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WITHOUT A TRACE

"Power Up"

Season Two - Episode Thirteen
GL# 176413

Story By
Melissa Maxwell & Erika Johnson

Teleplay by
Hank Steinberg

Directed by
John Showalter

Production Draft - November 17, 2003

WITHOUT A TRACE

Episode Thirteen - "Power Up"

Cast List

Production - White - 11/17/03

JACK MALONE
SAMANTHA SPADE
VIVIAN JOHNSON
DANNY TAYLOR
MARTIN FITZGERALD

Ben Sterling (*aka* Paul Mankowitz)

Claude Frederickson

Corrine McCormick

Driver

Frank Pine

Gary Mankowitz

Hillary Sterling

Jules

Nurse

Roy Randall (*aka* Ski Mask)

Stanley Adler

Tech Agent

Wife

WITHOUT A TRACE

Episode Thirteen – "Power Up"

Location List

Production – White – 11/17/03

EXTERIORS

Abandoned Building

Ben Sterling's Mansion

- Back Yard

- Driveway

City Street

Claude Frederickson's House

INTERIORS

Abandoned Building

Albany Convalescent Home

- Hallway

- Patient Room

Ben Sterling's Mansion

- Bedroom

- Living Area

- Hallway/Staircase

Black Limo

Claude Frederickson's Basement

FBI Offices

- Command Post

- Interrogation Room

- Interview Room

- Jack's Office

- Reception Area

- Tech Room

WITHOUT A TRACE

Episode Thirteen – "Power Up"
Day/Night Breakdown
Production – White – 11/17/03

Scenes 1-7	(D-1)
Scenes 8-10	(N-1)
Scene 11	(6 DBD)
Scenes 12-13	(N-1)
Scene 14	(22 DBD)
Scenes 15-19	(N-1)
Scenes 20-22	(D-2)
Scene 23	(6 YEARS AGO)
Scenes 24-26	(D-2)
Scene 27	(6 DBD)
Scenes 28-30	(D-2)
<i>Scene 31</i>	<i>INDIE FILM FOOTAGE</i>
Scenes 32-34	(D-2)
Scene 35	(N-2)
Scene 36	(1 DBD)
Scenes 37-39	(N-2)
Scene 40	(9 DBD)
Scenes 41-46	(N-2)
Scene 47	(1 DAD)
Scene 48-59	(N-2)

WITHOUT A TRACE

"Power Up"

TEASER

1 EXT. OVERHEAD SHOT - EAST HAMPTON - DAY 1
2 EXT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - BACK YARD - 1 PM 2

Waves crash on the beach. An idyllic setting for an intimate conversation between a man and a woman, which is what we find in the BACK YARD (overlooking the beach) of this spacious BEACH HOUSE.

CORINNE MCCORMICK (34, attractive) holds hands with and looks into the eyes of BEN STERLING (33, handsome, sleek attire). There is an intimacy and a deep connection between these two people.

CORINNE

You know, before I met you, my life was... a shambles. I was broke, I had a drinking problem, I was in a relationship with an abusive man. I was on the verge of killing myself.

BEN

(with deep compassion)
I know you were. But how did you turn your life around?

CORINNE

It was because of you. The things you taught me, the way you helped me believe in myself.

BEN

No, Corinne. It was you. You did it all.

A tear streams down her cheek. As she wipes it away...

BEN (CONT'D)

You were the one with the will. You were the one who faced your fears. You were the one that decided who you wanted to be and made it happen. I just gave you the tools.

(CONTINUED)

2

And now Ben turns away from her and toward the CAMERA. Looking right at us. Incredibly sincere, extremely moved by her, as he sells his message...

BEN (CONT'D)

Corinne McCormick. One of over five thousand people who have found the power within themselves using the techniques of "Power Up."

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

And... cut!

We WIDEN to REVEAL that there is a small video CREW here, shooting this infomercial.

Ben turns to Corinne, taking both her hands in his.

BEN

That was fantastic. How do you feel?

CORINNE

Good... great. I'm just so honored that you would have me do this for you.

GARY (O.S.)

Ben.

They turn to GARY MANKOWITZ, Ben's manager (smart, sharp, a bit nebbishy, 35).

GARY (CONT'D)

You've got to get to the airport.

Ben looks at Corinne, smiles, lets go of her hands as he MOVES with Gary into...

3

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - CONTINUOUS

3

Gary and Ben make their way through. There's a lot of activity here with their Employees. We get the sense this is "Power Up" headquarters.

GARY

The limo's out front. Stella will meet you at LAX with a car service, then you go straight to the Hilton for the first night's orientation.

BEN

Great. How do you think this went today?

(CONTINUED)

GARY
(doesn't love the idea of
any of this)
I thought it went well.

BEN
(his arm affectionately
around Gary)
Relax Gary, it's all going to be great.

HILLARY STERLING, Ben's 30ish, well-manicured, put-together
wife, intercepts them. Kisses Ben tenderly on the lips.

HILLARY
Gonna miss you.

BEN
Just three days.

GARY
(to Hillary)
I thought you were going with him.

HILLARY
(good-naturedly)
So I can compete with the throng?
I'll be fine here.

JULES, early 20s, an employee, comes up, hands Ben his briefcase.

JULES
Suitcase is in the car, Ben.

BEN
Thanks, Jules.

As he goes toward the front door, spinning around to face
them...

HILLARY
Good luck.

BEN
It's not about luck.

She smiles. Gary watches him -- there's a hint of jealousy
there...

4

EXT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - DRIVEWAY - MOMENTS LATER

4

Ben emerges from his house, suitcase in hand, heads for the car -- a BLACK LIMOUSINE. The LIMO DRIVER, wearing a black hat, hard to make out his face, opens the door for Ben.

BEN

Thanks.

Ben gets in. The Driver closes the door, heads around toward the driver's side.

5

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - 1:15 PM

5

Gary is on the phone. Corinne crosses through the house, heading out. Hillary looks up, eyes her suspiciously.

Jules crosses to Gary from the front of the house, a look of concern on his face.

JULES

Gary.

Gary holds up a finger, as if to say, "One sec."

JULES (CONT'D)

(with more urgency)

Gary.

GARY

(into phone)

Hold on.

And now Hillary senses something must be wrong, makes her way over to overhear as Jules tells Gary...

JULES

Another limo just showed up. They say they're here for Ben.

Gary looks at Hillary, confused... looks out the window at...

6

EXT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - SAME

6

The second limo, this one white, waits.

7

INT. BLACK LIMO - SAME

7

Ben leans back in the car, eyes closed, entirely unsuspecting.

(CONTINUED)

7

CONTINUED:

7

The LIMO DRIVER looks in his rearview at Ben. Then the divider window comes up, separating Ben from the Driver. The Driver is no longer in our view.

On Ben, eyes closed. He's on top of the world, his life is only getting better every day. And then he FADES AWAY...

8

EXT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - DRIVEWAY - 6 PM
(4.75 HOURS MISSING)

8

MARTIN heads toward the front door. Local Cops are here. He's intercepted by DANNY, who's coming from talking to one of the Cops. Martin, taking in the place...

MARTIN

Guess helping people really pays.

DANNY

You got a summer place just like this, don't you?

MARTIN

Yeah. What's the skinny on this guy?

DANNY

Ben Sterling, 33. Self-help guru, the tapes, the seminars, he's gaining quite a following...

MARTIN

Never heard of him.

DANNY

He was just about to change that. Filming his first infomercial this afternoon, then jetting off to L.A. for a seminar. Never made it to the airport.

MARTIN

Ransom demand?

DANNY

Not yet.

(off the house)

But you gotta figure it's coming.

MARTIN

We find the limo?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DANNY

Side of the road, about ten miles from here. They must have thrown him into a waiting car.

MARTIN

What's the limo company say?

