

DEADLY EXPOSE

Written by

Sophie Tilson & Shanrah Wakefield

Revisions by Crystal Holt

1 BRIXTON - SLEEPY BEACH TOWN - DUSK 1

Establishing shot of the town. Beaches, Nice homes, gazebos, taco stand, shetland ponies, skateboard park. Quaint. Safe.

2 EXT. OLD PAPER MILL - NIGHT 2

A lone luxury sedan pulls up. Out steps a SINGLE MAN in green scrubs. He pulls out his smart phone, opens the ADELINE ROSE dating app. "Lola95" texts the man via the app, "Inside" it says. The man enters warily.

3 INT. OLD PAPER MILL - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 3

The man walks in and it's creepy. Empty, wooden, old rusted equipment. The moonlight comes in through the broken windows.

MAN

Hello.

An owl hoots. A creaky floor board. The Man whips around, but no one's there. A noose drops from the ceiling. Visual panic crosses his face. A figure appears behind him and conks him on the head. Guy drops like a sack of potatoes.

Fade Out.

Fade In.

Reveal THE MAN standing on a chair, with his neck in a noose. His hands are tied. A HOODED FIGURE in all black (jeans, boots, fleece jacket with hood, skully cap & leather gloves) holds a gun on the man - we don't see their face.

MAN (CONT'D)

Why are you doing this? No, no, no please!

As The Hooded Figure turns to leave, they kick the chair. Panic crosses the man in scrubs' face as he struggles to breath, then succumbs to death.

4 EXT. DONUT SHOP - DAY 4

MAXINE PAYTON (40s, police detective, natural raven haired beauty) leans on her unmarked police car when her partner DETECTIVE NICK CURTIS (30s, roguishly handsome, gym fanatic who's sweet on Maxine - though she's oblivious) exits the shop eating a donut.

MAXINE

How can you eat that garbage and still have abs?

NICK

High metabolism ... and my church is the gym.

MAXINE

Vanity, genetics and a sweet tooth. That's a hell of a combination you got there playboy.

He smiles with his face full of donut.

NICK

You know you want some.

MAXINE

Pass.

Maxine smiles and shakes her head at his ridiculousness. Just then 2 TEENS run out of the computer repair store next door - clearly stealing.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

You've got to be kidding.

The STORE OWNER runs out.

STORE OWNER

Help! Police! They're stealing!

Maxine and Nick give chase. Maxine runs after the first kid and tackles him. This is ELI (19, scrawny, nerdy, mouthy). Nick goes after the one kid that gets away. He's halfway down the block before he gives up - the kid was track team fast.

MAXINE

Stealing from a computer store? Isn't everything cheaper on the internet?

ELI

I needed it now. Besides, he's ripping me off. Charging me over twice what he quoted on the phone.

MAXINE

So, you take the 5 finger discount?

She walks him back to the car. Pats him down.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
What's your name, kid.

ELI
Eli.

MAXINE
You got a last name Eli?

ELI
Jordan.

STORE OWNER
You're going to jail Mr. Jordan.

MAXINE
I don't need any help from the
peanut gallery. Is what Mr. Jordan
saying true? Are you price gouging
him - for this ...

ELI
Motherboard.

MAXINE
Motherboard.

STORE OWNER
No. The price is the price.

ELI
Over the phone you told me 100
bucks. When I get here, he quotes
me two-fifty.

MAXINE
That doesn't sound very nice.

STORE OWNER
He wanted double the capacity.

ELI
I was very specific over the phone!

The store owner shrugs. Nick returns out of breath.

NICK
I need more cardio.

Maxine takes out Eli's wallet opens it. There's plenty of
cash in there.

MAXINE
Really?

ELI

Hey.

Maxine hands a two hundred to the store owner. Picks up the motherboard off the ground hands it to Eli.

MAXINE

This dispute is settled. Get out of here.

Eli runs off.

STORE OWNER

This isn't fair!

MAXINE

Life's not fair, sir.

Maxine and Nick get back in the car.

5 INT. UNMARKED POLICE CAR - CONTINUOUS

5

NICK

Isn't your friend's thing tonight.

MAXINE

Yeah, I guess I'll go. You mind dropping me?

NICK

Sure thing.

Nick makes a u-turn and peels out.

6 INT. FASCINO BOUTIQUE - DAY

6

A small crowd mingles at the trendy upscale unisex clothing shop. They munch on canapes and drink champagne. Maxine rushes in and greets her new-ish boyfriend SIMON JACOBSON (40s, handsome, earnest college professor) with a kiss.

MAXINE

Sorry I'm late.

SIMON

I can only fake fashion talk for so long.

MAXINE

You'll live.

Maxine's childhood best friend GWEN HIGHFIELD (40s, sexy, lithe, pixie haired, rambunctious, fashion forward socialite) rushes up to her all hugs and air kisses. Gwen's trailed by her husband GREG HIGHFIELD (40s, reserved, lawyer with quarterback looks). They have a similar build.

GWEN

Max, you made it! Welcome to Fascino!

MAXINE

Wouldn't miss it for the world.
It's so fancy and lux. I'm not sure
I'm good enough to be in here.

GWEN

Oh, hush.

MAXINE

I'm glad you guys moved back to town from the big city. You guys know Simon. My -

SIMON

Boyfriend. You can say it out loud.

GWEN

(to Simon)

Don't feel bad, honey. She's always been that way.

Greg shakes Simons hand.

GREG

Brixton High, class of 19-

MAXINE

We all know when we graduated,
Greg.

(changing subject)

Gwen, these clothes are amazing.
Brixton just got a fashion upgrade.

GWEN

I had to fill my days with something. Being a kept woman only sounds glamorous. It's really quite boring.

MAXINE

Being kept sounds awesome.

SIMON

On my salary, I can keep you about
2 days.

Laughs.

GWEN

I thought it was time I put my
fashion degree to good use.
Besides, we really missed Brixton
didn't we?

GREG

Well, one of us did. Still catching
bad guys, Maxie?

MAXINE

As long as there is crime, I'll
never be out of a job.

SIMON

I'd sleep better at night knowing
there was less crime to fight.

GWEN

You can't put a tiger in a cage.

GREG

She'd just gnaw her way out.

MAXINE

(to Simon)

I'm just trying to keep the streets
safe. I come home every night,
don't I?

Gwen sips champagne and winks at Simon.

GREG

(looks at watch)

On that note, I've gotta get out of
here. My train's in an hour.

MAXINE

Off to somewhere special?

GREG

Just business.

GWEN

All he does is work. It's quite
annoying actually.

He kisses Gwen swiftly, grabs his coat and moves off.

GREG

Bye honey. Good luck.

They wave him off.

SIMON

I'm going to see if that young lady
over there can give me a new look.
Adjunct professor chic may not be
as sexy as it was in the 90s.

MAXINE

Have at it.

Simon goes to try on clothes. Gwen and Maxine sit on the
settee and chat.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

So, he's been traveling a lot?

GWEN

(pained smile)
Define a lot.

MAXINE

That much huh?

GWEN

(changing subject)
You two seem serious.

MAXINE

We just moved in together.

GWEN

Wow. Really?

MAXINE

Yeah, I'm freaking out a bit.

GWEN

Simon Jacobson snagged Maxine
Payton. The star lacrosse player
and the weird pizza faced chess
king. Hell must be freezing over.

MAXINE

Be nice.

GWEN

Well he certainly has blossomed
into a very hot swan. A very hot,
nerdy swan.

They look over at Simon interacting with the sales girl. She looks very disapprovingly at his clothes.

MAXINE

I needed to change it up. I couldn't keep dating bad guys. My pillows were starting to look like the Shroud of Turin.

GWEN

He's different than Ryan alright. I can't tell if it's a good thing or a bad thing. Are there wedding bells in your future?

MAXINE

The thought of getting married again makes me want to hyperventilate.

GWEN

Does he know that?

Max looks at Simon and smiles - putting on a show. Maxine's phone buzzes. She looks at it, an ominous short video auto plays on it - 7 signs of the apocalypse before a masked figure speaks in a distorted voice:

VIDEO MAN

The deceptive will be pushed into the light.

GWEN

Well that's weird.

MAXINE

I probably butt dialed something.

She gets another phone buzz. It's A TEXT from NICK: "Body in the old mill."

GWEN

Another video?

MAXINE

No, duty calls.

GWEN

But you just left work.

MAXINE

Crime waits for no man.

(to Simon)

Babe, I gotta go. See you at home?

SIMON
Supercop to the rescue!

She waves at them both and exits.

7 EXT. OLD PAPER MILL - DAY

7

Maxine steps over some police tape and walks over to Nick who's casually eating an apple. Two uniformed officers are talking to two teens.

NICK
You miss me?

MAXINE
Let's make this quick. I would like to actually spend time with my boyfriend.

NICK
Your work husband doesn't want to hear about your real life boyfriend.

MAXINE
Shut up.

NICK
Bodies inside.

8 INT. OLD PAPER MILL - DAY - CONTINUOUS

8

Max and Nick walk inside in gloves and booties. The pale and lifeless body of the man from the cold open is hanging from the ceiling. His face is bloated and blue. TOM BRIGGS (40) swings from the rafters. His scrubs are on the ground. He's naked, save underwear.

MAXINE
Did you get a video on your phone?

NICK
What?

MAXINE
Did someone send you a video?

NICK
Like a sexy video?

MAXINE
A what?

NICK

You know sexy. Like this girl from the club last week sent me a strip tease video to Enya - which sounds weird, but was actually quite -

MAXINE

Please stop talking. Who found him?

NICK

A couple of local kids.

MAXINE

Think he was reported missing?

NICK

Depends on how long he's been out here. That watch is worth more than my rent. He wasn't robbed.

MAXINE

Give it another hour and he would have been.

NICK

Fingers crossed these scrubs have an ID badge. (beat) Bingo. Tom Briggs. MD.

She takes the badge with a gloved hand.

MAXINE

Plastics.

Maxine stands directly under the body looking at his face. She squints, narrows her eyes.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Clothes on the ground. A sex thing?

NICK

A sex thing gone wrong. I'll ask Mohammad to swab for fluids.

MAXINE

What do you make of this heart necklace?

NICK

Candy heart?

MAXINE

A broken heart charm. Silver.

NICK
Sterling?

MAXINE
Maybe.

NICK
Girlfriend?

MAXINE
(shrugging)
Some whack job trying to be clever?

NICK
Everyone wants to be the next
hillside strangler.

MAXINE
Forensics are on their way. They
can handle it from here. Let's
notify next of kin.

NICK
You got it, boss.

9 INT. SARAH BRIGGS' HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

9

Maxine sits in an opulent living room with SARAH BRIGGS (40s, socialite, hot, poised, old money - lives on pilates and champagne). She's upset, but holding it in. Mrs. Briggs, Nick and Maxine are being served tea by the butler FRANCIS HAY (60s, British).

SARAH BRIGGS
Francis, we should hold the wake
here from 3 to 5 on Friday. And
have Le Petit Chateau prepare
everything. French was Tom's
favorite.

NICK
Mrs. Briggs - maybe that can wait.

Francis retreats to the kitchen.

SARAH BRIGGS
I can't believe that he's dead. If
I don't keep moving, keep planning
I might have a nervous breakdown.

MAXINE
Sarah, when's the last time you saw
your husband alive?

SARAH BRIGGS

Three days ago. He set off for work and never came back.

NICK

Did you file a missing person's report?

MRS. BRIGGS

It may sound crazy, but no, I didn't.

NICK

So, you knew where he was?

MRS. BRIGGS

You never know with Tom. He says one thing and does another.

Maxine looks at the pictures of Tom on the mantle. He's playing touch football with his friends.

MAXINE

Was it unusual for him to be gone for extended lengths of time?

MRS. BRIGGS

On occasion. What's the point of keeping secrets now? He went on these benders ...

NICK

Alcohol?

SARAH BRIGGS

Among other things. Last fall Tom set off for the gym. He was gone for two weeks. Came home smelling like an alley in Saigon. We had a huge fight. 30 days in rehab. Couples counseling. The works. But he's been good lately.

