UNTITLED GABRIELLE UNION PROJECT

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* 10202 West Washington Boulevard * Culver City, CA 90232 *

ACT ONE

INT. MISSION MARKET - DAY

CONVENIENCE STORE TURNED WAR ZONE -- BULLETS FLY -- GLASS SHATTERS -- A CLERK (20s, TERRIFIED) HUDDLES ON THE FLOOR.

A TWEAKER with a NOSE RING fires a REVOLVER while his buddy with BLUE HAIR hurdles the counter to pilfer the register.

NOSE RING

Get the money. Let's go!

We find SYD BURNETT (30s, razor sharp instincts and the confidence to follow them) and NANCY MCKENNA (30s, skills honed in the military but governed by emotion) crouched behind a bullet riddled shelf -- RELOADING.

SYD

You can't seriously blame me for this.

MCKENNA

I told you it was a bad idea to run a personal errand on duty but, no --

SYD

There's no way I could have known --

MCKENNA

(mocking)

Come on, McKenna... It'll just take a second --

SYD

Is that how you think I sound?

CLICK -- CLICK! They expertly push clips and chamber rounds.

SYD (CONT'D)

My voice is sexy. Mellifluous.

MCKENNA

Spell that.

SYD

Is all this attitude 'cause I'm missing your family book club?!

Syd stands up from behind the shelf.

MCKENNA

Damn it, Syd --

SYD

(mellifluous)

LAPD. Drop the gun.

Nose Ring spills shells while fumbling through a reload. McKenna steps out from behind the shelf --

MCKENNA

Don't make me shoot you. Then I'll have to stay late doing paperwork and I'm not bailing on book club.

SYD

You just talk about books, right? Just you and your family... talkin' about books.

(to Nose Ring)

Have you ever heard of anything like that?

Behind the counter, Blue Hair pulls the Clerk to his feet and jams a gun to his head.

BLUE HAIR

Drop your guns!

Syd and McKenna swap aims, one on Nose Ring, the other on Blue Hair -- unspoken synchronicity.

MCKENNA

Don't do that! Don't minimize it. What's so important you're bailing on meeting my family... again?

SYD

Does it matter?!

MCKENNA

We're gettin' shot at over this!

Nose Ring and Blue Hair share a look. Are these women crazy?

SYD

Fine! I got a date, okay?! You happy now?

MCKENNA

Was it so damn hard to be honest?

Syd steps toward Nose Ring. McKenna's gun tracks Blue Hair.

SYD

Yes, because of how you get.

BLUE HAIR

Shut up a minute so I can think!

Syd and McKenna take a step closer.

NOSE RING

That's close enough.

MCKENNA

How do I get?

Another step. Blue Hair's freaking out. Moves his aim from the Clerk to McKenna. BANG! McKenna buries a round in Blue Hair's shoulder. Nose Ring raises his revolver but Syd lunges forward and knocks it away as she executes a quick combo ending with a PISTOL WHIP. He's down, but --

Blue Hair pushes the Clerk away. Levels the gun with his good arm. WHAM! McKenna jumps over the counter and lays him out. SLAMS his head against the CALIFORNIA LOTTO display for good measure.

SYD

That's how you get.

McKenna cuffs Blue Hair and stands to find Syd putting a box of 5 HOUR ENERGY SHOTS on the counter --

MCKENNA

This is what we stopped for?!

SYD

I gotta be up for my date. He certainly will be.

McKenna comes around the counter; phone to her ear calling the station. Syd motions the scared Clerk to his feet.

CLERK

Anything else?

SYD

Yeah, a pack of Tropical Fruit Bubblicious...

MCKENNA

And some Skittles.

Off the familiar line; the two bad-ass women standing shoulder to shoulder, we SMASH TO:

TITLES

EXT. LOS ANGELES - MORNING

LOW ANGLE on the HOLLYWOOD SIGN. The letters fill the frame as an LAPD chopper flies over. This is the Bad Boys universe.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - MORNING

Early morning surfers. The Santa Monica Pier. TRAFFIC Cars pull to a stop as a light turns RED. Then --

BANG BANG! Gunshots ring out. A LUXURY SUV screeches out onto the PCH. It grinds alongside cars, pushing its way up to the light and speeding out into the intersection. The back is open, GROCERIES spilling into the street as the SUV sideswipes a Tesla and skids across the double yellow.

ONCOMING TRAFFIC jams on their brakes. A 5 TON can't make the stop in time. BRAKES SQUEAL. BURNT RUBBER. And... CRASH! Head-on collision. The PCH is a mess of WRECKED CARS and DISTRAUGHT PEOPLE. A BURLY MAN rushes over and yanks the SUV door open.

BURLY MAN What the hell is wrong with you?

ANGLE INSIDE to reveal a terrified <u>eleven year old boy</u>, LOGAN SMITH (resourceful but fragile). He looks to the back seat.

LOGAN Tina needs help.

The Burly Man pulls open the back door to find TINA (20s, kind eyes) dead from a fatal gunshot wound.

BURLY MAN Somebody call the police!

INT. SYD'S LOFT - MORNING

ANGLE ON: Syd's face nestled into an Egyptian cotton pillowcase. Her eyes ease open as sun washes over her from the floor to ceiling windows of her downtown penthouse.

Syd rolls over, looks at REGGIE (20s, all abs) asleep beside her. Checks the time on her Movado. Why's he still here? Syd stands out of bed; naked. The camera traces her body, intimate but not sexual, landing on SCARS marring her torso. Her fingers graze them; a reminder of a previous trauma.

Syd spots remnants of her wild night: 5 HOUR ENERGY SHOTS, FEATHERS, CANDLES. POP WIDE: to take in the luxurious loft as Syd crosses through the kitchen to hit BREW on her fancy coffee machine before heading for the bathroom.

INT. MCKENNA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - MORNING

McKenna wakes to find her husband, PATRICK MCKENNA (30s, midwestern heartthrob) already dressed in SCRUBS.

MCKENNA Nope. You're on kid duty. She clicks her bedside lamp on, reaching past a pair of ARMY ISSUED DOG-TAGS hanging from the lampshade. Patrick leans in for a kiss. Not a peck, a real one.

PATRICK

I gotta cover Finn's rotation. But I have a few minutes.

MCKENNA

I haven't brushed.

PATRICK

So?

McKenna looks at Patrick's puppy-dog eyes. She loves this guy, but she's just not in the mood right now.

MCKENNA

Not now, Patrick. I just woke up.

ISABEL (O.S.)

Dad! Ryan's bleeding!

PATRICK

(exasperated)

Of course he is.

INT. MCKENNA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

A modest, Valley Glen three bedroom house. McKenna emerges in a ratty bathrobe. ISABEL (12, blossoming) pounces.

ISABEL

He got blood on my homework!

RYAN (9, rambunctious but delicate) rounds a corner with his nose pinched between two fingers.

MCKENNA

You okay, Ry?

(she looks him over)

Go see your dad.

Ryan rushes to Patrick as Isabel waves a blood-flecked page of homework at him.

ISABEL

You're so stupid.

RYAN

Am not!

PATRICK AND MCKENNA

He isn't stupid.

Patrick presses a cold towel to Ryan's nosebleed.

RYAN

Thanks, dad.

PATRICK

I knew that peds rotation would pay off eventually. Now, I gotta go. Have a great day at school guys...

McKenna follows him through the cluttered room to the door.

PATRICK (CONT'D)

We'll pick up where we left off tonight.

MCKENNA

Tonight?

PATRICK

It's on the calendar. You forgot.

MCKENNA

I didn't forget. Have a good day.

PATRICK

You too. Be safe.

MCKENNA

Always.

She shuts the door and we SMASH TO:

THE BEDROOM: McKenna sits on the bed looking at her phone. INSERT THE SCREEN: A calendar more cluttered than her house. She clicks a PINK BOX, expanding the headline: OVULATION - SEXY NIGHT!

McKenna breathes a deep sigh as the SOUNDS OF ISABEL AND RYAN SQUABBLING rise outside her bedroom door.

INT. SYD'S LOFT - MORNING

Syd exits the bathroom dressed for the day. Fly, as always. She finds Reggie standing at the kitchen counter, about to help himself to her coffee in a ceramic mug.

SYD

To-go cups are right there --

Sure enough, there's a sleeve of DIXIE GO-CUPS beside the machine. Reggie pours a mug anyway. He's smooth.

REGGIE

I thought I'd stay a while. Cup of coffee. Read the paper. Talk.

Not smooth enough. Syd pours the coffee from his mug into a Dixie cup.

SYD

I was very clear, Reggie. All sex, no strings.

She's showing him the door when her phone RINGS.

REGGIE

Seriously?

SYD

Last night was fun, but...

MCKENNA (PRELAP)

You gotta go!

I/E. MCKENNA'S SUV - SCHOOL - MORNING

McKenna yells at a MINIVAN that's holding up the school dropoff line. The line inches forward. Ryan and Isabel hop out. McKenna watches as they shuffle toward the school gates. A HUSKY BOY and his FLUNKY set in on Ryan.

HUSKY

Cryin' Ryan. You gonna have an asthma attack in P.E. again?

FLUNKY

I bet he pees his pants in the lab.

The boys shoulder past Ryan, who wells with tears but soldiers on. McKenna's heart breaks. Then she clocks Isabel nearby, ignoring the whole thing --

MCKENNA

Izzy! Isabel, come here!

Isabel's eyes couldn't roll any harder. She walks back.

ISABEL

You're embarrassing me.

MCKENNA

Those boys were teasing your brother.

ISABEL

I'm not his bodyguard.

MCKENNA

Yes. You. Are. You two are a team. You have to have each other's back, because I know you don't want me getting involved.

ISABEL

Please don't!

MCKENNA

That's what I thought. Go make sure he's alright. And... (softens) Have a good day.

HONK! Now McKenna's holding up the line. She mouths an apology to the rearview. Her phone RINGS as she pulls away.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - CRIME SCENE - DAY

EMERGENCY VEHICLES, YELLOW TAPE, pissed off COMMUTERS stuck in bottle-neck traffic. McKenna arrives, FLASHING LIGHTS on the underside of her sun-visors. Syd pulls up on a DUCATI.

SVD

How was family book club?

MCKENNA

Fine.

SYD

So... still mad then?

MCKENNA

I'm not mad.

