

APPLEBAUM

"Pilot"

Written by

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TEASER

INT./EXT. MINIVAN/COLE VALLEY STREET - DAY

Why does every Mom Mobile, no matter how put-together the Mom, look like a cross between a crack den and toxic waste dump? JULIET APPLEBAUM, 34, big mouth, big heart, quick wit, sits in her minivan, shifting uncomfortably as she trains a CAMERA on the door of a Victorian. Into BLUETOOTH:

JULIET  
What's it been? Like, five hours?

AL (O.S.)  
Two and a half.

JULIET  
Still, I didn't plan for this.  
He's an old dude. Who knew he'd  
have this kind of stamina?

Frustrated, Juliet downs what looks like a BEER CAN...

AL (O.S.)  
Are you drinking?

JULIET  
(freezes)  
What?

...quickly tosses the empty, REVEALING it's just a RED BULL, it lands with a clatter, joining five others, and we MEET:

INT./EXT. AL HOCKEY'S HUMMER/ALLEY BEHIND HOUSE - INTERCUT

AL HOCKEY (40) former-cop, embodies the phrase "rugged good looks," in his car, antithesis of Juliet's. Neat. Polished gun rack. Girlie mudflaps. Manly as a clean shave.

AL  
Come on, Applebaum, no liquids on a  
stake-out. Last time you had to  
pee in a planter.

JULIET  
At least there was a planter...  
(looking around for one as)  
...And I need the caffeine. I was  
up all night, Isaac's cutting  
another molar...

Her gaze lands on a clean Pooh & Friends DIAPER. She glances around, no one's looking...

AL  
What is he, a shark? How many  
teeth does that kid have?

...she grabs the Diaper, shimmies down her pants as...

AL  
Juliet?

TIGHT on her face. Total and complete relief when --

JULIET  
Whoa!

The MARK (50), has just emerged with a sexy blond TART half-wrapped in a goodbye-kiss kimono. Juliet scrambles --

AL  
You got him?

...finds her CAMERA, aims as...

JULIET  
Yep... I...  
(snapping a dozen photos)  
...got him. Just one kiss,  
Silverback. One little kiss.  
There we go.

Freeze-frame: Kiss. Kiss. Kiss.

AL  
I don't need a play-by-play --

JULIET  
Okay, ew. That's enough. I gotta go.

She CLICKS off, then PEELS OUT, SCREECHING to a stop -- a diaper arcs out the window into a trash bin. 2 points!

AL (O.S.)  
Was that a diaper?

She turns, sees Al's pulled up beside her. Smiles, busted:

JULIET  
No planter.

EXT. HEART HEAD HANDS SCHOOL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Juliet races across a packed parking lot towards the school entrance when --

PETER (O.S.)  
Juliet!

She stops as her husband, PETER WYETH, 30s, handsome nerdy, hurries to catch up to her, having just arrived too.

JULIET  
What are you doing? Why aren't you  
in there?

PETER  
I sent you a text, my meeting ran  
late. Why aren't you in there?

JULIET  
Viagra. Long story.

She hurries to the DOOR, he stops her --

PETER  
Jules. Your fly.

Juliet looks down, ZIPS UP her PANTS...

JULIET  
Completely unrelated.

They head in...

INT. HEAD HEART HANDS SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Packed with restless FAMILIES. On STAGE, a BINGO CAGE is  
WHEELED out by principal ABIGAIL HATHAWAY, 40s, charismatic,  
and assistant principal MOLLY ROSEN, 30s, bohemian hip.

RUBY (O.S.)  
They're starting!

In the AUDIENCE, FIND Juliet & Peter's kids: SAM, 10, RUBY,  
6, and ISAAC, 3, tended to by babysitter CAROLYN, 24, girl-  
next-door cute. Sam plays with his DS, already over this.

SAM  
Finally.

Cherubic Ruby, clutching a stuffed HEDGEHOG, turns to best  
friend MADISON, sitting next to her.

RUBY  
I'm nervous.

MADISON  
Me too.

As Isaac gums the LOTTERY CARD (236) --

RUBY  
Isaac! He's eating it.

CAROLYN  
Honey, we need that.