NICK

Then he's missing for days.

SARAH BRIGGS

I just thought he'd come back. He always does. He's like a stray.

Maxine and Nick share a look.

SARAH BRIGGS (CONT'D)

Don't judge me. You can love a person, but you can't control what they do.

MAXINE

We just want to know who killed him. Is there anyone that would want your husband dead?

NICK

Did he owe anyone money? Dealers? Pimps?

SARAH BRIGGS

Not that I know of. If you don't mind, I think I need to lie down.

MAXINE

Here's my card. If you think of anything - no matter how small, please call me.

Mrs. Briggs goes to exit.

SARAH BRIGGS

Francis can show you out.

10

INT. BRIGGS HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

10

Maxine and Nick walk into the kitchen where FRANCIS is polishing silver.

MAXINE

Mind if we ask you a few questions?

FRANCIS

Free country as they say.

MAXINE

They have a good marriage, Sarah and Tom?

FRANCIS

As good as any.

MAXINE

He step out on her a lot?

FRANCIS

Is it that obvious?

(sighs)

More than she knew.

(MORE)

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

He used to hide it better. Always back by dinner. Then it turned into overnights and long weekends. I would be furious, but Lady Briggs never seemed bothered.

NICK

That you could see.

Nick and Maxine share a look.

MAXINE

Do you have a bathroom?

FRANCIS

Downstairs is broken. You'll have to go upstairs.

Maxine goes up the backstairs, past Mrs. Briggs lying down and into an attached bathroom.

11 INT. BRIGGS HOUSE - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

11

Maxine walks in and closes the door. She puts the toilet seat down and opens the medicine cabinet. Bingo. Prescription bottles.

MAXINE

(takes out her phone and
takes pictures)

Xanax, zoloft. Something bothered
her alright.

12 INT. BRIGGS HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

12

NICK

She mentioned Tom went to rehab.
Cocaine?

FRANCIS

Maybe recreationally. But he didn't
go to rehab for drugs. He went for
sex addiction.

NICK

If she knew he was dipping his wick
in every candle around town, why'd
she stay with him?

Maxine returns to the room.

FRANCIS

(smitten)

Look at him. His smile lit up a room. He had this energy. People were just drawn to him.

NICK

Were you one of those people?

FRANCIS

(taken aback)

What are you insinuating?

Maxine enters.

MAXINE

Embarrassment in her social circle is lethal. What's the real reason she stayed? Charisma doesn't travel that far.

FRANCIS

Sarah grew up wealthy. Oil money. But her dad had a gambling problem. Horses. Lost every dime. Tom was the smartest kid in his trailer park. Became a gifted plastic surgeon.

NICK

Money.

FRANCIS

You know what's worse than having a cheating husband? Being poor.

Maxine and Nick exchange a glance. A dinner bell rings from upstairs.

FRANCIS (CONT'D)

I'm afraid duty calls.

NICK

Thanks for your time.

They exit to--

NICK

Mrs. Briggs wasn't the only one
that was in love with him.

MAXINE

Think either of them had it in them
to kill him?

NICK

Maybe. I'd kill you under the right
circumstances.

MAXINE

I'm going to start sleeping with
one eye open.

14

INT. POLICE STATION - COLLINS' OFFICE - DAY

14

Maxine and Nick talk with CAPTAIN COLLINS, Chief of Police
(black, 50s, stern).

CAPTAIN COLLINS

What do we got? You think it's the
wife?

NICK

Lord knows she had the motive.
Broke. Married to a rich lothario.
Maybe she didn't want to be the
laughing stock of Port Mount
Heights.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

I caught a domestic case when I was
a beat cop. Woman stabbed her
husband for putting mayonnaise on
her ham sandwich.

MAXINE

Wouldn't it be easier to just screw
the tennis pro.

NICK

Or the golf pro, the yoga
instructor, the pool boy...

Capt. gives Nick a look and he shuts up.

MAXINE

And the heartbroken necklace?
A bit kitchy for Lady Briggs.

NICK

Could be the butler. He was just as smitten.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Think they were lovers?

MAXINE

Who knows, but it seems his problem was having sex outside the house.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Wrap up this murder case and get back on the board. We're short staffed. And it's only Monday. Who knows what fresh hell will unleash this week.

MAXINE

We'll do our best captain.

They leave his office.

15 INT. MAXINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

15

Maxine enters the bedroom. Simon is getting ready for bed. She comes up behind him and wraps her arms around him.

SIMON

Uh oh. What's wrong?

MAXINE

Murder case.

SIMON

I don't know how you do it.

MAXINE

Some days I don't know either.

SIMON

Come here.

Simon pulls her around front for a hug.

MAXINE

How was the rest of your day?

SIMON

It was fine. I gave my students a pop quiz. As you can imagine they were thrilled.

MAXINE

I don't know how I survived before
you moved in.

SIMON

Considering you can barely boil an
egg, I imagine, just barely. It's
been almost two years now. Think we
should be making that next step?

MAXINE

We should get a cat?

SIMON

No.

MAXINE

A dog?

SIMON

Maxine. Be serious. I love you and
we're not getting any younger. I'd
like to make this official.

MAXINE

(groans)

Can we not do this right now?

SIMON

When can we do it?

MAXINE

I don't know - tomorrow.

SIMON

Tomorrow, tomorrow, tomorrow,
tomorrow. Tomorrow we may all be
dead.

He gets under the covers and fluffs his pillow and turns out
the light.

16

INT. HORSE STABLES - STALL - NIGHT

16

A HOODED FIGURE - all black clothing same as before - walks
past a couple of stalls full of horses. Their gloved hands
glide across horse tools until it comes to a whip. The killer
walks into a stall where A BALD MAN (45, commanding, think
sexy like Corey Stoll from House of Cards) is tethered to the
wall with his back facing the killer. He's been drugged. He
wakes up groggily. Panic sets in as he sees the whip. We see
the man's face but not the KILLER'S.

BALD MAN
Stop! Please don't! Please....

We hear the first crack of the whip as the camera pans away. The man screams in agony. The horses whinny, a storm rolls in. There's thunder in the distance. The whipping continues. The man stops screaming.

17 INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - DAY

17

Maxine walks in. Nick is already at his desk working as other COLLEAGUES flit around. Maxine looks like warmed over meatloaf.

NICK
Rough night.

MAXINE
The usual.

NICK
Simon still trying to put a ring on it?

MAXINE
I'm married to the job.

NICK
Poor guy.

Just then, all of their computers go black and a brief video starts playing Mr. Robot style. It's a longer version of the video that played on Max's phone starring the same masked man - who we will call Video Man.

MAXINE
What in the world?

VIDEO MAN
Moral corruption in our own back yard. Judgment day has begun. The disloyal are soon to pay. Out out into the sun. Show the world your boils and sores. Everybody wears a mask, but how long will it last.

The video finishes then takes everyone to the Daily Brixton newspaper website where all of the user names and profile pics of Adeline Rose users are posted, Smoking Gun style.

NICK

(reading off screen)

Someone must have hacked the system
then redirected us to the paper.
Brixton's Cheaters: Adeline Rose
Users Revealed. Oh my ... is that a

--

MAXINE

Well that'll jump start your
morning.

NICK

There's going to be a lot of
explaining to do around town.

MAXINE

At least for everyone stupid enough
to use their face in their cheater
profile pic. For the app savvy,
it's going to be a bit harder to
decipher anonymous body part
pictures and random double entendre
user names.

NICK

Some of these tattoos will be dead
give aways.

MAXINE

(requoting)

"Judgment day has begun."

NICK

You find Simon's username yet?

MAXINE

Ha ha.

Captain comes out of his office.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Did y'all see that too? Damn
Incognito.

MAXINE

That's Incognito? When did they get
a logo?

NICK

It's all about branding.

MAXINE

I thought they were hacktivists.
This seems more like a puritanical
vigilante.

NICK

Or a pissed off house wife. Man,
this is a great time to be a
divorce lawyer.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Well they've expanded their
message. No doubt there will be
residents of Brixton affected.
Cyber is on it for now, but seeing
what kind of site it is -

MAXINE

It may just spill over into our
camp.

COP#1

There's an app to cheat?

COP#2

Half the people on there are dudes
posing as women.

MAXINE

That's exactly what he's looking
for.

Laughs.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Alright, settle down. As you can
imagine, we'll likely have an
influx of domestic violence calls
because of this leak. Let's do our
best to de-escalate any conflicts.

Sarah Briggs walks in.

CAPTAIN COLLINS (CONT'D)

Payton. Curtis. You have a visitor.

Maxine and Nick turn around and see Mrs. Briggs.

The class is sparse. Simon addresses a class of freshman, the
words "IT & CYBER SECURITY" are scrawled on the whiteboard.

SIMON

The internet has opened up new ways to access personal information, and I don't just mean social media stalking your brunch pics and your vacay check ins. I mean strangers finding out your address or parents' bank details and posting them online. Unfortunately for victims, on some of these crimes, the law is slow to catch up to technology.

He strolls around the front of the room. We catch a glimpse of the class; they're only vaguely interested.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Now I don't know how many of you pay attention to Brixton Daily, but if you do, you may have read about the hack this morning. A website for adults--

STUDENT #1

A hook up site.

STUDENT #2

For married people.

STUDENT #1

You're not on there are Prof?

SIMON

My girlfriend's a cop. There would be a very pissed off woman with a gun when I got home. So, no.

The class snickers. One kid, Eli - the computer thief - is listening intently.

SIMON (CONT'D)

So, this site was hacked and the user names were leaked to the public--

ELI

If these users are lying to their families, don't they deserve to be called out?

SIMON

Maybe, Eli. But let's open it up to the class. Is leaking this type of information acceptable to you?

Murmurs.

SIMON (CONT'D)

What kind of floodgates does it open for the rest of us? Are leaked photos acceptable? Video? Personal thoughts? What's sacred?

STUDENT #1

I wouldn't want my private photos blasted all over the internet.

STUDENT #2

If you don't want people to see them, don't take them.

STUDENT #1

What about your social security number? You don't want people to have that, so, what? It shouldn't exist?

ELI

Anything digital is at risk. From the first moment it exists in the ether.

SIMON

Privacy laws are always behind the curve when it comes to the evolution of technology. And once your information is out in there, is it already too late?

STUDENT #2

Yes.

SIMON

Let's talk about the next assignment. Fire walls. Think you have impenetrable code?

Several nods. The bell rings.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Prove it. Turn in your dummy website by end of week. Let's see how many mainframes I can hack with my eyes closed. Any fortress left standing gets a cash prize.

ELI

How much?

SIMON

Enough.

Mix of jubilation and nervousness. Eli and Simon lock eyes before Eli leaves.

19

INT. POLICE STATION - INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

19

Maxine and Nick sit opposite Mrs. Briggs.

SARAH BRIGGS

I need to claim Tom's body. They won't release him to me.

MAXINE

The medical examiner needs to perform an autopsy. That can take several days.

NICK

We also need to clear you as a suspect.

SARAH BRIGGS

You think I killed him?

MAXINE

Your husband was a philanderer. I've seen women knee cap a guy for not turning off Sports Center.

SARAH BRIGGS

It was just sex. He didn't love any of them.

MAXINE

Is that the line in the sand? Love.

SARAH BRIGGS

Look, I'm not sure Tom even was capable of love. Unless he was looking in a mirror.

MAXINE

Have you heard of a website called Adeline Rose?

SARAH BRIGGS

Not until this morning. Why?

NICK

What have you been doing the last 3 days Mrs. Briggs?

SARAH BRIGGS
I've been at home with Francis.
Waiting. Worried.

MAXINE
You may need a better alibi than
that.

NICK
In the meantime, don't leave town.

SARAH BRIGGS
I assume I can still leave this
room.

She gets up and leaves.

NICK
You think?

MAXINE
We need to talk to the Captain.