They approach CAPTAIN THOMAS HIRSCH (40s, walks with a forearm crutch) as two other detectives arrive, BEN WALKER (30s, white, comes from money. Smart man, smarter mouth.) and BEN BAINES (40s, black, a blue collar, self-made man).

MCKENNA (CONT'D)

Morning, Captain.

BEN WALKER

Damn. What's she so mad about?

MCKENNA

What?! I'm not mad.

BEN WALKER

There was a tone.

MCKENNA

SYD

No tone. I'm not mad.

I bailed on family book club.

BEN BAINES

BEN WALKER

You say <u>family</u> book club?

Who does family book club?

MCKENNA

What are the Bens doing here? I thought this was our case?

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

I need my four best detectives.

BEN WALKER

So when do the other two get here?

SYD

Cute, but check yourself. We been partners four months and closed as many cases as you have in seven.

BEN WALKER

Tell you what. Close the case, other team does the paperwork.

SYD

Deal.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH
If you're gonna have a pissing contest, don't do it on my shoes.

MCKENNA

Why all the manpower?

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

Video went viral: cute kid crashing through traffic trying to save his nanny. Went from a homicide to a media circus real fast. City Hall's got a close eye on this one.

Hirsch motions to Logan, sitting in the back of an AMBULANCE.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH (CONT'D)

The kid is Logan Smith. Pretty shaken up. He's got an over-worked single mom who's out of town on business. No other family. Just her...

Hirsch taps a CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHER on the shoulder and he steps away, revealing Tina's lifeless body in the SUV.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH (CONT'D)

...his nanny. 'Til we get ahold of Logan's mom, Claire, DCFS is gonna babysit. I'll take him back to the station until they send an agent. Find whoever did this and find 'em fast. And somebody get ahold of this kid's mom!

INT. AUSTRIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 831 - DAY

CLAIRE SMITH (40s, a jet-lagged executive) lifts her bag into the overhead. She slides into her first class, window seat while the "DOOR CLOSING" ANNOUNCEMENT drones in the background. Claire looks at her phone as she powers it down. INSERT the SCREEN: AN ADORABLE PHOTO OF LOGAN FADES TO BLACK.

EXT. PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY - CRIME SCENE - DAY

A UNIFORM COP stands with Logan, seated in the back of an AMBULANCE. He hangs up his cell as Syd and McKenna approach.

UNIFORM

Kid gave me his mom's number but it's going straight to voicemail.

SYD

Give us a minute to talk. Keep trying and let us know when you get through.

McKenna sits next to Logan. Without a word, she pulls a pack of SKITTLES out of her jacket. Opens it. Eats a couple before offering some to Logan. Syd holds her hand out too. They all quietly eat candy for a beat. Waiting. Then --

LOGAN

Am I in trouble?

MCKENNA

No. None of this is your fault.

SYD

You were so brave.

LOGAN

Not brave enough. Tina's dead.

MCKENNA

You can still help her. Tell us what happened.

BACK WITH THE BENS: as they scrutinize the crime scene.

BEN WALKER

Scattered groceries. Trunk open.

Baines leans into the SUV. Rifles through a reusable grocery bag. Finds what he's looking for: a crumpled RECEIPT.

BEN BAINES

How about we start where she did?

EXT. MALIBU GROCERY STORE - PARKING LOT - DAY

The Bens enter the lot to find Syd and McKenna already there; standing over the TIRE-MARKS where the luxury SUV peeled out.

BEN BAINES

BEN WALKER

How'd you know...?

What the hell?

MCKENNA

SYD

We asked Logan.

The kid! He's eleven, not stupid.

BEN BAINES

So what are we looking for?

Syd scans nearby buildings. Spots a MARIJUANA DISPENSARY.

SYD

That. Ganjapreneurs are super paranoid. Gotta have cameras.

BEN WALKER

Ganjapreneur? Is that DEA jargon? You're LAPD now. We call 'em budtenders.

Syd and McKenna head for the shop. The Bens follow until --

MCKENNA

It doesn't take four to canvas a weed shop. Go find your own lead.

BEN BAINES

Hey Burnett, don't miss book club anymore. It makes her so mad.

MCKENNA

I'm not mad!

INT. THE HANG 10 COLLECTIVE - DAY

Syd silences a call on her cell as she enters. INSERT THE SCREEN: DAD. She catches up to McKenna, at the counter with the budtender, KRISTIEANNE (60s, white hippie with dreads).

MCKENNA

Kristieanne here is happy to upload her security footage to a drive.

KRISTIEANNE

Anything for LAPD.

SYD

Anything? How about an eighth of that Silver Surfer over there?

MCKENNA

Are you kidding?

SYD

Absolutely not. It's good, right?

KRISTIEANNE

Dank, earthy; yet with a buzzy energy for a productive mindset.

SYD

Productive. Just how you want a mindset to be.

Syd pays for the weed as Kristieanne hands McKenna a CANNABIS-LEAF SHAPED JUMP DRIVE.

MCKENNA

Let's just go.

EXT. LAPD HEADQUARTERS - ROBBERY/HOMICIDE - DAY

Establishing LAPD HQ. 100 W. 1st St. Ten stories of shimmering steel and glass wrapped in white concrete.

INT. LAPD HEADQUARTERS - ROBBERY/HOMICIDE - DAY

5th floor. Detective bureau. Robbery/Homicide bullpen. Syd and McKenna's desks face each other. McKenna's is cluttered with FAMILY PHOTOS of Patrick and the kids. Note: No baby photos. These pics only go back three years. Syd's desk is sparse. McKenna's on her computer as the Bens approach.

BEN WALKER

Settle an argument?

BEN BAINES

A few of us have a pool going about why Syd got booted from the DEA.
My money's on 'punched her boss.'

BEN WALKER

I say nervous breakdown. Undercover work'll crack you.

MCKENNA

You guys ever consider she guit?

BEN WALKER

BEN BAINES

Nobody quits the DEA to join LAPD. Why? You know something?

That's like selling your car for gas money. Got any intel?

MCKENNA

If you have questions, grow up and ask her. I respect Syd's privacy. Aren't you supposed to be looking for Logan's mom?

BEN BAINES

She's on a flight outta Cyprus. Phone's off. TSA is working on making contact.

BEN WALKER

Now, what about --

MCKENNA

No!

The Bens head off as Syd approaches.

SYD

They find Logan's mom?
(McKenna shakes "no.")
You get it up yet?

MCKENNA

Sounds like you last night.

SYD

You got jokes now? I thought you were mad.

MCKENNA

I'm not mad, it's just... You gotta meet my family sometime. It's important.

SYD

I've met your family!

MCKENNA

I don't mean wave at them from a window or say 'hi' at the Coke machine. Get to know them. I don't know anything about you. You asked for space, and I'm trying to give it to you. But I, at least, want you to know me. And you won't until you meet my family. Get it?

SYD

I get it. Can we work now?

A moment as they both shift gears to the case. Syd comes around to watch over McKenna's shoulder. ON THE VIDEO: TWO LATINO SUSPECTS approach Logan's SUV while Tina loads groceries. Tina feels the looming presence and hustles to the open, rear passenger door. BANG BANG! Suspect #1 shoots Tina. She falls into the SUV. Then, as the two suspects approach, the SUV suddenly speeds away.

MCKENNA

Two bangers trolling Malibu think they spot an easy target. Driver tries to run, they shoot.

Syd looks across the bullpen at Logan, sitting beyond the glass of Captain Hirsch's office.

SYD

Only they didn't count on a kid being in the car... Tough kid.

ON THE VIDEO: As the suspects flee, the camera catches a clean shot of Suspect #2's arm. He has a TATTOO SLEEVE.

SYD (CONT'D) Pretty distinctive ink.

Back at her computer, Syd pulls up the LAPD TATTOO DATABASE --

SYD (CONT'D)

MCKENNA

Send me the --

Done.

ON SYD'S SCREEN: A screen grab of TATTOO SLEEVE pops up. Syd runs the photo against the database. IMAGES of BANGERS AND THEIR TATTOOS fly by until... a match! A PHOTO of VICTOR MORALES (30s, covered in tattoos and scars).

SYD

Victor Morales. No last known address, but he runs with the Eastside Riders.

ON THE VIDEO: McKenna freeze frames on the rear bumper as the suspects' car flees the scene. No plates, but --

MCKENNA

Chevy body. Triple unit rear light assemblies. It's a '69 Caprice. (off Syd's stunned look)

I'm kind-of a gearhead. Something you'd know if you took the time --

SYD

How does this help us?

MCKENNA

We need to search DMV records for a '69 Caprice registered to a Boyle Heights address.

SYD

Eastside Riders territory.

MCKENNA

But DMV warrants take forever.

SYD

I know a guy. Come on.

Syd is halfway to the door. McKenna hurries after.

INT. OMNITECH - PLAYA VISTA CAMPUS - DAY

A booming tech start-up with all the fixin's: coffee bar, feng shui, high-end workstations, underdressed millennials. CLOSE ON two huge eyes behind COKE BOTTLE GLASSES. FLETCHER (6'11", short sleeve button-down, John Salley) munches a slimy TOFU SNACK and masterfully hacks code at his station.

SYD (O.S.) Fletcher: Fletcher:!

He holds up a finger, "Wait." Takes a slurp from a BIG GULP. POP WIDE to reveal Syd and McKenna waiting over his shoulder.

FLETCHER

You came to me.

MCKENNA

You sure he can even do it?

SYD

Fletch used to do this kinda stuff for us back in Miami. I kinda missed him when he jumped coasts.

FLETCHER

Yeah? Lemme take you to the Lakers game. I know a guy.

SYD

I said 'kinda.'

FLETCHER

(to McKenna)

What about you?

SYD

She's married. I'm surprised you didn't see the ring.

McKenna gets a good look at his glasses.

MCKENNA

I'm surprised you can't see my blood-type with those things.

FLETCHER

Detectives always got jokes. Here.

Fletcher pulls up the DMV DATABASE. A few keystrokes, then --

FLETCHER (CONT'D)

I got one '69 Caprice at a Boyle Heights address. Registered to Sylvia Morales.

SYD

Looks like Victor put his car in his mama's name.

MCKENNA

Wanna bet he still lives with mother dear, too?

SYD

Owe you one, Fletch.

FLETCHER

(as they leave)

How bout dinner then? Call me.

