UNT. KEVIN WILLIAMSON PROJECT

"Pilot"

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TEASER

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

A neighborhood in the foothills of Los Angeles. The houses are hidden by gates and shrubs. It's late. Everything is dark and still. Very little street lighting.

A small car makes its way up the hill. Inside--

INT. CAR - NIGHT

KATE EDWARDS, 28, is behind the wheel. She's young and attractive, though she plays it down, opting for a very ordinary appearance. No make-up, hair in a ponytail, sweats. From the car's hands-free phone:

VOICE MAIL
This is Troy, leave a message.

BEEP. Kate leaves a quick message.

KATE
Are you home? Where are you? I need food. I wanna order something. I'm craving guacamole. I'm pulling up.

Kate steers her car to the curb and parks on an incline. She nabs the last spot on the street before the red marks. She pulls the hand brake and gathers her things. Purse, gym bag, etc. She gets out.

EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD - NIGHT

Kate starts up the hill towards her house when her CELL PHONE RINGS. She juggles her bags, answering--

KATE
Hello?

MALE VOICE
Hello, Kate.

The VOICE is MUFFLED, DISTORTED. But Kate recognizes it. She tenses.

KATE
Not tonight.

CONTINUED:

Kate HANGS UP. She quickly looks around, but the street is deserted, no one in sight. She grips her key ring, sliding several keys between her fingers -- a possible weapon. Kate's a guarded woman... she has her reasons.

Her CELL RINGS AGAIN. She doesn't answer it. Just then, a JOGGER rushes by her. Kate jumps, frightened. The JOGGER disappears up the hill.

Kate quickly moves toward the apartment building when she sees a FIGURE standing at the gate of her building.

Kate is instantly terrified. Then, her CELL PHONE RINGS. She answers--

MALE VOICE
Hello, Kate.

Kate stares at the MALE FIGURE in front of her. It's silhouetted in the darkness. She can't make out a face.

KATE
Is that you?

MALE VOICE
Yes. Tonight's the night, Kate.

KATE
No--

The FIGURE starts towards her. As he grows closer REVEAL he wears a MASK. Flesh colored. A blank expression. Incredibly creepy. Kate runs, SCREAMING--

KATE
Help me... somebody...

She races back down the hill, towards her car. The MASKED MAN catches up to her. He grabs her, spins her around. Kate tries to fight, strikes him with her keys but she's unexpectedly SPLATTERED WITH GASOLINE.

The MASKED MAN has a jug with a spray gun. He continues to SPRAY her with it. It douses her face, gets in her eyes. It takes Kate a moment for her to realize it's gas. She smells it. Freaked out. Oh God... she stumbles backwards.

Then, the MASKED FIGURE withdraws a LIGHTER. She SHOVES him BACKWARDS. It buys her two seconds. She BEEPS her car doors, unlocking them, goes for the door when the MASKED MAN catches up to her -- she strikes, aiming for his neck. It works, the keys tear skin.

CONTINUED: (2)

He WINCES, grabs his neck, allowing enough time for Kate to slip into her car and lock the doors.

She goes to start the car when she realizes -- SHE DOESN'T HAVE THE KEYS. She turns to the MASKED MAN. He holds them in his hand. Jingles them. Taunting her.

He CLICKS the LOCKS open. She LOCKS them again. He CLICKS them open. She LOCKS them again. She SCREAMS. She begins to HONK the horn. Will someone hear her? She looks. The street is deserted.

That's when Kate sees the MAN BEGIN to SPRAY THE CAR WITH GASOLINE. He starts on the hood, the roof, trunk. He quickly sprays the entire car down. Gas streaks and runs.

Inside the car, Kate is hysterical. She beats on the CAR HORN, wildly.

KATE
Somebody hear me. Help me.

Through the glass, she sees the MAN hold up a BOX OF MATCHES. He withdraws a match and strikes. The FLAME IGNITES. Holy fuck. He throws it onto the hood but it GOES OUT. He quickly strikes another.

Kate SCREAMS BLOODY MURDER. She lifts the EMERGENCY BRAKE, puts the car in REVERSE just as he STRIKES another match, tossing it toward the car as it begins to roll down the hill. The MATCH goes out again.

The MAN follows the car as it rolls down the hill. He STRIKES another match -- it hits the hood and the entire front of the car IGNITES INTO FLAMES. It spreads up the windshield and onto the roof.

The FLAMES GROW as the car gains momentum, shooting down the street, out of control. Inside, Kate grabs the steering wheel. It's locked. The car speeds to the bottom of the hill, engulfed in flames, veering off into the front yard of a residential home, COLLIDING into a telephone pole.

The impact CRUSHES the trunk of the car as Kate is still trapped within... SCREAMING for her life until the CAR EXPLODES INTO a FIERY BALL OF FLAMES, silencing her forever.

SMASH TO BLACK.

BETH (V.O.)
Over six million people are stalked each year in the United States.

CONTINUED: (3)

From the blackness comes the morning sun--

EXT. STREET - NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

A warm blue sky. Palm trees. A modest neighborhood in the flats of Los Angeles. A MAN, late 30's, jogs down a sidewalk. THE WOMAN'S VOICE OVER continues--

BETH (V.O.)
One in six women, one in fourteen men.

SCENE INTERCUTS AS NECESSARY:

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - MORNING

CLOSE ON DETECTIVE BETH DAVIS, 30's. A strong presence. Direct with a cold sexuality. It works for her. Beth stands before a class of HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

BETH
Stalking is the unwanted or obsessive attention from one person to another.

EXT. HOUSE/NEIGHBORHOOD - MORNING

The MAN runs to a corner, crosses the street to a house where he sees a WOMAN and CHILD -- a small boy, 10, exit their house and move to the car. She's dressed for work, the young boy has his book bag in hand. They load into the car, a morning routine.

BETH (V.O.)
Driven by rejection, revenge, jealousy -- stalking is the result of relationships gone wrong. Or delusional fixations that are pushed to extremes.

Across the street, the MAN watches from behind a tree. His eyes are conflicted. Anger? Hurt? There's a history here.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - MORNING

Beth continues her lecture.

BETH
An ex-boyfriend, spouse, a stranger. Anyone can be a stalker, anyone can be a victim.

CONTINUED:

The MAN SNAPS a PICTURE with his CAMERA PHONE as the WOMAN and CHILD drive away. Then, the MAN turns and runs off.

EXT. STREET/APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

The MAN jogs up to a small apartment building and enters.

BETH (V.O.)
With all our technology, the internet, smart phones, social media, our access to each other is the number one reason stalking cases have more than tripled in the last decade.

INT. APARTMENT - MORNING

The MAN enters a small apartment. It's sparse. A few makeshift pieces of furniture. Lots of moving boxes. He hasn't lived here for long.

BETH (V.O.)
And that's where I come in. I run the Threat Assessment Unit of the LAPD -- TAU. We're responsible for all stalking cases and threats against politicians, city and state employees. We consult with the FBI, Secret Service, and CIA.

The MAN rips his sweaty shirt off, grabs a bottle of water from the fridge. Then, goes to a bare wall -- almost bare -- there's two pictures taped to it. One of the WOMAN and one of the CHILD. He stares at them. Beat.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - MORNING

Beth looks around. The class is moderately interested.

BETH
It's our job to assess the level of threat in any situation and respond accordingly. Did I just lose you? I saw eyes glaze over. Any questions?

STUDENT
What happened to Selena Gomez' stalker?

STUDENT #2
And Madonna and David Letterman. They had some serious stalking.

CONTINUED:

STUDENT #3
I heard Sandra Bullock had some crazy chick after her too.