20 INT. POLICE STATION - COLLINS' OFFICE - DAY

20

Maxine and Nick sit in CAPTAIN COLLINS' office.

MAXINE
We need to see if Tom was an
Adeline Rose user.

NICK
You think the murders and the leak
were linked?

MAXINE
Dunno. Guy was a cheater, couldn't
hurt to check.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
Could be a coincidence. A cheating
husband used a cheating website.
Film at 11. She's still suspect
number 1.

MAXINE
To get him in that noose, she'd
need to be very strong.

NICK
Or have a gun.

MAXINE

And that charm gives me a bad feeling. It's like a warning.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Of what?

MAXINE

Another body to come. What did the video say? "The disloyal are soon to pay."

NICK

With their lives?

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Okay. Let's not jump to conclusions. I'll check in with Cyber to see if they've made any headway identifying any local members of Incognito. Let's hope you're wrong Det. Payton.

Maxine and Nick exit into the hallway.

21 INT. POLICE STATION - HALLWAY - DAY

21

Maxine and Nick exit Capt. Collins' office into the hallway and Maxine is approached by RYAN CUOCO (45, Maxine's ex-husband, ex-Marine, vice cop, surfbum, shaggy haired meathead).

RYAN

Hey Maxie, how's teach?

MAXINE

Good.

RYAN

How good?

MAXINE

None of your business.

RYAN

Let me know if you want to get back with a real man.

MAXINE

I'll pass on the lying, cheating, crying myself to sleep thanks.

RYAN

It wasn't all bad times Maxie.

MAXINE

Not for you it wasn't. You had a grand old time. It was almost like you weren't in a committed relationship.

RYAN

Still got love for you Maxie.

MAXINE

Don't make me shoot you.

RYAN

Curtis.

NICK

Cuoco.

Ryan stalks off.

NICK (CONT'D)

Ryan is the world's biggest jerk. How were you ever married to him?

MAXINE

The hubris of youth. Everyone told me not to marry him. So of course -

NICK

You jumped straight in.

Maxine stares at Ryan with complete disdain. A COP pokes his head around the corner.

POLICE OFFICER #1

There's another body on Laurel.

NICK

Please be a home accident.

MAXINE

Let's go.

Maxine and Nick exit.

Maxine and Nick walk in and the coroner MOHAMMAD (30s) is already on the scene.

Handcuffed to the wall is the dead body of PASTOR FRANK MCPHERSON (40s) aka Hot Corey Stoll, with multiple deep whip lacerations all over his body. He is pantless, but still wearing underwear. There's a smattering of blood in the hay.

MAXINE

What do we have?

MOHAMMAD

Modern day flogging. His skin is shredded. Blood loss. Internal organ failure. This lash looks like it lacerated a kidney.

MAXINE

No pants? Sex crime? Maybe he was into a light thrashing.

NICK

Aren't we all. But this is more like an evisceration. Dom wouldn't respect the safe word?

MAXINE

Dunno. Maybe someone came here looking to murder. How long has he been here?

MOHAMMAD

Less than 24 hours.

NICK

Someone wants these bodies to be found.

MAXINE

How did no one hear his screams?

NICK

Thunder out this way last night. Pity it didn't rain. We could have used it.

There's a charm on them. It's 3 swirling circles. It's sewn into the band of his underwear.

MAXINE

Another charm.

NICK

Really?

MAXINE

3 swirling circles.

NICK
What does that mean?

MAXINE
Dunno.

Maxine steps over the blood to get a good look at the victim's face. She squints.

NICK
What?

MAXINE
This is Frank McPherson.

NICK
The evangelist preacher from public access? Blowhard condemning harlots and jezebels to hell. Banning birth control and promoting abstinence. Half his church are teen parents.

MAXINE
That's one way to grow a flock. You think we should check him against the leak? Good probability he's into some kinky stuff. Most of them are.

MOHAMMAD
You think there's a connection?

MAXINE
(ignoring him)
We should find out how Adeline Rose bills on your credit card, too.

NICK
You think they have a pseudonym like a porn company?

MAXINE
Would make sense. Wouldn't want the wives finding out.

NICK
CheatersRUs.com?

MOHAMMAD
Mistressexpress?

NICK
Husbandsitters. You get it. It's a double entendre.

MAXINE

Are you done?

Nick and Mohammad exchange a look.

MOHAMMAD

Yesterday's DB was into
asphyxiation.

NICK

Autoerotic?

MOHAMMAD

(nods)

Wasn't the first time he had been
choked. He had bruising consistent
with habitual strangling.

MAXINE

Someone's using their fetish to
murder people.

NICK

We may have a ser-

MAXINE

We don't know that. Let's just get
all the facts. I mean it. Not
another word.

Maxine exits the room.

23

INT. MCPHERSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

23

Maxine and Nick sit opposite NANCY MCPHERSON (30s, pious,
plain, kind). She's hysterical.

NANCY

(choked up)

I just got home. I went to feed the
horses and found him like that --

MAXINE

Came home from where, Mrs.
McPherson?

NANCY

Red Deer Lake. My mother lives
there. She's old, I visit her every
week.

NICK
Is this something you were into,
sexually? BDSM?

NANCY
(embarrassed)
Nothing like that. He was into
flagellation. He said it kept the
demons away.

Max and Nick share a look.

MAXINE
But you weren't so sure?

NANCY
He used to do it to himself. Then
he asked me to. He wanted it done
harder. After a while I couldn't. I
thought his reasons were unpure.

NICK
He wasn't getting religious relief,
but sexual pleasure.

NANCY
Afterwards, he was often aroused. I
didn't want any part of it.

MAXINE
If he liked pain, and you weren't
hurting him -

NICK
Then who was?

NANCY
I don't know.

MAXINE
Did your husband become secretive?
Feeding you excuses that didn't
make sense. Have gaps of time
unaccounted for?

NICK
Time that could be filled by a
mistress.

MAXINE
Or a dominatrix.

NANCY

You think he was cheating on me.
Violating our vows. He wouldn't.

MAXINE

All the same.

NANCY

My mother's been so sick, that's
all I can manage to think about. I
wouldn't know if he was sneaking
away. Though he wouldn't do that to
me.

MAXINE

We'll need to see your husband's
credit card records.

NANCY

Why?

NICK

Just routine.

Nancy goes through the mail and gives them a bill.

NANCY

Find out what happened to my
husband. He didn't deserve to die
that way.

Maxine and Nick exit, to--

24 EXT. MCPHERSON'S STREET - DAY

24

Maxine and Nick stand on the porch and look over toward the
neighbors. There's a man out front tinkering with an old car.
They walk next door.

25 EXT. CLEAVER HOUSE - DAY - CONTINUOUS

25

They catch the next door neighbor, PAUL CLEAVER (50s), greasy
from changing the oil of an old car. Maxine flashes her
badge.

MAXINE

I'm Detective Payton and this is
Detective Curtis. You live here?

PAUL

30 years. Paul Cleaver. What's
going on?

MAXINE

Mr. McPherson was found dead.

PAUL

Whoa... Nancy must be devastated.

MAXINE

Notice any odd comings and goings
at the house?

PAUL

Odd?

NICK

Individuals only around when
Nancy's away.

PAUL

I don't want to get involved. I
mean, the man's dead. You don't
speak ill of the dead.

MAXINE

So, you did see someone.

NICK

It would help us rule out Nancy.

PAUL

You think this is a murder.

Max and Nick just stare at him.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I don't think it's related, but
there's a young woman. She's always
in a black coat. Long trench coat,
cinched tight no matter the
weather. High boots. Hair in a bun.
She drives a crap car though.

NICK

You have a good memory.

Pulls out her note pad.

MAXINE

Remember the make?

PAUL

80s Honda. Blue. Hatchback. Got one
of those "coexist" bumper stickers.

NICK

You spend a lot of time looking out that window?

PAUL

Normal amount.

MAXINE

Uh huh. Did this trench coat woman only stop by when Nancy was out of town?

PAUL

Or at work or volunteering. Nancy seems like a nice lady. Don't know that she deserved to be stepped out on.

NICK

You could have told her her husband was a cad.

PAUL

It's none of my business really.

MAXINE

Right. Thanks for your time.

Max and Nick head back to the car. Max turns and looks back at the McPhearson house. Right on the corner, she sees a security camera.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Nancy's got an eye in the sky.
(looks toward the stables) May have too many blindspots for the stables.

NICK

Maybe that blue Honda made an appearance.

MAXINE

Maybe the license plate did too.

26

INT. FASCINO BOUTIQUE - DAY

26

Simon enters the store and begins scanning the clothes, until he's approached by Gwen.

GWEN

Skipping school, handsome?

SIMON

Trying to pick out an I'm sorry
gift for Maxine.

GWEN

Trouble in paradise?

SIMON

Nothing an expensive gift won't
cure. How about a nice dress? Max's
taste is -

GWEN

Horrible? Tacky? Ridiculous?

SIMON

(laughs)

Why is it so bad? I didn't think my
taste was good until I met Maxine.

Gwen starts pulling clothes in Maxine's size.

GWEN

Don't worry. I've got just the
thing.

SIMON

She's so slammed right now with
work. Me being a pain probably
isn't helping.

GWEN

I had a friend who thought his wife
was working too much. Turned out
she was diddling her boss.

SIMON

What are you trying to do? Make me
paranoid?

GWEN

I'm sorry. No, no, no. Max would
never do that to you. I'm sure she
loves you to pieces.

(changing subject)

You know, I've got some things that
will work for you too.

She pulls garments in his size.

SIMON

Oh I don't know. Your sales girl
tried to dress me like a Vegas club
promoter.

GWEN

Hush and let a genius work her magic.

She pushes him into a

DRESSING ROOM

With a couple pairs of jeans.

GWEN (CONT'D)

You know you really did ... evolve since high school.

SIMON

You mean I'm much better looking.

GWEN

You said it, I didn't.

SIMON

Imagine the wonders of what a gym membership and a good dermatologist will do for your self esteem.

He steps out of the dressing room.

GWEN

Still. It must not have been easy for you. Back then I mean.

SIMON

(smiles)

Nothing a few grand in therapy didn't exacerbate and make worse.

GWEN

You snagged Maxine. Her attention span can be ... fleeting.

SIMON

She wouldn't give me the time of day back then, but we're happy now. Took every trick I had in the book. What about you and Greg? You two seemed to have worked out.

GWEN

Looks that way, huh. He can be intense sometimes though. He can turn that charm off like a switch.

SIMON

The quarterback's a lawyer now.

GWEN
Yeah. He loves it too.

SIMON
You don't seem to love it.

She kneels to adjust his pants, roll his cuffs for length, whatever.

GWEN
He does high profile divorce cases.
Even with a large staff, he works
long hours.

SIMON
Meanwhile you're at home waiting
for him to show up and give you
some attention, some affection,
acknowledge your existence.

GWEN
You know something about that?

SIMON
Must be lonely.

GWEN
I find other ways to occupy my
time.

They have a moment, and being that she's on her knees at his feet, touching his leg "inspecting the jeans" it's more than a little suggestive. Simon gets uncomfortable.

SIMON
I think I better get back.

GWEN
Wouldn't want you sticking around
getting into trouble.

SIMON
Right.

Gwen breaks into a devious grin.

Maxine and Nick arrive and, sure enough, there's a blue Honda Civic parked outside with the "coexist" bumper sticker.

NICK
How do you want to play this?
Crockett and Tubs? Cagney & Lacey?

MAXINE
Normal. Let's play this normal.
Think you can handle that?

NICK
(rolls eyes)
Fine.

They walk into--

28

INT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

28

Maxine and Nick enter the gas station store, and pull out their badges. TARA WILLIAMS (20s, thin, cute, jaded, broken) is working the cash register. She is indifferent about their presence.

MAXINE
Do you know who's car that is?

TARA
It's mine. Why?

MAXINE
I'm Detective Payton, this is my partner Detective Curtis. Do you mind if we ask you a few questions?

TARA
About what?

NICK
Do you have any older gentleman friends?