Carolyn takes the CARD back as --

LEANNE (O.S.)  
You want me to call Juliet?



INT. HEAD HEART HANDS SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - LATER

A DAD leaps to his feet, his DAUGHTER in one arm, the other waving a CARD with the winning number. Our family looks on, deflated. It's clearly been awhile. To Ruby:

JULIET  
She's still gonna call more numbers.

SAM  
Ugh, we've been here forever.

ISAAC  
Mommy, I'm hungry.

PETER  
Maybe you should've brought your homework instead of your DS.

As Juliet digs into her purse for Isaac, finds one dusty Tic Tac. Peter whispers:

PETER  
This is like Bingo in Guantanamo.

A TAP on Juliet's shoulder, Leanne hands her a BOX of crackers:

LEANNE  
They're organic.

Juliet mouths thanks, offers Isaac crackers, he tries one:

ISAAC  
Yuck!

ABIGAIL  
All right. This is for the final place in our incoming first grade.

Ruby takes a sharp inhale of breath. Juliet nervously pops the CRACKER in her mouth as she hands Isaac her PHONE --

JULIET  
Just play with this.

The Bingo cage SPINS, Abigail plucks a ball. The air is thick with tension.

ABIGAIL  
Number two hundred and thirty...

Juliet, Ruby and Peter tense up. Juliet plucks the card from Peter's hand, ready to wave it high...

ABIGAIL  
Five.

LEANNE (O.S.)  
Oh my God, that's us!

Juliet turns to see Leanne and Madison jump up, excited. Ruby's face falls. Off this:

INT. HEAD HEART HANDS SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Juliet's holding Isaac as the family heads out, comforting Ruby, who's trying to understand what just happened.

RUBY

So Madison gets to go here, but I don't?

SAM

I don't know what the big deal is. Our school's fine.

PETER

Sam.

(then)

Look, Rubes, I know it feels crummy right now, but you'll make a new best friend.

RUBY

Who? Madison's the only girl who's nice to me.

JULIET

Mrs. Brown says things are better.

RUBY

Mrs. Brown isn't at recess.

JULIET

You know what we should do? We should get burgers and root beer at Barney's.

ISAAC

Root beer!

RUBY

I don't like burgers --

PETER

Since when?

RUBY

-- I like Madison.

SAM

Well, I'm starving.

JULIET

Honey, just because you guys are gonna be at different schools, doesn't mean you can't be friends.

MADISON (O.S.)

Ruby!

Madison and Leanne heads towards them...

PETER  
I'll take the boys. We'll meet you  
there.

The men head off as Madison races up, wrapping her arms  
around Ruby...

JULIET  
Congratulations, Madison.

LEANNE  
(arriving)  
Thanks. Maybe someone'll drop out?

RUBY  
(newfound hope)  
Really?

JULIET  
(unsure how to respond)  
Uh, maybe. So, do you want to come  
over tomorrow for a playdate?

MADISON  
(to her Mom)  
Can I?

LEANNE  
You have violin.

JULIET  
What about Wednesday? I could take  
them to the Exploratorium?

LEANNE  
San Francisco Girls Chorus. And  
Thursday she has Kumon.

JULIET  
Friday? Saturday? Shavuot? Diwali?

LEANNE  
(laughs politely, then)  
Why don't you girls go play on the  
yard? We'll be right there.

As Ruby and Madison head off --

JULIET  
Leanne, if this is about me serving  
process on the way to the Zoo, the  
kids were in the car thirty seconds  
while I dropped it off.

LEANNE  
It's fine, I know how you working  
moms have to multi-task.

(MORE)

LEANNE (CONT'D)

Look, truth is, I want to make Maddy's transition to a new school as painless as possible. And I just think it'll be easier, if they, you know...

JULIET

Easier for who?

KAT (O.S.)

Juliet!

Juliet turns to see best friend DR. KATAYOUN LAHIJI (Kat) (32) Persian Princess, approaching, face like she's comforting mourners. Leanne takes it as an out:

LEANNE

Let's see how they are in a month.

Heads off just as Kat arrives:

KAT

Oh, honey. I'm so sorry.