Beth is used to this -- she smiles.

BETH
Keep in mind, celebrity stalking makes up only ten percent of all stalking cases. Most victims are just like you and me.

EDDIE (O.S.)
I'm not stalking anyone.

This is followed by a ROOM of YELLING PEOPLE.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

It's the middle of a horrific parent/counselor session. The counselor, MR. ADAMS, 40's, calm, rational, is rubbing his temples as he sits behind his desk facing TWO STUDENTS and their PARENTS--

LINDSAY SUTTON, 16, cheerleader, outgoing, college bound. She's with her mom, TESS SUTTON, 40, professional, workaholic, distracted.

EDDIE BARNES, 16, gangly, loner, introvert. He sits with his father, BEAU BARNES, 45, ex-military, alcoholic, asshole.

And Beth. Who sits between the two sparring sides.

TESS
My daughter is not lying. We have proof.

BEAU
What proof? Dirty photos of your daughter?

LINDSAY
They're not me. He photo-shopped them.

EDDIE
Prove it.

MR. ADAMS
Could we lower our volume? No one is accusing anyone--

BEAU
Why would my boy do that? You're okay, but nothing special.

TESS
Watch it. She's 16 years old.

CONTINUED:

MR. ADAMS
Mr. Barnes, please.

BETH
Okay, everyone, stop.

Silence. Then--

BETH
Mr. Adams asked me here today so we can have a rational dialogue about this he said/she said -- now, if I could ask a few questions? Okay?
(to Eddie)
Did you photo-shop Lindsay and put these pictures on a fake Facebook account?

Beth holds up PRINTED IMAGES from Facebook -- the PHOTOS appear to be of the S&M/DOMINATRIX variety.

EDDIE
No.

BEAU
My son has done nothing but help your daughter.

TESS
Your son is following my daughter everywhere, to the store, to the movies. He stands outside our house at night.

BETH
Is that true?

Beth drills her eyes into his. Is he telling the truth?

EDDIE
No way, why would I do that? I'm no pervert.

Beth continues to stare -- he stares back, refusing to look away. It's eerie.

TESS
A pervert is exactly what he is. We need a restraining order.

Beau has heard enough. He rises, angry.

CONTINUED: (2)

BEAU
Okay, we're done here. C'mon, son.

MR. ADAMS
Mr. Barnes--

BEAU
(points in Tess' face)
You come after my son and I'll sue your ass--
(to Adams and Beth)
And I'll sue the school and the city too. You understand? You leave my son alone.

He pushes his son out the door and exits. Tess and Lindsay feel hopeless. Mr. Adams looks to Beth.

MR. ADAMS
What about a restraining order?

BETH
Eddie's underage, it's a little tricky. He denied these photos. It's an anonymous account. I'd need a warrant to investigate his online activity and there's not enough here for a judge to grant that.

TESS
He's made her out to be a slut to the entire school. She's a wreck, look at her. The damage it's doing.

BETH
How do you know him, Lindsay?

LINDSAY
He's in the mentor program. He tutored me in Calculus. I wanted to get my GPA up for college apps.

BETH
And that's it?

TESS
Yes, she told you.

LINDSAY
Why don't you believe me?

CONTINUED: (3)

Beth watches as this girl starts to lose it, tear up...

BETH
I do believe you. I see it. You're afraid. Fear is the only proof I require. But the law asks for a little more. I'm gonna help you, I promise.

Beth is a professional but she speaks from an honest and personal place. She takes her job seriously and to heart.

EXT. LAPD HEADQUARTERS - DOWNTOWN PLAZA - DAY

The sleek stone and glass monstrosity downtown.

INT. SIXTH FLOOR - TAU DIVISION - DAY

A bullpen leads to several hallways and offices. A secretary BELLE, 30, sits at a desk. She's on the phone. The elevator doors open -- Beth steps off.

BELLE
Detective Larsen is here. I put him in the conference room for now.

BETH
He's early--

Beth is approached by TWO TAU DETECTIVES:

DETECTIVE BEN CALDWELL, a youthful 40, tries too hard with the ladies, not enough with everyone else. He's a climber and he wants to go the easy way.

DETECTIVE JANICE LAWRENCE, 40. A flashy woman, the slightest trace of Southern roots. Full of an unconscious sexuality. Which is not always a good thing. She can be underestimated, which is a mistake because she's usually the smartest person in the room.

BETH
What happened with the Mayor?

JANICE
Another death threat. Along with a box of dirty needles.

BEN
The junkies are rising up.

CONTINUED:

JANICE
They want their syringes free and anonymous.

BETH
(to Ben)
It looks like the shooter in Burbank was targeting street workers. They want an assessment.

BEN
I'll take it.

Beth heads down the hall to--

INT. TAU DIVISION - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Beth enters to find a MAN sitting at the table, forms and manuals all around him.

BETH
Hi, I'm Beth Davis, Division Captain, welcome to LA.

The MAN looks up, quickly stands. His face is familiar -- he's cleaned up and looks good in a suit, but this is the same man seen jogging earlier. The man stalking the woman and child. He holds out his hand--

JACK
Detective Jack Larsen, it's nice to meet you.

Off this introduction--

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. TAU DIVISION - BULLPEN - DAY

The conference room has one wall of glass, Janice and Ben watch Beth and Jack talk. They discuss--

JANICE
What do you know about him?

BEN
Nothing.

She thumps him. She knows better. Ben spills.

BEN
From New York. Detective, homicide, 13th precinct. Big personality. Not for everyone. Single. Never married. Sleeps around--

JANICE
Good for him.

BEN
He slept with someone's wife--

JANICE
Oh, he got the boot.

Ben nods. Yep.

BEN
Apparently, he can't help himself.

JANICE
Sex addicts are so sad.

BEN
Because?

JANICE
They're so good in bed and... well, that's it.

Ben considers.

INT. TAU DIVISION - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Beth and Jack converse.

CONTINUED:

BETH
Nine years in homicide. NYPD.
(re: file)
Good record, decorated. So why the stalker's unit?

Jack's eyes linger on Beth. Is he flirting?

JACK
I'm hoping to meet Scarlett Johan--

BETH
It's an entirely different skill set. Our goal is to prevent crimes, not solve them. There's a lot of case management. A background in mental illness is necessary. Have you read the manual?

JACK
No, but I watched Fatal Attraction, Obsessed, My Bodyguard, Cape Fear, Swimfan--
(off her look)
Yes, I read the manual. That was a joke.

Beth is suspect. This guy is not making a good impression.

BETH
The manual is 1400 pages long.

JACK
It's one thousand, four hundred and thirty-seven pages long and I'm well versed in mental illness. Everything from delusional psychosis, schizophrenia, manic depression, substance dependency, narcissism, paranoia, erotomania, my own... another joke. I get it. It's a very specific whack job that stalks and makes threats.

BETH
Again, why do you want to be in this unit?

Beth isn't rude. Just curt. Jack is confused.

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK
I'm already in this unit. I filled out the paperwork, it was processed. Am I wrong?

BETH
No.

JACK
Because this was starting to feel like an interview.

Beth rises.

BETH
You'll trail me for the first month and then we'll pair you off.

Jack senses a weird vibe.

JACK
Did I say something wrong?

BETH
What do you mean?

JACK
I'm getting a vibe, like, I just made a really bad first impression. I know that Scarlett Johansson comment was lame--

BETH
A viiiibe?

Did he really just say "vibe"?

JACK
Yeah, like you don't like me.

Beth shrugs. He's perceptive.

BETH
Don't be silly. I'm sporadically rude.