TARA
I have a lot of friends.

MAXINE
Do many of your friends turn up dead?

Nick fondles the candy rack.

TARA
Are you going to buy something cowboy or make a mess?

NICK

Sorry.

TARA

What's this all about?

MAXINE

Frank McPherson was found dead this morning.

TARA

Who?

Maxine shows her a picture on her phone.

TARA (CONT'D)

(unemotional)

Oh him. That's real sad.

NICK

You seem real heartbroken about it.

TARA

I am.

MAXINE

What was the nature of your relationship?

TARA

Dom to submissive.

They are surprised she's so forthcoming.

TARA (CONT'D)

(to Nick)

You look like you like a good smack around. A bit of rough play.

(looks at Maxine)

You give as good as you get, don't you?

NICK

How long had that been going on?

TARA

I don't know - months I guess.

MAXINE

Did you have other ... clients?

TARA

A few.

NICK

So you have sex for money?

TARA

It's only prostitution if you sleep with them. And it's not illegal to accept gifts. If I have an "uncle" who wants to pay my rent in exchange for me locking him in a cage once a week for an hour, who am I to say "no"?

NICK

Where'd you meet Frank?

TARA

Adeline Rose. That site is ripe for alpha males who want to be smacked around.

NICK

There aren't any single guys who want to be hit in the face by a beautiful woman?

TARA

Married men don't get attached. And they usually make more money. The more powerful they are, the more they want to be dominated.

MAXINE

How'd you guys hook up for your rendezvous'?

TARA

Through the app. But he cancelled this week.

NICK

Is that normal?

TARA

Not really. I just figured the wife was sniffing around. Happens.

MAXINE

Can you account for your whereabouts the last 3 days?

TARA

You're looking at it. Double shifts.

NICK

Can anyone corroborate that?

TARA

Just that security camera.

NICK

If you get rich dudes to buy you stuff, why are you working here?

TARA

Taxes.

MAXINE

We'll need a copy of that tape.

TARA

Knock yourself out.

29

INT. MORGUE - NIGHT

29

Maxine and Nick stand with Mohammad, the coroner, who has been examining Frank McPherson's body.

MOHAMMAD

Older lacerations beneath the new, more severe cuts are consistent with what you're saying, if he's had an ongoing BDSM relationship.

NICK

Why would she stay?

MAXINE

BDSM isn't always about sex, but power and submission. Giving up control. Tara may have been spanking him, but he could have still been faithful to his wife.

NICK

That's depressing.

MOHAMMAD

And then there's this.

Mohammad pulls out a plastic bag with the swirly circle charm on it.

MAXINE

The mysterious circles. What do they mean?

MOHAMMAD
Gave it a search. Fertility.

NICK
What do you think that means?

MOHAMMAD
My guess ...

Mohammad pulls back the sheet. They all stare at his crotch.

MAXINE
Well alrighty then.

NICK
(looks at Max)
You lucky girl.

MAXINE
We may want to test some of the
good pastor's flock's progeny.

NICK
(thinks for a second)
Gross.

The mood is somber.

30 INT. POLICE STATION - BULL PEN - DAY

30

Captain Collins addresses a group of POLICE OFFICERS
including Ryan, Nick and Maxine.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
McPherson has also been identified
as an Adeline Rose user.
LordandSavor73. Accompanied with
the charms on the bodies, we may
have a serial killer on our hands.

The police officers groan.

CAPTAIN COLLINS (CONT'D)
Won't be official until we have a
third body. Then we'll have to call
the Feds. Until then, let's try to
crack this thing ourselves. Det.
Payton and Curtis are heading over
to Adeline Rose to try and get the
real names of the users since they
may be targets of our killer.

MAXINE

We've also created a profile.
Because of the brutality and nature
of murders, the killer's likely
male, white - late 20s to mid 40s,
athletic -

COP#1

Nick, that's you.

NICK

Shut up.

MAXINE

Could be a disgruntled spouse -

NICK

(looks at Maxine)
Or a jilted lover.

RYAN

Or a judgmental church lady.

Laughs.

MAXINE

Incognito's past motives have been
public shame, vigilante justice and
infamy. Never murder. But there's a
first time for everything. We think
anyone who has ever used that site
may be potentially at risk.

Several officers get nervous.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Let's catch this guy before someone
else loses a loved one.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Alright. Can't catch a killer over
donuts. Let's pound the pavement.

Everyone disperses. Ryan saddles up to Maxine.

RYAN

I hope you deleted your profile.

MAXINE

You've got jokes.

Ryan walks off. Nick looks on.

31

INT. ADELINE ROSE OFFICES - CEO'S OFFICE - DAY

31

Maxine and Nick walk in. DYLAN BERKIS (40s, female CEO of Adeline Rose, severe hair cut, sharply dressed, striking) goes to shake their hands before retreating behind her desk.

DYLAN

Dylan Berkis. CEO of Adeline Rose.
Nice to you meet you.

NICK

You're a woman.

DYLAN

Last time I checked.

MAXINE

Pardon my colleague. He was raised
by wolves. I'm Det. Payton
(gestures to Nick) and Curtis.

DYLAN

How can I help local law
enforcement?

MAXINE

We need the full names of everyone
exposed in the leak.

DYLAN

That would be an invasion of our
users' privacy.

MAXINE

You are aware that your users are
blasted all over the internet.
Their privacy has already been
violated.

DYLAN

Their user names. Not their full
identities. Releasing that
information would be a breach of
trust. Our users expect discretion.
Besides. What's this all about?

MAXINE

Murder.

NICK

Someone's targeting your users for
a dead pool.

DYLAN
You're kidding.

MAXINE
Afraid not.

DYLAN
I can't hand you our list without a warrant. I'll get sued. We have enough bad press already.

MAXINE
You think not helping the police catch a killer who targets its users would be ... good press?

DYLAN
You wouldn't leak that. There would be pandemonium.

NICK
Public safety.

DYLAN
Feel free to come back with that piece of paper from a judge. If you'll excuse me.

Dylan gets up to leave.

32 INT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

32

Nick browses the wares as Max talks to the OWNER - fat, bald, surly. She has the charms in individual baggies.

MAXINE
Have you ever seen these type of charms before?

OWNER
Come off a bracelet?

MAXINE
Maybe.

Owner bites on the bag.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
Sir, please don't bite the charms.

OWNER
Sterling silver.

NICK
How much for this guitar?

OWNER
3 thousand.
(to Maxine)
The charms are antique. Real not
replica. Terracast. Haven't seen
them in a while. Mostly at estate
sales, on a bracelet.

MAXINE
Is that a common brand?

Pulls out his loop.

OWNER
Yeah, probably thousands of them in
this state alone. A heart and some
swirling circles. Pretty, but not
worth much.

MAXINE
Any way to trace it back to it's
owner?

OWNER
Not really.

NICK
Do people buy charms individually?

OWNER
Yeah, if they want to make a
special necklace or bracelet. Each
one means something different.
Sentimental like.

MAXINE
Anyone bought or sold any kind of
charms in your recent memory.

OWNER
Nope.

NICK
How much for the switchblade.

Maxine looks at Nick like "really?"

MAXINE
Thanks for your time.

33 EXT. PAWN SHOP - DAY

33

Maxine and Nick walk to the car.

MAXINE

I need a drink. You want to hit up
Pete's?

NICK

I've got a date. I can cancel if
you want.

MAXINE

No. Go on your date. I'll call my
friend.

NICK

You sure?

MAXINE

Yeah, it's fine.

NICK

Rain check?

They go to their separate cars.

34 EXT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - DUSK

34

Simon walks to his car and sees Ryan has blocked his Corolla
in with his Jeep Wrangler w/ the surf board on top. Simon
rolls his eyes at the sight of him.

SIMON

What do you want?

RYAN

I want my wife back.

SIMON

I don't think the feeling's mutual.

RYAN

You don't understand her like I do.
We were together 15 years.

SIMON

People outgrow people.

RYAN

(smirks)

You don't think she won't outgrow
you?

(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

I see through your smarty pants act. You're not as docile as you seem.

SIMON

I'm not prone to violence like one who's hopped up on energy drinks, steroids, adrenaline and his own ego, but I'll defend my woman and my territory if need be.

RYAN

(stares him straight in the eye)

She doesn't even know it does she? She's traded one predator for another. What kind are you?

SIMON

Wouldn't you like to know.

Ryan gets into his Jeep and drives away.

35

INT. PETE'S BAR - NIGHT

35

Maxine and Gwen sit at the bar. Gwen has wine. Max has whiskey. There's newscast on. Video Man has released another

NEWSCASTER

Seems the Adeline Rose leak and the murders of 2 local men including evangelist Frank McPherson may be connected. A new video was released this afternoon. Viewer discretion advised.

Video plays.

VIDEO MAN

2 down, scores to go. Where to next, no one knows. Not even the police ... Catch me if you can.

Maxine motions to the bartender.

MAXINE

Pete, how about some sports, huh? A Reality show, cooking channel. Anything but that.

Pete changes the channel.

GWEN

You're really on edge.

MAXINE

This killer really is starting to chaffe my behind. This case is unnerving me a bit.

GWEN

Two murders in 2 days? Brixton hasn't seen this much action since that rapist in the 90s.

MAXINE

They never caught that guy.

GWEN

You think the killer is a guy?

MAXINE

Statistically it's probable. And last time I checked, men don't like other men having sex with their wives. And the two victims were both pretty promiscuous.

GWEN

No more than we were in our day.

MAXINE

You would have slept with a vacuum cleaner if it paid you a compliment.

GWEN

Exactly what I'm saying. Speaking of, how's sex with Simon? You guys still in the honeymoon phase?

MAXINE

I'm not telling you that.

GWEN

Come on! I need to live vicariously through someone. Greg works half the night away and now with the store, I barely see him.

MAXINE

I've been a little stressed and preoccupied, but we're good.

GWEN

Just don't rush into marrying him.
It changes things.

MAXINE

I'm a bit gunshy on marriage.
Simon's as safe as a house cat.
That's why I love him. Ryan would
screw anything with 2 legs.

GWEN

Yet he still worshiped the ground
you walked on. Trips, dates,
romantic murder stake outs. He was
still around.

MAXINE

I wouldn't trade that for betrayal
and heartache.

GWEN

(laughs)
I might.

MAXINE

What's going on with you?

GWEN

Nothing. Everything. (beat) You
ever feel like your life chose you.
That if you could chose
differently, if you knew where the
road lead ...

MAXINE

(cutting her off)
Greg loves you.

Maxine has hit a button, Gwen's mood turns on a dime.

GWEN

What would you know about love? You
and Ryan were young kids in lust.
He could never love you more than
he loved himself. You and Simon - I
don't even know what that is.
You're shacking up with your
rebound guy. Your dull, safe,
bland, lifeless rebound. Put in 20
years then come talk to me about
what love looks like.

MAXINE

Wow. Tell me how you really feel.

Maxine finishes her drink in one gulp.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

I think we're done for the night.

She gets up and leaves Gwen alone.

36 EXT. PETE'S BAR - NIGHT

36

Maxine is walking to her car. Soon there are footsteps following after her. Maxine stops, they stop. Maxine speeds up, they speed up. Maxine turns around and no one is there.

She walks again and there are footsteps again. She runs around a corner, hides and waits. The attacker comes around the corner in a black skimask, gloves and clothing. She attacks him, clocks him in the head. He pushes her to the ground, she takes him down with her. They struggle, he gets up and runs. She gives chase. He's too fast and gets away. Winded, she catches her breath in the streets. Pissed.

37 INT. MAXINE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

37

Max sits on the couch drinking wine, icing her shoulder with a bag of frozen peas. Just then, her phone rings - blocked call. She answers it. On the other line, nothing but heavy breathing.

MAXINE

Hello ... Hello. Who is this?

The phone goes dead. Spread out on the table is the murder cases with pictures of the victims and pictures of the wives as suspects. There is also a picture of the nosey neighbor, the butler and the dominatrix - along with photos of Adeline Rose profile pictures. There is also a dossier on Incognito.