DANNY

It wasn't one of theirs. Their driver showed up fifteen minutes later. But Sterling was already gone.

MARTIN

Sounds like an inside job.

DANNY

We better get him back fast. There's four hundred people sitting in a hotel ballroom in L.A. waiting for him to change their lives.

As Danny and Martin head up toward the HOUSE...

END TEASER

ACT ONE

9

INT. FBI OFFICES - COMMAND POST - 7 PM (5.75 HOURS MISSING)

9

INSERT TV SCREEN: Ben looks into CAMERA, talking to us, walking around the BACK YARD of his MANSION:

BEN

I grew up having every disadvantage. My father left my mother when I was six; my mother was a methadone addict; Social Services took me from her when I was twelve; and then I got passed around from one foster home to the next. You can probably guess what happened to me next: drugs, jail, degradation. But something happened to me one day when I was in the prison library...

The tape PAUSES. We REVEAL SAMANTHA, commandeering the VCR. JACK and VIVIAN at the center table.

SAMANTHA

He started reading self-help books like crazy, got out of jail, started this business of his own. Six years later, he's a millionaire.

VIVIAN

Pretty amazing.

SAMANTHA

This is footage from the infomercial he's making.

JACK

Maybe the timing's not so coincidental. Maybe someone didn't want him going national.

VIVIAN

Maybe it's a very disgruntled employee.

She hands Jack a DMV PHOTO of FRANK PINE.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Frank Pine, former "Power Up" employee, now the unhappy founder of an anti-Ben Sterling website.

She hits a button on a Power-Book on the table. Showing Jack the WEB PAGE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INSERT COMPUTER SCREEN: "No B.S. Why Ben Sterling is Totally Full of Crap."

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

And he's still on the company payroll.

(then)

I'm bringing him in.

JACK

Guy with that much power over people, he's bound to inspire some pretty strong feelings. We should look at his most avid followers.

SAMANTHA

He's not Jim Jones. He's just a smart, ambitious guy with some strategies for tackling life.

Jack and Vivian exchange a look.

VIVIAN

You don't listen to these tapes?

A beat.

SAMANTHA

I did. For a little bit, a couple of years ago. They were actually quite helpful.

An ND Agent walks up, hands Jack a FILE.

VIVIAN

You ever go to one of the seminars?

SAMANTHA

No. I never made it that far.

JACK

Too bad. You could've given us some insight.

(off the file)

Forensics on the limo. No prints, no blood, no trace evidence of a struggle. They must have wiped down the car.

SAMANTHA

Feels like a professional job.

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN

If this is about money, the kidnapppers are going to be in for a surprise. Sterling's leveraged up to his ass. The house, the business -- there's not much of a cash flow.

JACK

Like I said, his core followers. The people close to him. And let's look into his past. He's an ex-con, maybe that caught up with him.

He gets up, moves out. Viv looks at Sam:

VIVIAN

You really listen to those tapes?

Samantha gives her a look, moves off...

10

EXT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - BACK YARD - SAME

10

Danny with Hillary, who smokes a cigarette like it's saving her life.

HILLARY

First cigarette I've had in three years. Ben was the one who got me to quit.

DANNY

Did you meet in one of his seminars?

HILLARY

No. He never dated any of his students. And believe me, he had a lot of chances. We met at a restaurant. I was out on a date, actually. He was standing alone at the bar, waiting to meet someone. I got up to go to the bathroom, he followed me, told me I was the woman of his dreams, he had no doubt about it, that I should go finish my date, and meet him later at the corner of 73rd and Central Park West. I asked him what time and he said it didn't matter. He'd be waiting. That's the kind of man he is. He sees what he wants and he goes after it.

(CONTINUED)

10

CONTINUED:

10

DANNY

There must be a lot of people who want something from him.

HILLARY

Men, women, everyone is so drawn to him. Everyone wants something from him. And sometimes, he can't give. He tries, but he can't.

DANNY

Is there anything specific you can tell me?

HILLARY

People are always after his time, but last week -- I guess this must have been Monday night -- it was late, we were upstairs in bed, and the phone rang...

11

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - BEDROOM - NIGHT (6 DBD)

11

Ben and Hillary in bed. Dark. The phone RINGS. A light turns on. REVEAL Ben's hand on the lamp by his bedside.

HILLARY

Who is that?

BEN

Probably Gary.

(answering phone)

Hello...? Hold on a second, just slow down... Okay, I want to talk to you about this, I really do. I want to help you through this. Let me just call you back in two minutes, okay...? I will call you back in two minutes. I promise... Okay?

He hangs up. Looks at Hillary.

BEN (CONT'D)

I'm going to do this downstairs.

HILLARY

Who was it?

BEN

It doesn't matter. I --

(CONTINUED)

11

CONTINUED:

11

HILLARY

It matters to me, Ben.

BEN

(putting on his robe)

It's one of my clients, Hillary.
They need my help.

HILLARY

At one in the morning on our
private line?

BEN

I will tell them not to call again
like that, but right now, this
person has a crisis and I need to
help them with it.

(kisses her)

I love you and I'll be up in a few
minutes.

And he exits, leaving her to consider...

12

EXT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - BACK YARD - RESUMING

12

HILLARY

I don't know who that was, but it's
scary sometimes. The need people have
for him and what could happen if he
inadvertently disappointed someone.

13

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - 7:30 PM (6.25 HOURS MISSING)

13

We PAN OFF a POSTER of BEN STERLING, "Power Up." The MAIN
HUB, where a lot of the business stuff takes place. An ND
Agent is with the Trap and Trace on the phone.

Martin with Gary off to the side. Gary is shell-shocked and
upset, but with an air of defiance:

MARTIN

So you and Ben started the company
together six years ago?

GARY

Ben's the genius behind the whole
thing. I'm just here to run the day-
to-day operations. But together, we
make a pretty good team.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

We understand that financially
you're not in such great shape.

GARY

Ben insists on putting everything we
earn back into the company. He
always bets on himself. That's what
he teaches and that's what's worked.

MARTIN

When you say "back into the
company," that includes this place?

GARY

This is the hub of our activity.
And it's a good business investment
-- people see this place, they see
success.

MARTIN

Are you aware that one of your own
employees has a very negative website
attacking Ben and this company?

GARY

You're talking about Frank Pine?

MARTIN

That's right.

GARY

We let Frank go a couple of weeks ago.

MARTIN

He's still on your payroll.

GARY

Severance package.

MARTIN

Why'd you fire him?

GARY

Let's just say he over-identified
with Ben...

We PAN to FIND...

14

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - DAY (22 DBD)

14

...Ben walking through the house, bouncing a Nerf ball, a lot of charismatic energy. FRANK PINE, overeager, with an off, manic energy, walks up to him:

FRANK

Ben, I need to talk to you.

Gary, nearby, looks up, overhearing this:

BEN

Yeah, sure, Frank, what's up?

FRANK

Well, I was just thinking that I'd really like to go with you on that Los Angeles trip.

BEN

Oh...

(glancing at Gary)

...well, I think Gary really needs you here, Frank.

Gary steps in.

GARY

That's true, Frank. You're too valuable here.

FRANK

I appreciate that. I really do. But I think if I'm going to grow within the company...

(turning to Ben)

I need to be out there, at the seminars, learning from you.

BEN

I love your enthusiasm and your drive and your passion. That's all great. It's where you should be. But you've got to harness that for the task at hand. Remember what we talked about, know your long-term goals, but keep your short-term goals achievable. Right?

FRANK

(firm)

I want to go to Los Angeles.

(CONTINUED)

14

CONTINUED:

14

GARY

Frank --

FRANK

There's no reason why I'm not ready, Ben! No reason!

GARY

Frank, think about where you're channeling your energy right now. We've told you many times. Your role is here, helping me.