Just then, Janice is TAPPING on the glass, holding a file. "I need you." Beth exits.

Jack ponders the last few minutes. That didn't go well. He has no idea what to make of this woman. But he quickly follows after her.

INT. TAU DIVISION - BULLPEN - DAY

Janice and Ben walk with Beth, handing her a file.

JANICE
Homicide was here. Just dumped a murder on us.

Janice looks Jack up and down.

JANICE
(shakes hands)
Hi, I'm Janice Lawrence. Welcome to TAU.
(to Beth)
Woman was murdered last night.

BEN
Kate Edwards, interior designer, burned alive in her car.
(to Jack)
I'm Ben Caldwell. Nice to meet you.

The two men shake hands.

BETH
Any prior case file?

JANICE
She's not one of ours. Fell through the cracks at the Hollywood Station.

BEN
(reading file)
Victim filed several reports. Intruder in July and again in October. Vandalism to her car.

Beth takes the file. Looks to Jack.

BETH
Let's go, new guy.

Beth heads out. Jack chases after her.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING/NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

The street where Kate Edwards was killed. A car parks and Beth and Jack get out. COP CARS are still present. Beth looks down the hill -- the shell of Kate's burned car is being towed away. They move inside.

INT. KATE'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Beth and Jack enter, passing a FEW UNIFORMS that stand watch. The apartment is a modest two bedroom. TWO SID TECHNICIANS (Scientific Investigation Division) are taking PHOTO EVIDENCE.

SID TECH
We're almost done.

Beth shrugs. She looks around. Jack watches her sift through the mail. He disappears into the bedroom while Beth looks in the fridge. Sees leftovers. A sense of life. And tragedy. Beth connects. She follows Jack into--

INT. KATE'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Beth looks around the room. Goes to the closet, peeks in. Jack comes back from the bathroom.

BETH
She hasn't lived here long. This place is barely lived in. Her mail goes to a mailbox center. She's hiding from someone.

JACK
Because she was terrified.

Beth turns to him, curious.

BETH
How so?

Beth is challenging Jack. He accepts -- launching into what will become his signature soliloquy.

JACK
In the bathroom, she has a clear shower curtain so no one can hide behind it.

Jack jumps to the floor on his stomach and illustrates.

JACK
A platform bed, close to the ground so no one can hide under it. She's horror movie proof. She didn't feel safe, hadn't in a long time. Look at the room, for an interior designer, it's not feng shui at all. The bed should be on that wall, facing the door, no?
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

JACK (CONT'D)
(Jack points)
But it's over here because--

Jack races over to the door, leans into the hallway and CLICKS ON the hall light and then SHUTS the bedroom door. Then, he runs back to bed and hops on it, pretending to be Kate sleeping.

JACK
She sleeps on the left of the bed, note the cluttered side table, on her side, facing the door to watch for a shadow, the footsteps of her stalker, to appear under the door. She had trouble sleeping but refused to take Ambien. There's a full prescription from a year ago in the medicine cabinet. She was too afraid to sleep.

BETH
And her stalker?

Beth urges him to continue.

JACK
It's a man. Let's face it. The barbaric violence of burning someone alive has "us men" written all over it. She reported several break-ins but nothing stolen. He likes role playing. He wants his fantasy so he breaks into her apartment while she's gone. Sleeps in her bed, eats her food, watches her TV, lives in her world. He would leave little clues so she would know he was here or just to make her crazy. Suffers from erotomania?

Beth nods. Yes. Okay, she's impressed. But, she refuses to acknowledge it.

BETH
What set him off? The predator you described likes the journey. He doesn't want it to end. Why kill her?

JACK
I don't have that yet. But I impressed you a little, didn't I?

CONTINUED: (2)

She ignores this.

BETH
(re: file)
There's a neighbor, Troy Gunn, he was one of her close friends.

Beth leads Jack out of the bedroom and the apartment.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

Beth knocks on the door of a neighboring apartment. The door opens to REVEAL TROY GUNN, 29, handsome, fit, gentle face. His face is red, he's been crying. Beth flashes her badge.

TROY (V.O.)
I've answered these questions already.

INT. TROY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Beth sits across from Troy. Jack stands near the window.

TROY
She never knew who was stalking her. I've known Kate for over a year. We met in a spin class at the gym. When she told me she was being harassed at her last place, I told her when next door became available. She moved in.

BETH
Describe the stalking to your knowledge.

TROY
Lots of love letters, tacky song lyrics, that kinds of thing. And tons of stuffed animals. Rabbits and bears, you name it. She donated them to the children's hospital.

JACK
And you called the police?

TROY
She went to the station and filled out reports but they said unless there was a crime committed...

CONTINUED:

Troy is shaken. It's been a long night. It's all over his face. This is hell for him.

BETH
Were you two involved?

TROY
No, just friends.

JACK
But you wanted more?

Troy gets defensive.

TROY
No. We were friends.

Jack looks out the window. He sees the Hollywood Sign in the in the distant hills.

JACK
Do all the apartments have a view of the Hollywood sign?

TROY
On the north side.

Jack eyes two tacky Warhol prints of Brando and Marilyn above the couch.

JACK
You're an actor?

TROY
I'm a realtor.

JACK
But you came to LA to be an actor.

TROY
Ten years ago. I'm a realtor now.

JACK
Where were you last night when Kate was killed?

TROY
I was here. Alone.

BETH
Was Kate seeing anybody?

CONTINUED: (2)

TROY
Not recently. She wasn't in any state for that. The last guy was over a year ago. A banker, Larry Myers, he was married but she didn't know that when they started seeing each other. When she found out, she dumped him.

JACK
Can I use your restroom? I can't pee next door, it's a quasi crime scene.

Troy smartens up.

TROY
Then you'll have to hold it. You're not going to snoop through my bathroom. I'm not Kate's stalker.

Troy tears up. Beth looks daggers at Jack.

BETH
Yes, hold it, Jack.
(to Troy)
Did Kate suspect Larry Myers?

TROY
At first. She asked him point blank but he denied it and she didn't want to falsely accuse him. He was married with kids.

Beth smiles. Thank you.

EXT. MYERS' HOME - BRENTWOOD - DAY

An affluent home in Brentwood. Beth's car pulls up and parks on the street. Jack and Beth get out.

INT. MYERS' HOME - LIVING ROOM - DAY

LARRY MYERS, 40's, balding, very prim, stuffed and pressed. He sits at his computer, working.

His wife ELLEN, 40's, can be seen in the kitchen -- TV on. TWO TEENS wander through. The DOORBELL RINGS. Ellen starts for the door.

ELLEN
It's almost dinner. Who is that?

CONTINUED:

Larry looks up, shrugs. Beat. Ellen reappears.

ELLEN
Larry, two detectives are here.

OFF LARRY'S SURPRISE--

EXT. MYER'S HOME - PATIO - DAY

Larry sits on the back patio overlooking the pool. Beth and Jack sit opposite him on patio furniture.

LARRY
I'm sorry to hear about Kate.

Larry glances towards the house. Ellen is in the kitchen, she keeps looking at them through the window.

BETH
Mr. Myers, where were you last night?

LARRY
Here all night with my wife.

BETH
When was the last time you saw Kate?

LARRY
A year ago. She came to me and asked if I was sending her notes and gifts. I wasn't. She said she was being stalked and was thinking about moving because of it.

BETH
She didn't mention anyone she suspected?

LARRY
She suspected me. She thought I was doing it. Like I was hung up on her.

JACK
Were you?

LARRY
I made a mistake with Kate but I'm not the stalker type. I'm a married man.