JULIET

And her one friend got in.

KAT

I wish there was something I could do.

JULIET

Can't you? We helped with the book drive, we donated to the garden project...

KAT

Abigail's cracked down on all-set asides except siblings. Says it doesn't fit the school's mission.

JULIET

(building emotion)

Screw the mission, Kat. I know a gazillion families who've gotten in and aren't siblings. And Ruby's a great kid. She deserves this...

Just as, over Kat's shoulder, Juliet clocks a FURIOUS DAD giving Abigail an earful. Realizing that's how she sounds.

JULIET

-- But I'm just venting, it's not your fault. We'll figure it out.

INT. APPLEBAUM HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Juliet with all three kids, toothbrush time. She's wrestling with Isaac. It's like trying to brush the teeth of a hyperactive wolverine.

JULIET

Hold still. You want your teeth to fall out, end up looking like one of Mommy's tweaker clients?

SAM  
What's a tweaker?

RUBY  
How many calories are in toothpaste?

JULIET

I'll tell you when you're older.  
(then, to Ruby)  
Calories? None. Why?

RUBY

I'm on a diet.

JULIET

What?

RUBY

Lauren said I'm F-A-T-E.

SAM

That spells fate --

JULIET

You are not F-A-T-E. You're C-U-T-E.

RUBY

Cutty?

Before Sam can retort, Juliet points a toothbrush at him -- not a word...

INT. APPLEBAUM HOUSE - JULIET & PETER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Peter's in bed, LAPTOP open, working while Juliet paces.

JULIET

She's six, Peter, and those little bitches are already making her anorexic. That's not supposed to happen 'til college.

PETER

We should talk to the teachers.

JULIET

"We"? "We" already have, all they say is, she's fine. You think she's fine being called "fat"? You know this kind of crap doesn't go on at Head Heart Hands.

PETER

Jules, kids are mean everywhere.

JULIET

It's not about the kids. It's about the adult response. At HHH, they have 16 kids per class. Ruby's has 33, the teachers barely know her name --

PETER

33, really?

JULIET

-- And at recess and lunch, there's one faculty member making sure the boys aren't beating each other up. Meanwhile, the girls are more vicious than Joan Rivers on the Red Carpet.

(beat)

Is she fat? She kinda is, isn't she? She has my fat genes. We shouldn't have let her quit soccer.

PETER

Really? This is where we're going?  
(then, closing his LAPTOP)  
Look, honey, I know this is a loaded subject for you, but --

JULIET

-- you don't take it seriously because you were Prom King, but --

PETER

I do --

JULIET

-- I'm not kidding about the I-Hate-Juliet-Club. I couldn't even walk into the lunchroom. I'd have to hide out in the library, and eat there alone. And you know what my mom did about it -- ?

PETER

She called you 'the Weeping Willow.'

JULIET

And did nothing.

PETER

No wonder they call her Judge Doom. So, what do you want to do? Because private school's out of the question. We've got three kids, there's still high school, college. And what if one of them wants to be like you and Judge Doom?

JULIET

Uch, I should've gotten a list of HHH Founding Parents, and just kissed their asses like everyone else does.

(MORE)

JULIET (CONT'D)

I bet that's how Leanne got Madison in.

PETER

They pulled her Bingo ball.

JULIET

But maybe she had extra balls in there. Maybe she bought balls.

Just then, Juliet's cell phone RINGS. She fumbles for it --

JULIET

It's Kat.

(answers)

Hey... What? Wait, slow down, I can't understand -- Oh my God.

PETER

What happened?

JULIET

Okay, where are you? ...I'm coming now.

JULIET

(clicks off, stunned)

Abigail Hathaway was just hit by a car. She's dead.

PETER

What?

JULIET

Hit and run.

(getting dressed)

Kat's a mess. She was with her, saw the whole thing, I'm gonna go calm her down.

Peter watches her, then, thinking he sees through her --

PETER

You want the case.

JULIET

What, no. Peter, the police can handle a hit and run.

PETER

But if it can get you in with the founding parents...

JULIET

She's my best friend. And you know what, I'm insulted.