FRANK

Forget it, just forget it. You just want to keep me down.

Frank bolts out. Leaving Gary and Ben...

15

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - RESUMING

15

Gary with Martin:

GARY

His attitude just got worse after that, so he really left us with no choice.

MARTIN

And this Frank Pine, he knew the date for Ben's trip to Los Angeles?

GARY

Yes.

MARTIN

And the flight?

Gary nods, realizing how creepy this is...

GARY

It's been on our schedule for months.

16

INT. FBI OFFICES - COMMAND POST - 9 PM (7.75 HOURS MISSING)

16

Vivian works away on her computer.

INSERT COMPUTER: Phone calls, Names. Monday, 1 AM - Corinne McCormick.

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN

Found that late-night phone call to Ben Sterling's house. It's from a Corinne McCormick.

She hits another button.

INSERT COMPUTER: Corinne McCormick's DMV PHOTO comes up. (The woman from the Teaser).

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

34 years old, lives in Bayside, New York.

As Sam comes over, Vivian hits a few more buttons. Gets more info.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

Lookie here, she's got a registered handgun.

SAMANTHA

That's the girl from the infomercial. The one they were taping that day. She was at the house just before Ben left.

VIVIAN

Strange that she was stalking him and he's putting her on his tape as one of his star students.

SAMANTHA

Just because she called him when she was having trouble doesn't mean she was stalking him.

VIVIAN

(off the screen)

No, but it does when she called him eight times that day.

INSERT SCREEN: Corinne McCormick, Corinne McCormick, Corinne McCormick...

SAMANTHA

We better find her.

Danny enters, carrying two plastic BAGS filled with shredded white paper.

(CONTINUED)

16

CONTINUED: (2)

16

DANNY

Can you say Watergate?

VIVIAN

Shredded documents?

DANNY

Standard Operating Procedure, or so they say.

SAMANTHA

A lot of corporations do that.

DANNY

Our guys'll be very busy pasting, we'll see what we find.

SAMANTHA

You're just assuming this guy's got something to hide.

VIVIAN

Only because everyone does.

17

INT. FBI OFFICES - INTERROGATION ROOM - SAME

17

Jack with Frank Pine.

FRANK

The reason they fired me is because Gary couldn't handle that I was very clearly becoming the Number Two. Ben counted on me for more and more, and Gary was threatened.

JACK

So you turned against Ben?

FRANK

Well Ben couldn't stand up to Gary. I mean, the guy preaches all this self-fulfillment crap and then he winds up a total hypocrite.

JACK

(gently goading)

You sound pretty bitter.

FRANK

Let me tell you something. Now that I'm out of there and I have a little time to reflect on it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED:

17

FRANK (CONT'D)

I realize -- the whole thing's a scam. You buy the tapes, right? Then the tapes get you to the seminars, then the seminars take you to the "Inner Circle." Every step costs more and more money until you get to the "Sterling Circle," which is ten grand for a weekend.

JACK

Turns out, for all the money you're talking about, the company was almost broke.

FRANK

Well, they had some pretty funky business practices. I mean, Gary sends a five thousand dollar check to his brother every week, and his brother doesn't even work at the company.

This is a hot new lead.

JACK

What's this brother's name?

18

INT. FBI OFFICES - COMMAND POST - 9:15 PM (8 HOURS MISSING)

18

Vivian is at the center table, looking at Sterling's financial records. Jack stands. (He's just come in and asked her to check this out for him.)

VIVIAN

Paul Mankowitz... yeah. Five thousand a week for at least the last four months. I have a feeling we might find more in those shredded documents.

JACK

Where do the checks go?

VIVIAN

This is funny... some convalescent home up in Albany.

JACK

That could be a front.

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN

So Gary's skimming money off the top, then he realizes the well's about to run dry. He orchestrates a kidnapping for ransom. The house is still worth something.

JACK

Hard to collect a ransom if you don't make a demand.

Sam moves over to them:

SAMANTHA

Here's what I've got on Paul Mankowitz. According to the IRS, hasn't received a paycheck or paid taxes in the last six years. Last known address was in Cleveland in '96. He does, however, still belong to SAG and AFTRA.

JACK

(half-joking)

Out-of-work actor, that could explain why big brother needs to support him.

VIVIAN

We better go up to Albany.

JACK

Stay here and run down Pine's alibi. Sam, let's take a drive.

Jack and Samantha walk down a hall in the dark of a late night. A NURSE sees them coming.

NURSE

Can I help you?

They show their badges.

JACK

We're looking for Paul Mankowitz. We were told his room is down here.

NURSE

(pointing)

Right there.

19

CONTINUED:

JACK

Thank you.

As they step toward it...

NURSE

I don't think he's going to have
much to say to you.

Jack and Samantha look through the window into a room...

...where a BLACK MAN lies utterly still, apparently in a
coma, hooked up to all kinds of machines. Samantha turns
back to the Nurse:

SAMANTHA

He's in a coma?

NURSE

For six years.

Jack and Samantha look at each other. What the hell does
this mean?

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

20

INT. ALBANY CONVALESCENT HOME - PATIENT ROOM - 8 AM
(18.75 HOURS MISSING)

20

STANLEY ADLER, an officious man in his late 40s, Convalescent Home Administrator, enters. Jack and Sam are here, looking through Paul Mankowitz's FILES.

ADLER

How can I help you?

JACK

(showing badge)

We're with the FBI. Why don't you
have a seat?

Adler looks very nervous now. He takes a seat. Jack moves to the door, shuts it.

JACK (CONT'D)

I understand, Mr. Adler, that you have
power-of-attorney over Paul Mankowitz?

ADLER

That's right.

JACK

Would you mind telling me why it
costs five thousand dollars a week
to maintain his condition?

ADLER

Well, all this machinery and the
nursing and the maintenance...

SAMANTHA

(interrupting)

Costs fourteen hundred dollars a week.
(off some hospital files)
We've seen the records.

Adler is squirming now, knows he's in trouble.

JACK

Why is Gary Mankowitz paying you an
extra thirty-six hundred a week to
take care of his "brother?"

ADLER

(getting up)

I think I'd better speak to my
attorney.

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED:

20

JACK

Take it easy, Mr. Adler, we're not interested in arresting you. We just want some answers.

Adler looks at Samantha, as if he wants some corroboration.

SAMANTHA

We're going to get to the bottom of this. The sooner you tell us, the sooner we're out of your hair.

Adler takes a beat, looks at the man in the coma, then:

ADLER

That's not Paul Mankowitz. His real name is Ben Sterling.

21

INT. ALBANY CONVALESCENT HOME - HALLWAY - 8:30 AM

21

Jack and Samantha walk and talk, on their way out.

JACK

So your Ben Sterling is a total fraud.

SAMANTHA

Why the hell would he steal an ex-con's identity?

JACK

Because it makes a better story. It got you, right?

SAMANTHA

I guess.

JACK

Well, you're a relatively normal human being who's not really a huge follower of this guy -- and you're disappointed. Imagine someone a bit unstable who looks at him like he's the second coming, then they find out he's a quack. Now that would be motive.

22

EXT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - 9 AM (19.75 HOURS MISSING)

22

Martin and Gary, sequestered away from the group.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

So Ben Sterling super-guru is really Paul Mankowitz, your brother. And the man in the coma in Albany posing as your brother, is really Ben Sterling.

GARY

They're both my brothers.
(off Martin's bullshit look)
My foster brothers. I was the only natural-born son in the family. But I guess I wasn't enough for my parents, because our house was a round-robin of siblings, of every race, creed and color. Paul --
(for clarification)
-- my business partner -- came to live with us when I was seven. He's the only one my parents officially adopted.

MARTIN

And Ben --
(for clarification)
-- coma Ben?

GARY

He was only with us for about a year. We were teenagers.