CONTINUED:

BETH
Just the cheating type.

JACK
Can your wife verify your alibi last night?

LARRY
Yes, she can but she doesn't know about Kate.

Beth looks to Ellen. In the kitchen with the kids. Ellen keeps glancing at them -- nervously. Beth takes note.

BETH
We just need your alibi, sir. We don't have to engage.

Larry is appreciative.

JACK
Why did you have an affair?

LARRY
I'm a miserable middle-aged man. It's what we do.

Well, that's blunt. Off that note--

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - BRENTWOOD - DAY

Jack and Beth walk to Beth's car.

JACK
His wife backed him up. Is she telling the truth?

BETH
I don't know.

Beth UNLOCKS the car.

JACK
We missed lunch, can I buy you dinner? We could do some first day bonding.

BETH
No, thanks.

Beth opens her car door when--

CONTINUED:

JACK
I'm sorry I stared at your breasts.

BETH
Excuse me?

JACK
It's why you don't like me. When we first met, I looked at your breasts.

BETH
Seriously?

JACK
It's all I can come up with. I was pleasant and personable. I showed a reasonable level of intelligence. I'm good looking--
(he smiles)
I have a healthy ego. The only wrong move I made was when my eyes lingered in your upper torso area a second too long and it triggered an instant dislike for me. How do I fix that?

Jack is sincere in his question. Beth is genuinely curious.

BETH
Why did you do it?

JACK
You're wearing a white silk blouse, dark bra, red fingernail polish. I took the male leap that it was meant to be noticed so I let my eyes linger in hopes you would be flattered. I miscalculated.

She looks at him, bewildered... insulted.

BETH
And it just got worse.

Beth gets in the car. Jack stands there, floundering, then proceeds to get in the passenger's side.

INT. JACK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jack is home with a beer and take-out. He sits on the floor and eats off an upturned box.

CONTINUED:

A flat screen TV sits on the floor in the corner. SAY ANYTHING is on. John Cusack woos Ione Skye in the background.

Jack has a file on KATE EDWARDS spread out on the floor. Her life, schedule, friends, contacts, family photos, etc.

JACK
"I gave her my heart and she gave me a pen."

Jack turns to the TV just as Cusack in a phone booth in the rain says, "I gave her my heart and she gave me a pen." Jack has a devilish romantic side. He gets up, searches--

He finds a box. Opens it. He pulls out a HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK and flips through it. He finds his high school picture of himself. Eek. Bad hair, all ears. He goes to another page. He finds a PHOTO of a girl -- the younger version of the woman he followed earlier. A quiet stare.

INT. BETH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Beth brushes her teeth. She spits, wipes her mouth, turns out the light. She moves around her small house. Locks the doors. Checks the windows. Her ritual--

INT. BETH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Beth enters, closes the door. She crawls into bed with her work. Her files, laptop, etc. It's all in front of her.

She flips through Kate Edward's file. She pushes it aside and opens another file -- EDDIE BARNES. It contains his school transcripts, class schedule, etc. She peruses it. YAWNING, she pushes everything to other side of the bed -- the empty side. She turns off the lamp on the side table.

Beth curls up on her side, staring ahead. CUT TO BETH'S POV: Her bedroom door. The hall light shines from the crack underneath. She lays there, eyeing it. A long silence--

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

A downtown hi-rise. LORI CANTON, 30, attractive, sexy smart, exits with a co-worker, RICK, 30's.

LORI
This day needs to end.

RICK
Tell me about.

CONTINUED:

They cross a walkway and enter a parking structure. They cross to the GARAGE ELEVATOR. It's late, the garage is mostly empty.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - ELEVATOR - NIGHT

They chit chat. The elevator doors open and Rick gets out--

RICK
See ya tomorrow.

The doors close. Lori continues alone in the elevator. She checks her emails on her phone. DING. The ELEVATOR DOORS OPEN REVEALING -- A MASKED MAN.

Lori looks up and is instantly DOUSED with GASOLINE from the SPRAY GUN in the MAN'S HAND. It splatters all over her and the elevator.

She SCREAMS, gas is in her eyes, blinding her. She fights back, instinctively lunging forward, eyes burning, hitting the button panel, striking at the MAN.

The MASKED MAN stumbles back out of the elevator as the DOORS SHUT. Silence. Lori SIGHS relief until she realizes the elevator isn't moving. Just then, the doors SLIDE OPEN again. Her ATTACKER is still there. He strikes a match as--

Lori rises, lunging... she WHACKS the MAN in the face with her shoulder bag. The match goes out. The ELEVATOR DOORS CLOSE AGAIN. She presses a button. The elevator begins to move. She SCREAMS, panicked and scared. The doors open on another floor where--

TWO PEOPLE ARE WAITING. She SCREAMS HYSTERICALLY, terrified for her life. As Lori crawls out of the elevator and into the arms of safety--

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - MORNING

Jack jogs down the street. He comes to a corner, sees school buses. He stops, moves behind a tree and catches his breath. He watches -- the SAME WOMAN and CHILD appear.

As the WOMAN hugs the CHILD goodbye, she turns -- their eyes meet. She pauses. He ducks behind the tree, quickly hiding.

He waits there a moment, BREATHING heavily. What does he do? He knows she's watching. He waits. His CELL RINGS. He answers.

JACK
Yes, I'll be right there.

Jack hangs up. He peeks out from behind the tree. The WOMAN is now gone. Jack takes off.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - MORNING

Beth gets out of the elevator and is met by Jack.

JACK
Lori Canton, 30, works in finance, downtown. BNY Mellon, attacked in the parking garage. First responders handled the report.

As Beth looks it over.

BETH
How is she?

JACK
Her eyes suffered some burns but she's okay. She'll be released today.

BETH
Have you talked to her?

JACK
I was waiting for you.
(then)
Good morning.

Jack directs Beth towards the victim's door. TWO OFFICERS stand guard.

CONTINUED:

BETH
Morning.

Beth enters. Jack follows her into the room.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Lori is in the bed. Her eyes are swollen and red from the gasoline. She's part angry, part traumatized.

LORI
I don't know who's doing this. He's been harassing me for over a year now. Letters, gifts... I thought it was harmless.

BETH
Why didn't you call the police?

LORI
I know the law. You can't prosecute someone for scaring you. He never hurt or threatened me.

JACK
Help me understand, Lori. You were stalked for fourteen months but never contacted the police?

LORI
At first, I thought it was a prank from a friend and then I figured whoever was doing it was harmless. I didn't mind until he started sending flowers and gifts to my office. My boss is already questioning all the gifts.

JACK
So you liked having a stalker.

LORI
No, it was annoying but it was just a bunch of letters and stuffed animals. Who cares?

Jack and Beth share a look. Beth looks back at her.

BETH
Do you know Kate Edwards?

CONTINUED:

LORI
Yes, I mean, not well, she lived in my apartment before me. I took over her lease.

BETH
How do you know each other?

LORI
Through my spin instructor, Kurt. We went to the same gym.

JACK
And Troy Gunn?

LORI
There was a Troy who is friends with Kate.

JACK
How long have you lived in your new home?

Lori thinks about it. Fuck.

LORI
Oh god. A little over a year. Fourteen months.

BETH
We're going to need access to your home.

LORI
Okay but why?

BETH
You haven't heard about Kate?

LORI
I work 80 hours a week. She's not a close friend. What?

BETH
She was murdered two nights ago. She was burned alive.

Lori freezes. Oh my God.

INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Beth and Jack walk to the elevators. She talks to a GUARDING OFFICER.

CONTINUED:

BETH
Keep men on Miss Canton, I don't want her alone tonight.