She tosses her PAJAMAS at him, heads out. Calling after her:

PETER

I'm still president of the I-love-Juliet club!

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF HEAD HEART HANDS - NIGHT

Taped-off crime scene, LIGHTS FLASHING. Juliet crouches by Abigail's BODY, taking in the scene, her eyes landing on CURVED TIRE MARKINGS as:

DETECTIVE LIU (O.S.)  
Hey, get away from there!

She turns to face DETECTIVE KEVIN LIU, early 30s, ambitious and by the book. He stops when he realizes --

DETECTIVE LIU  
I don't believe it.

JULIET  
Detective Liu. Long time.

DETECTIVE LIU  
Not long enough.

JULIET  
You know you love me.

DETECTIVE LIU  
I know that scumbag you tricked the jury into acquitting jacked another bank two weeks later.

JULIET  
Four years and you're still angry about that?

KAT (O.S.)  
Juliet?

Juliet turns to see Kat approaching, unsteady. Eyes red.

KAT  
...Oh my God, I couldn't find my keys. We would've left forty-five minutes earlier... I'm the reason she's dead!

Detective Liu perks up, ready for a confession --

Kat -- JULIET DETECTIVE LIU  
(to Kat)  
Just tell us what happened.

KAT  
Oh my God, I killed her!

JULIET DETECTIVE LIU  
You didn't -- We gotta take you downtown.

Liu gestures to an ND COP, who pulls out CUFFS --

JULIET  
Liu, she didn't actually do  
anything --

KAT  
-- No, I did! I told Abigail I'd  
give her a ride home.

JULIET  
Kat, just stop talking!

DETECTIVE LIU  
What are you, her lawyer?

JULIET  
Her friend. And you're gonna look  
like an idiot if you book an eye  
witness who's clearly in shock. Now  
will someone please get her a blanket  
or some tea? She's shaking.

Liu hesitates, gestures to an ND Cop to get Kat something.

DETECTIVE LIU  
So, Ms. Lahidji...

JULIET  
It's Dr. Lahidji.

KAT  
I don't practice anymore, but I did  
try doing CPR on her...

JULIET  
See, she tried to save her. Now  
Kat, you need to tell Detective Liu  
what happened. Not how you feel  
about what happened, but just the  
facts.

KAT  
Okay, okay. So, Abigail and I were  
leaving school, her car's in the  
shop... and we were halfway across the  
street, maybe a little more when this  
car came out of nowhere, didn't even  
try to slow down...

JULIET  
Did you get a look at it?

KAT  
It was white. I think a hatchback.  
Like Carolyn's old car.

JULIET  
(to Liu)  
Our babysitter.

KAT  
We share her.

JULIET  
She used to drive a Honda.

Liu pulls out his smart phone, does a quick search. Shows her the screen: a white 1995 Honda Civic.

DETECTIVE LIU  
Like this?  
(Kat nods, to the ND COP)  
Stolen car, out for a joyride?

JULIET  
(off Kat's confusion)  
Mid-90s Hondas are the most commonly stolen cars. Easy to boost, easy to get rid of.

DETECTIVE LIU  
And there've been a string of them in this area. We just had someone hit last week.

JULIET  
I think it's premature.

DETECTIVE LIU  
Oh, really? Three years as a PI makes you Veronica Mars?

JULIET  
You see the yaw marks? The car took a sharp turn.

Kat looks up at this, struck as...

DETECTIVE LIU  
Could've been a careless driver, someone on their cell --

ND COP  
-- Detective? They want you to supervise the removal of the body.

JULIET  
Look, Liu, there were just 300 parents in that auditorium, 200 left really pissed off. Two hours ago, I wanted to kill Abigail Hathaway.

DETECTIVE LIU  
Cool, then I can just arrest you.

With that, Liu leaves with the Officer.

KAT

You know, you're right. That car could've hit me, but last minute, it swerved right for her.

JULIET

You need to tell Liu that.

Now that Kat's more comfortable, she's a better witness:

KAT

Look, this might not be anything, and maybe I'm just trying to let myself off the hook --

JULIET

-- You are not responsible for this.

KAT

Tonight, Abigail wasn't herself. It's like, she was... agitated, distracted by something. This is usually the biggest night of the year for her.