EXT. VICTOR MORALES' HOUSE - GARAGE - DAY

Syd and McKenna cautiously approach the front of the house. As they near the porch, they spot the CAPRICE on a portable mid-rise scissor lift in the garage. GUNS UP.

INT. VICTOR MORALES' GARAGE - DAY

Syd and McKenna enter the dark garage. VICTOR bounds out swinging a WRENCH at Syd's head. Syd dodges. A down and dirty scrap ends with Victor sprawled out under the lift; Syd on top with a knee in his gut.

SYD

Where's your partner?

VICTOR

What partner?

SYD

We got you on video, genius. We know you didn't shoot the girl, your boy did. If you don't tell us where he is, I'm gonna drop this busted-ass Chevy on your head.

MCKENNA

(overacting)

She'll do it. She's crazy!

Syd cuts a look. DOUBLE TAPS the lift control, dropping the car a few inches. Both McKenna and Victor are surprised.

SYD

Where is he?

She double taps the control again, dropping the car more.

VICTOR

MCKENNA

Yo, you better stop her!

That's enough.

She drops the car more. It's getting dangerous. Victor tries to push Syd off. She bears down --

VICTOR

I don't know. Come get your girl!

SYD

MCKENNA

I need a name!

You'll kill him!

SYD

What good is he if he doesn't talk?

MCKENNA

VICTOR

Just tell her!

I don't know!

SYD

Fine --

Syd jams the controls and actually <u>DROPS THE CAR</u>! Victor screams. McKenna gasps. And the car slams onto a JACK Syd discreetly slid into place moments before. Victor yells --

VICTOR

Frankie Cruz, you psycho!

As Syd pulls Victor to his feet --

MCKENNA

Why didn't you tell me it was a bluff?

SYD

Cause you have no poker face. (to Victor)
Frankie Cruz. Where is he?

VICTOR

He went to finish the job.

MCKENNA

Finish the job?

An electric moment as Syd and McKenna realize what he means.

SYD

Son of a bitch. He's after Logan!

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

I/E. MCKENNA'S SUV - STREET - DAY (DRIVING)

Syd and McKenna moving fast with Captain Hirsch on bluetooth.

MCKENNA

Logan's the target! They're not carjackers, they're kidnappers!

INT. LAPD HEADQUARTERS - HIRSCH'S OFFICE - DAY - INTERCUT

Captain Hirsch sits at his desk; Syd and McKenna on speaker.

SYD

You gotta keep the boy close. We caught one of the suspects. He gave up his partner Frankie Cruz, the shooter. They weren't jacking the nanny's car, they were trying to kidnap Logan.

MCKENNA

Cruz is sitting on the station, waiting to ambush Logan when he gets far enough away.

Captain Hirsch shouts to the bullpen --

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

Get an APB on that DCFS car! All hands, now! Find that kid!

MCKENNA

(realizing)

He's already gone!

SYD

Where's Family Services HQ? That's where he's headed.

McKenna cranks the wheel and jams the gas.

I/E. DCFS AGENT'S CAR - HOLLYWOOD - DAY (DRIVING)

The DCFS AGENT (40s, kind) tunes the radio. Scans past Inner Circle's "Bad Boys" before landing on a CURRENT HIT. Logan rides silently in the back; staring out the window.

DCFS AGENT

What kinda music do you like? (silence)

We got cool toys at the office.

LOGAN

Video games?

The Agent frowns. His eyes flick to the rearview. A SQUAD CAR pulls up behind, lights flashing. The Agent pulls over.

ANGLE: The sideview as a UNIFORM COP approaches. He arrives; non-regulation belt buckle at the driver's window. The cop peers in, gun in hand. REVEAL: a DAGGER TATTOO between his eyes. He cracks a menacing smile through the window. This is FRANKIE CRUZ (30s, prison-built body with intense eyes).

CRUZ

Open up.

The Agent hits the locks as Cruz grabs the door handle. He's reaching for the gearshift when Cruz shatters the glass with his GLOCK. Logan screams!

CRUZ (CONT'D)
This kid has already caused me enough trouble today.

VROOM! McKenna's SUV fishtails onto the scene, lights flashing. Cruz turns and fires a couple rounds at the SUV. Enough time for the Agent to throw the car in gear and drive.

I/E. MCKENNA'S SUV - STREET - DAY - INTERCUT (DRIVING)

Syd's got her gun out. Tries to lower her window --

SYD MCKENNA

What the hell?

Sorry. Child lock.

Cruz, pissed, races back to his squad car and PEELS OUT; headed a different direction than Logan. Syd spots a MOTORCYCLE COP approaching; responding to the gunfire. Opens the door and is half out while McKenna's still moving --

MCKENNA (CONT'D)

SYD

What're you doing?

Go get Logan. I'll get Cruz.

Syd jumps out while McKenna follows the Agent's car. Syd sees Cruz's squad car turning onto HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD. Flags the motorcycle cop over. He pulls off his helmet to REVEAL: Reggie, the smitten rookie.

REGGIE

Syd, is that you?

SYD

Really?! I need your bike.

REGGIE

SYD (CONT'D)

What? No. I --

He's getting away! Just get off the damn bike.

She's already on and gunning the throttle as Reggie hops off the back. Reggie's jaw drops as Syd cuts through traffic. <u>WITH LOGAN</u>: Peering out the back window as McKenna speeds up behind; her RED AND BLUES flashing. The Agent guns it --

LOGAN

It's the cops.

DCFS AGENT

So was the last guy.

WITH MCKENNA: trying to keep pace with the DCFS Agent's car.

MCKENNA

Come on, man.

EXT. HOLLYWOOD BOULEVARD - DAY - INTERCUT

Syd guns it, weaving through traffic until she catches up to the squad car. Cruz swerves at her, forcing Syd into ONCOMING TRAFFIC. It takes all of Syd's concentration to dodge the oncoming cars while keeping pace with the squad car. She levels her gun at Cruz, but can't get a clean shot.

<u>WITH MCKENNA</u>: as she floors it to pull up beside the speeding Agent. She rolls down the window; holds up her BADGE.

MCKENNA

LAPD! Pull over!

WITH LOGAN: Scared. Looking out the window.

LOGAN

I know her! She's a real cop!

The Agent slams on the brakes. So does McKenna. Both cars SCREECH to a stop.

<u>WITH SYD</u>: Flying though oncoming traffic when A PAIR OF OPEN-AIR HOLLYWOOD TOUR BUSES bear down on her. Nowhere to go, Syd speeds up and SHOOTS THE GAP between the buses! She threads the needle, but is crestfallen when she comes out the other side and realizes she's lost Cruz's squad car.

BACK WITH MCKENNA: as she pulls Logan's door open and wraps the boy in a hug. He breaks down in tears.

LOGAN (CONT'D)

I want my mom!

MCKENNA

I know. We'll find her. It's gonna be alright. I promise.

BACK WITH SYD: as she returns on the motorcycle to find Reggie sitting on the curb, waiting. He stands.

SYD

Thanks for the ride. Nice bike. (awkward beat)
We cool? You still wanna hang out?

REGGIE

Nah... I think I'm good.

Syd nods. Not the first time she's scared a guy off.

INT. LAPD HEADQUARTERS - ROBBERY/HOMICIDE - DAY

Captain Hirsch regroups with Syd, McKenna, and the Bens.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

Cruz dumped the car in the LA river basin. It was from Hollywood Picture Cars. Rented with cash like the uniform. He's still in the wind. Burnett, McKenna... take Logan to the Eagle Rock safe house.

SYD

Kid duty? Because we're women?

THE BENS

CAPTAIN HAYES & MCKENNA

Yep.

Yep.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

TSA's made contact with Logan's mom. We'll pick her up when she lands. In the meantime...

(to the Bens)

I want you to get into her life. Figure out if she's on the level. City hall's rubber stamped the OT. Until this thing is solved, Logan is under 24 hour police protection.

As the Bens roll out to follow their lead --

BEN WALKER

You're gonna have fun doing our paperwork when we close this thing!

INT. HOSPITAL - RESIDENT'S LOUNGE/LOCKERS - DAY

Patrick tosses a soiled lab coat into a biohazard bin. Grabs his cell out of his locker. Listens to a voicemail --

MCKENNA (VOICEMAIL)

Hey. I'm sorry but I gotta cancel our night. Something came up at work. It's gonna be a long one. My mom's watching the kids 'til you get home. Don't wait up.

Disappointment washes over Patrick.

INT. REUTHER SECURITIES LLC - HALLWAY - DAY

A RECEPTIONIST leads the Bens toward the double glass doors of the CEO's office. They pass a door marked CLAIRE SMITH. It's dark except for the BLUE GLOW of a computer screen.

INT. REUTHER SECURITIES LLC - REUTHER'S OFFICE - DAY

A sleek office with a penthouse view of Century City. JAMES REUTHER (40s, laidback millionaire) stands to greet the Bens.

REUTHER

My secretary told me what's going on. Have you found Claire?

BEN WALKER

Not yet. Did she ever mention the Eastside Riders?

REUTHER

The street gang? No.

BEN BAINES

And she's been in Cyprus...?

REUTHER

A couple days now. Routine due diligence. She's an executive account manager. Does this sort of trip twice a month.

BEN BAINES

Anyone been in her office?

REUTHER

I couldn't say. Why?

BEN WALKER

Her computer's on. We'll need to see her files.

REUTHER

BEN WALKER

(as they leave)

We'll be back with that warrant.

INT. SAFE HOUSE - EVENING

A small Eagle Rock bungalow. McKenna steps to a window. Peels back the curtain to spot TWO PLAIN CLOTHES COPS in an unmarked car across the street. She looks back into the next room where Syd is teaching Logan self-defense. It's sweet.

WITH SYD AND LOGAN: Syd takes Logan's hand. Gently unballs his tightly clenched fist. Closes it with proper form.

SYD

Like this. So you don't break your thumb. Now, show me again. Good.

LOGAN

I'm not strong enough.

She stands behind Logan and holds him by his shirt collar.

SYD

You don't have to be. Big guys tend to rely on power. The key is to play into their strength. Fake pulling away, then when they yank back, jump into it. Plant your elbow right in his junk.

(Logan smiles at 'junk')
You get into any trouble, this should get you out.

BACK WITH MCKENNA: who watches, impressed. This is the most she's seen her partner connect with anyone. Ever. RING! Syd's phone breaks up the moment. McKenna listens as Syd discretely answers the call.