MARTIN

And he got himself into a lot of trouble?

GARY

(with a nod)
My parents couldn't handle him. Gangs, drugs -- six years ago, he overdosed.

MARTIN

And that's when Paul got the idea? To take Ben's identity and trade on it?

GARY

No. It was my idea. Everything's been my idea...

23

INT. ALBANY CONVALESCENT HOME - PATIENT ROOM - NIGHT
(6 YEARS AGO)

23

The real Ben lies in a coma. A younger Gary and Paul
(scruffy, unshaven) stand near him, hatching their big plan...

PAUL

Let me see if I get you straight.
I take Ben's name, his background,
his life -- ?

GARY

That becomes your new identity.

PAUL

I move to New York, I change my look,
and then we set up a self-help
business? Where I'm the front-man?

GARY

And I'm the man behind the scenes.

PAUL

I don't know, Gary.

GARY

I'm telling you -- I've read every
book, I've gone to every one of
these stupid seminars, and half of
these guys are total quacks. And
none of them have the charisma or
the looks that you do.

PAUL

So you'd coach me on what to say?

GARY

I've already come up with my own
slogan, my own strategies,
everything. In two months, I can
teach it all to you.

PAUL

Why can't we just make up my past?

GARY

Because when we start to succeed, people
will want to look into your past. And
we'll have the paperwork to back it up.

PAUL

If they start looking, we'll get caught.

(CONTINUED)

23

CONTINUED:

23

GARY

The New York Times, yeah, they'd probably catch it. But if we keep our success at a certain level. If we control it, we'll be fine.

Paul is caving. Looks down at coma Ben:

PAUL

(re: coma Ben)

What if he wakes up?

GARY

He'll be a vegetable, and he'll have the best care money can buy, because we'll be taking care of him.

PAUL

This is insane.

GARY

Do you really want to do regional theater in Cleveland for the rest of your life?

(off Paul's sour look)

This is the part of a lifetime, Paul.

24

EXT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - RESUMING

24

GARY

I arranged everything with Adler at the hospital and I've been paying him off ever since.

MARTIN

Who else knows about your little identity swap?

GARY

Just me and Ben --

(correcting himself)

-- ah, Paul -- I guess I should say at this point.

MARTIN

Not even his wife?

GARY

No.

(CONTINUED)

24

CONTINUED:

24

MARTIN

If you were trying so hard to keep this all under wraps, what were you doing making a national infomercial?

GARY

I wasn't too keen on the idea, but at this point I couldn't do much to stop him.

25

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - 9:30 AM

25

Danny with Hillary, who's head is spinning:

HILLARY

His name is Paul Mankowitz? He and Gary are brothers?

DANNY

Yes. Well, adopted brothers.

HILLARY

Unbelievable.

DANNY

Mrs. Sterling --

HILLARY

Is that still my name? I mean, he's the fraud, but does that make my marriage a fraud? Is my name actually Hillary Mankowitz?

DANNY

You'd probably have to consult with your lawyer on that one.

She reacts with a huff.

DANNY (CONT'D)

I need to ask you about Corinne McCormick. Apparently she was the one who called your house late that night last week. Turns out she called eight times that day. Is it possible something was going on between her and your husband?

HILLARY

Well now, of course. I'd say just about anything goes, wouldn't you?

26

INT. FBI OFFICES - INTERVIEW ROOM - 10 AM (20.75 HOURS MISSING) 26

Vivian with Corinne, who delivers this with almost the exact same cadence she did in the opening scene:

CORINNE

When I first met Ben, my life was... a shambles. I was broke, I had a drinking problem, I was in a relationship with an abusive man. I was on the verge of killing myself.

VIVIAN

Yes, I know, Ms. McCormick, I've seen the video tape.

CORINNE

Well it's all true. Ben turned my life around. Now I own my own business, I have a community of people who enrich my life...

VIVIAN

And you fell in love with Ben?

CORINNE

It's not what you think. He just helps me.

VIVIAN

You were supposed to go to Los Angeles with him?

CORINNE

Who told you that, Gary?

VIVIAN

A flight was booked in your name. Then the ticket was cancelled. What happened?

Corinne shifts a bit, doesn't want to say.

VIVIAN (CONT'D)

We know you called his house all day the day the ticket was cancelled. You must've been pretty upset.

CORINNE

Not at him.

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN

At Gary?

CORINNE

(nods)

He didn't want me spending any time with Ben.

VIVIAN

Why not?

CORINNE

Because Gary's in love with me...

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - DAY (6 DBD)

Ben coaching Corinne on her spiel:

BEN

You just look right at me and talk about where you were two years ago. What was going on in your life, how you felt about yourself. And how you got to where you are now. Forget the camera's even there.

She starts tearing up. He moves toward her with gentleness.

BEN (CONT'D)

Hey, hey, hey. What's the matter?

CORINNE

I'm just so... overwhelmed. I'm so flattered that you would choose me as one of the people to put on your infomercial.

BEN

You're a great story, Corinne. What you've done with your life in the last couple of years is a great testament to the power of your own will.

She leans forward, putting her head on his chest.

Gary enters, sees them:

GARY

What the hell is this?

27

CONTINUED:

27

BEN

We're just practicing her speech
for the video.

GARY

I think maybe we're spending a bit
too much time focused on the video
and not enough time helping the
people that count on us.

BEN

Take it easy, Gary.

GARY

Corinne, would you mind? I need to
speak to Ben privately please.

She hesitates, looks to Ben to know what to do...

BEN

Go ahead. I'll talk to you in a
few minutes.

Corinne heads out, looks back as Ben and Gary start to speak
very intensely...

28

INT. FBI OFFICES - INTERVIEW ROOM - RESUMING

28

Vivian and Corinne:

CORINNE

I don't know what they said in that
room, but Gary came out, asked me to
leave the house. And told me he was
cancelling my trip to Los Angeles.

VIVIAN

So you called Ben all day the rest
of the day, and into the night?

CORINNE

I was trying to convince him to
change Gary's mind.

VIVIAN

And how do you know that Gary is in
love with you and not just trying
to protect Ben?

(CONTINUED)

CORINNE

Because he told me so. Even sent me love letters. I told him I cared about him, but not in that way.

Vivian looks closely to see if Corinne knew the rest of this as she presses on, looking for motive from Corinne...

VIVIAN

Did he tell you the truth about Ben?

CORINNE

What truth?

VIVIAN

That his name isn't really Ben Sterling, that his entire life story is a fraud?

A long beat. We're expecting a big reaction from Corinne.

CORINNE

That doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is that he wants to help people. And he does. He has an impact on everyone he touches.

Vivian studies her -- this seems to be genuine.

INT. FBI OFFICES - COMMAND POST - 3 PM (25.75 HOURS MISSING) 29

Danny sitting near his cubicle, watching one of Ben's tapes on TV, wearing headphones, listening. We hear Ben's voice.

INSERT TV SCREEN: Ben at his mansion, talking to camera, giving a seminar...

BEN

Before you can make any change, you need to look at yourself, cold and hard. And think about what holds you back. What is it that makes you see that beautiful woman across the room and not go talk to her? What is it...? It's fear. Fear of rejection. Fear of failure. Even fear of success.

ANGLE ON

Samantha approaching. We're in HER P-O-V now, so we don't hear Ben's voice. She approaches Danny, who is so rapt by what he's watching and hearing.

She pauses for a moment beside him, watching, amused, then lifts his earphones off his head.

SAMANTHA

Pretty good, right?

Danny recovers, doesn't want to let on that he was being sucked in...

DANNY

(a bit defensive)

Jack wanted me to watch this. He talks about his life -- you know, his tough days in Cleveland -- we got some possible suspects.

She picks up the BOX for the tape that he's watching...