JULIET

So what was so important?

KAT

That's just it, I don't know. Jules, it might not be in the budget, and after today, you probably don't want anything to do with --

JULIET

-- I'll do it.

KAT

Really?

JULIET

Kat, something's not right about this.

Kat nods, then hesitates --

KAT

I can't promise --

JULIET

-- I'm not expecting a slot. Maybe a space on the waiting list but...  
(wins a weak smile from Kat)  
Let's just figure out what happened to Abigail first.

Kat nods, grateful. Off Juliet, having landed a new case -- for once, work and Mommyhood align...

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. AL'S GARAGE - MORNING

Two castoff desks surrounded by RAKES and HEDGE CLIPPERS. Tools hang on a pegboard, each inside a corpse's chalk outline. Juliet staggers in with a BINGO CAGE full of balls:

JULIET  
Bingo anyone?

Al and Office Assistant ROGELIO (24), the "Digital Zorro", studying photos of Silverback on a computer, look up.

AL  
Bingo? I thought we just landed a big case.

JULIET  
We did. And these are some of our suspects.

ROGELIO  
Death by Bingo ball?

JULIET  
School Lottery. Kat gave them to me, along with a list of all rejected applicants. Rogelio, I need you to cross-reference them, maybe do background checks.

ROGELIO  
You think someone killed her 'cause they didn't get into a school?

JULIET  
People do crazy things when it comes to their kids.  
(to Al)  
Of course your buddy Liu thinks it's just a hit and run...  
(going through her PHONE)  
...but look at the yaw marks on the road.

Juliet hands Al and Rogelio her phone open to a PHOTO:

AL  
This is your shoe.

JULIET  
Sorry, Isaac was playing with it. This one.

Al and Rogelio study a PHOTO of the ROAD Abigail was hit.

AL  
Skid marks start light and get darker.

ROGELIO

Zoom in. Look, rubber adhered to the rearward surfaces of the pebbles in the road. This guy was accelerating.

JULIET

(a light bulb)

Wait, Isaac took pictures?

(grabs her PHONE, flips through)

Oh my God, my three-year-old's a photo-journalist.

She shows them a dutch-angled PHOTO of the ANGRY DAD as:

JULIET

This Dad totally lost it on Abigail after the lottery, looked like he was about to clock her. I'd say start with him.

ROGELIO

Okay, but my Parole Officer's coming by, so I gotta stay off the computer 'til she leaves.

JULIET

How much collating does she think we have for you?

AL

(moving past it)

Other than Bingo, we got any leads? Boyfriend, husband?

ROGELIO

Lesbian lover?

JULIET

According to Kat, she was single. But apparently she was nervous about something last night.

AL

Post lottery? Was she selling spots?

ROGELIO

Dude, not everything's a conspiracy.

JULIET

No, I was thinking the same thing. Rumor is families get in outside the lottery. I don't know if it's who they know, or if they're paying for spots, but maybe Abigail made promises she couldn't keep. Which reminds me, I'm not sure we're getting paid for this.

AL

You do realize that unlike charter schools, we're not government funded?

JULIET

Al, this could be a high-profile case. Principal at one of the top schools in Oakland? You know how many referrals we'll get off this?

AL

Or a spot for Ruby?

JULIET

Her classmates are calling her 'fat' now.

AL

I'm in.

INT. HEAD HEART HANDS SCHOOL - LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Juliet and Al take in a brightly colored waiting area. There's a CRUDITE PLATTER; periodically a CHILD runs up and takes a CARROT. Posters read: "It Isn't Big To Make Others Feel Small." "Leaders Come in All Shapes and Sizes."

JULIET

All shapes and sizes.

AL

And the dip is good.

ATHLETIC TEEN (O.S.)

Last season, when I broke my leg, Ms. Hathaway visited me in the hospital every day...

Juliet and Al follow the VOICE into...

INT. HEAD HEART HANDS SCHOOL - AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS

...where they find an All-School Assembly taking place. STUDENTS sit arm-in-arm, consoling one another. FACULTY among them, also grieving as an ATHLETIC TEEN BOY speaks:

ATHLETIC TEEN

...My dad didn't even do that.

