll lie for you?

SACHA

I don't know anything about bombs.

ROLLINS

Really. Then how did you blow up your
neighbor's house when you were
seventeen?

SACHA

Whoever told you that, they're lying.
You can ask my old neighbor. I had
nothing to do with that, either.

*

Off Fin and Rollins --

CUT TO:

26

INT. BENSON'S OFFICE - DAY FOUR

26

Benson, Carisi watch Fin, Rollins, Sacha in I.R. #1.

*

CONTINUED

CARISI

How long has this kid been shadowboxing
with them?

BENSON

All night.

At this, Kat enters.

CARISI

Keep him talking. He thinks he's
brighter than he is.

KAT

Captain, I made some calls. Turns out,
young Sacha isn't connected, more of a
wannabe. The Iron Triangle garage has
been linked to VIN switches on stolen
cars, insurance fraud.

CARISI

All penny-ante. Big step up from that,
to a hit on a cop's wife.

BENSON

Or a cop. It's more likely, Elliot was
the target.

Carisi looks at window to Interrogation Room #1.

CARISI

There's another possibility. What if
Sacha was set up?

BENSON

He's still our guy, Carisi.

CARISI

Even if he is, he might not have
realized it was a hit on a cop. Who
knows what they told him?

KAT

Maybe he thought it was an arson job
for insurance.

CARISI

Either way, time to arraign him.

BENSON

You do that, he'll be assigned a
lawyer.

CONTINUED

CARISI

Exactly what I'm hoping. If Sacha is a patsy, and he's on the hook for twenty-five years? A lawyer will get him to cooperate.

Off Carisi, looking through the glass at Sacha --

CUT TO:

INT. ARRAIGNMENT COURT - DAY FOUR

Carisi for the People. Sacha at defense with an overwhelmed, recently arrived Public Defender STEPHEN CRYER, who fumbles through papers. Judge COLIN MCNAMARA presides behind makeshift plexiglass protector. Three PERPS and two FAMILY MEMBERS in gallery.

*
*

JUDGE MCNAMARA

Counselor? Are you with us?

CRYER

Sorry, Your Honor, my client is pleading not guilty, we requested he be released on his own recognizance, pending dismissal of the... shoplifting charge.

JUDGE MCNAMARA

Wrong case, Counselor. This is Sacha Lenski, charged with attempted murder of a police officer...

CRYER

Ooh, okay. Sorry, again. I just caught this.

Carisi glances at Sacha, who just stands there.

CARISI

Your Honor, can I request ten minutes to bring my colleague Mr. Cryer up to speed on this?

JUDGE MCNAMARA

Make it five.

Off Carisi --

CUT TO:

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM, COURTHOUSE - DAY FOUR

Carisi with Cryer and Sacha.

CONTINUED

CARISI

Your client needs to know, in addition to attempted murder, he's also looking at use of a weapon of mass destruction, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison; use of a destructive device in connection with a crime of violence, another thirty years...

CRYER

(looks up from file)

I get it. You had me at mass destruction.

CARISI

Your client also needs to know the victim is a cop's wife. And every correction officer is going to know it from the moment he begins his life sentence.

CRYER

I take it you're looking for something.

SACHA

I didn't know it was a cop car. I swear to God.

CRYER

That's enough, Sacha.

CARISI

No, it's a good start. If this was a job for hire, we need to know who hired your client.

CRYER

He cooperates, he gets full immunity?

CARISI

Not on attempted murder. But if his information plays out, and he's willing to testify in front of a grand jury, that would mitigate.

Cryer whispers to Sacha, who nods -- as Carisi stands --

CARISI (CONT'D)

As soon as he's ready to make a proffer, I'm all ears.

As they're about to head out, they're interrupted by Counselor SPENCER COCHRAN, who looks right at Sacha --

*

CONTINUED

COCHRAN

He won't be making a proffer. Not
another word, Mr. Lenski.

CRYER

Excuse me, this is my client.

CARISI

We're working on a deal --

COCHRAN

Not anymore. I've been retained by his
family. My client is innocent of all
charges, and we look forward to our day
in court, to prove his innocence.

CARISI

Mr. Lenski, you don't have to go along
with this -- you already have a fine
lawyer --

COCHRAN

And now he has a better one.
(re: Cryer; to Carisi)
Perry Mason over here? He didn't even
know what my client was charged with.

Off Sacha --

CUT TO:

INT. BENSON'S OFFICE - DAY FOUR

Benson, Fin, Rollins, Carisi --

BENSON

Spencer Cochran, he's a major player.
No way Sacha's family can afford him.

CARISI

No. Whoever he was working for brought
Cochran in.

ROLLINS

Where's Sacha now?

CARISI

On his way to Rikers. He pled not
guilty. I did manage to get bail set
at ten million.

FIN

You better get him in protective
custody.

CONTINUED

CARISI

It's already been arranged.

Benson's phone rings -- she sees caller ID -- "Elliot" -- *

BENSON

It's Stabler -- I'll let him know --

As Benson answers phone --

BENSON (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

Hey, how's it going? --

Benson stops talking, listens... Off Benson --

CUT TO:

INT. CORRIDOR, MERCY HOSPITAL - DAY FOUR

Benson rushes in -- sees Stabler at end of hallway --

BENSON

Elliot --

She goes to him. As he turns -- she sees in his face --

BENSON (CONT'D)

I'm so, so sorry...