INSERT BOX: "BEN STERLING, Power Up - Volume 4: Putting the Past Behind You, Actualizing Your Dreams."

She smirks at him, and as she moves off...

SAMANTHA

Does your pretty little Fire Inspector know you're the self-help type?

DANNY

This is research.

She smiles, "okay." He makes a face, puts his earphones back on, and keeps watching.

INT. FBI OFFICES - JACK'S OFFICE - SAME

Jack is watching his TV/VCR. Fast-forwarding with his remote.

Vivian enters.

VIVIAN

Corinne McCormick checks out, and she's agreed to take a polygraph.

JACK

Okay.

30

CONTINUED:

30

VIVIAN

What's this?

JACK

Mr. Guru made this when he was back
in Cleveland becoming a movie star.

INSERT SCREEN: Paul Mankowitz (aka Ben Sterling) seven years
younger, in a really, really low-budget indie film.

31

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY (THIS IS THE FILM...)

31

Paul kisses his WIFE goodbye in front of a waiting TOWNCAR.

PAUL

I don't want you to go.

WIFE

It's only three days.

PAUL

I know, but it feels like three
hundred already.

They kiss again. She gets into the Towncar, which heads
away. He waves and blows kisses to her as the car moves down
the street. The MUSIC swells sweetly, then shifts
dramatically to a really bad MYSTERY/SUSPENSE CUE.

Two beats later, another TOWNCAR pulls up. Paul stops, this
is funny. The DRIVER gets out of the Towncar.

DRIVER

Hi there, Mr. Hastings. Where's
your wife?

PAUL

What are you doing here, Bernie? The
other driver said you were sick.

DRIVER

What are you talking about? I'm fine.

Bad suspense cue CRESCENDOES as Paul realizes his Wife has
been kidnapped and starts racing down the street after her...

PAUL

Stella! Stella!

32 INT. FBI OFFICES - JACK'S OFFICE - RESUMING 32

Jack can't believe what he just saw. He looks at Vivian.
Picks up his cell.

INTERCUT WITH:

33 INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - SAME 33

Martin's phone RINGS.

MARTIN
(answering phone)
Fitzgerald.

JACK
The brother still there?

MARTIN
Yeah.

JACK
How about the wife?

MARTIN
Yeah, what's going on?

JACK
The whole thing's a hoax.

MARTIN
What?

JACK
A publicity stunt.

MARTIN
At least one of them must know.
I'll start questioning them.

JACK
No, don't do that. Just make sure they
don't leave. I'm headed out there.

MARTIN
Okay.

Martin hangs up the phone, annoyed that Jack won't let him
act on this new angle.

Jules walks in with a PACKAGE. Heads for Hillary.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Hey, Jules. What's that?

JULES

Package for Hillary.

MARTIN

Let me see it.

Gary and Hillary have both overheard this. Jules reluctantly hands the package to Martin. He opens it. It's a videotape. Marked: "Watch immediately."

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Who brought this here?

JULES

I don't know, a courier.

Martin looks at the receipt on the manila envelope.

INSERT RECEIPT: "Cold Spring Courier."

Martin hustles for the front door.

JULES (CONT'D)

He took off already. He's gone.

Martin stops. Looks at the tape. Hesitates, remembering Jack's words -- What should he do? A beat as he decides:

MARTIN

Where's a VCR?

A hand pops the tape into the VCR. WIDEN to REVEAL Martin with Gary and Hillary. Martin presses PLAY on the remote. Watches the video and watches Gary and Hillary closely, too.

INSERT SCREEN: *Ben tied to a chair in a stark, crappy room. Today's newspaper in his lap. A tall man wearing a SKI MASK and holding a gun paces around Ben as he talks to the CAMERA:*

SKI MASK

See this? This here's "Ben Sterling," the man with a plan. Except the plan's changing.

Hillary puts her hand to her mouth: Oh God. Martin looks at her, then at Gary, who shifts uncomfortably.

INSERT SCREEN:

SKI MASK (CONT'D)

I got me a very expensive piece of property here and I intend to collect on it. Five million dollars to be exact. Five million by tomorrow morning at nine. You'll be contacted at eight in the morning and told where to leave my money. All for now, thanks for playing. "Power Up."

Ski Mask moves toward CAMERA and off-camera, leaving only Ben, bound and gagged. Then the screen goes to SNOW.

Martin shuts it off, looks to Hillary and Gary.

GARY

Five million. We don't have five million dollars.

Martin looks at Hillary.

MARTIN

What did he mean? "The plan's changing."

HILLARY

It wasn't supposed to happen like this. He was supposed to be home by now.

Martin looks from her to Gary. This is turning grim.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

35

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - BEDROOM - 5 PM
(27.75 HOURS MISSING)

35

Jack and Martin with Hillary alone. Hillary sits on the edge of the bed. She's been crying.

JACK

I know you already told Agent Fitzgerald your story...

Jack and Martin exchange a look.

JACK (CONT'D)

...but I'd like to hear it again, so we're all on the same page.

HILLARY

Okay.

She wipes at her eyes, tries to collect herself.

HILLARY (CONT'D)

Ben came to me the day before -- you know, the kidnapping -- and he told me what he was planning...

36

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - BEDROOM - NIGHT (1 DBD)

36

Ben and Hillary sit on the edge of their bed, her hands in his. She reacts to what he's just told her, pulls her hands away.

HILLARY

You're going to have yourself kidnapped?

BEN

I'll have a limo pull up here to take me to L.A. Ten minutes later, the real limo will arrive and that'll be it. Everyone will think I've been kidnapped.

HILLARY

And then what?

BEN

And then I lay low for 24 hours and they let me go.

HILLARY

And what the hell will this accomplish?

(CONTINUED)

BEN

They'll videotape me. At gunpoint.
And I'll talk my way out of it.
Using the "Power Up" techniques. The
cops'll find the videos, they'll get
released to the media. The
informercial comes out the next week,
I'll go through the stratosphere.

HILLARY

Does Gary know you're doing this?

BEN

No way. He's too timid. Listen,
this is just me. You and me.
We're the only ones who know.

HILLARY

So who's going to be driving the
limo and videotaping you?

BEN

You don't need to know any of that.
I don't want you to know anything.
The only reason I'm telling you is
that I didn't want you to worry
while I'm gone.

HILLARY

(giving in, in spite of
herself)

Ben, this is crazy.

He takes her hands again.

BEN

It's inspired.

Hillary looks at them.

HILLARY

I know what you're thinking, but he
really just wants to help as many
people as he can. That's why he
wanted to do this.

JACK

I'm touched. When did you tell
Gary about the scheme?

37

CONTINUED:

37

HILLARY

Not until last night. He was so worried, I couldn't keep my mouth shut. But I swear he didn't have anything to do with it.

JACK

Do you have any idea who your husband's partners might be in this?

HILLARY

Like I told Agent Fitzgerald, the only people I can think of -- who might know who he really is, who he would trust... are his foster brothers.

JACK

Have you met any of them?

HILLARY

No, but I know he speaks to them on the phone sometimes. Maybe he sees them when I'm not around. At this point, I feel like I don't know anything.

Jack signals to Martin, who follows him out.

38

INT. BEN'S MANSION - HALLWAY/STAIRCASE - CONTINUOUS

38

Jack and Martin walk and talk.

MARTIN

The way she's trying to protect Gary, you'd think there was something between them.

JACK

No, Gary was in love with the groupie, Corinne.

MARTIN

Well there's something not right about him. I can't put my finger on it, but when we were watching the tape, it was like he knew something he wasn't saying.

JACK

I thought I told you to sit tight and wait for me to get here.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN

Jack, the tape showed up. It said, "Watch immediately." It was going to take you two hours to get here. I had to watch it.

JACK

And you watched it in front of two potential subjects. I would've liked the option of being there for that.