SYD (CONT'D)

What is it? Sorry, I... Dad, slow down. I can't. No. I'm with a witness. You WHAT?! Okay. OKAY!

She hangs up. Returns to Logan and takes a knee.

SYD (CONT'D)

Alright, Bruce Lee. There's something I gotta go do.

LOGAN

You're leaving me?

MCKENNA

What's going on? Is your dad okay?

Syd flinches at "dad." Doesn't like that McKenna heard that.

SYD

(to Logan)

I'll just be gone a minute.

(MORE)

SYD (CONT'D)

Why don't you hang onto my watch? Keep it safe for me.

She slides her Movado onto his wrist. It's too big, but sets him at ease.

SYD (CONT'D)

As much as that thing cost... Now you know I'll be back. You're in good hands with McKenna.

Logan plops onto the couch, looking at the expensive watch hanging on his wrist. Syd heads for the door. McKenna catches up and grabs her by the arm.

MCKENNA

SYD (CONT'D)

What's so important it can't Take your hand off me. wait?

MCKENNA

What's going on with you?

SYD

This is why I won't get to know your family. We do the job, we go home. Your personal life is yours, my personal life is mine. Mine. This is important. Trust me, I wouldn't go if it wasn't.

MCKENNA

I've been by your side every day for four months. About the <u>only</u> thing I know is that you care about this job more than anything else. So whatever this is... Whatever would make you walk out that door is either devastating or dangerous. Either way, I'm here to help if you'd just let me in.

SYD

Save the 'let me in,' June Cleaver speeches for your kids. I don't need your help. You may be a great mom, but that's not what I need right now. I need a friend who knows when to back off.

(McKenna doesn't flinch)

Nancy, let me go.

McKenna finally releases Syd's arm. She fumes as the door slams behind Syd.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. JOSEPH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

OPEN ON: a FRAMED PHOTO of Syd with MARCUS' FAMILY. ANOTHER of Marcus, Theresa, Syd, and Mike on South Beach. THEN Syd and Marcus as kids at an LAPD fundraiser circa 1985 with MOM, looking distracted, and DAD, in his DRESS BLUES. SMASH TO:

Dad, JOSEPH BURNETT, (60s, some hard living through some harder years) pouring bourbon into a dirty glass. KNOCK KNOCK! He pulls the chain and opens the door. Syd lingers --

SYD

JOSEPH

Did you find him?

Syd -- Come in. Sit down.

Syd follows Joseph inside. He swigs his drink before putting it down on a stack of books beside more family PHOTOS.

SYD

You said you got intel --

JOSEPH

Like you asked. Well asked would be putting it mildly. Demanded --

SYD

This was the deal. You want a relationship, I need help. It's not my fault it's like this.

JOSEPH

That's your mother talking.

SYD

Don't. You don't get to talk about her. Just tell me. Is Petrov in L.A.?

JOSEPH

Sit down, Sydney.

(she does)

These people... this is serious. Petrov is a damn ghost story criminals whisper in the dark.

SYD

I don't believe in ghosts.

<u>Somebody</u> tortured me. Shot me and left me for dead and I'm pretty sure it was a real, live man named Mikhail Petrov.

She spits the name like hot poison. Joseph grabs his drink --

SYD (CONT'D)

You're scared. You found him.

JOSEPH

No. But I found someone who can. An old C.I. says Ray Sherman has been running his mouth about being on Petrov's payroll.

He moves to a bureau cluttered with yellowed newspapers and old file folders. Hands Syd a surveillance photo of RAY SHERMAN (40s, a hustler in a slick suit).

SYD

Ray Sherman. How do I find him?

JOSEPH

He owns a nightclub. Really just a front for some new outfit looking to move into L.A. He's hard to pin down. Travels a lot. But word is he'll be at the club tonight.

SYD

That's why you called.

JOSEPH

I know what you aim to do.

SYD

Don't act like you know me.

Syd stands to leave. Joseph's voice stops her at the door.

JOSEPH

Your mom took you kids to Miami and I let her. That was a mistake and I'm tryin' to make up for it. You may not know me, but I know you --

SYD

Yeah? Where'd you get those pictures? Did Marcus send 'em or did you print them off Facebook?

JOSEPH

Nothing good lies at the end of this. Just let it go.

Joseph goes back to refill his glass.

SYD

That's a nice speech for a guy falling off the wagon, but I know damn well if you didn't want to see the man who did this...

She lifts her shirt, showing the WEB OF SCARS on her torso.

SYD (CONT'D)

...get what's coming to him, you wouldn't have called me in the first place.

With that, she's out the door.

INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

McKenna and Logan play Bananagrams. A key hits the lock. Logan's eyes flick to the door, McKenna's to the WALL CLOCK.

MCKENNA

Don't worry, it's just the Bens.

The Bens enter carrying a large box.

BEN WALKER

Changing of the guard. What's up little man?

Logan looks to McKenna. He's scared.

MCKENNA

You're in good hands. Don't tell them I said this, but the Bens are the best cops on the force... if you don't count me and Syd.

BEN BAINES

Where's your darker half?

BEN WALKER

We figured you guys would be braiding each other's hair and singing into a wooden spoon by now.

LOGAN

You guys are partners with the same name? That's stupid.

McKenna smirks. High-fives Logan.

BEN BAINES

Nothing stupid about video games!

He pulls a PLAY STATION from the box. Logan smiles and goes with Baines to set up the game as Walker talks to McKenna.

BEN WALKER

Seriously, where's Burnett?

MCKENNA

She left.

BEN WALKER

Cap know?

MCKENNA

Yeah. It was an emergency.

BEN WALKER

You really gotta get better at lying.

MCKENNA

Damnit.

BEN WALKER

She okay?

MCKENNA

Honestly? I don't think so. Did you bring what I asked for?

Walker produces a SEALED MANILA ENVELOPE.

BEN WALKER

From your top left drawer, as requested. What is it?

MCKENNA

Personal.

BEN WALKER

Don't do me like that. Syd's rubbing off on you.

(She's not gonna tell.)

Fine. Go home to your family.

Logan's mom doesn't land for a couple hours. You got some time.

INT. MCKENNA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Patrick mutes the Lakers/Cavs game to answer his PHONE.

PATRICK

You okay?

I/E. MCKENNA'S SUV - SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT - INTERCUT

McKenna sits in her SUV, cell to her ear.

MCKENNA

Yeah. Ended up on a protection detail.

PATRICK

Ended up or volunteered?

MCKENNA

What's that supposed to mean?

PATRICK

Nothing. Just... I thought today was gonna be the day. But between this morning not working out and you cancelling tonight...

MCKENNA

I had to work.

PATRICK

You've been working a lot lately.

MCKENNA

And...

PATRICK

It's okay if you're having second thoughts. It's just... we're not getting any younger.

MCKENNA

You mean $\underline{I'm}$ not getting any younger.

PATRICK

That's not what I meant. Trying for a baby is a big deal. It's okay if you have cold feet.

MCKENNA

I just... had to work!

Patrick frowns; nobody knows a McKenna lie better than him.

PATRICK

We'll talk when you get home.

MCKENNA

Sure.

McKenna hangs up.

INT. RAY SHERMAN'S NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

THE CAMERA MOVES through the crowded club. Music thumping. Sex in the air. WE LAND ON Syd in a stunning dress; taking a shot at the bar. Her eyes are fixed across the room where Ray Sherman is holding court in a VIP booth.

WAITRESS (O.S.)

Here you go.

REVEAL a SEXY WAITRESS prepping bottle service. Syd slips her a wad of cash. The Waitress gives Syd her tray. Syd adjusts the dress to show more leg. Turns and struts to the VIP all sex and confidence. She owns the room.

AT THE VIP: Syd puts the booze on the table. Lingers as she leans over Sherman. She's got his attention.

RAY SHERMAN

You don't work here. I'd remember you... Ray.

SYD

Nice to meet you, Ray. You look like the man to know.

RAY SHERMAN

Yeah? And what brought you over, Ms...

SYD

I'd like to get to know you.

I/E. MCKENNA'S SUV - MCKENNA'S HOUSE - NIGHT

McKenna idles in front of her house. She shakes her head. Knows she should just go in. Instead, she opens the SEALED ENVELOPE Walker brought her. REVEAL: SYD'S DEA PERSONNEL FILE. McKenna flips through it. Lots of redacted lines, but plenty of intel, too. McKenna reads... then grabs her cell.

MCKENNA

Yeah, it's McKenna... I need a personal favor... Ping a cell... Sydney Burnett.

INT. RAY SHERMAN'S NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Syd is sitting on Sherman's lap. CLOSE as she leans in and nibbles his ear.

SYD

Somewhere private we could go?

RAY SHERMAN

It's my club, sweetheart. We can go wherever you want.

INT. RAY SHERMAN'S NIGHTCLUB - PRIVATE ROOM - NIGHT

Sherman leads Syd into a velvet-lined room; a room designed for sex. He makes a show of closing the door for privacy. Sits on the red, leather bench that lines a wall.

RAY SHERMAN

Don't get shy on me now.

He pats the seat beside him. Syd straddles him instead --

SYD

Don't worry. I won't.

Syd jams a DERRINGER under Sherman's jaw.

RAY SHERMAN

What the f -- [uck]?!

SYD

Tell me everything you know about Mikhail Petrov.

RAY SHERMAN

What do you think this is, bitch?

SYD

A derringer...

(aims the gun lower)

On your sack, <u>bitch</u>. You work for Petrov. How do you contact him?

(silence)

Where is he?

(a stare down)

Start talking or I swear to God I'll shoot your dick off and then burn this club to the ground.

EXT. RAY SHERMAN'S NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT - INTERCUT

Decked out club-girls and underdressed dudes are being held up by a condescending BOUNCER (30s, a hulking velvet rope Nazi). McKenna approaches, BADGE in hand.

MCKENNA

LAPD.

BOUNCER

Warrant?

MCKENNA

Excuse me?

BOUNCER

You think I'm out here just to keep these chicken heads from goin' in?

MCKENNA

Don't test me tonight. My days of waiting in these lines are over.

BOUNCER

Loooong over.

MCKENNA

Did you just... I'm going in there one of two ways. Stepping past you or stepping over you. Your call.

McKenna steps forward. The Bouncer puts a firm hand on her shoulder.

She grips his hand and TWISTS his wrist -- the pressure point causing him to cry out until -- JAB -- McKenna jams two fingers against his exposed throat. The Bouncer clutches his neck, gagging. McKenna helps him to the ground gently.