They find a space in back as a HEAVYSET TEEN GIRL (SAMANTHA) gets up to speak when -- opening chimes of "Hell's Bells" RINGS out.

Everyone stops, looks to see where it's coming from. Juliet rifles through her handbag, finds her phone, silences it. Mouths "sorry"; the Heavyset Teen Girl begins:

HEAVYSET TEEN GIRL

Ms. Hathaway read twelve drafts of my college essay. Twelve.

Just as Assistant Principal Molly (from the Lottery) approaches --

MOLLY  
Ms. Applebaum, or uh, Detective?

JULIET  
Juliet's fine, this is my  
partner Al Hockey. I hope  
it's okay we came in here...

HEAVYSET TEEN GIRL  
She was demanding, but she  
also made you feel like you  
were capable of anything...

MOLLY (CONT'D)  
Of course. I'm Molly Rosen,  
assistant head -- acting  
head, I guess now.

HEAVYSET TEEN GIRL  
...She cared about all  
aspects of who we are. She  
defended us, even from one  
another...

HEAVYSET TEEN GIRL  
...Remember her rule? "You can't  
say you can't play."

JULIET  
Wow.

MOLLY  
Samantha was one of Abigail's  
favorite students. She's going to  
Harvard in the fall.

JULIET  
Do a lot of kids end up at the Ivy's?

Al sees Juliet shoots her a look, "focus" as:

AL  
Maybe you could show us Abigail's  
office?

INT. HEAD HEART HANDS SCHOOL - HALLWAY - DAY

Juliet and Al follow Molly, passing walls covered with STUDENT  
PROJECTS --

JULIET  
Your art program's amazing.

MOLLY  
That was a priority for Abigail.  
As was that.

Molly points to a POSTER: "Don't Eat the Marshmallow."

AL  
Big Brother obesity warning?

JULIET  
Al, childhood obesity's a serious issue.

MOLLY

Actually, it's a teaching tool. Toddlers were offered a marshmallow, then left alone in a room with the promise that, if they didn't eat it, when the proctor returned, they'd be rewarded with two. Children who were able to delay gratification grew up to be more successful than those who ate their marshmallows right away.

JULIET

Such an important lesson.

But Molly's turned into an office labelled "Principal".

MOLLY

Right in here.

Before they can follow, Al leans in, quietly but pointed:

AL HOCKEY

Murder investigation, not a school tour.

JULIET

I'm just making her comfortable.

INT. HEAD HEART HANDS - ABIGAIL'S OFFICE - DAY

The BELLS of AC/DC CHIME again as Al settles in across from Molly. Glares at Juliet, who grabs her phone, turns it off:

JULIET

Sorry, so, we were asking about people who might've been upset with Abigail. I mean, I know I'm not always happy with the Head of my kids' school, not that it's HHH --

AL

-- Staff, faculty? She have to pink-slip anyone?

MOLLY

The Capoeira instructor.

AL

Capo-what?

JULIET

Brazilian martial arts dance... thing. All the kids are doing it.

MOLLY

Actually they weren't, that was the problem. But he got really upset. I heard him saying she'd regret it.

AL  
Can we get his name?

MOLLY  
Oscar Lima.

JULIET  
Speaking of upset, there was one  
Dad at the Lottery who seemed  
really angry with Abigail.

MOLLY  
Just one? Most years, there's a  
long line of them.

AL  
You think she made any special  
arrangements or deals she couldn't  
fulfill, like selling a spot?

MOLLY  
No way. Abigail would never.

JULIET  
Of course. But we heard she seemed  
agitated last night. We're just  
trying to figure out why.

MOLLY  
Actually, it wasn't just last night.  
She's been off for awhile. A few  
weeks ago, she told me she'd be  
taking a month off, maybe two. And  
that I should expect to step in  
without notice. I mean, I'm a single  
mom, I can barely handle my own job.

Just as Juliet clocks her ROLEX as...

AL  
She say when or where she was going?

MOLLY  
No, but Abigail lived and breathed  
HHH. She hasn't taken a vacation  
in five years.