MARTIN

I'm sorry. I didn't want to take my eyes off them.

JACK

Follow up on that courier service and take the ransom tape back to the Field Office for analysis. I'll talk to the brother.

INT. BEN STERLING'S MANSION - 5:30 PM (28.25 HOURS MISSING)

Jack with Gary in a private area. Gary just taking a seat as they begin their conversation:

JACK

So you've had your hands full the last couple of days.

GARY

Yeah, you could say that. You know, we don't have five million dollars. Even if we hock this place, I don't think we can raise more than two.

JACK

When the kidnapppers contact us tomorrow, we'll try to bargain with them. That buys us time and usually trips them up.

GARY

Oh, good. Good.

Jack looks at him for a long beat. Baites him:

JACK

It backfired, didn't it?

GARY

What?

JACK

Your publicity stunt. You hired somebody to do this and now they've changed the plan on you.

(off Gary's look)

Come on, Gary. You're the brains of the operation. Paul's just the front man.

GARY

Absolutely not. I am furious at him for this. He's risked everything that we've built.

JACK

(reminding him)

And his own life.

GARY

Yes, of course. But I never would have -- I didn't even want him to do the infomercial...

An intense Power-Point presentation. Graphics on the plasma screen behind Ben. Twenty high-powered Clients, "Power Up" notebooks in front of them. This is the "Sterling Circle." Gary watches in the wings as Ben is in super-selling mode:

BEN

It's easy to look at a situation and see the problem. And believe me, I understand that as executives you've been trained to do that. To anticipate what will go wrong and prepare for it. But you have to let go of that. Because that culture filters down to everyone in your company. You need to start asking yourself and everyone around you to think boldly, to be daring, to take risks.

(beat)

But just so you know that I'm not living on a cloud, when we come back from lunch, we'll be right into the next chapter.

(takes a beat for humor)

"Crisis Management."

A lot of laughs.

BEN (CONT'D)

We've got lobster and steak and all kinds of great stuff in the dining room. And remember, anyone interested in being in the infomercial should talk to Gary.

The group breaks up. Ben walks over to Gary.

BEN (CONT'D)

That went well.

GARY

I thought we were going to talk more about this infomercial.

BEN

I decided. I want to go ahead with it.

GARY

I am your partner. You don't just decide.

BEN

Gary, I am great at this. And I want to share it with as many people as I can.

GARY

I don't think you understand. You expose us to that next level of scrutiny, sooner or later some guy from the New York Times or the Wall Street Journal is going to come sniffing around and the jig will be up.

BEN

I'm willing to take that chance. Didn't you hear my speech?

GARY

Ben --

But Ben just walks away...

JACK

So he drank a bit too much of his own Kool Aid?

GARY

Yeah, apparently so.

JACK

Let's talk about your foster brothers.

GARY

(huh?)

Okay.

JACK

Who is Paul still in contact with?

GARY

I don't think he's in contact with any of them.

JACK

Hillary says he is. Talks to them on the phone sometimes.

GARY

News to me.

Jack quickly shifts gears, throwing Gary off guard:

JACK

You're not?

GARY

What's that?

JACK

In contact with any of them?

GARY

No.

JACK

(taking out pad and pen)

I'd like their names.

GARY

Okay, I'll try. It was a long time ago and some of them weren't there for too long.

JACK

We'll check with the foster agency, but it'll be faster for us if you can help me out.

GARY

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

41

JACK

Great.

As Jack is poised to write...

42

INT. FBI OFFICES - TECH ROOM - 7:30 PM (30.25 HOURS MISSING)

42

Martin and Vivian stand on either side of the TECH, examining the ransom tape.

INSERT SCREEN: Ben tied to a chair in a stark, crappy room. Today's newspaper in his lap. A tall man wearing a SKI MASK and holding a gun paces around Ben as he talks to the CAMERA (no sound now).

VIVIAN

(leaning close)

That's today's paper.

MARTIN

New York Post. Tough to get out in the Hamptons. Kidnapper probably lives in the city.

VIVIAN

Or is holding him in the city.

MARTIN

Can you enhance anything on that back wall?

Tech hits a few buttons.

TECH

Looks like plain white plaster. Not going to tell you much.

VIVIAN

(re: kidnapper)

Blue jeans, black shirt, pretty generic. We got an estimate on his height and weight?

TECH

About six feet, one-seventy. Caucasian. Twenty-five to forty years old.

MARTIN

Let's watch it with sound.

Tech REWINDS, plays it from the beginning, turning up the VOLUME.

(CONTINUED)

INSERT SCREEN:

SKI MASK

Now look what we have here. "Ben Sterling," the man with a plan. Well listen up folks, 'cause the plan's changing. I got me a very expensive piece of property here and I intend to collect on it. Five million dollars to be exact. Five million by tomorrow morning at nine. You'll be contacted at eight in the morning and told where to leave my money. All for now, thanks for playing. "Power Up."

Ski Mask moves toward CAMERA and off-camera, leaving only Ben, bound and gagged. Then the screen goes to SNOW.

Vivian turns to Martin:

VIVIAN

He's operating the camera by himself. He's talking about "my" money. Even if they're working alone, they almost always say "us" and "we" so they seem like they've got more firepower.

MARTIN

But in this case the victim was going along with it. You really only need one guy for that kind of job.

VIVIAN

Yeah, I guess.

But she walks out, not convinced. Martin turns back to Tech.

MARTIN

Let me hear that one more time, please.

INT. FBI OFFICES - COMMAND POST - SAME

Danny at the corner conference table, looking over the mounds of pasted-together shredded documents. Samantha walks over with a piece of PAPER, fresh off the fax.

SAMANTHA

Have you got any financial records in that mound of Watergate?

DANNY

I've got just about everything here.
Letters, records, some of this stuff I
can't figure why they bothered to shred.

SAMANTHA

Jack just faxed me a list of Sterling's
former foster brothers. I think we
should cross-reference these names with
the financial records. If Ben hired
one of them to do the job, maybe
there's a payment somewhere in here.

She hands him the list and takes a seat at the table. As
Danny scans the list of names...

DANNY

Claude. I remember seeing a letter
from a Claude somewhere in here.

He fishes through --

DANNY (CONT'D)

Here we go. Claude Frederickson.
(reading the letter)
He's asking Ben to help him out --
with money.

SAMANTHA

Is there a return address?

DANNY

Cold Spring Harbor.

SAMANTHA

That's where the ransom tape was
sent from.

44 EXT. CLAUDE FREDERICKSON'S HOUSE - 9 PM (31.75 HOURS MISSING) 44

A ratty little house. Sam and Danny get out of their car, walk
toward the door, pulling their guns. Holding mini-flashlights
to guide them. Danny tries the front door, it's locked.

Samantha circles around the outside of the house. Looking for a
way in, looking through windows to see what's going on inside.

Danny circles around the other side, doing the same.

They converge in the BACK of the house. There's a basement
door. Slightly ajar. They nod to each other. Danny pulls
it open. Samantha enters. Danny follows.

45

INT. CLAUDE FREDERICKSON'S BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

45

Danny and Sam, guns drawn, make their way through the darkness. Danny's head hits a string hanging from the ceiling. He pulls it. The LIGHT goes on. They continue into another ROOM where...

Sam shines her flashlight on what looks like a BODY on the floor.

SAMANTHA

I got one down.

Danny runs a hand along the wall, flicks on a light switch...

REVEALING a Man, face down on the floor, hands tied behind his back. Muzzled with a sock in his mouth.

Danny scans the rest of the room -- the wall is white plaster -- there's a chair and a video camera on a tripod. This is clearly the room where the ransom tape was made.

DANNY

You're clear.

Samantha bends down to the body, turns him over. It's not Ben/Paul. Samantha removes the tape from his mouth.