MCKENNA (CONT'D)
Breathe, big guy. You'll be fine.

McKenna steps over him as she enters the club.

BACK WITH SYD: Sherman smiles despite Syd's gun on him.

RAY SHERMAN

Funny thing about this room. Sometimes I like to relive the stuff that happens in here. And sometimes; girl as fine as you...

SYD

RAY SHERMAN (CONT'D) ...the fellas like to watch.

(realizing)
Cameras!

Syd jumps back as THREE LARGE MEN, Sherman's bodyguards, burst in. They draw WEAPONS. Syd manages to disarm and drop the first one. Now she's holding TWO GUNS. But there's three guards plus Sherman. She can't cover them all. The first guard gets to his feet with a second GUN from his ankle. Sherman is impressed.

RAY SHERMAN (CONT'D)
I don't know you from those other
hoes out there but I can tell
you're trouble. I'm about to do my
employer a favor. You might've
just got me a raise.

A quick call on his cell --

RAY SHERMAN (CONT'D)
Yo. Tell the DJ turn it up.
(the music thumps louder)
Somebody hot this chick.

Syd's finger grazes the derringer trigger as she tries to read which bodyguard is going to shoot first. Suddenly, McKenna barges in; gun up, badge in hand.

MCKENNA

Damn, it's a party! Looks like everybody got all dressed up. You got your suits on. Fancy... guns. Syd's got her legs all out.

SYD

What the hell are you doing? How'd you find me?

MCKENNA

I'm a detective, it's what I do. Hear that? LAPD. And unlike my partner, I was sure to radio the station and let all the other police know I was coming. So if anything happens to us...

RAY SHERMAN

She's police?

MCKENNA

Come on. Let's go.

Syd doesn't move. Eyes locked on Sherman, her chance for answers slipping away.

RAY SHERMAN

I don't know what you want. But you better be careful, because you just might get it.

Syd slowly backs away and exits with McKenna.

INT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

The Bens and Logan are playing a violent video game.

BEN BAINES

Just don't tell McKenna we let you play this. She scares me.

Walker heads to the restroom, passing a window on his way. He glances outside at the unmarked car; the two cops stationary in their seats. Walker talks into a RADIO.

BEN WALKER (INTO RADIO)

How's the view, fellas?

(silence)

Dave, you copy?

Baines looks up, clocking Walker's concern. Pauses the game.

LOGAN

Hey!

BEN BAINES

One sec, Logan.

BEN WALKER (INTO RADIO)

Car 31, do you [copy] --

CRUZ (RADIO) (O.S.)

Send out the boy, nobody else dies.

EXT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT - INTERCUT

The two cops in the unmarked car are $\underline{\text{dead in their seats}}$. SHADOWS shuffle by the car. REVEAL a HALF DOZEN BANGERS armed to the teeth, lining up behind Frankie Cruz who holds a radio in one hand and an M-16 in the other.

CRUZ (INTO RADIO)
You don't, it's gonna get real bad.

<u>INSIDE</u>: The Bens hustle Logan into a crawlspace and take fortified positions. They lock and load. Baines is on his phone with Captain Hirsch while Walker buys time with Cruz.

BEN BAINES
We got six men. Heavily
armed. It's gonna be bad,
Cap. Hurry!

BEN WALKER (INTO RADIO) Counter offer for you, Cruz. Turn yourself in and I'll get you some soap on a rope for your stay in Chino. Totally undroppable.

<u>OUTSIDE</u>: Cruz nods to an associate aiming a shoulder mounted RPG! He pulls the trigger and -- SHOOM -- launches an OG-7V FRAGMENTATION ROUND into the wall of the safe house --

INSIDE: KABOOM! The Bens dive for cover as the WALL EXPLODES from the outside. Baines is trapped under rubble and dust, his phone knocked from his hand. Walker tries to free him, but sees a pair of ARMED BANGERS storming inside. BANG BANG - Walker drops them.

BEN BAINES Leave me! Get the kid!

Walker hustles back to where they stashed Logan.

BEN WALKER We gotta move. Stay close!

Walker takes Logan by the hand and moves toward a rear exit. An ANGRY BANGER steps over his fallen homies and opens fire with an ASSAULT RIFLE! Walker wraps Logan in his arms, twisting him away from the gunfire. Walker takes two rounds in the back and falls to the ground. Cruz steps in and shoots the Angry Banger in the back of the head. The THREE REMAINING BANGERS are stunned.

CRUZ

Idiota! We need the boy alive. (sees the others)
One percent finder's fee. That's
1.5 mil split four ways now.
You're welcome.

Logan crawls out from under an unconscious Walker. The Bangers grab him. They drag him away, SCREAMING, as Baines struggles to pull himself out from under the rubble.

I/E. MCKENNA'S SUV - RAY SHERMAN'S NIGHTCLUB - NIGHT

Syd and McKenna climb in and slam the doors.

SYD

That was really stupid. You could've been killed.

MCKENNA

Yeah? You too.

SYD

Why'd you come for me?

MCKENNA

At the house. You said you don't need a mom. You need a friend who knows when to back off.

SYD

Yeah?

MCKENNA

You didn't say partner. You said friend. Friends know when <u>not</u> to back off.

SYD

You're not fooling me. I've been by your side for four months too, remember? You just don't want to go home to your family.

McKenna is stung. Syd's right. But she presses on.

MCKENNA

You know, there's a pool at the station about why you moved to L.A. Hard to blame a bunch of cops for being curious.

SYD

Yeah? What's it up to?

MCKENNA

Don't know. I'm not in it. But I'm as curious as they are. After our first two weeks as partners, I called in some favors and got ahold of your DEA file. It's been sitting in my drawer. I told myself... unless there's a reason to think whatever your deal is could blow back on me... That it wasn't any of my business.

(She treads carefully)

I opened it tonight.

McKenna tries to read Syd's poker face.

SYD

Learn anything?

MCKENNA

Mostly redacted. But I know you were hospitalized six months before resigning from the DEA. That's the part that got me. Half the pool is wrong, you weren't fired. You quit. And from the way I've seen you do the job, you damn sure aren't burnt out. So... you ready to tell me what the hell is going on with you now? 'Cause you're a damn good partner, but I've seen secrets get people killed. And I got a family to think about.

Syd takes it in. Is she finally going to open up? Then... McKenna's phone RINGS! RINGS AGAIN. McKenna finally looks --

MCKENNA (CONT'D)

Hey, Cap - (to Syd)
The safe house!

ANGLE ON: McKenna's tires burning rubber as she peels out.

I/E. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

Syd and McKenna are the first on the scene of the bullet riddled war zone. Large SHELL CASINGS litter the ground. Guns up, they step through the shattered wall, clearing corners and calling out for --

SYD

Logan?!

MCKENNA

Walker? Baines?!

BEN BAINES (O.S.)

Over here!

Syd rushes over to help Baines out from under the rubble. He's covered in dust and has a minor cut on his head; pissed off but he'll live. Across the room, McKenna is cradling Walker. He's been shot. She finds his pulse then radios --

MCKENNA

Officer down, I need an ambulance!

BEN WALKER

It's not that bad, is it?

He tries to lighten the mood with a bloodstained smile. It \underline{is} that bad. Syd and Baines rush over; Baines using his jacket to stem the bleeding from Walker's gunshots.

SYL

What the hell happened here?

BAINES

Cruz and a small army.

MCKENNA

Where's Logan?!

Walker's look says it all. Baines takes over applying pressure to his partner's wounds. SLO-MO as McKenna stands, blood and dust streaking her face. The MUSIC swells. Syd spots something on the ground: her Movado. She picks it up, looking to McKenna. Beyond the pain and loss in their eyes is something else -- DETERMINATION.

SYD

Shit just got real.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. LAPD HEADQUARTERS - ROBBERY/HOMICIDE - NIGHT

Tension in the air as McKenna and Ben Baines scour banker's boxes full of FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS. Syd paces behind them on her cell. Hirsch enters; pissed.

CAPTAIN HIRCH

We got three dead bangers, two of our own in the morgue, and Walker in the ICU. Someone explain to me how this went from a dead nanny on the PCH to World War 3! How did my safe house get compromised?!

MCKENNA

We ID'd one of the dead bangers. Turns out his cousin works for the landscaping company LAPD contracted for the house. He just got picked up headed down the 405 for the border. He sold us out.

BEN BAINES

Cruz mentioned a finder's fee. A million and a half dollars.

MCKENNA

Lotta money to dangle in front of a quy making ten bucks an hour.

SYD (INTO PHONE)

I owe you one.

(hangs up)

Logan's mom, Claire, is dirty. If you follow these transactions her boss sent over far enough back... Anyone familiar with reverse money-laundering?

BEN BAINES

Yeah, you turn non-cash assets into clean money for dirty people.

SYD

I saw this all the time at the DEA. Cartels need money for bribes, weapons, you name it. They can't carry huge amounts of cash so they set up legitimate accounts run by a third party... Claire.

MCKENNA

But you said the money's legit. So whose cash is it?

SYD

That's the thing. It was the cartel's money to start with. Look at these transfers of non-cash assets: land deeds, stock liquidations, debt conversions. All fake.

BEN BAINES It's all drug money.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH So Claire is moving money for a drug cartel?

MCKENNA

Rumor has it the Sinaloa Cartel has been outsourcing to local L.A. gangs. Franchising like McDonalds.

BEN BAINES Gangs like Cruz's Eastside Riders.

SYD

I called a friend at the DEA to see if any cartel heavies are moving through L.A. Turns out Sinaloa's own Hector Salazar got off a jet in Burbank about an hour after the second attempt to grab Logan.

Syd holds up her phone. INSERT THE SCREEN: a SURVEILLANCE PHOTO of SALAZAR (40s, well-dressed) stepping off a jet.

MCKENNA

Which would explain the upgrade in manpower and ordinance when they hit the safe house.

BEN BAINES

So Logan's mom is cleaning their money. Why take Logan? And where?

MCKENNA

Let us work on the where. I got a lead on the scumbag who sold the military grade ammo we found, and I'd love to ruin his night.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH Logan's mom lands at LAX in thirty. Baines and I will see if she can fill in the why. I know this is

personal...

(a look to Ben)
...but the priority here is <u>finding</u>
<u>Logan</u>. We do it right, we get our revenge at the same time.