The OFFICER nods. Beth is bothered.

BETH
Stalkers move from one victim to another but they don't typically stalk two women at the same time.
(to Jack)
Both girls went to the same gym. Check it out. See who else is a member there. Talk to the spin instructor and get his story on how Lori ended up in Kate's old place.

JACK
You want me to go alone? Like drive myself?

BETH
I'll meet you at Lori's. Is that a problem?

JACK
No, I can do it. I have GPS.

Jack takes this as a positive sign.

INT. WORLD GYM - DAY

Jack stands at the counter. He's flirting with an ATTRACTIVE DESK GIRL, 20's.

DESK GIRL
Kurt's class will be done in a few.

JACK
Great.

DESK GIRL
We're giving away free tanning sessions today if you wanna jump start your tan while you wait.

JACK
Do I need to jump start my tan?

Jack is flirting some. The Girl flirts back.

DESK GIRL
Only if you want a tan.

CONTINUED:

JACK
I'll pass.

Jack looks around, the place is crawling with hot bodies. He moves to a glass window and watches the spin class in action, led by the instructor, KURT WILD, 30, muscled and tanned.

INT. WORLD GYM - SPIN ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Jack is talking to Kurt Wild.

KURT
I heard about Kate. It sucks. She took my class all the time until she moved to her new place. What the hell is wrong with people?

JACK
And Lori Canton?

KURT
Yeah, know her too. She spins. Haven't seen her much lately. She moved into Kate's old apartment.

JACK
Which you told her about?

KURT
Yep, I knew Kate needed someone to take over the lease. Just trying to help a friend out.

JACK
Out of curiosity, Kurt, is Wild your real last name?

Kurt smiles.

KURT
The truth? I did some soft core when I first moved here. It's all over the net. It killed any chance of an acting career but, the name stuck. I kept it.

JACK
Is everyone in LA an actor?

KURT
No, everyone in LA used to be an actor.

CONTINUED:

JACK
I have to ask. Where were you last night at 10 PM?

KURT
Seriously? Right here. Guess I could pull the surveillance footage to prove it.

Kurt points to the surveillance cameras everywhere.

JACK
If we need it. Do you know a Larry Myers?

KURT
(doesn't ring a bell)
Gotta picture?

Jack holds up his CELL PHONE with a PHOTO of LARRY.

KURT
Yes, he takes my class or did. I haven't seen him for a while. He was friends with Kate.

JACK
He was?

KURT
Yeah, I don't know how close but you should ask Troy. He would know.

JACK
Troy Gunn?

KURT
Yeah, he's right over there.

Kurt points to REVEAL TROY GUNN who can be seen in the MAIN GYM. He's working out on a curl machine. Jack is surprised to see him there.

INT. WORLD GYM - MAIN FLOOR - DAY

Jack approaches TROY GUNN who is in the middle of the arm curl machine.

JACK
Mr. Gunn? How are you?

Troy is surprised to see Jack here.

CONTINUED:

TROY
Detective. What are you doing here?

JACK
I was checking the gym out. I'm new to town. What is this, some sort of grieving workout?

Troy is instantly offended by this.

TROY
What are you implying?

JACK
Exactly what it sounds like. Do you know Lori Canton?

TROY
Yeah, I do. She moved into Kate's old apartment.

JACK
She was attacked last night. Masked man, gas, matches. Where were you last night at 10PM?

TROY
Home. All by myself. And no, I can't prove it.

Annoyed, Troy walks away.

EXT. WEST HOLLYWOOD - LORI'S DUPLEX - DAY

A COP CAR is parked in front of an old Hollywood style Spanish duplex.

INT. LORI'S DUPLEX - DAY

A UNIFORM COP stands in the open doorway. Jack enters. The COP points toward the bedroom. He sees a SID TECHNICIAN processing for possible evidence.

JACK
Any prints?

SID TECH
Partials, nothing usable.

He enters the bedroom--

INT. LORI'S DUPLEX - BEDROOM - DAY

Beth sits, gloves on, reading from a stack of letters.

JACK
Cool building. I should have looked in this area. What's the rent for a place like this?

BETH
I don't know.

Jack immediately sees the bed where a SEA OF STUFFED ANIMALS exist. He goes to them for a closer look.

JACK
Guess who I ran into at the gym. Kate's neighbor, Troy Gunn. He knows Lori Canton too. No alibi.

BETH
(reads from letter)
"The four freckles on your left cheek make me smile." "I like your new haircut."

JACK
How could Lori not call the police after reading that?

BETH
Strong. In control. She thought she could handle it.

He studies the walls and ceiling. Beth watches. Jack's eyes go to the closet which is open with a full length mirror on the door. It reflects the bathroom and shower stall. He looks opposite and sees the panels in the ceiling. It's an old building and the wood work is from another era.

BETH
What are you doing?

He points to the ceiling. He grabs a chair and a tennis racket, climbs up and pushes on the ceiling until some wood planks move. There's a CLICK and the ceiling opens up.

BETH
What is that?

JACK
This place is old like my Dad's house.
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

JACK (CONT'D)
Before the central AC was installed, there was an air vent system.

Jack pulls a CEILING DOOR open. He pulls the lever and a wooden ladder unfolds, leading to a CRAWL SPACE.

Jack climbs it and looks into the space just above the ceiling. It's dark and eerie. He uses a FLASHLIGHT APP from his PHONE to guide the way. It's a cramped space. He finds a pillow, blanket, some candy wrappers, dirty tissues.

BETH
What's up there?

Jack climbs down.

JACK
A little secret viewing room. Our stalker was big on voyeurism. I'm betting we got prints, DNA and lots of other sticky stuff up there.

MOMENTS LATER -- A SID TECH is dusting for prints using a digital wand and an IPAD. Below Beth and Jack ponder--

BETH
So our guy was stalking both women.

JACK
He started with Kate but when she moved, he took on the new girl too.

SID TECH
We have a match. DMV records show the prints belong to Larry Myers.

Beth grabs her CELL PHONE.

INT. MYER'S HOUSE - BRENTWOOD - EVENING

Larry Myers is being handcuffed by TWO OFFICERS. Beth and Jack are there with his frightened wife, Ellen.

BETH
He's being arrested on suspicion of murder. This is a search warrant for the house.

As the search begins, Larry is hauled away.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - NIGHT

Lindsay and TWO FRIENDS sit at a table, studying. Lindsay's PHONE BUZZES. She reads it.

LINDSAY
Mom's here. Gotta go.

Lindsay grabs her bag and books and heads out, TEXTS her mom. "Gotta stop by locker. 5 min."

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - HALLWAY - NIGHT

The hallway is dimly lit. A FEW STUDENTS come and go but it's mostly deserted. Lindsay is at her locker, grabbing a notebook. She starts out when--

EDDIE (O.S.)
Why'd you tell you everybody?

Lindsay freezes, instantly afraid.

LINDSAY
Stay away from me.

She slams her locker shut and starts out. He follows.

EDDIE
Don't run away. I just want to apologize. For those pictures.

LINDSAY
Now you admit to it.

Lindsay can't help but snap back. He's very apologetic.

EDDIE
Sorry about that. I couldn't say anything in front of my Dad. He'd kill me.

Lindsay keeps walking, angered. She's also growing terrified by the second. She DIALS HER CELL PHONE when Eddie KNOCKS it out of her hand. It hits the floor, sliding down the hall.

EDDIE
Oh, I'm sorry, I'll get it for you.

WTF? This kid is off. Eddie goes for the phone while Lindsay runs in the opposite direction. She races to the end of the hall to the nearest EXIT DOORS. But, they're locked.