MAN

Ahhh!

SAMANTHA

Sorry.

MAN

Who are you?

SAMANTHA

I was just about to ask you the same question.

MAN

I'm Claude. Claude Frederickson.

As Danny and Samantha exchange a look...

DANNY

Where's Ben Sterling?

CLAUDE

I don't know.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

46

INT. CLAUDE FREDERICKSON'S BASEMENT - 9:15 PM
(32 HOURS MISSING)

46

Claude is now sitting in the chair where Ben sat, an ice-pack on his head. Danny and Sam question him:

CLAUDE

We grew up together, all of us --
Gary, Paul, me, Ben, Roy.

DANNY

Who's Roy?

CLAUDE

Roy Randall. He's the one that
cracked me over the head, double-
crossed me.

SAMANTHA

Okay, back up a second. Who was
driving the limo yesterday morning?

CLAUDE

I was.

SAMANTHA

And the plan was what?

CLAUDE

Paul and I would hang out here
until this morning, we'd make the
video of him talking his way out of
it, then we'd let him go.

DANNY

We, meaning you and Roy.

CLAUDE

Except Ben didn't know I was going to
bring Roy along for back-up. I didn't
really want to wear the mask in front
of the camera, so I asked Roy to do
it, and split the money with him.

SAMANTHA

How much was Paul paying you?

CLAUDE

Thirty grand. It was easy money.

(CONTINUED)

DANNY

Until Roy turned on you.

CLAUDE

Yeah.

DANNY

Tell us how that went down.

CLAUDE

We were down here, just hanging out...

INT. CLAUDE FREDERICKSON'S BASEMENT - 10 AM (1 DAD)

Ben is sitting on the couch, eating cereal out of a bowl. Claude looks at his watch.

CLAUDE

When you want to make that tape?

BEN

A few minutes.

CLAUDE

Yeah, all right.

BEN

Don't be nervous, Claude. It's all going to work out like clock-work.

CLAUDE

I just hope nobody saw me at your house yesterday.

ANGLE ON

ROY RANDALL, a big, semi-menacing guy, drinking a beer.

ROY

What a pussy.

CLAUDE

Yeah, and you're going to make fifteen grand because of it.

ROY

(to Ben)

I don't know why you didn't just call me to begin with. I could've taken care of everything.

(CONTINUED)

BEN

I haven't heard from you in eight years, Roy.

ROY

If I knew you were running this whole self-help racket with Ben's name, I would've called on you, you can believe that.

BEN

You should take a seminar. Free of charge.

ROY

That's not what I mean.

BEN

What do you mean, Roy?

ROY

I mean those of us who know your secret, we should probably be on the payroll. Don't you think, Claude?

CLAUDE

He's helping people, Roy. Besides, Ben doesn't mind if someone uses his name at this point.

Roy looks at them skeptically. His cell phone RINGS. He answers.

ROY

(into phone)

Yeah.

Roy listens for a while. Ben and Claude watch him. Roy's wheels seem to be turning.

ROY (CONT'D)

(into phone)

Yeah.... we're at Claude's.

BEN

Who is that?

Roy ignores him, keeps listening. Looks back at the other men. Claude gets up, concerned, moves toward Roy.

CLAUDE

Who is it, Roy?

Roy holds up a menacing finger as if to say, "One second, don't move."

ROY
(into phone)
You're serious?

He listens more. Looks back at Ben for a long moment, considering... then, as if making a decision...

ROY (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Yeah, okay.

Roy hangs up.

BEN
Who was that, Roy?

Roy grabs the gun from the table. Claude comes toward him, sensing something's weird.

CLAUDE
Roy --

And Roy slams Claude over the head with the gun. Claude falls to the floor.

BEN
Claude!

Roy points the gun at Ben.

ROY
Change in plan, Paulie boy. Sit down!

From the floor, Claude looks up at Roy approaching Ben, gun in hand. As Claude slips into unconsciousness...

CLAUDE'S P-O-V: Ben's frightened face slowly going out of focus and...

CLAUDE
I have no idea who called him or what they said or anything.

SAMANTHA
When did you tell Roy about the plan?

48

CONTINUED:

46

CLAUDE

Three, four days ago.

SAMANTHA

And who else knew?

CLAUDE

Nobody. And I told him not to talk about it with nobody.

49

INT. FBI OFFICES - COMMAND POST - 10:30 PM
(33.25 HOURS MISSING)

49

Vivian hands Jack a MUG SHOT of Roy and a RAP SHEET.

VIVIAN

Name's Roy Randall. Lived with the Mankowitz clan for eighteen months between 1985 and '87. In and out of juvie, served three years for armed robbery. There's assault and battery, drunk driving, domestic abuse. He's not a real poster child for the foster care system.

JACK

Brooklyn PD didn't find much at his place, other than a couple of bongos and a .45.

VIVIAN

And this Claude has no idea where Randall might be holding our guru?

JACK

No. We have any luck tracing Randall's cell phone?

VIVIAN

None registered. Must be using a hot one. Or a cloned one.

MARTIN (O.S.)

Whoa!

They look over to the corner conference table, where Martin has been fishing through the shredded/recomposed documents.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

I think I got something.

Martin heads over to them, holding several pieces of paper.

(CONTINUED)

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Resumés.

Jack and Vivian: Yeah, so?

MARTIN (CONT'D)

To replace Gary. Cover letter addressed to Ben, responding to Ben's search for a new financial head of the company.

He hands it to Jack.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Looks like Frankenstein's monster is trying to get rid of his creator.

VIVIAN

If Gary knew about that...

JACK

Then Frankenstein has to kill the monster first.

VIVIAN

You think Gary's kept in touch with Randall all these years, that he'd have Randall's phone number?

MARTIN

Like the wife said, they were the only ones who knew the secret. Gary probably wanted to keep tabs on them.

JACK

Let's run Gary's phone records -- home, cell, the company.

50 INT. FBI OFFICES - JACK'S OFFICE - 11 PM (33.75 HOURS MISSING) 50

Martin enters eagerly. Jack's on the phone. Martin waits.

JACK

(into phone)

Yeah, let's hold him here. We may need his help.

He hangs up.

(CONTINUED)

JACK (CONT'D)

(to Martin)

Danny and Sam -- they're on their way with Claude.

MARTIN

I think we got what we need. Gary Mankowitz made a call from his cell phone to a cloned cell phone at 10:18 this morning. Ninety second call. That lines up with Claude's story. You want me to run a trace on the cloned phone?

JACK

Yeah. And let's bring Gary in.

Martin heads out.

JACK (CONT'D)

Martin...

Martin stops.

JACK (CONT'D)

You had a good instinct about him.

Martin nods a "thanks," heads out.

51

INT. FBI OFFICES - TECH ROOM - 12 AM (34.75 HOURS MISSING)

51

Jack with Danny and the Tech. A SCREEN tracks the cell phone.

TECH

I've got it narrowed down to a five square mile area in Flushing, but I can't do any better than that.

DANNY

If we could get the guy on the phone, though --

JACK

Tried that. He's not answering.

(then)

You got Claude downstairs?

DANNY

Yeah. Sam's with him.

JACK

See if Flushing rings a bell with him.

(CONTINUED)

51

CONTINUED:

51

Danny heads out as Martin heads in.

MARTIN

I've got Gary Mankowitz at reception. Where do you want him?

A beat.

JACK

Bring him in here.

Martin considers, what's Jack up to? Okay.

52

INT. FBI OFFICES - RECEPTION AREA - MOMENTS LATER

52

Gary sits there, looking pretty nervous but trying to keep his cool. Martin approaches.

MARTIN

Mr. Mankowitz -- would you mind?

Gary hesitates for a moment, then rises.

GARY

Sure.

And follows Martin into the...