INT. THE ARMORY - NIGHT

Half gun store, half shooting range; a haven for Second Amendment nuts. Syd and McKenna enter and approach KEITH (40s, MAGA hat) as he cleans a disassembled M9 Beretta. McKenna slaps an evidence bag down on the counter; a CASING from outside the safe house. Keith barely glances at it.

KETTH

That a shell casing you got there, Detective McKenna?

MCKENNA

A 5.56mm armor piercing M995 casing to be exact. In the Army we called them "black tips."

KEITH

Huh. Was that 'cause they had black tips on 'em?

MCKENNA

Keith --

KEITH

Me and you had an understanding. Me and her don't have [shit] --

MCKENNA

Intel for the occasional blind eye. That was the agreement. But that ended the second your hardware was used against LAPD!

That catches Keith by surprise. Tries to cover.

KEITH

Dunno what you're talking about.

SYD

Last chance to do this friendly.

KEITH

What're you gonna do? You're cops.

Syd and McKenna share a look. Game on.

SYL

You're right, it's not like I could shoot you. Not when LAPD tracks every round I fire.

MCKENNA

What if you fired his gun?

SYD

That'd work. But it's in pieces.

MCKENNA

I used to know how to do this...

McKenna starts assembling the weapon on the counter as Syd eggs her on. Keith is starting to look nervous.

SYD

MCKENNA (CONT'D)

Damn, girl...

Like riding a damn bike...

KEITH

What the hell, McKenna?

MCKENNA

Were you not listening? Two cops are dead. A child is in danger. So if you don't tell us where the crew who bought this ammo is by the time I'm finished, my partner's gonna pull this trigger.

SYD

Hell. Yes.

MCKENNA

Five seconds, Keith.

KEITH

You're bluffing!

MCKENNA

I can't bluff. It's a whole thing.

SYD

It'd be your word against ours. And we're cops!

KEITH

MCKENNA

You can't...

Out of time!

She finishes the M9 and jams a loaded clip into it. Hands it to Syd who cocks the hammer and aims at Keith.

KEITH

I met one guy, okay?! One guy!

SYD

I need a name.

KEITH

Salazar!

SYD

Hector Salazar? Where is he?

KEITH

He's staying at The Peninsula!

Syd ejects the clip and clears the chamber.

SYL

Real talk. I was gonna shoot him.

MCKENNA

That's why I kept the firing pin.

McKenna holds up the PIN before pulling out her cuffs and motioning for Keith to turn around.

INT. PENINSULA HOTEL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

A LARGE MEXICAN MAN in a suit stands guard outside a suite as Syd approaches. Flashing a smile as she struggles to unlock a door across the hall.

SYD

I hate these stupid keycards. Would you mind giving me a hand?

The guard approaches. As he does, McKenna steps up behind and jams her gun in his back.

MCKENNA

Oops.

Syd unlocks the door and throws it open as McKenna pushes the guard into the room. Syd snags the gun from his holster as he passes. She waves both guns at him, motioning him into the bathroom, then tosses him her cuffs.

SYD

Cuff yourself to the drain pipe. (off his reluctance)
Boy, don't make me come in there!

INT. PENINSULA SUITE - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

Syd and McKenna enter, guns out. They sweep the front room of the suite. Champagne on the table. A DRESS on the floor.

INT. PENINSULA SUITE - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Syd and McKenna burst into the bedroom to find JEN (20s, a sexy escort) standing in her underwear and SALAZAR laying on top of the bed in a pair of silk boxers.

SYD

LAPD, don't move!

Salazar lunges toward his jacket on a nearby chair. McKenna cuts him off, leveling her gun in Salazar's face.

MCKENNA

She said don't move.

SALAZAR (IN SPANISH) I don't speak English.

MCKENNA (IN SPANISH)
Shame. You're still under arrest.

SALAZAR (IN SPANISH)

I want a lawyer.

McKenna, frustrated, slaps cuffs on Salazar.

INT. LAX - TOM BRADLEY TERMINAL - NIGHT

Captain Hirsch and Ben Baines wait as the flight from Cyprus de-boards. Claire charges off the plane. She's followed closely by TSA; her cellphone DINGING with a flurry of missed emails and texts. Hirsch badges the guards.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH Claire? I'm Captain Hirsch of the Los Angeles Police Department.

This is Detective Baines. We need to talk about your -- [son.]

CLAIRE

Where's Logan? TSA said you had him.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

We did, but --

CLAIRE

Did?! What are you saying?

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

If you'd just come with us.

CLAIRE

I'm not going anywhere! What's going on?! Where's my son? I got this call and then --

She looks at her phone. Claire releases a soul shattering WAIL. Her legs give out. Baines catches her. The phone clatters to the floor. INSERT: Claire's cell. A photo of LOGAN WITH A KNIFE TO HIS THROAT and text: "WHERE'S OUR \$\$\$?"

I/E. PENINSULA SUITE - FRONT ROOM - BALCONY - NIGHT

UNIFORM COPS fill the suite. Pull back to the balcony where we find Jen, the escort, in a chair; wrapped in a bathrobe and chewing on her fingernails. Syd sitting next to her.

SYD

What's your name?

JEN

Jen. Am I in trouble?

SYD

Depends.

Jen picks up a VIAL OF WEED and rolling papers from the table.

JEN

It's for my anxiety.

SYD

No judgement.

Jen's hands tremble. Syd takes the materials from her and, to Jen's surprise, rolls the joint for her.

SYD (CONT'D)

Here's the deal, Jen. The man who hired you is involved with some bad people who did a very bad thing. I need to know if you saw or heard anything that might help us.

JEN

Like what?

SYD

Did he mention meeting anyone? Or going anywhere?

Syd hands Jen a veteran-rolled joint, then flicks a BIC for her. Jen eyes Syd suspiciously --

SYD (CONT'D)

For your anxiety.

JEN

You're a cop, right?

Syd takes a hit off the joint to show it's cool. Passes it.

JEN (CONT'D)

He hired me for the whole night. Said he was meeting someone at the Grand Havana Room. Wanted an American girl on his arm.

SYD

You catch a name?

A UNIFORM sticks his head out from behind the sliding door. Syd hides the joint behind her chair.

UNIFORM

You want me to take her downtown, Detective?

SYD

It's alright, officer. I got her.

The uniform sniffs the air. Puzzles at the weed smell. Leaves. Syd takes one more hit and stands.

SYD (CONT'D)

Wait till everyone leaves, then get an uber. And try to make better choices.... this is garbage weed.

Just before Syd reaches the door --

JEN

He was meeting a guy named Reuther.

I/E. MCKENNA'S SUV - STREET - NIGHT (DRIVING)

McKenna at the wheel. Syd on a bluetooth call --

SYD

Claire's boss, James Reuther, is the one working with the cartel.

INT. LAPD HEADQUARTERS - ROBBERY/HOMICIDE - INTERCUT

Captain Hirsch and Ben Baines are huddled around Baines' desk with Claire, who's eyes are red from crying.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

You need to hear this. Claire, please tell them what you told us.

CLAIRE

For the last few months, I'd seen some irregularities in a few accounts. Small stuff, but it added up over time. I flew to Cyprus for some "know your customer" diligence, and while I was there I decided to freeze the accounts until I could sort it out. I was just doing my job. I didn't know who was responsible, so I used a personal pin. I'm the only one who can unfreeze the money. I was gonna report it --

(emotional)

It's my fault they took my son, isn't it? It's my fault!

SYD

The accounts you froze were Reuther's cartel money and now they want it back.

MCKENNA

Reuther threw you under the bus with the cartel and sent us a bunch of cooked books to make you look dirty. This is his fault, not --

CLAIRE

I'll do whatever they want! unfreeze the accounts, I just want my son back! Why are we still sitting here talking?! Go find him! Find him!

Baines tries to comfort Claire. She's beside herself.

CLAIRE (CONT'D)

Just do something!

a badge.

SYD

Cap, take us off speakerphone. (he does) Logan's running out of time. need Reuther to talk now.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH He'll lawyer up the minute he sees

SYD

I have a plan to get him to talk. But I need to know everything Claire knows about those accounts.

MCKENNA

This place we're headed is a boys' club for new-money dudes looking to measure dicks after work. How you gonna get Reuther to talk?

SYD

I'm gonna show him mine's bigger than his.

INT. GRAND HAVANA CIGAR CLUB - NIGHT

Syd walks through the club like she owns it. Heads turn as she cuts through the smoke filled room to the back where Reuther sips on a single malt. Syd, oozing confidence, slides across from Reuther --

REUTHER

I think you have the wrong table.

SYD

(to a waitress)
Don Julio Real. Neat.

(back to business)

Hector Salazar won't be joining you this evening. The organization has sent me instead.

REUTHER

Now I know you have the wrong table.

SYD

You lost our money. Unless I get assurances you're going to make it right, the next representative they send will be far less civil.

Syd holds Reuther's gaze like an all-in poker pro. Then --

REUTHER

I didn't realize the cartel works with people of your... demographic?

SYD

My employers don't see the world in black, white, and brown. All they see is green. As long as the Cyprus account is frozen, they only see the money you owe them.

REUTHER

Owe?! I'm doing all I can to fix this. If I could override the freeze I would. I need the pin! I bought Cruz an arsenal --

SYD

You think we didn't have guns?

REUTHER

I gave him a place to stash Logan. She'll trade that pin number for her kid. What more do you want?

Got him! She slaps her SHIELD down onto the table --

SYD

Answers. Where is Logan?

Reuther's jaw drops. He's fucked.

INT. LAPD HEADQUARTERS - ROBBERY/HOMICIDE - NIGHT

Syd, McKenna, Hirsch, and Baines. Tired, but pushing through.

BEN BAINES

Claire's losing it. She's ready to call Cyprus and unfreeze the funds.

MCKENNA

That money being frozen is the only reason Logan is still alive.

BEN BAINES

That and the fact that Walker took a bullet for him! We gotta get these guys.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

Reuther's agreed to cooperate for leniency. He'll give us Logan's location, but SWAT can't go into a hostage situation blind. Too risky. They're off the table until we get eyes on the kid. Suggestions?

SYD

We go through with the exchange. Reuther can vouch for a U.C. Once we spot Logan, call the cavalry.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

Short notice to get a new undercover up to speed. And I'm not sending Claire in to add another hostage to the mix. What else we got?