Phone buzzes. Text from Gwen "Forget what I said. Don't mix booze and hormones. High School Gwen rearing her ugly head." Maxine doesn't bother to reply. Something has jogged her memory.

Maxine puts the phone down and goes to the closet and pulls out a box marked "high school crap". In it is mementos, trophies, photo albums and her old yearbook.

She pushes her work stuff aside and pulls out the year book and pages through it. There's cute pictures of Max and in the background is Gwen looking cute and happy. In another photo for "Computer Club", there's Greg staring straight into the camera and sad Simon in a corner sulking.

Simon comes in wearing shorts and a T-shirt sweaty from playing racketball. Maxine puts her laptop down and hides the peas.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
Hey babe. Where you been?

He leans over to kiss her.

SIMON
The gym. What's all this?

MAXINE
Working on the case. I have to catch who's behind these murders.

SIMON
You think it's one killer?

MAXINE
Maybe. What's that in your bag?

SIMON
This.

He pulls a gift box out of his gym bag and hands it to her. It's a dress from Gwen's store.

MAXINE
Oh my

SIMON
Sorry for the other night.

MAXINE
No, I'm sorry. I love you. You know that. The timings not right ...
I'm not ready.

SIMON
There will never be a right time, honey. That's what avoidance is. But we can't both keep ignoring our relationship problems or it will only get worse.

MAXINE
What happened to your head?

He heads to the kitchen to get a pack of peas to ice his shoulder and head.

SIMON
Racketball to the face by an angry
history professor.

He comes back and looks at the spread on the living room
table and picks up the yearbook.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Go wildcats!
(furrows brow)
Why'd you pull this out?

MAXINE
Gwen said something tonight that
struck a cord. Starting to wonder
who has the better memory, me or
her?

SIMON
Never really understood how you two
could be friends. She can be mean.

MAXINE
You've never been mean to your
friends?

SIMON
No, I haven't or we wouldn't be
friends. Look at that. Greg looks
happy here.

MAXINE
Why wouldn't he?

SIMON
This is right after his dad died.

He hands the book back to her.

SIMON (CONT'D)
Well, I'm going to bed. Don't stay
up too late.

MAXINE
I won't.

He goes to bed.

Nick is at his desk reading the Brixton Daily when Maxine
walks in.

MAXINE
I got attacked last night.

NICK
What?

MAXINE
Guy followed me to my car.

NICK
You kick his ass?

MAXINE
Yeah. (rubs shoulder) Don't ask me
to play basketball for a while
though.

NICK
Rapist?

MAXINE
I don't think so -

NICK
Stalker?

MAXINE
Oh, I hope not. I really don't have
time for that.

NICK
Could it have been a woman?

MAXINE
What are you thinking?

NICK
I've been picturing a hot sexy lady
murderer. You know, black widow
type.

MAXINE
Are you high?

NICK
Small enough boobs, tight enough
flack jacket, could it have been
female?

MAXINE
Maybe.

NICK
Did you tell Simon about your
impromptu cardio?

MAXINE
So we can have the "quit the force
and have my babies" conversation
again. Pass.

NICK
Crap. Murder Victims Connected to
Leak? Possible Serial Killer in our
Midst?

By line reads "Rachel Janus" along with a photo. Below the
headline are pictures of Tom and Frank.

MAXINE
Reporters are the worst.

MAXINE (CONT'D)
(re: Capt Collins)
Think he's seen it?

CAPTAIN COLLINS (O.S.)
Detective Payton!

NICK
Yup.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
My office. Now.

Maxine follows him in.

39 INT. POLICE STATION - COLLINS' OFFICE - DAY

39

Collins sits at his desk, attempting to remain calm. Maxine
stands before him.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
Did you talk to this ... Rachel
Janus?

MAXINE
No.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
Damn reporters. They're like nosey
cockroaches. Well, the Feds are
swooping in to take this one over.
(MORE)

CAPTAIN COLLINS (CONT'D)
I'm assigning you and Nick to the task force, but these jerks take lead. Until then, catch cases off the board. We're short staffed.

MAXINE
Sure thing.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
If you see one charm on that body, you hand it over to the Task Force.

MAXINE
Roger that.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
I don't want you and Nick out there playing Cowboy and Tonto trying to catch this killer by yourself going rogue. They take lead, Maxine.

MAXINE
I heard you!

CAPTAIN COLLINS
Yeah, well. Your hearing has been known to be selective. What's wrong with your shoulder?

MAXINE
Hurt it at the gym.

Maxine gets up and leaves.

40 INT. POLICE STATION - BULL PEN - CONTINUOUS

40

Max walks past Nick and motions for him to follow.

NICK
How do you think the murderer is targeting victims?

MAXINE
He's a user. Or he's posing as one.

NICK
Where are we going?

MAXINE
Cyber.

41

INT. POLICE STATION - CYBER DEPT - CONTINUOUS

41

One LITTLE NERD in a room with a computer. DET. NGUYEN (pronounced "when", 30s, glasses) sits there as Max and Nick walk in. There are 2 other empty desks.

NICK

Nguyen, this can't be Brixton's entire cyber department.

DET. NGUYEN

Yet it is. Budget cuts. Thanks Mayor.

MAXINE

We think the killer may be posing as a user on Adeline Rose.

Shows account on the screen. Profile pic: hot blonde white girl; over the shoulder beach pic, bikini bottoms only, nice smile.

DET. NGUYEN

Yup, Lola95. Only lover they had in common. New user. Dummy account. Don't be fooled by the name. Lola's probably a dude. Hot chick like that would have 12 photos, not 1. Google images says Lola is really Staci Penski from Jersey. She's never even been to California.

MAXINE

You hacked the user names?

DET. NGUYEN

Even if I did, couldn't tell you that. We had a warrant. That Dylan is a piece of work. Never seen someone get mad over a piece of paper.

NICK

That's all you got?

DET. NGUYEN

Got someone infiltrating Incognito. Trying to find out who's behind the hack.

In walks Student #2 AKA Undercover DET. SANCHEZ (mid 20s) - in a jumper and jean jacket.

DET. NGUYEN (CONT'D)
Speak of the devil. Or diablo as
the case may be.

DET. SANCHEZ
Curtis. Payton. Slumming it in
Cyber.

NICK
Baby faced Sanchez. Still on 21
Jump Street duty.

DET. SANCHEZ
Dead bodies make me vomit.

MAXINE
Sanchez, you got a lead on
Incognito? Who's behind the leak?

DET. SANCHEZ
May be some punk kid. Show off.
Something to prove.

MAXINE
Can you give me a name?

DET. SANCHEZ
(shakes head)
Not until I know it's him. In the
middle of a social engineering.

NICK
We don't speak nerd.

DET. SANCHEZ
I have a few suspects. This set is
over encrypted. Pain in the ass to
hack them. So, I'm going analog
with a little light stalking.

MAXINE
You're undercover.

DET. SANCHEZ
Once I know who it is, you'll know.
(to Nick) Not you though. You I
don't like.

NICK
You hit on a guy's girlfriend at a
Christmas party and all of a sudden
you're not friends anymore.

Text to Maxine from Mohammad. "Body at the Beach"

MAXINE

We gotta go.

42

EXT. BEACH - DAY

42

There's a body face down in the surf. It's a surfer.
Mohammad's busy at work. Maxine and Nick approach what's left
of the body. Uniformed cops mill about.

MAXINE

Is this our guy? You call the Feds?

MOHAMMAD

Officially: Thought maybe an
accident or suicide at first.
Unofficially: screw them. Pompous
know it alls.

NICK

Shark?

MOHAMMAD

He's definitely been nibbled on,
but this is more intriguing to me?

Mohammad motions to his ankles.

MAXINE

His Achilles have been cut.

NICK

Oh that's personal. That's one mean
SOB to bring an exacto knife out
into the breaks.

MAXINE

Could have been a scuba knife.
Cause of death?

MOHAMMAD

Drowning? Will know definitively
once I get back to the lab.

NICK

Not exactly how I'd want to go out.

Maxine looks out into the crowd.

MOHAMMAD

How would you eat it?

NICK

Heart attack. In flagrante delicto.

MOHAMMAD
(laughs)
Idiot.

NICK
You?

MOHAMMAD
Hot nurse. Sponge bath. Syringe
full of potassium.

NICK
Baby.

The sand around the body's crotch is bloody.

MAXINE
Is that blood pooling around his
rear?

NICK
Could be coming from the front.
Maybe took a kick to the nads?

MOHAMMAD
I'll know more once I peel this
thing off him.

MAXINE
What's that sparkling in the sun?

Mohammad shrugs. Nick catches a glimpse of silver at the collar. He pulls at a necklace. On the end is a charm. It's an Om. He looks at the charm.

MOHAMMAD
An Om.

NICK
A what?

MOHAMMAD
An Om. Sacred spiritual icon in
Indian religions. (puts his two
hands out, middle finger to thumbs)
Oooooooooooooom.

NICK
The charm killer's a Buddhist?

MAXINE
Not necessarily.

NICK
We're going to have to call the
Feds.

MAXINE
Let's flip him first.

They turn the body over and she immediately recoils. It's
Ryan.

NICK
Ryan ...

MOHAMMAD
No

Maxine STARTS SHRIEKING in shock. Completely hysterical. She
crumples in Nick's arms. She falls to her knees, the surf
washes over her.

43 INT. COMMUNITY COLLEGE - COMPUTER LAB - DAY

43

Simon is eating and working on his computer when Eli, the
same kid who spoke up earlier, walks in to speak with him. He
looks uncomfortable.

ELI
Professor Jacobson.

SIMON
Eli, to what do I owe the pleasure.

ELI
Did you hack my code?

SIMON
No, I haven't.

ELI
Because you haven't tried or
because you've tried and you
failed.

SIMON
Because I'm saving yours for last.

Eli smiles.

ELI
I might be in a bit of trouble. I
thought I could handle it, but now
I don't know.

SIMON
How much trouble?

ELI
A lot.

SIMON
Go to the police.

ELI
That'll make it worse.

SIMON
Could it help somebody?

ELI
It may help a lot of people, but it
may hurt some people too.

Simon analyzes him, then moves forward with what he thinks is
the best thing to say--

SIMON
The fact that you're asking me
means you already know the answer.
You just want someone else to
validate it out loud.

ELI
(narrows eyes, gets
spooked)
You bring your personal laptop to
work a lot?

SIMON
Only sometimes. There's faster
internet than at home.

ELI
And maybe less prying eyes...

SIMON
Something like that.

The bell rings.

ELI
I've got to get to my next class.

Simon watches him go.

44 EXT. SURF SHOP - DAY

44

Nick questions a couple of surfers and Max is in the car nearby. Over by the body are FBI agents.

NICK

You guys out here everyday?

SURFER #1

Hurricane Robyn has churned up the sea, 6 ft waves this morning. 8 yesterday.

SURFER #2

Crazy what happened to Cuoco.

NICK

You see anyone else out here.

SURFER #1

Was a new guy out there with him. Pretty good surfer. Seemed a bit rusty at first, but he got his legs.

NICK

What did he look like?

SURFER #2

White. Brown hair. Wasn't really checking him out like that.

NICK

Sure it was a guy?

SURFER #2

Far enough away, couldn't be positive. We all look the same in a wet suit.

NICK

Where did he go?

SURFER #1

Dunno. He and Cuoco were chatting it up, then there was a huge swell, thought he wiped out.

SURFER #2

Next thing we know Cuoco's eating sand. Thought he was playing at first, then we saw his ankles.

NICK
 (hands them a card)
 Going to need you to get with our
 sketch artist.

SURFER #1
 Gnarly way to go. You're already
 fighting the sea and the sharks.
 Didn't know I had to look out for
 surfers?

45 INT. MAXINE'S CAR - BEACH - CONTINUOUS

45

Nick gets in the car. Maxine's in the passenger seat. She's
 totally stunned. Nick's a little out of it too.