Eddie picks up her phone, turns back to her, sweetly.

CONTINUED:

EDDIE
They lock those after dark. You gotta go out the front.

She turns to face Eddie -- the only way out is around him. She's completely freaked out.

LINDSAY
Why are you doing this?

EDDIE
Because I like you.

There is something chilling about Eddie's innocence.

LINDSAY
If you like me, you'll stop.

EDDIE
That makes no sense. Why would I stop?

He approaches, holds out her phone.

EDDIE
But you can't tell anyone about us anymore. Do you understand?
(yells)
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

He presses, his obsession surfacing. Lindsay is terrified.

LINDSAY
Yes.

He forces her to take her phone back. Then, he stares at her again. Smiles. Her fear arousing him.

EDDIE
I really want to kiss you right now.

Lindsay SCREAMS, she pushes past him and disappears down the hallway. OFF EDDIE, innocent, confused.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. TAU DIVISION - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Beth sits opposite Larry Myers and his lawyer, DOUGLAS JEFFRIES, 50, seasoned, polished.

JEFFRIES
Let me get this straight. You think my client stalked Kate Edwards and then when she moved, he couldn't resist stalking the new tenant. Then he killed one and tried to kill the other?

LARRY
I didn't kill Kate Edwards.

BETH
We found fingerprints and semen in the ceiling's crawl space of Kate's former apartment.

There is a two-way glass on one wall.

SCENE INTERCUTS:

INT. TAU DIVISION - MONITOR ROOM - NIGHT

Jack stands at the glass, watching.

JEFFRIES
I believe the semen has yet to be identified. Regarding the crawl space -- Larry?

LARRY
Kate used it for storage. I helped her put some boxes up there over a year ago. My fingerprints could easily be there.

JEFFRIES
My client admits to an affair a year ago with Kate Edwards but he doesn't even know Lori Canton and it doesn't matter. He has alibis for both crimes.

BETH
What about the 87 hours of video footage we confiscated from your laptop? What will we find on that?

CONTINUED:

JEFFRIES
I'll have that thrown out for an improper warrant issue. You need to charge my client or let him go.

Beth looks to the TWO-WAY GLASS. CUT TO:

INT. TAU DIVISION - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Beth and Jack meet in the hallway.

JACK
We need to talk to his wife. The only way to charge him is to disprove his alibis. She's gotta be lying.

BETH
Agreed. Have they found anything on the footage?

JACK
I'll check.

Belle interrupts.

BELLE
There's someone here for you, Beth.

Beth looks up to see Tess and Lindsay in the waiting area.

INT. TAU DIVISION - BULLPEN - NIGHT

CLOSE ON VIDEO FOOTAGE. It's of a sleeping woman -- Kate Edwards. It's all from the point of view of the crawl space. Filmed through a crack in the ceiling.

BEN
Is that breathing what I think it is?

The SOUND OF BREATHING is heard.

JANICE
No. It's actual breathing. He makes other noises when he's entertaining himself. It's more, "Uhhh, aahhh, uh-huh, uh-huh..."

BEN
(not at all)
That was necessary.

CONTINUED:

JANICE
Sorry.

Jack approaches--

JACK
Anything?

JANICE
He was definitely stalking Kate Edwards but there's nothing on Lori Canton yet.

ON BEN'S COMPUTER -- FOOTAGE of Kate Edwards, through a bathroom door, showering. He FAST FORWARDS and she's moving through her bedroom in just a towel.

BEN
It's a lot of footage. Mainly just Kate sleeping. Sometimes he hid his camera on a bookshelf, it gave him a view of the bathroom.

As they continue--

INT. TAU DIVISION - BETH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Tess is there with a very upset Lindsay.

LINDSAY
He admitted he was lying and he told me not to say anything again.

BETH
He's trying to scare you into silence.

LINDSAY
He's crazy. He says he likes me and wants me but then he puts pictures of me online for everyone to see--

BETH
He's trying to isolate you. If he can turn everyone against you. He can have you to himself.

TESS
I wanna press charges.

CONTINUED:

BETH
We may be able to get a restraining order but his father could fight it. He's underage.

TESS
So until he actually takes his hands to my daughter, I can't do anything?

LINDSAY
What if he gets violent? Stalkers escalate, right? You said that in your speech. I'm scared...
(tears up)
You don't know what its like. He's always there, out of the corner of my eye, I can see him. Even if he's not there, I see him.

BETH
I do know, Lindsay. Believe me, I know. And I'm going to help you. But you have to make a decision. You have to decide that this isn't going to define you. This will not take the best from you. Can you do that? Because this will end.

Off a trembling Lindsay--

INT. TAU DIVISION - BULLPEN - NIGHT

Jack sits at a computer scrolling through FOOTAGE. He watches as Beth walks Tess and her daughter to the elevator. She's warm and comforting. Jack takes note. He hasn't witnessed that side of her yet. He likes it.

Beth watches Tess and Lindsay disappear in the elevator. She turns to catch Jack watching her. Just then--

JANICE (O.S.)
Okay, who is this?

Ben and Jack roll their chairs to Janice's COMPUTER. Ben looks close through the FUZZY FOOTAGE.

BEN
It's Lori Canton.

Beth approaches, hearing.

CONTINUED:

BETH
Larry was stalking both women.

JACK
We have it, right here.

ON THE COMPUTER -- LORI CANTON is in bed. Sleeping.

BETH
Where's the camera?

BEN
Sometimes he hid it around the room.

ON THE COMPUTER -- LARRY comes into frame. He walks over to the bed where Lori is sleeping. He watches her.

JANICE
He is one brave mother fu--

JACK
Oh that's creepy.

Jack is referring to the way Larry leans over the sleeping Lori and traces his finger along her cheek. She rolls over instinctively. Larry looks to the CAMERA and smiles.

BETH
Oh God...

Just then, THE CAMERA MOVES. It's so quick and sudden, even Jack jumps. What the hell? The CAMERA MOVES CLOSER.

BEN
What is happening?

THE CAMERA is clearly in the hands of ANOTHER PERSON. But that PERSON is NOT REVEALED.

JACK
There's another person.

JANICE
Two stalkers?

Jack looks to Beth. WTF?

BETH
Keep searching. Find me a face.

INT. TAU DIVISION - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Jack sits opposite ELLEN MYERS. She sits stiffly, not wanting to cooperate.

ELLEN
I'm not lying about the alibis. Larry was home with me on both evenings.

JACK
I believe you, Ellen.

SCENE INTERCUTS:

INT. TAU DIVISION - MONITOR ROOM - NIGHT

Beth watches as Janice and Ben enter.

BEN
The second stalker never appears on camera.

This is disappointing.

BETH
Larry won't confess or admit to an accomplice. He's going for a lesser charge.

Beth turns her attention back to Jack and Ellen.

ON JACK AND ELLEN

JACK
You knew he was having an affair, didn't you? Wives know.

ELLEN
Yes, I knew. I predicted it.

JACK
How so?

ELLEN
Larry isn't special. He's right on point with his mid-life crisis. It started with his 48th birthday. Suddenly, 50 is staring him in the face and he's thinking about everything he's not going to be. The life he wanted, the one he got instead--

CONTINUED:

Ellen is appropriately bitter... sad.

ELLEN
He started going to the gym, the tanning bed. He looked ridiculous.

JACK
The gym is where he met Kate?

ELLEN
I suppose. He started staying out late. I found cocaine in his pants pocket.

JACK
What did you do when you found it?

ELLEN
I confronted him. He said it wasn't his but a friend's. His new "bro". His word.