SYD

Sending someone in undercover is the only play and we all know it.

MCKENNA

Syd, I don't think you can pass for Logan's mom.

SYD

No. But you can.

As McKenna realizes she's about to walk into the lion's den --

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. MCKENNA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Syd and McKenna enter the morning chaos of the McKenna home. Patrick's toasting waffles, Isabel searches for her bag, Ryan's shirt is on backwards. Things ramp up as Ryan sees --

RYAN

ISABEL

Nancy's home!

Nancy!

SYD

(quiet to McKenna)

'Nancy?!'

MCKENNA

Not now.

Ryan and Isabel run to greet McKenna who takes a knee, gives hugs, and helps Ryan turn his shirt around.

ISABEL

RYAN

I can't find my bag!

Did you catch the bad guys?

MCKENNA

Check the hook in the closet. And we're working on it.

Ryan looks up at Syd, who gives him an awkward wave.

RYAN

Is that her?

Patrick approaches with two mugs of steaming coffee for them.

PATRICK

Nice to meet you, I'm Patrick.

SYD

Syd Burnett. I've heard a lot about you.

PATRICK

The waffles are burnt and the coffee's bad but help yourself.

MCKENNA

We're still on the clock. Gotta get back soon. Just came home to grab some clothes.

(notices something)

Ryan, is that a bruise on your arm?

Ryan runs off to his room. McKenna looks to Patrick.

PATRICK

He's fine. I asked Ms. Metzger. Boys being boys.

McKenna turns to Isabel, who found her bag. Syd observes.

MCKENNA

Where were you?

Isabel looks down at her feet, feeling guilty. McKenna goes off to check on Ryan.

SYD

He getting bullied?

Syd crouches to her level. Waits until she's ready to talk.

ISABEL

Nancy wants me to stick up for him but I don't want to get in trouble.

SYD

I get it. But when it comes to family, sometimes the rules don't apply. My brother, Marcus. Man, does he work my nerves. But no matter how much he bugs me, he always has my back.

We find McKenna around the corner, listening. She's never heard Syd mention even having a brother.

ISABEL

Easy for you to say. You're cops.

SYD

Doesn't matter. Once, I got in trouble and Marcus flew all the way to Cuba to save me. There was a whole crew of... bullies... armed to the teeth and Marcus took them all on. That's what family does. You ride together, you die together. For life.

ISABEL

You know I'm twelve, right? Plus, they're boys and I'm a... girl.

SYL

Damn right.

INT. MCKENNA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Syd looks over McKenna's shoulder as McKenna rifles through her closet.

SYD

All the mom jokes I make and your step-kids call you 'Nancy?'

MCKENNA

We got two hours 'til the exchange, you wanna focus?

(Syd's look says "no")

They had a mom. I'll always be Nancy to them, but that doesn't mean they don't love me.

SYD

You could said something.

MCKENNA

Truth time? I kinda like the mom jokes. When I met Patrick, Isabel was eight. Ryan was five. Their mom had died the year before. Izzy was having trouble focusing on school. Refused to do homework. Understandable, but the school can only cut so much slack. So I instituted a rule. Once a week we all sat and read together to prep her for a test on Charlotte's Web.

SYD

Family Book Club.

MCKENNA

It grew from there. Became a way to check in with each other. Food, music; occasionally the kids invite close friends. They love it now. But I'll never forget how it felt when I first told Izzy she had to sit and read in front of the whole family. She screamed that she hated me. But I could tell that she knew... I was looking out for her. I held my ground and it worked. That's when I became a mom.

Syd considers that as she steps to the closet.

SYD

You have some dope clothes. Why don't you ever wear any of this?

MCKENNA

That's what you're thinking about?! I'm about to walk into a room full of cartel hitmen and even if I can convince them I'm Claire, Logan has to play along or we're both dead!

(MORE)

MCKENNA (CONT'D)

I pray to God these people have never seen Claire in person.

SYD

Relax, Reuther wouldn't have agreed to go in with you if they knew what Logan's mom actually looked like.

MCKENNA

Yeah? Well let's hope they didn't find her on Facebook!

Syd hadn't considered that. She gives McKenna a "let's hope" look and changes the subject by turning back to the closet.

SYD

You love cars but drive a POS. You got style but show up to work lookin' like... you.

MCKENNA

(grabs a short dress)
I went from wearing this, to having two kids. Not two babies... kids.
Not a lot of time left for... me.

SYD

Maybe you should make some.

On cue, Ryan enters with his hand stuck in his mop of hair.

RYAN

Nancy, I got syrup on me.

MCKENNA

And miss out on all this?

McKenna means it. Syd watches as she lovingly tends to her son. She may like nice clothes, but she <u>loves</u> being a mom.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH (PRELAP)

Doesn't get any realer than this.

EXT. BEACHFRONT HOME - DAY

Establish a sprawling, expensive oceanfront property nestled a hundred feet from the ocean on the Santa Monica boardwalk.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH (PRELAP)

Logan is being held in a Santa Monica beach house...

The CAMERA FLYS SIX BLOCKS AWAY to --

EXT. MOBILE COMMAND POST - DAY

The LAPD MOBILE COMAND TRUCK is parked a safe distance from the beach. At the back, the team locks and loads getting prepped to roll out. McKenna is dressed to impress. Syd and Baines wear BULLETPROOF VESTS marked LAPD. Hirsch preaches --

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

... a stone's throw from one of the city's most crowded tourist attractions. A dozen hostiles with enough firepower to level a city block.

A TECH slips a PENDANT NECKLACE over McKenna's head. She speaks softly into the pendant and gets a thumbs up from the Tech. She's wired. Reuther stands by, looking nervous.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH (CONT'D)
Mr. Reuther will escort McKenna
inside, under the guise of
unfreezing the accounts. As soon
as she's got Logan out of harms
way, she'll signal. Once we light
the fuse, you'll have sixty seconds
before SWAT breaches. Arrest who
you can. Bag the rest.

Baines shoves a LAPTOP BAG into Reuther's arms and leads him away. McKenna hands Syd her gun.

SYD

Once Logan sees it's you, he'll play along. You got this.

McKenna nods. No turning back now.

INT. BEACHFRONT HOME - DAY - INTERCUT

The door opens to reveal McKenna and Reuther. A THUG gestures them inside, then closes the door behind them. Takes Reuther's bag and gives them a pat down. All good.

MCKENNA'S POV: she walks behind Reuther into the living room. Along the way, no less than TWELVE CARTEL THUGS looking her over. She clocks a STOCKPILE OF WEAPONS. Sawed-off shotguns. Tech-9s. Even HAND GRENADES. Cruz waits for them at the table. The Thug hands Cruz the laptop.

A long moment passes, Cruz staring McKenna down. Does he know she's not really Claire? Then --

CRUZ

Where's the money?

WITH LAPD: Syd, Baines, and Hirsch listen in with HEADSETS.

SYD

She's in!

REUTHER (RADIO) In Cyprus. Where it belongs.

IN THE HOUSE: Cruz vibrates with adrenaline.

CRUZ

Belongs here. For the boy.

REUTHER

She froze the account. An innocent mistake that she's going to undo.

Cruz glares at McKenna, who forces herself to look away. Playing the part of the scared mother. Not a stretch.

REUTHER (CONT'D)

If I may?

Cruz nods, and Reuther goes to the computer.

REUTHER (CONT'D)

I need Claire to authorize the transaction.

MCKENNA

Where's Logan?

CRUZ

After.

MCKENNA

I want to see my son first.

Tension as the thugs wait an excruciating beat for orders.

CRUZ

Get the boy.

WITH LAPD: Hirsch looks to a SWAT COMMANDER.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

Ready your team.

IN THE HOUSE: A thug brings Logan in; terrified. McKenna prays. Then --

MCKENNA

Mommy's here. Hi baby.

Logan reacts. Confused. Unsure.

WITH LAPD: The SWAT COMMANDER waits for the order.

BEN BAINES

He's gonna blow it.

You send that team now, they'll kill him.

BEN BAINES

You don't, they all die!

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

Hold your team!

IN THE HOUSE: Cruz looks back at McKenna, her eyes locked on What's he gonna do?

MCKENNA

It's gonna be alright. I promise.

LOGAN

M... Mom. I wanna go home.

CRUZ

You've seen the kid. Now get the money.

REUTHER

I need your password, Claire.

McKenna goes to the computer and types.

REUTHER (CONT'D)

Just another minute and we're done.

McKenna gestures for Logan and the thug walks him over. they pass Cruz --

CRUZ (IN SPANISH) When it's done, kill them both.

McKenna manages to suppress a reaction.

MCKENNA

This will all be over soon.

WITH LAPD: Syd ditches her headset.

That's the signal.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

Breach, now!

IN THE HOUSE: Reuther keeps typing. A thug nudges him.

THUG

Yo, what's taking so long?

Cruz clocks a BEAD OF SWEAT running down Reuther's face. Something's up. He steps toward Logan.

MCKENNA

CRUZ

Stay away from him!

Get the kid!

A thug grabs McKenna from behind as Cruz grabs Logan by the scruff of his neck. McKenna slips out of the thug's clutches and drives an elbow into his throat.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

Kill her!

McKenna dives behind a kitchen counter. The thugs draw down, when -- BOOM! The front door explodes! SWAT storms into the house, Syd and Baines close behind. Reuther dives under the table. Cruz retreats with a grip on Logan's shirt.

The thugs OPEN FIRE. Baines shoots back. Syd slides behind the counter next to McKenna and hands back her gun. McKenna is covered in dust and debris.

MCKENNA

This is why I don't wear nice clothes to work.

SYD

But you look so good!

McKenna clocks Cruz dragging Logan toward a bedroom.

MCKENNA

Cover me!

Syd lays down suppressing fire as McKenna gives chase. After dropping a pair of thugs, Syd follows --

INT. BEACHFRONT HOME - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

McKenna and Syd burst into the room to find a balcony door open. Santa Monica sand just a short drop below.

SYD (INTO RADIO)

Suspect with a hostage on foot. Headed south toward the pier!

McKenna and Syd leap off the balcony to the beach.

EXT. SANTA MONICA BOARDWALK - DAY

Cruz yanks Logan along. Syd and McKenna sprint after them. A squad car rolls up, funneling Cruz and Logan onto the pier.

EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER - DAY

THE GIANT FERRIS WHEEL, RINGING ARCADE GAMES, BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE everywhere. Syd and McKenna fight through the crowd. Cruz and Logan reach the end of the pier. Trapped.

MCKENNA

LAPD! Don't move!

Cruz uses Logan as a human shield as Syd and McKenna move in.

CRUZ

Back off or we're all going up!

Cruz is holding a GRENADE! The gathering crowd screams. Cruz yanks the pin with his teeth. Spits it at the cops while keeping a grip on the trigger.

CRUZ (CONT'D)

You shoot me, this goes off!

Syd and McKenna trade a look. An unspoken moment.

SYD

Logan, remember what I taught you?

Logan is terrified. Doesn't fully trust Syd.

SYD (CONT'D)

Hey. I got you. I'm not going anywhere.

Logan lunges forward. As predicted, Cruz YANKS back on his neck, but Logan leaps with it, driving his ELBOW straight back into Cruz's gut; the blow allows Logan to slip free.

BANG! McKenna sends a bullet screaming right through the dagger tattoo on Cruz's face. Clean headshot. The kind of slo-mo action that Bad Boys is known for as the <u>spring flies</u> out of the grenade. Syd's already moving, sprinting toward Logan as the live grenade bounces on the pier. McKenna rushes back toward the crowd --

MCKENNA

Grenade! Get back!

Syd closes the gap as fast as she can. Logan watches, wide eyed as the grenade rolls to a stop at his feet. He closes his eyes. Syd leaps, TACKLING LOGAN over the railing.

KA-BOOM! McKenna dives for cover as the grenade EXPLODES! She turns to see a smoldering crater in the pier. Races to the railing. McKenna peers over the side. Scanning the water. Nothing. Then... Syd and Logan splash to the surface. Alive and well. McKenna breathes a sigh of relief.

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER - DAY

The aftermath. POLICE TAPE and LOOKIE-LOUS. An EMT checks Logan out in the back of an AMBULANCE as Claire holds his hand. Tears streak her face. Captain Hirsch sits with them.

CLAIRE

I'll testify. Whatever it takes.

CAPTAIN HIRSCH

That means witness protection.

CLAIRE

A fresh start will do us good.

Claire wraps her son in a hug as McKenna and Syd approach. He finally pulls away from her loving embrace.

LOGAN

I lost your watch.

SYD

You did? Then what's this?

Syd flashes her Movado at Logan. His face erupts into a smile. He leaps to his feet and wraps Syd in a hug.

LOGAN

Thank you!

MCKENNA

Oh yeah, it was all her.

Syd reaches up and pulls McKenna down into a group hug, Logan's arms straining to reach around them both.

INT. LAPD HEADQUARTERS - ROBBERY/HOMICIDE - DAY

Ben Baines sits at his desk as Ben Walker, arm in a SLING, enters. He expects a hero's welcome, but --

BEN BAINES

You're back just in time. We lost.

BEN WALKER

I can't do paperwork. I only got one good hand!

BEN BAINES

You'll have to make do with your other hand. And also do the paperwork.

EXT. LAPD HEADQUARTERS - ROOFTOP - DAY

Syd stares at the red glow of an L.A. sunset as McKenna approaches holding a pair of BEER BOTTLES.

MCKENNA

Here you are. You missed Hirsch's debrief. Reuther's turning state's evidence. Salazar's going down.

SYD

He'll bounce back. Cartel always does. What about Logan?

MCKENNA

He's gonna be okay. You really connected with him. It was nice.

SYD

I'm good with kids. They don't want much from you. Just the moment. I owe you an explanation.

MCKENNA

If you're not ready --

SYD

I'm in L.A. to find the man who killed me.

MCKENNA

(stunned)

So we're just gonna dive in.

SYD

Five years ago, I had everything I wanted. I was on a fast track at the DEA. I had a fiancé...

MCKENNA

You were engaged?

SYD

He had this spark that I couldn't resist. Always knew how to make me smile... He proposed in front of my brother. They were partners. Life was good.

Syd allows herself to get lost in the memory for a moment.

SYD (CONT'D)

I was looking into a man named Mikhail Petrov. I guess I got too close. I don't remember much about that night; only what the doctors told me. I was kidnapped.

(MORE)

SYD (CONT'D)

Tortured. Gut shot and left to die. Technically I did. Flatlined for two minutes. All I remember is waking up in the hospital, feeling... empty. I...

Syd can't finish the words as her hand instinctively goes to her scars. ON HER BELLY.

MCKENNA

You were pregnant.

SYD

I hadn't told him yet. Never did, but it drove us apart anyway.

There's more, but Syd shakes off the painful memory.

SYD (CONT'D)

Petrov disappeared after that. Went underground. I've been looking for him ever since.

MCKENNA

(filling in the blanks)
You think he's in L.A. The DEA
wouldn't let you investigate your
own shooting, so you traded in your
badge for an LAPD shield.

SYD

Ray Sherman knows where Petrov is.

MCKENNA

You may be right. But I can't let you go after him. Not alone. And I know, you don't wanna be friends.

SYD

Want's got nothing to do with it, McKenna. I can't.

MCKENNA

Yeah right. "Can't" is the only c-word that offends Sydney Burnett. You CAN have friends. You CAN meet someone new. You CAN start over.

SYD

That part of me doesn't work anymore. It's... broken.

MCKENNA

We've done some wild stuff the last four months. But this right here, right now, is the first time I've ever seen you scared.

(MORE)

MCKENNA (CONT'D)

(Syd is silent)

Look, I got your back on this Ray Sherman thing. But no more secrets. Deal?

McKenna offers Syd a beer. She accepts.

EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT

FLYING OVER the lights of the City of Angels at night.

INT. MCKENNA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

McKenna, in her bathrobe, and Patrick are prepping for bed.

MCKENNA

You were right. I was having cold feet about trying for a baby. The thought of putting my career on pause, of putting my body through that... it scares me.

PATRICK

You don't have to apologize. I understand. If you can't...

MCKENNA

That's the thing. I just needed a reminder that I can. And if my calendar's right, we're still in the window.

ERTC

MCKENNA (CONT'D)

The window? The ovula -- The ovulation window.

McKenna drops the robe to reveal a silk nighty. Patrick forgets English as McKenna pounces on him. Between kisses --

PATRICK

For the record, you still do it for me in sweatpants.

MCKENNA

This isn't for you. It's for me.

INT. JOSEPH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Joseph answers the door to reveal Syd, wearing all black.

SYD

I need to borrow your car.

JOSEPH

Something wrong with your bike?

SYD

Is that a no?

Joseph fishes the keys out of his pocket. Hesitates.

JOSEPH

My C.I. told me what you pulled the other night. I told you. These people are dangerous.

SYD

You said you would help. Has that changed?

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT - INTERCUT

Syd stands in a darkened alley. Lights a match and sets the corner of the MATCHBOOK aflame.

JOSEPH (V.O.)

Sherman won't talk as long as he's got people protecting him. You go to war with him, that's a bell you can't un-ring.

Syd drops the burning book into a puddle. WOOF! Flames race along the ground toward a door hanging half off the hinges.

BACK IN THE APARTMENT: Syd holds out a hand.

JOSEPH

He's got an army. You're just one woman.

SYD

Damn right.

Joseph reluctantly hands over the keys.

IN THE ALLEY: Music up as Syd walks toward Joseph's parked Pontiac. As she gets in and drives away, PAN UP TO REVEAL: Ray Sherman's nightclub, deserted for the night. BOOM! IT BURSTS INTO FLAMES! As the club burns we, CUT BACK TO:

THE APARTMENT: Joseph takes a long pull of brown liquor from his grimy glass as he dials his cell.

JOSEPH

I gave her the file like you said.

CLICK! Joseph hangs up. Goes to sip his drink but then, angry at himself, he HURLS his glass across the room.

INT. MCKENNA'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

The music continues as McKenna wakes next to Patrick. With a coy smile, she climbs on top of him for round two.

INT. SYD'S LOFT - BEDROOM - DAY

Syd wakes next to an empty space on her mattress. We clock more evidence of a wild night. TOYS. CANDLES. She's happy to have the solitude... until Jen, the escort from the Peninsula, enters with a mug of coffee. Syd can't believe it.

JEN

Hey, sleepy-head! What would you say to brunch?

SYD

I have somewhere to be.

INT. MCKENNA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

McKenna opens the door to see Syd holding a box of donuts.

SYD

Breakfast looks like a handful around here so I thought I'd help. It's not exactly game-night, but...

MCKENNA

Donuts aren't exactly breakfast but... I'll take it!

Syd steps into the chaos of a McKenna morning. Patrick pours coffee while Ryan helps himself to donuts. McKenna notices that Isabel is still in pajamas.

MCKENNA (CONT'D)

Why aren't you dressed?

PATRICK

I didn't want to put anything extra on your plate yesterday, but Isabel was asked to stay home today. Apparently she took exception to a boy in Ryan's class. She hit him.

Before McKenna can process that, Syd high fives Isabel.

SYD

Atta girl!

McKenna's cell rings. She checks the number, then excuses herself. As soon as she's out of ear shot --

MCKENNA

What do you want?

EXT. RAY SHERMAN'S NIGHTCLUB - DAY - INTERCUT

CLOSE ON: Ray Sherman sitting in the back of a TOWNCAR --

RAY

We need to talk about your partner.

POP WIDE to reveal that he's parked across the street from the smoldering remains of his nightclub.

MCKENNA

You can't just call... You don't own me.

RAY

What I know? Of course I do.

MCKENNA

Yeah? What is it you think you know about me?

RAY

Funny thing about the past... It never seems to stay behind you. Be smart. Put that bitch on a leash. Wouldn't want anything to happen to that beautiful family of yours.

McKenna glances back into the dining room to see Ryan tossing a DONUT HOLE for Syd to catch in her mouth. They high five. Patrick and Isabel laugh.

MCKENNA

Why did you have to go and call her a bitch? News flash, Ray. Syd is family. Don't call me again.

McKenna hangs up. Grits her teeth. She knows this is going to get bad. She steels herself before heading back to her family at the kitchen table. Syd looks up. It's just a look, but we can tell... Sitting at this table, surrounded by McKenna's family, Syd finally knows her partner.

SYD

Everything okay?

McKenna smiles.

MCKENNA

Perfect.

Maybe she can bluff after all. As McKenna joins her happy family at the table, we SMASH TO BLACK.

END OF PILOT