MAXINE
 Ryan loved the water. Thought he
 was part merman. You don't know how
 many times I almost drowned because
 he wanted to have sex in the pool.

NICK
 Max. I'm so sorry. He was on
 Adeline Rose wasn't he?

MAXINE
 I found the app on his phone.

NICK
 Jeez.

MAXINE
 Was the straw that broke the
 camel's back. He had been nailing
 everyone at the station for years.
 Beat cops, secretaries,
 prostitutes. I caught him in our
 hot tub with Julie Market once.

NICK
 Sweet little Julie?

MAXINE
 I just couldn't ignore it anymore.
 He was never going to change, so I
 filed for divorce.

Maxine's phone starts up. It's Video Man.

VIDEO MAN
 Looks like I hit close to home this
 time.
 (MORE)

VIDEO MAN (CONT'D)
Favor or fury, time will decide.
Let's tip the scales and go global
for our next adventure. Justice
will be served.

Nick checks the internet.

NICK
That's not on the web. That's just
to you. He's taunting you. We have
to tell the Captain.

MAXINE
No.

NICK
Why?!

MAXINE
Because when I find him, I'm going
to kill him.

NICK
I'm going to pretend you didn't
just say that.

Nick gives a doubtful look and drives off in silence.

46 INT. POLICE STATION - BULL PEN - DAY

46

Task force in full effect. FBI talking. Maxine and Nick sit
solemnly at their desk. Captain stands in front with the FBI
MAN.

FBI MAN
We've got a skilled serial killer
here. Some of you have already
taken to calling him The Charm
Killer. And he's escalating.
Getting more bold. Killed one of
your own. Though he hasn't broken
from the pattern, this one seems
personal. This attack more angry.
Whoever the killer is, he may have
known Det. Cuoco. Keep your wits
about you. This is going to get
worse before it gets better.

Capt. Collins walks over to Maxine.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
Go home.

MAXINE
I'm on the task force.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
Not tonight you're not.

Maxine grabs her coat and leaves in a huff. Nick watches her go.

47 INT. MAXINE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

47

Max is on the couch in sweats. Simon's still in his professor slacks and button down. Gwen and Greg are seated across from him. Simon pours some tequila for them all. They are watching a newscast. Dylan is having a press conference.

DYLAN
Despite what the police and Federal law enforcement will have you believe, there is not a connection between the Charm Killer and the Adeline Rose leak. Our users are not targets of this depraved mad man. We are doing the utmost to regain trust, anonymity and security for our valued users. We will continue to provide a much needed service to the community. Threats will not stop us.

Simon turns off the television.

GWEN
Is she mad?

SIMON
She'd have to be to taunt a killer.

MAXINE
She's trying to save her company.

GREG
She's trying to save face.

GWEN
Poor Ryan. I never thought I'd utter those words.

MAXINE
My mind's racing. I think I'm still in shock.

SIMON
Of course you are, honey.

GREG
What happened?

MAXINE
The killer caught him while he was surfing.

GWEN
Do you think he knew the killer?

MAXINE
Maybe.

SIMON
I don't want you on this case.

MAXINE
You can't choose my work for me.

GWEN
Simon's right, Max. Maybe you should recuse yourself. That's a thing right?

MAXINE
I'm not doing that.

GREG
If she quits, what does that do for the rest of us. There's a maniac on the loose.

SIMON
Don't put that kind of pressure on her.

48 INT. MAXINE'S - BATHROOM HALLWAY - NIGHT - LATER

48

Simon and Gwen cross paths. One's going to the bathroom and one's coming out.

GWEN
Max must be a mess.

SIMON
She tries to put up this strong front, but I know this is screwing with her head.

GWEN

It's screwing with mine, too. How are you holding up?

SIMON

I'm a bit freaked.

GWEN

Hey, she's lucky to have you.

Gwen pulls him in for a hug. When they part, Gwen stares him in the eyes and waits longingly for a kiss.

SIMON

What are you doing?

GWEN

Nothing.

SIMON

Whatever that nothing is, please stop.

Simon goes into the bathroom. Gwen stands in the hallway to sulk.

49 INT. MAXINE'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 49

Greg is sitting a bit close to Maxine.

GREG

Are you close to catching the killer?

MAXINE

Not really.

GREG

You're probably closer than you think.

MAXINE

This guy has got to be hiding in plain sight. He's smart, has a good job. These murders are more than just a judgment on the people they are condemning. They're a conversation, a statement.

GREG

A statement to whom?

Simon walks back in.

SIMON

I think it's time we let your
friends go and I get you in bed.

GWEN

We should get going.

GREG

Hang in there Maxie. I'm sure it'll
be over soon.

50 INT. MAXINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT - DREAM 50

Simon slips into bed next to Maxine. Maxine rolls over for a
snuggle, he kisses her and they start passionately making
love. Suddenly she begins strangling Simon to death. She is a
woman possessed. He flips her over. Suddenly, she's the one
who can't breath.

CUT TO --

51 INT. MAXINE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY 51

Maxine waking up in a cold sweat. No one is on the other side
of the bed.

52 INT. MAXINE'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 52

Maxine enters in her pajamas. She's still shaken. Simon is
making breakfast and listening to the news.

NEWSCASTER

There was another murder yesterday
by who is now being called The
Charm Killer. Sources say ...

Simon turns off the news.

SIMON

You look like you've just danced
with the devil.

MAXINE

I had a bad dream.

SIMON

Stay home today. Clean off the DVR.
Veg out. Grieve. Let Nick catch the
bad guys.

MAXINE

Stay with me.

SIMON

I can't. Mid-terms. Seems you have made up with Gwen.

MAXINE

Made up, forgotten about it, ignoring it, who knows.

SIMON

Think they're happy. Gwen and Greg?

MAXINE

As happy as any of us. Why?

SIMON

She's a bit flirty.

MAXINE

What, is she trying to steal you away from me?

SIMON

Kind of.

Maxine giggles.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I'm serious.

MAXINE

Gwen's ... expressive. Coy. That's her way.

SIMON

Well it makes me a bit uncomfortable.

(looks at watch)

Crap. I'm going to be late.

He grabs his lunch.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Stay home.

MAXINE

We'll see.

He hurries off.

53 INT. FASCINO BOUTIQUE - MORNING

53

Maxine walks in as Gwen is folding clothes.

GWEN

Simon let you out of the house.

MAXINE

He's not the boss of me.

GWEN

In the market for a new look? Boost
your mood with some retail therapy?
I could use some sales.

MAXINE

Maybe another time. I'm trying to
piece together who some of the
Adeline Rose users are.

GWEN

Ooo, can I look?

MAXINE

No.

GWEN

They're all over the web. Besides,
maybe I can help.

MAXINE

Why, because you were slutty in
your former life?

GWEN

Ha, ha.

Maxine pulls out her phone and pulls up some pictures. Maxine
swipes past a few photos.

MAXINE

Is something weird going on between
you and Simon?

GWEN

No, why? Did he say something?

MAXINE

That you were hitting on him.

GWEN

You know I'm friendly.

MAXINE

Anything beyond that? If we were in an office, would he need to call HR?

GWEN

Did I sexually harass him?

MAXINE

Yeah.

GWEN

No. I swear.

MAXINE

You sure?

GWEN

(thinks)

Yes.

MAXINE

Are things ok with you and Greg?

GWEN

We're fine.

One's a chin down picture of a guy in a pushed down wet suit, with a surfboard. Username: WaterGod69.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Oh my god, is that Ryan?

MAXINE

Yeah.

Last one's a picture lips down of a girl in her bra. Nameless selfie in a bathroom. UndrcvrLvr00. With a very telling stomach tattoo.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Gwen, that's you.

GWEN

(defensive)

No it's not.

Pulls up her shirt.

MAXINE

I was with you when you got that tattoo. Are you crazy?!

GWEN

It's an old account. No one knows it's me. It's not even under my real name. I thought I deleted it.

MAXINE

You delete this account right now. Forget about the charm killer, Greg will kill you.

Gwen takes out her phone.

GWEN

I deleted it.

In walks a CUSTOMER, the door jingles the entry bells.

GWEN (CONT'D)

(anxious to exit convo)

Welcome to Fascino.

CUSTOMER

I don't mean to interrupt.

GWEN

Don't worry. Nancy Drew was just leaving.

54

INT. POLICE STATION - BULL PEN - DAY

54

Maxine walks into the station. She gets to her desk and there's a box of "fruity" charms cereal (or the knock off equivalent).

MAXINE

Fruity charms?

NICK

Thought you needed some inspiration to catch this bastard. I know you're not going to let the FEDs take our collar. How you holding up? Ryan was a douche, but I know you loved him.

MAXINE

By a thread. His mom is in pieces. I may have to go to Sunday dinners for the next decade.

NICK

And Simon? Has to be hard to see your lady crying over her ex.

MAXINE

He has nothing to be jealous over.

NICK

The one man that got you to marry
him ...

Everyone starts getting internet pings. Commotion abound.

NICK (CONT'D)

What's going on?

OFFICER

There's been another leak.

Nick and Maxine go his computer. "ADELINE LOVERS REVEALED"

A HUGE LIST OF NAMES. Body pic, profile pictures paired with
Facebook / Instagram photo's of people's faces. Men and
women. As we scroll down, we catch--

GWEN HIGHFIELD. Gwen's on the list. Max and Nick see it at
the same time.

NICK

Isn't that your friend?

MAXINE

Oh, Greg.

Max rushes out.

NICK

I'm coming with you.

He follows her.

55 INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

55

Greg picks up a crystal vase and chucks it at Gwen. She
ducks.

GREG

I knew it! You tried to make me
think I was nuts while you were
sleeping your way through pool boys
and actors from here to San Jose!

GWEN

You're crazy!

GREG

No, you're crazy if you think I'm going to be some cuckolded laughing stock of Brixton. I can't even stand to look at you right now.

GWEN

I love you. Don't you see that. You always leave me alone. I needed attention, affection.

GREG

You will not blame your cheating on me!

GWEN

You're not even in love with me. I see the way you look at her. You might not cheat, but you're sure as hell not faithful. I'm not the only one sneaking around at night!

Silence from Gwen. Greg picks up a CLOCK and THROWS IT AT GWEN'S HEAD, narrowly missing her.

GREG

This's the last time you'll embarrass me.

GWEN

Screw you!

Gwen lunges for him like a mad house cat.

56 EXT. GWEN'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - SAME

56

Maxine arrives at the house. As she approaches the front door, she hears the YELLING INSIDE. She notices the door has been left slightly ajar, and walks into--

57 INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

57

Gwen and Greg are in a physical fight. War of the Roses. Maxine runs at Gwen and pulls her off Greg, narrowly managing to restrain her with her police training. Nick calms Greg down.

MAXINE

Stop. Stop.

GREG
(to Gwen)
Get out! *Get OUT of my house!*

NICK
(to Greg)
Would you like to press charges?

MAXINE
Are you serious?

NICK
Yeah, kinda.

GREG
(looks at Gwen)
Jail is too good for her.

NICK
(to Gwen)
Think it'd be best if you slept somewhere else tonight. Why don't I stand in the hallway why you run upstairs and pack a quick bag. You can get the rest of your stuff later.

GWEN
Fine.

MAXINE
I'll come with you.

Gwen goes upstairs to the

BEDROOM

Where Gwen and Maxine are alone. Gwen breaks down in tears.

GWEN
I love him, you know I do.

MAXINE
What did you think would happen if this came out?

GWEN
I don't know. That we would go to counseling. People do it.

MAXINE
Oh honey, really? Half the grudges Greg is holding are from 20 years ago.

GWEN

I never should have married him.

MAXINE

Why would you say that?

GWEN

Because he doesn't love me like I love him.

MAXINE

Then who does he love?

GWEN

It doesn't matter.

Gwen won't say. Gwen starts packing her suitcase.

MAXINE

Why didn't you tell me you weren't happy?

GWEN

Because ... it was just easier to pretend.

MAXINE

Come stay with me. As long as you like.