Stabler convulses in sobs -- Off Benson --

FADE OUT

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN

31 INT. WAITING ROOM, MERCY HOSPITAL - DAY FOUR

31 *

Benson with Stabler, who sits on bench, devastated. ND *
DOCTOR delivers good news to WOMAN in b.g. *

STABLER

... Turned out her spleen ruptured.
They took her into surgery... I didn't
get to say goodbye.

BENSON

I'm sorry, Elliot...

STABLER

I don't get it... Why now?... We were
so happy...

Benson nods. There's nothing she can do or say.

BENSON

Where are the kids?

STABLER

... I have to call them.
(off Benson; lost)
I don't even know how to tell them...

BENSON

... If there's anything... Do you want
me to stay --

STABLER

No... Just make sure this son of a
bitch goes down for murder.

Off Benson --

CUT TO:

32 INT. ROTUNDA, COURTHOUSE - DAY FOUR

32

Benson and Fin wait for Carisi -- who emerges from
Courtroom, sees their faces --

CARISI

What happened --

FIN

Kathy Stabler didn't make it.

CONTINUED

32

CARISI
I'm sorry... How's he doing?

BENSON
Not good.

Carisi nods.

CARISI
Okay. I'll arraign Sacha Lenski for
murder, up the pressure.

FIN
Don't get your hopes up. Whoever's
paying for his lawyer? They won't let
him take a deal.

CARISI
Maybe Sacha needs to figure that out.

BENSON
(to Fin)
Go pull him out of Rikers.

Off Fin -- HEAR "Take Me to Church" by Sofia Karlberg --

CUT TO:

33

INT. HALLWAY/CELL, RIKERS - DAY FOUR

33

SONG CONTINUES. Fin, Rollins follow CORRECTION OFFICER --

ROLLINS
His lawyer's on the way? He said
anything since he's been in here?

CORRECTION OFFICER
Not a word. Quiet type.

FIN
Ah huh --

As they approach Cell -- see Sacha, lying in bunk --

CORRECTION OFFICER
Lenski -- Visitors --

No answer. C.O. pulls keys -- opens cell --

CORRECTION OFFICER (CONT'D)
Wake up, dirtbag --

C.O. goes to Sacha, shakes him -- Fin and Rollins behind.
C.O. turns Sacha's body over -- sees his face -- eyes open,
dead. Rollins goes to body -- tourniquet, needle in arm --

CONTINUED

33

FIN

Get a medic --

Rollins checks pulse --

ROLLINS

Don't bother. He's gone.

Fin turns on Correction Officer --

FIN

Who the hell's been in here?

CORRECTION OFFICER

Nobody, I swear --

Off Fin and Rollins --

CUT TO:

34

INT. BENSON'S OFFICE - DAY FOUR

34

SONG CONTINUES. Benson, updated by Fin --

*

BENSON

Cause of death?

FIN

They made it look like an overdose.

*

BENSON

Any chance he did it to himself?

*

FIN

We all know what this is.

BENSON

We do. We need to find out who got to him.

Off Fin, nodding --

*

CUT TO:

A35

INT. CHAPEL, MERCY HOSPITAL - DAY FOUR

A35

*

SONG CONTINUES. Stabler lights electric candle, prays --

*

CUT TO:

*

35

INT. MEETING ROOM, GREEN HAVEN PRISON - DAY FOUR

35

SONG CONTINUES. Dusk. Rollins and Carisi wait, as Yuri is brought into a meeting room.

*

*

CONTINUED

YURI
What's this about?

ROLLINS
Your nephew, Sacha. They gave him a
hot shot last night at Rikers.

YURI
(in Russian)
Gospodi spasi e sohrani. [God bless and
protect.]

Yuri crosses himself, Russian Orthodox style -- looks to
Rollins and Carisi, in English --

YURI (CONT'D)
And I still don't know anything.

ROLLINS
Think harder.

CARISI
They know a DA's been up here, twice.
You're on borrowed time.

Off Yuri --

CUT TO:

A36 INT. CHAPEL, MERCY HOSPITAL - NIGHT FOUR

A36 *

SONG CONTINUES. Stabler turns to see Dickie and Kathleen,
arriving. They run to him. He hugs them --

CUT TO:

36 INT. DERASI AUTO BODY, IRON TRIANGLE, QUEENS - NIGHT FOUR 36 *

SONG CONTINUES. Fin, Kat, CSU Team. They roust Derasi and
Employees --

DERASI
-- What the hell's going on --

KAT
You tell us. Sacha Lenski was killed.

DERASI
-- That's a damn shame.

FIN
Who paid him to blow up that car?

CONTINUED

36

DERASI

I wish I knew. He was a good kid.

FIN

Okay. Check every VIN number on every
part in this damn place.

Off Derasi --

CUT TO:

37 MOVED TO SCENE 39

37

38 INT. CHIEF GARLAND'S OFFICE, ONE-P-P - NIGHT FOUR

38

SONG CONTINUES. Benson with Garland --

GARLAND

I appreciate how close you are to this --

BENSON

I can be objective. And Stabler knows
he can't go near this.

GARLAND

I'm sorry. SVU's been called off.

BENSON

Chief... we've come this far. We know
all the players --

GARLAND

Intelligence has taken over. Get them
up to speed --

BENSON

-- It's our case --

GARLAND

Not as of now. You need to stand down,
Captain.

Off Benson --

CUT TO:

39 INT. CHAPEL, MERCY HOSPITAL - NIGHT FOUR

39

SONG CONTINUES. Benson enters, sees Stabler with Dickie
and Kathleen. As Benson and Stabler look at each other --

*
*

FADE OUT

END OF EPISODE