JACK
Did his friend have a name?

ELLEN
I don't remember his name.

JACK
Troy Gunn?

ELLEN
No, that doesn't sound right. It was more like a stage name. The guy was a trainer at the gym.

JACK
Kurt Wild?

ELLEN
Yes, that's it--

Jack stops cold. INSTANT CUT:

INT. TAU DIVISION - BULLPEN - NIGHT

Beth listens as Jack spins his theory.

JACK
They were playing a game. Feeding each other's obsession.
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

JACK (CONT'D)
A mid-life crisis needs a pulse to his life and he finds it courtesy of a failed actor in need of an audience. The women were props.

Beth finds this despicable. Ben appears, with info--

BEN
Kurt Wild's real name is Buford Posey.

JACK
Good call with the name change.

BEN
(reading)
Domestic abuse, two arrests, he beat up his girlfriend some years back. Anger issues. Online gambling conviction. Juvenile detention starting at twelve.

JACK
For arson.

Ben nods. Exactly. Janice gets off the phone.

JANICE
APB is out. Kurt is not at his home or work.

INT. TAU DIVISION - INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Beth and Jack sit opposite Larry and his lawyer, Jeffries.

LARRY
I don't know where he is. If he's not home.

Larry is now emotional, coming clean--

LARRY
It was supposed to be fun. Kurt said no one would get hurt. It was harmless. We each picked a girl to follow. I picked Kate.

JACK
But you dated Kate?

LARRY
She noticed me. So Kurt told me to ask her out. He coached me.
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

LARRY (CONT'D)
How to hit on her, be cool, how to have sex with her.

BETH
But then she found out you were married and ended it so you went back to stalking her.

Larry nods, ashamed. Beth hates this guy right now.

LARRY
It was better that way. The fantasy is always better.
(more tears)
It was never my idea to kill them.

BETH
Why did Kurt want them dead?

LARRY
He wanted to start over. With a new game. With two new picks.

Jack looks to Beth's side. He sees her slide her hand under her leg to keep it from trembling. She's enraged--

INT. TAU DIVISION - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Jack convenes with her in the hall, concerned.

JACK
You okay?

Beth nods as Janice and Ben approach.

BETH
Did they find Kurt?

BEN
Not yet.

BETH
Where's Lori Canton? Is she safe?

JANICE
She was released from the hospital and is being taken to a friend's house. Police are with her.

Beth is relieved to hear this.

INT. LORI'S DUPLEX - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

TWO POLICE OFFICERS search the living room. Lori is there.

OFFICER
All clear.

LORI
I'll just be a minute. I need to pack a few things.

Lori goes into her bedroom.

INT. LORI'S DUPLEX - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Lori starts to close the door but one of the OFFICERS pushes it back open.

OFFICER
If you don't mind.

LORI
I was going to change too.

OFFICER
A compromise.

The officer closes the door midway. Then, he turns his back. Lori goes to the closet and grabs an overnight bag. She puts a few things in it.

Lori reaches into the closet for some clothes. In the mirror attached to the door -- the bedroom is reflected. The floor is covered with an area rug. Suddenly, it moves.

Lori doesn't see it. She pulls off her top and finds another one. If she'd only look in the mirror, she'd see--

The rug BULGE from underneath as something pushes up from under it. Then, it becomes clear -- it's a hand. It finds it's way from under the rug. Then, the hand begins to roll the rug backwards REVEALING a hole in the floor.

Lori pulls on a top, adjusting it in the mirror, when she sees KURT WILD rising from a hole in the floor. Off her HORROR--

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. LORI'S DUPLEX - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A SEARCH TEAM has been assembled. Beth and Jack inspect the hole in the floor. Jack goes off on the TWO GUARDING COPS.

JACK
How the hell did this happen?

OFFICER
I don't know. She was changing. We left the door open.

Beth is worked up but she calms herself, plays it cool.

BETH
Okay, okay, he's not going to kill her, not right away or he would have done it.

JACK
He's spiraling. He knows we're on to him. It's exactly what he's going to do.

BETH
This is erotomania. He's had a psychotic break and he's still playing the game. He'll want to realize his fantasy. We have time.

Ben enters--

BEN
He didn't return to his house. Traffic is doing a video trail.

JACK
What about work?

BEN
The gym is closed at this hour.

Jack looks to Beth. They race out.

BETH
It's where he met both women. Where he met Larry. My money is there. Send every available man at the World Gym on La Brea now--

Everyone leaps into action, racing out, talking on MICS.

INT. WORLD GYM - MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

The gym is closed. Huge and eerie in the night. Kurt has Lori and is dragging her through a weight room. She WHIMPERS and BEGS.

LORI
Please... stop.

Kurt brings her into--

INT. WORLD GYM - SPIN ROOM - NIGHT

A room of spin bikes. Kurt drags her to a particular bike.

KURT
It was the third row, right? This is where I first met you. Get on.

She looks at him. What? He shoves her.

KURT
Do it.

Kurt reaches for a roll of electrical tape. He puts one hand on a bike bar and wraps tape around her hands, taping them to the bike's handle bars. She SCREAMS, begs...

LORI
Kurt, don't do this.

KURT
It's okay. We're going to do a quick run.

Kurt is completely delusional now. His mental illness runs deep. He tapes her feet to the bike's pedals, trapping her on the bike. A sick and twisted sight.

KURT
Do you remember what you said when I asked you out?

LORI
Please, don't do this...

KURT
You said you were seeing someone. You lied. You think I didn't know. I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU.

Tears stream down Lori's face. She's terrified.

CONTINUED:

LORI
But we're friends. It's better to be friends, Kurt--

KURT
You ungrateful bitch. What do you know about friendship? I helped you find a place to live. I let you borrow my truck to move your shit. I was there for you. What did you do for me?

Kurt grows emotional and upset.

KURT
I was so proud of you. You got your fancy new job, you know how proud I was of you--

LORI
I know. You bought me flowers. It was so thoughtful--

Kurt STRIKES her. She flies sideways, tilting off the bike, her taped hands and feet keeping her from falling off.

KURT
Don't patronize me.

LORI
I'm not... please...

KURT
We were so perfect. You and me. But now it has to end.

Kurt touches her face. He leans in close. She can feel his BREATH on her. She tries to pull away.

LORI
Please, don't do this--

KURT
It's not healthy what I'm doing. It has to stop. The game is over. Kate is already dead. It's your turn now--

She stares at him, SHOCKED and BEWILDERED.

KURT
We took it too far.

CONTINUED: (2)

Kurt moves to where he's placed a GAS CAN. He takes it and douses Lori with it, showering her with GASOLINE.

LORI
Don't do this, Kurt.

KURT
Don't worry, you won't be alone.
We're going to do this together.

Kurt begins to douse himself with GASOLINE. He's going to kill them both.

EXT. WORLD GYM - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

An empty parking lot. There's a pick-up truck parked near the front. The passenger door hangs open. Suddenly--

FOUR POLICE CARS -- SIREN'S BLARING -- SCREECH TO A STOP in front of the gym. Beth and Jack race from a squad car to--

EXT. WORLD GYM - FRONT DOORS - NIGHT

Jack pulls on the METAL GLASS DOORS. They're locked. Beth turns to the OFFICERS, YELLING--

BETH
We gotta get this open. Now.

The OFFICERS move to inspect the doors. Jack looks around and finds a LARGE METAL TRASH CAN. He turns it on its side and rolls it to the LARGE FRONT WINDOWS. He picks it up and CHARGES the WINDOWS.