GWEN

No. I need to sort this out on my own. I'll get a hotel. I'll be fine.

MAXINE

(dawns on her)

Simon was telling the truth. You were hitting on him.

GWEN

I thought he was like me. You and Greg are married to your jobs. You'd be the perfect couple.

MAXINE

You're my best friend! Why would you try to ruin my relationship?

GWEN

Because I wanted you to be miserable like me. I'm sorry. I know that sounds horrible.

MAXINE

I don't even know what to say to that.

GWEN

Things always seem to work out for you. I'm just always waiting for the other shoe to drop.

MAXINE

What are you talking about?

Maxine gets a TEXT FROM DET SANCHEZ --

"Found someone you're looking for. But he's skittish. Pier 39, 20 mins. Come Alone. Tell him "Jordy" sent you."

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Stay away from Simon.

Maxine leaves.

58

INT. GWEN'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

58

Nick chats up a very angry Greg.

NICK

I'm sorry about ... you know.

GREG

I'm a little stunned. You ever been cheated on?

NICK

Yeah, my ex cheated with her trainer. It sucked.

GREG

What did you do?

NICK

Broke the windows out his car. Both of their cars.

GREG

Did it make you feel better?

NICK

No.

GREG

What if your partner cheated and you felt nothing?

NICK
Then, you should have broken up a
long time ago.

GREG
I'll ruin her.

NICK
Give it a few months. You may
change your mind.

Maxine comes down the stairs. Greg ogles her.

MAXINE
You got this? Something's come up.

NICK
Something you want to tell me
about?

MAXINE
Not really.

59 EXT. PIER 39 - NIGHT

59

Maxine waits under the pier. She has her gun with her. She thinks she's alone when a small frame steps out behind a pylon. Eli, the kid from Simon's school, approaches her.

ELI
Det. Payton?

Startled, she draws her pistol on him. He raises his hands. He steps into the light and she puts her gun down.

MAXINE
You're the kid from the computer
store.

ELI
I'm 19.

MAXINE
Whatever jail bait. Get out of
here. I'm waiting for someone.

ELI
No, I'm waiting for someone.

MAXINE
"Jordy sent me."

ELI
That bastard.

MAXINE
You hacked Adeline Rose.

ELI
I didn't say that.

MAXINE
You're Incognito.

Turns around paranoid.

ELI
Lower your voice.

MAXINE
Why'd you leak those names? Are you here to tell me you're behind the murders? Daddy's cheating on mommy so you're real mad at the world. Is that it?

ELI
My parents have been happily married for 30 years. It was just a stupid bet. Bragging rights. Then it got out of control. Seems some members of Incognito are on Adeline Rose.

MAXINE
And you've just sicced a serial killer on them.

ELI
I just hacked the site and leaked it to the paper. The video's ... that's not us. There's a bounty on my head. I'm going to be outted unless you catch this guy.

MAXINE
I wouldn't mind putting a few slugs in you myself for helping a psycho.

ELI
Thought I might break up a few homes not unleash Jack the Ripper. The guy's using a dummy account. Lola95.

MAXINE

Tell me something I don't know.

ELI

Someone put a tracker on your phone.

MAXINE

How do you know that?

ELI

(coy)

Hacked your life a little bit.
Wanted to know if you were as good
a person as you seem.

MAXINE

I'm getting all new stuff after I
leave this pier.

ELI

Change your passwords. They're
garbage. And put more money in your
401K if you want to have a decent
retirement. Nice nursing homes cost
money.

MAXINE

Thanks dad.

ELI

You had spyware on your computer
too. Someone wants to know where
you are at all times. It's been
there for months.

MAXINE

Someone followed me the other day.
Breathed heavy into my house phone.

ELI

(a bit freaked)

People are getting whacked by this
guy, but he's doing what, playing
games with you? I upped the
firewalls on all your devices. He
may be going analog because he no
longer has access.

MAXINE

Why'd you do that?

ELI

Didn't want to see you on the news.

MAXINE

Why would the Charm Killer be stalking me? I'm not the lead on the case. It's in the hands of the FBI now.

ELI

Either you caught the attention of a killer.

MAXINE

Or the killer's killing to get my attention.

ELI

Anyway, I just thought you should know.

MAXINE

Thanks kid.

Maxine looks at her watch, backing away.

MAXINE (CONT'D)

Next time you want to hack something, wipe out my student loan debt, will you.

She walks off.

60

INT. NICK'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

60

Nick answers the door dripping wet in a towel. Maxine barges in and grabs 2 beers from the fridge.

NICK

Come on in.

MAXINE

Can you put on some clothes?

NICK

Bossing me around in my own house.

He puts on PJ bottoms.

NICK (CONT'D)

What was that this afternoon? You left me in the middle of your friend and her pissed off husband.

MAXINE

She's a cheating bitch that tried to hit on Simon.

NICK

No.

MAXINE

Yes.

NICK

Don't tell Greg that. He's already planning to take her to the cleaners.

MAXINE

Cyber set me up on a blind date with Incognito.

NICK

What? Why didn't you tell me?

MAXINE

Because you would have insisted on coming. That kid we busted at the computer store. He's behind the hack.

NICK

He's like 12. He hacked Adeline Rose. Why?

MAXINE

Infamy. Gaining the respect of the hacker community. Whatever these punks get off on. Only thing is ...

NICK

Someone starts killing people.

MAXINE

Incognito is pissed. That is not their game. They start threatening Eli.

NICK

Sanchez gift wraps him to you. Any killer worth his salt would whack him too. He's a loose thread.

MAXINE

Right. Don't think he knows who he is, but still....

NICK

I defend you every time people say
you go rogue, but maybe I'm the
dupe. You can't keep pulling this
lone wolf crap. This guy will kill
you. You have to at least warn
Simon.

MAXINE

The less he knows the better. I
don't want to worry him.

NICK

He should be worried.

61 INT. MAXINE'S HOUSE - NIGHT - LATER

61

Max walks in the front door and hears commotion in the back.
She walks through the living room and kitchen. She pulls her
gun. She walks to the

LAUNDRY ROOM

It's Simon. Disrobing. He has on black running clothes. They
are caked in mud. He's putting his clothes in the washing
machine.

SIMON

What the hell are you doing?!

MAXINE

Sorry. I thought you were a -
burglar.

SIMON

So, you pull a gun on me? This case
is messing with your head. Quit!

She points the gun at the floor.

MAXINE

Why are you so anxious for me to
quit?

SIMON

Because I care about you, about us.
So, I don't get shot in my own
house. How many reasons should I
give? Have you figured out who this
killer is?

MAXINE

I think it's someone I know.

SIMON

Is that someone me?

MAXINE

Is it? It's midnight and you're
sweaty, bleeding and caked in mud.

SIMON

I fell. I've worked all day. Ran 4
miles. It's been a long week. If
you think it's me, kill me now and
put me out of my misery.

Simon nudges past her, through the kitchen and into the
darkness of the house.

SIMON (CONT'D)

I'm going to bed.

62

INT. MAXINE'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT - DREAM

62

Maxine walks into the living room in her pajamas. VIDEO MAN
is there with a mask on, sitting on her couch, but he has a
judge's robe on and a powdered wig. Gwen runs in in a power
suit and briefcase.

GWEN

Sorry, I'm late your, honor.

VIDEO MAN

Maxine Payton. You are being tried
for crimes against detection.

MAXINE

What?

VIDEO MAN

You have had ample time to find me
and I am growing quite impatient.

GWEN

He's kind of right.

VIDEO MAN

Who is the Charm Killer? Is it me?

Video Man takes off the mask, it's Simon. Nick comes out from
the kitchen, peeling an apple with a very sharp knife.

NICK

Or me.

Gwen pulls out a stun gun from her briefcase and shocks Maxine.

GWEN

Or me.

Gwen stands over Max's writhing body.

63 INT. MAXINE'S BEDROOM - DAY

63

Maxine wakes up with a start. Other side of the bed is empty.

64 INT. MAXINE'S KITCHEN - DAY

64

Maxine walks in and Simon's already dressed for work. Making coffee.

MAXINE

Morning.

SIMON

Another dream.

She nods.

SIMON (CONT'D)

Your subconscious is trying to tell you something.

MAXINE

Sorry again about the gun.

SIMON

It may takes me a minute to get over.

It's tense. She turns on the TV. The news blares. NEWSCASTER reports another body has been found. Maxine picks up her cell phone off the kitchen counter. 12 missed calls. 8 missed texts.

NEWSCASTER

The body of missing Adeline Rose CEO, Dylan Berkis has been found on the Shenandoah trail this morning. Her body was bound and left on the hillside overnight. Cause of death is unknown. She was found by a jogger.

MAXINE

Where did you say you went jogging
last night?

Maxine looks at her texts. Nick "Where are you? New body."

SIMON

(sips coffee)
I didn't.

MAXINE

You may have seen something.

NEWSCASTER

This appears to be another victim
of the so-called Charm Killer who
appears to be escalating his reign
of terror on the sleepy beach
community of Brixton.

MAXINE

I've got to go --

SIMON

Yeah, me too. Big day today.

65

EXT. HIKING TRAIL - DAY

65

The body is still there under a tarp. Nick walks up the hill
with 2 coffees. Hands one to the Captain. 2 FBI agents are on
the scene.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Well well well. If it isn't
sleeping beauty.

NICK

Sorry Captain. I see the FBI is
here.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Thinking we're incompetent I'm
sure. Your girlfriend coming?

NICK

She's not my girlfriend, sir.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

I know that, idiot. How's she
doing?

NICK

As good as to be expected.

Max walks up.

MAXINE
Sorry I'm late.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
Rough night?

MAXINE
All my nights are rough lately.

NICK
How'd Dylan die?

CAPTAIN COLLINS
Looks like the big cats got her.
Body can't be more than a few hours
old.

NICK
Is there a charm?

CAPTAIN COLLINS
(nods yes)
A set of scales.

NICK
How'd Channel 6 get her name
already?

CAPTAIN COLLINS
I'll give you one guess.

He turns around and looks toward the police tape. Rachel Janus reporter is standing on the other side of it. Capt. walks off to talk to the Feds.

NICK
If she died last night, it wasn't
either one of us.

He walks away from her further up the trail. Maxine stands there pensive, wondering if it's Simon.

66 INT. MORGUE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

66

Mohammad stands over Dylan's body. MAXINE walks in.

MAXINE
What do you have for me?

MOHAMMAD

Apparently she liked really young men. Here's her charm.

Hands over baggy.

MAXINE

Scales. Balance? Judgment?

MOHAMMAD

Truth.

MAXINE

Do you think he's making the charms to match the people or killing people that match the charms.

MOHAMMAD

Could be both.

MAXINE

I feel like the killer is just out of focus - if I take one more step and adjust my eyes -

MOHAMMAD

Be careful out there. Maybe let the FBI catch this one.

MAXINE

Then they better hurry up.

67

EXT. POLICE STATION - COMMUNITY AREA - DAY

67

Capt. Collins stands at a microphone addressing TOWN MEMBERS, including and some other JOURNALISTS.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

The events that have taken place here in Brixton over the past week have been shocking to us. To the loved ones of those who have lost their lives, we extend our deepest sympathies. We want to assure you that we're doing everything in our power to solve this case and keep Brixton safe. FBI would like to make a statement.

FBI Agent steps to the podium. Captain steps aside.

68

INT. POLICE STATION - BULL PEN - DAY

68

No one is around but Max and Nick because everyone is outside.

NICK

You don't want to go outside.

MAXINE

To watch them say what. We still haven't found the killer.

NICK

Any more messages from your madman?

MAXINE

Eli firewalled all my devices.

NICK

Is that a good idea? If he wants to speak to you now, what is he going to do? Show up in your shower?

MAXINE

That's not funny.

NICK

I'm not joking.

MAXINE

He's getting sloppy. Those surfers saw him at the pier. He wants to be caught.

NICK

Or he wants you to catch him.

Cop #1 knocks on the door. Walks in with a gift wrapped square box.