53

INT. FBI OFFICES - TECH ROOM - CONTINUOUS

53

Martin and Gary enter. Jack plays it super-appreciative with Gary:

JACK

Thanks for coming all the way in at this time of night. I know this must be nerve-racking.

GARY

Yeah, sure. It's not like I was going to be able to sleep anyway.

JACK

It looks like we were right. It is one of your foster brothers who has Ben.

GARY

Who?

JACK

Roy Randall.

(CONTINUED)

GARY

Roy Randall?

JACK

I guess you forgot all about him when you gave me that list earlier.

GARY

I hadn't even thought about him in ten years. I'm sorry, I --

JACK

No, it's not your fault. But we do need you to do something for us.

GARY

Of course. Anything.

JACK

We need you to call him for us.

GARY

Me?

JACK

We'll connect you to him right here, as if it's coming from your cell phone. Hopefully he'll pick up.

GARY

What do I say to him?

JACK

Just try to be calm. Ask how Ben is, tell him you're getting the money together, but you need a little more time. But don't ask him where he is, we'll be tracing the call.

GARY

Okay.

JACK

We'll be right here for you.

Jack gestures to the seat. Gary sits. Jack and Martin exchange a look.

JACK (CONT'D)

(to Tech)

Patch him through.

(CONTINUED)

53

CONTINUED: (2)

53

Tech hands Gary a phone. Jack and Martin each take earpieces so they can hear the other end of the conversation.

The phone RINGS and rings and rings and then...

ROY (V.O.)

Yeah, hello.

GARY

Roy, it's Gary. Gary Mankowitz.

INTERCUT WITH:

54

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - SAME

54

Ben/Paul is on the floor, leaning against a wall. Roy stands over him, gun in hand.

ROY

(into phone)

Yeah, what do you want?

GARY

How's Paul doing?

ROY

I haven't done it yet.

GARY

Don't do anything violent, okay?
We're going to get you your money.

ROY

What do you mean don't do anything violent? You --

GARY

(cutting him off)

Listen to me, Roy. I promise you we will get you whatever you want. Just don't hurt him. Please. I know you've had a raw deal in life, but it's not worth taking it out on Paul. No matter what you're feeling.

A long beat. Roy is confused by what Gary is saying to him now.

55

INT. FBI OFFICES - TECH ROOM - SAME

55

Gary squirms as Jack and Martin watch him. Has Gary managed to keep himself out of hot water?

(CONTINUED)

GARY

Roy? Roy?

ROY

Okay, bye.

And the phone clicks off. Gary looks up at them:

GARY

Did you track it?

Tech points to the SCREEN.

INSERT SCREEN: A flashing red light indicates they've honed in on a smaller area but don't have the exact location.

JACK

Closer.

GARY

Damn.

A BEEPING sound on the computer.

TECH

We've got a call coming in. Same transponder.

Now Gary looks worried.

JACK

It's Roy. Talk to him again.

Jack hands Gary the phone. Gary hesitates, knowing he's probably ruined now.

JACK (CONT'D)

Come on, Gary, do it!

Gary takes the phone.

GARY

Hello?

ROY

I don't get you, man. First you call me up, tell me you want me to kill him, I say no problem, you say let's wait 'til the morning, then you call me up again and say let's not kill him at all.

(CONTINUED)

GARY

I don't know what you're talking about, Roy.

ROY

Don't give me that. Now I've got Mr. Power Up here talking my head off the last twelve hours, I'm all screwed up.

GARY

You're crazy, Roy. But we can get you help. Just don't hurt Ben, okay?

ROY

Ben's in a coma, Gary. I'm still figuring out what I'm going to do with this one.

And Roy hangs up. Gary just looks at them, knowing he's probably lost. As a last ditch...

GARY

He's crazy.

TECH

Jack, we've got a location.

JACK

(to Martin as he goes)

Arrest him.

56

EXT. ABANDONED BUILDING - 1 AM (35.75 HOURS MISSING)

56

Jack, Samantha and ND Agents move out of their cars toward the building.

57

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - MOMENTS LATER

57

Jack and Samantha creep through the building. They hear voices from a room just beyond them.

They look at each other, quietly step forward and look into the room to see...

Ben and Roy, sitting next to each other, in a pose very similar to how we saw Ben and Corinne in the Teaser. Roy is crying. Ben is counselling/comforting him.

(CONTINUED)

BEN

Gary gave in to his pettiness and jealousy, because he doesn't see what's really possible. You do. And this is a big step for you, Roy. Now let's you and me walk out of here together. You'll move forward with your life and I'll forget this whole thing ever happened. What do you say?

Roy nods.

ROY

Thank you, Paul. Thank you.

BEN

Call me Ben.

Jack and Samantha look at each other, roll their eyes. And enter the room...

JACK

Drop the gun, Roy.

Roy looks up, surprised.

BEN

Do what they say, Roy. It's all right.

JACK

Shut up, Ben. Drop the gun, Roy.

Roy drops the gun to the floor. Jack moves in, cuffs him and leads him out. Leaving Samantha with Ben.

SAMANTHA

You all right?

BEN

He just needed someone to see him. And believe in him.

SAMANTHA

You know, I used to listen to your tapes.

BEN

Really?

(CONTINUED)

SAMANTHA

I guess Gary really was the brains
of the operation.

BEN

So you know everything?

SAMANTHA

Yes, Paul. We do.

BEN

Are you going to expose me?

SAMANTHA

I have a feeling we'll be in contact
with the Better Business Bureau.

BEN

But you saw what I just did. He was
going to kill me. Gary was going to pay
him half a million dollars and he was
going to kill me. I talked him out of
it. You'll have to report that, too.

SAMANTHA

Just in time for the release of
your infomercial.

BEN

The right spin, anything's possible.

SAMANTHA

Let's go, Mr. Sterling.

Samantha ushers him out of there. She almost has to laugh.

INT. FBI OFFICES - INTERROGATION ROOM - 2 AM

Martin with Gary:

MARTIN

When did you know that he'd
arranged to have himself kidnapped?

GARY

Not until after it'd already happened,
that night. Hillary told me.

MARTIN

And how did you know Claude had used
Roy? How did you know to call Roy?

(CONTINUED)

GARY

I knew Ben would use Claude. He trusts him. But I knew Claude would never turn on Ben. He reveres him. I was just hoping Roy would be able to find them. Turned out Roy was already there, I got lucky.

MARTIN

You've been in contact with these guys all these years?

GARY

They were the only ones who could bust us.

MARTIN

I know you must have been pissed off, it was a stupid plan, but why would you want to kill him?

GARY

Why? Why?! I made him out of nothing and he was going to replace me.

MARTIN

But what were you going to do with him gone?

GARY

I was going to take over. It's the ideas, not the presentation. I was ready to take over. For once, I was going to be the guy. People were going to look up to me, people were going to come to me. You ask why?

MARTIN

(getting up)

I suggest you get yourself a lawyer, Mr. Mankowitz. And maybe a publicist.

Martin exits, leaving Gary alone.

Samantha enters. Danny is still here, packing up for the night. Putting some of the evidence away. Including Ben Sterling's "Power Up" tapes.

SAMANTHA

"Power Up?"

DANNY

Yeah.

SAMANTHA

You know, I won't tell anyone if you want to take those home with you.

DANNY

Thanks, but I'm fine.

SAMANTHA

Okay.

She smiles, grabs her coat, heads out.

Leaving Danny. He looks at the TAPE COVER. Ben Sterling's smiling face on it. Danny looks around, to make sure no one's looking, takes the tape out of the evidence box and puts it into his private bag.

He smiles a bit to himself, as if making fun of himself, then sort of shrugs.

PUSH PAST HIM to....

THE BOARD: Ben's smiling face. The name, "Ben Sterling aka Paul Mankowitz."

END ACT FOUR