The GLASS EXPLODES AND SHATTERS. The trash can falls into the main gym floor with Jack behind it.

INT. WORLD GYM - SPIN ROOM - NIGHT

Both Kurt and Lori hear the NOISE. Lori SCREAMS.

LORI
Help meeeeeeee.

Kurt looks through the GLASS WALL of the SPIN ROOM and sees Jack rising, racing towards them. He reaches into his pocket and withdraws MATCHES. He starts to STRIKE them when--

LORI
No, wait, you don't wanna do this.

Kurt looks at her. What? Lori looks to see Jack and OTHERS race across the gym towards them. She's buying time.

CONTINUED:

LORI
I didn't know you wanted me. Now I do. And we can go out on a real date and get to know each other...

Kurt stares at her. Are her words working? It's just enough for Jack and SEVERAL OFFICERS to enter, guns drawn.

JACK
Don't move.

Kurt turns to face Jack and the COPS, guns poised and aimed.

KURT
I'm sorry...

He goes to STRIKE the match when JACK FIRES HIS GUN. A SINGLE SHOT HITS Kurt in the shoulder. He flies back to the floor. It's enough to stabilize him. The COPS surround him.

Beth enters -- she races to Lori and helps free her from the bike. Lori falls into Beth's arms. Beat. Beth looks to Jack. It's a look of appreciation and respect.

EXT. WORLD GYM - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

A crime scene. The MEDIA are there now. At an AMBULANCE, Beth stands while Lori is being treated by MEDICS. Beth watches a moment. Then, turns to find Jack behind her. There's a silence between them -- is he waiting for a "good job". Beth lets him wait.

JACK
What? I get nothing?

Okay, he's fishing. She relaxes some.

BETH
What is it you want?

JACK
I want you not to hate me.

BETH
I can't guarantee that.

JACK
(blurts it out)
Then I'm just gonna say it -- why do you wear sexy things if you don't want men to notice?

Beat. She looks at him. The gall...

CONTINUED:

BETH
For how I feel in them. I dress for myself.

JACK
Nice try. Well, good night. I thought the day went well.

And he starts off--

BETH
I know about New York.

Jack stops. Turns.

BETH
And the Captain's wife.

JACK
It was the Captain's son's fiance.

BETH
Oh. You didn't know she was...?

JACK
No, I knew. There were others too. I made mistakes in New York. Some things I can't undo.

Beth nods. She appreciates his honesty.

BETH
So you come to LA to be a better man? You do know most people are incapable of change.

JACK
I'm an underdog story.

Beth smiles. Jack does have a certain appeal.

BETH
I apologize if it clouded my initial reaction to you.

JACK
Thank you.

BETH
But do know I still take issues with certain aspects of your personality.

CONTINUED: (2)

JACK
Good. So do I.

Beat. A truce. Connection. Whatever.

BETH
So are we done here? I'd like to go home.

JACK
One more thing. Pure curiosity. How did you come to run TAU? Why this division?

That's a big question. Beth considers long and hard. Then--

BETH
You want backstory? Well, I was married. With a husband and child. He had an affair with some crazy woman and she started to stalk us. She followed us everywhere. Showed up at my kid's school, broke into our home and--

JACK
Boiled a bunny? Yeah, I saw that movie too--

Beth is busted. She smiles. It's the most significant connection these two have made.

BETH
It was a little funny.

Jack smiles now. Yes, it was.

BETH
Be patient. I'm not the kind of person who puts it all out there in the first five minutes. That would be creepy. Good night, Jack.

Now, Beth turns and leaves the crime scene. Jack stands there, content with the slightest progress made.

EXT. PARKING LOT/CAFE - NIGHT

Eddie exits the back door of a small cafe. He wears his WORK TEE that has the restaurant's name on it. He starts for the street where his car is parked.

CONTINUED:

ON BETH -- she leans against her car, watching from the street. She starts over.

Eddie's crosses the parking lot to the street. He's walking home. Beat. He senses he's being followed. Finally, he turns and sees Beth. It surprises him--

EDDIE
You shouldn't be here.

BETH
Probably not.

EDDIE
What do you want?

Beth is silent. She keeps following him. It makes Eddie uncomfortable.

EDDIE
How'd you find me?

Beth remains silent. It's starting to rattle Eddie.

EDDIE
You know I'm underage, right?
(then)
I know what you're doing. You're trying to intimidate me.

Beth continues to follow him. Out of nowhere, she KICKS him in his calf. Eddie stumbles and trips -- Beth pounces on him, knocking him to the ground. She rolls him over, sticks her knee in his chest -- holding him down.

BETH
I'm doing a little more than that. I'm warning you. Stay away from Lindsay.

Eddie struggles when Beth SLAPS his face quickly. It's unexpected. It stuns him.

EDDIE
You can't do that.

BETH
You mean this?

She POPS his face again. It's flushed and red.

EDDIE
You're going to be in trouble.

CONTINUED: (2)

BETH
Let me tell you something, you little punk ass twit. I can lie better than you can. People will believe me.

Beth lets this penetrate. Then--

BETH
Stay away from Lindsay. Got it?

Beth rises. It looks like she might kick Eddie but she walks back to her car. Eddie sits up. He watches her get in her car and drive away. His face a flurry of emotion.

EXT. JACK'S APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

Jack comes walking up to his apartment building when a SHADOW falls over his back. He starts to unlock the door when--

WOMAN (O.S.)
Did you think I wouldn't find you?

Jack freezes. Slowly, he turns around. It's the WOMAN he's been stalking. Meet AMANDA TATE, 37. A woman full of beauty and grace but tonight -- she's tired and angry.

JACK
Hello, Amanda.

AMANDA
What are you doing here?

JACK
New job.

AMANDA
Really? You just chose LA, out of all the cities in the world.

Jack nods. He's surprised to see her standing before him. He's off his footing.

AMANDA
I saw you at school today. Stay away from us, Jack. I moved her to get away from you. You stay away from my son.

JACK
You mean our son.

CONTINUED:

AMANDA
No, my son. He's mine, not yours.

JACK
Amanda...

AMANDA
I mean it, Jack. You can't do this, you can't show up here and ruin my life. Not again.

JACK
That's not why I'm here. Please--

Jack moves towards her. She instinctively steps back. This kills him. He hates that she responds that way.

AMANDA
Leave us alone.

She starts to leave. Jack stands in her way. Appeals to her... There's a history here. Open wounds and unfinished feelings.

JACK
I want to change my life. I don't want to be the person you remember. I don't want to be the man my own son can't...

Jack is unexpectedly at a loss. His emotions overtaking him. He tries again, his voice wavering.

JACK
(can't finish)
Let me change my life. Please, I have a right to see my son.
(then)
Don't be afraid of me.

But she is... by a past full of hurt and anger.

AMANDA
Stay away from us, Jack. I'll get a lawyer. I'll ruin you.

Amanda pushes past him, disappearing into the night. CLOSE ON JACK -- destroyed.

INT. JACK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jack enters his apartment. Rocked by his encounter. He goes to the wall and looks at PHOTOS of the WOMAN and CHILD taped to it. He stares at them both until he's forced to lower his head as the hurt becomes too much.

INT. BETH'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Beth checks to make sure the front door is locked, then the windows. The nightly ritual. She CLICKS off the light illuminating a FIGURE standing outside the window. She doesn't see it -- standing in the yard.

EXT. BETH'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

In the shadows of the yard stands Eddie. He watches as Beth moves within, just a shape through the closed curtains and blinds. As the lights CLICK OFF in the house -- CLOSE ON EDDIE -- his face alive, fixated on his new obsession.

END OF EPISODE