COP #1

This just came for you.

NICK

Is it your birthday?

MAXINE

No.

Cop walks off. Nick comes closer to her. She opens the box. She walks to the car. It's a box of lady's hands with a charm bracelet on one of the wrists. We only see a glimpse.

NICK
Are those fresh?

MAXINE
This guy is sick.

NICK
The charms. They're all there. Plus
this medical looking one.

MAXINE
Health.

NICK
And this dollar sign.

MAXINE
Which one is for the hand?

NICK
Who's the other one for?

MAXINE
(recognizes the wedding
ring)
Oh my God, it's Gwen.

NICK
No.

MAXINE
The ring.

Maxine's phone buzzes. It's a Charm Killer video:

VIDEO MAN
I had to rehack your phone. Tsk.
Tsk. What would you do to save this
friend?

Video plays of Gwen bound in duct tape lying down in an unlit
fire place - no hands. Her wrists are bound in blood speckled
gauze.

VIDEO MAN (CONT'D)
What about this one? Guess who.

A body is bound on the edge of a diving board. Their head is
covered by a burlap sack.

VIDEO MAN (CONT'D)
You better hurry. That one's gonna
make a big splash. Come alone.

Her GPS starts with a map.

NICK
You can't go alone!

MAXINE
I have no choice.

NICK
You're walking right into his trap.
You know who it is don't you. Tell
me.

MAXINE
It's only a guess.

She runs out the door. A cop walks in the room and Nick hands him the box of hands.

NICK
Give this to forensics. And tell
the task force there's another body
out there somewhere. Maybe two.

Nick gets in his car and tries to follow Maxine.

69 INT. MAXINE'S CAR - DUSK 69

Max drives like a crazy woman trying to follow the GPS. She weaves in and out of traffic.

70 EXT. CREEPY FARM HOUSE - NIGHT 70

Max rolls up. She heads straight for the front door with her gun drawn. She checks the door. Unlocked.

71 INT. CREEPY FARM HOUSE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 71

The place looks dusty and abandoned. Max walks through the house with her gun drawn. It's as quiet as a church. She walks through the dining room, kitchen, then comes to the

DEN

where she finds a crackling fire and a rug, but nothing else. This looks like the room that Gwen was in, but she's not there. There is, however, a closet in the corner. Max approaches slowly, opens the door and a dead, bound Gwen falls on her, her wrists bound in duct tape and gauze dotted in blood.

MAXINE

Ahh!

Maxine screams out of fright, before sobbing, before sucking it up to go find the killer. Back on her feet, she goes to the pool. The gun is an extension of her arm.

72 EXT. CREEPY FARM HOUSE - BACK YARD POOL - NIGHT 72

A man sits on the edge of the diving board. Hands and legs bound. Burlap sack over his head. Maxine edges to the end with her gun drawn, pulls off the burlap sack.

CUT TO

73 EXT. CREEPY FARM HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 73

Nick pulls up behind Maxine's car. There's a shadow in the upstairs window that he doesn't see. Nick goes into the open front door with his gun drawn.

74 INT. CREEPY FARM HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS 74

The room is lit by fire from the fireplace. Nick walks into room and sees a female body on the ground. It's back is to him. He walks over slowly, hoping it's not Maxine. He crouches down to turn over the body. He turns it over. Gasps, but relieved it's Gwen, not Maxine. A form stands over him. He turns slowly, looks into the face of the killer and gets conked in the head with the butt of a gun for his efforts. He's out cold.

75 EXT. CREEPY FARM HOUSE - BACK YARD POOL - NIGHT 75

Maxine has pulled off the burlap sack. REVEAL: It's Simon. She holsters her gun to try and untie him.

MAXINE

Babe. Babe are you ok?

She pulls off the tape on his mouth.

SIMON

Untie me.

MAXINE

(she pulls at the ropes)
How did you get here?

SIMON

Last thing I remember is walking to my car, then being zapped with a taser.

A figure walks up behind them out of focus. She feels his presence and turns slowly.

GREG

It was a cattle prod actually.

Maxine turns to face off with the Charm Killer aka Greg Highfield. He has his gun trained on her. Her gun is in her holster.

GREG (CONT'D)

Your gun. Toss it in the water.
(she obliges). Step away from Simon.

Maxine edges off the board.

MAXINE

Greg, you killed all those people? They didn't deserve to die like this. Ryan was your friend.

GREG

That lowlife vampire was spreading chlamydia from here to Ventura county. He was a walking CDC patient zero. I did humanity a favor.

MAXINE

Gwen was your wife.

GREG

(spits her name with vitriol)

Don't tell me about Gwen. Gwen would flirt with the garbage man if he told her she had a nice smile. I didn't think she had it in her to go all the way. Believe me if I'd have known she would have been the first to die.

MAXINE

What about the others? They did nothing to you!

GREG

They existed! Festering disease on humanity in their own right. A preacher promoting chastity with thoughts so unpure the thought of self flagellation aroused him. A CEO who promoted heartbreak but would accept no responsibility for it. A surgeon who played god every day couldn't get off unless his own mortality was on the brink.

MAXINE

You ruined so many people's lives.

GREG

That leak was like a gift from the heavens. I had already started stalking my victims. Carefully selected them. The leak provided the cover, the instant publicity.

MAXINE

You did this for fame.

GREG

The world's a stage and everyone wears a mask. I took mine off; so should they.

MAXINE

I don't wear a mask.

GREG

Don't you? You wear the mask of an upholder of the law, but you let that money hungry degenerate Eli get away. You wear the mask of a loyal friend, but you have one that has an unrequited crush on you and the other - well, she was always more frienemy than friend wasn't she? You wear the mask of partner, but there are things you will not concede, will not give to those who choose to love you. Isn't that right, Simon? Maxine, you wear many masks.

MAXINE

And you wear the mask of a killer.

SIMON

Maxine -

MAXINE

People gave you a pass because of your looks, because you were an athlete, your wealth. But you were a weird little bully.

SIMON

Don't -

MAXINE

There were rumors that you date raped Cindy Falcon in college, but no one believed her.

GREG

(smiles)

But you did.

MAXINE

I just couldn't prove it. (thinks)
You were a computer science minor.
That's how you hacked my phone.

GREG

Needed to know what you knew.

MAXINE

But the charms ...

GREG

You know about my family don't you?

SIMON

Your father was murdered. He wasn't a very nice man.

GREG

No, he wasn't. But you know my mother was a dainty little thing. Very delicate. Soft spoken, polite. She was a saint. My father was ... a parade of disappointment. Loud, rude, crass. He got off on humiliation. Particularly, humiliating my mother. He would screw anyone close to her. Anyone in her orbit. Her best friend, her co-workers, our neighbors, my teachers, her sister.

SIMON

My mother.

GREG

(smirks, looks at Maxine)
Maybe even yours too. If my mother was too nice to the check out lady, dad would hit on her. Then he would come home to boast about his escapades - to my mother. It was emotional warfare. If she uttered a peep during his story time, he would hit her. Like she was a grown man in a bar fight. And without fail, the next day he would give her a piece of apology jewelry. To his face, she would act like it was the most glorious thing in the world. And as soon as he went to work, she would chuck it in a closet never to be seen from again -

MAXINE

Except for the charm bracelet.

GREG

She loved that thing. Wore it everyday, fawned over it. I asked her why she didn't melt it down into nails or bullets. She said, "In another another world maybe even right on top of this one, I'm a different me. A happy me. This bracelet, links me to that world." One day when she'd had enough, she cooked a big breakfast, got me ready for school, and blew my father's head off with a shotgun while he was asleep.

SIMON

(remembers)

She's in a mental institution.

GREG

Sunny Oaks. Unfit to stand trial.

MAXINE

Is that your plan? Insanity plea.

GREG

No. My plan is to go out with a bang.

Greg raises his gun to Maxine and she judos it out of his hand. He backhands Maxine square in the mouth and Maxine reels backwards.

Pissed Maxine charges him, tackling him in the stomach and they both go the ground. They're fighting to get control of the gun. It goes off, wings Simon and into the pool he goes.

76 INT. CREEPY FARM HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 76

Nick starts to wake up. He gets up groggy. Pulls out his phone. Sends a pin drop of his locale to the Captain with a text "Charm Killer is here." Staggeres out of the room.

77 INT. CREEPY FARM HOUSE - BACKYARD POOL - NIGHT 77

Greg gets back control of the gun.

GREG
Games over.

Maxine puts her hands up. She backs herself onto the diving board - effectively walking the plank. He shoots at her as she simultaneously takes a big gulp of air and deliberately falls backward into the pool. She's underwater trying to untie Simon. She breathes water into his mouth. Greg shoots into the pool.

Nick staggeres out of the house.

NICK
You hit me.

Greg spins around.

GREG
I did.

NICK
Greg Highfield. You're the Charm
Killer?

Aims to shoot Nick.

GREG
I am.

Click.

NICK
You don't have any bullets. I'm not
good at math, but I can count.

GREG
Must not have been a boy scout.

Greg pulls out a fresh magazine.

NICK

Oh sh -

Nick dives into the bushes. Blam, Blam, Blam. Maxine surfaces to gulp more air, back under she goes. Greg's back to shooting in the water. Nick tackles him from the back and they both go into the water. Greg and Nick are wrestling in the water, punching each other in the face. Nick knocks Greg out. He goes underwater.

Maxine has freed Simon, but he has taken on water and started to drown. She pulls him to the edge of the pool. Nick helps her push him out. Because she is winded, Nick performs CPR on Simon. Maxine sits on the edge of the pool, spent. Greg, breaches the water for one last act of revenge with Maxine's tossed gun. Maxine's trigger reflexes picks up Greg's discarded gun from earlier, pumps 3 slugs in his chest. Greg's dead body floats in the pool like Sunset Boulevard.

Simon coughs up water. He's alive. Sirens approach in the distance getting closer and closer. Maxine turns to Simon and kisses him.

MAXINE

It's ok. He's dead now.

NICK

Are you ok?

MAXINE

No. Not really.

Maxine waits for the troops to arrive spent. It's almost as if time has slowed. She reacts to everything like she's still underwater. Paramedics and the Captain round the corner the back yard. They load Simon on a stretcher. Maxine gets up and starts walking away toward the ambulance.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

Payton, you caught the Charm
Killer.

*

MAXINE

I'm going to go catch some vacation
now.

CAPTAIN COLLINS

You've earned it. Marry that man.
He almost got killed for you.

MAXINE

Yeah, yeah.

Nick walks up to Captain.

CAPTAIN COLLINS
(to Nick w/ disdain)
Did you do anything?

NICK
(whiny)
I helped.

Maxine follows Simon to the ambulance and they ride out.
Captain and Nick walk toward the body in the pool.

INT. AMBULANCE - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

Maxine gets in the rig with Simon on the stretcher. She
kisses him gently.

MAXINE
I love you, you know that.

SIMON
No more murders.

MAXINE
Marry me.

SIMON
Seriously.

MAXINE
As a heartattack.

The last paramedic gets in and they drive away.

Fade Out.

Fade In.

EXT. BEACH - DAY

Maxine relaxes on the beach in her bikini. She's on a chaise
lounge looking out on the horizon. The waves lap the shore.
Simon appears in his trunks, still hunky in his glasses. He
has 2 Mai Tais. Fresh wedding rings.

MAXINE
It's nice to get away.

SIMON
Island honeymoon. Away from all the
mayhem.

They sip their drinks. In the distance a body floats to shore. They don't see it until it's beached like a whale. It's on it's side, facing them.

MAXINE

Is that a ...

SIMON

Maybe he's just sleeping.

Just then, the body rolls in the tide and they see the harpoon.

SIMON (CONT'D)

That's a harpoon.

MAXINE

Honey, that may be the big sleep. I have to --

Simon pulls out his book, sips his mai tai and sighs.

SIMON

Let me know how it turns out.

Maxine kisses him on the cheek, then picks up her cell and calls the cops. Pan to the sunny skies.

Fin.