Juliet and Al share a look -- something was up as we HEAR:

ROGELIO (PRELAP)  
Looks like she took a two month rental...

INT. AL'S GARAGE - DAY

Rogelio's at his computer as he downloads to Juliet and Al,  
who's looking over PHONE RECORDS.

ROGELIO  
...in Santa Rosa.



AL  
According to Abigail's phone records,  
he called her four times yesterday.

OSCAR (PRELAP)  
I wanted to come back.

INT. CAPOEIRA STUDIO - DAY

OSCAR LIMA, 21, gathers INSTRUMENTS and STICKS after class as  
he talks to Juliet and Al, mid-conversation:

OSCAR  
I was gonna offer her a reduced rate.

JULIET  
So you didn't threaten her, tell her  
she was going to regret firing you?

OSCAR  
I was talking about the kids. They  
need a structured outlet for their  
aggression. Otherwise things get  
nasty, you know? Gossip. Bullying.

JULIET  
Bullying?

AL  
Just last week there was a big  
incident. Some online stuff.  
Three kids were suspended.

Juliet and Al share a look, a lead?

JULIET  
You know who the families were?

OSCAR  
No but I heard they're seniors. Not  
gonna look too good on their  
applications.

Just as Juliet clocks his BIKE, propped up against the wall.

JULIET  
That yours?

OSCAR  
Yeah, I ain't no gas head. The  
revolution will not be motorized.

EXT. CAPOEIRA STUDIO - DAY

Juliet and Al head out --

AL  
Wrong, the revolution is going to  
be completely motorized.

JULIET

I don't care about the revolution.  
He's got a well-used bike, no record, and  
a decent studio. What's the motive? He  
just doesn't seem desperate enough.  
(checks her WATCH)  
Ooh, but I am.

INT/EXT. MINIVAN/PARKING LOT OF RUBY AND SAM'S SCHOOL - DAY

A desperate Juliet SCREECHES into a space. Grabs Sam's  
homework sheet. The last two problems are blank.

JULIET

Damn it, Sam.

She finds a pencil. Mutters the problem. Scribbles, erases.  
Pulls out her phone. Punches into the calculator app when --

-- LOUD TAPPING on Juliet's window.

VOLUNTEER MOM

No parking in the pick up line!

Juliet waves cheerfully, pretending not to hear. She has the  
phone to her ear.

VOLUNTEER MOM (CONT'D)

No cell phones!

JULIET

(into phone)  
Rogelio! I need the prime  
numbers between 0 and 100?

More TAPPING as she notices --

-- Ruby, on the playground, wearing a SHOWER CAP, running  
with a group of GIRLS.

Juliet smiles, thinking they're playing a game, but then she  
sees:

Ruby's face, frozen with shame; the girls are chasing her.  
Juliet jumps out of her car...

VOLUNTEER MOM

Juliet, you can't park here!

EXT. RUBY AND SAM'S SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND - CONTINUOUS

Juliet tears across to Ruby, who's weeping. Girls circle her  
in a singsong chant, with ring-leader LAUREN:

GIRLS

Infested! Infested! Ruby got  
tested!

JULIET

Girls! Stop it!

LAUREN  
No offense, Ms. Applebaum? But  
lice are N-A-S-T-E.

JULIET  
No offense, Lauren? But you're a B-  
I-T--

SAM (O.S.)  
Mom!

Sam steps between Juliet and Lauren. Then, notices the  
CRUMPLED PAPER in her hand --

SAM  
Is that my homework?

He snatches it dashing off. On Juliet, all-time motherhood low...

INT. KAT'S HOUSE - KITCHEN/LIVING AREA - DAY

Persian Palace with evidence of boy toys: LEGOS, SPORTS STUFF.  
Juliet watches Carolyn wield a lice comb, picking Ruby's nits.

JULIET  
I can't believe I'm making you do  
this twice in one month. And it's  
not even my day.

CAROLYN  
It's fine, stuff like this doesn't  
gross me out.

RUBY  
It grosses me out.

CAROLYN  
Got one!

JULIET  
If it makes you feel better, honey,  
I'm next.

Ruby manages a smile, Juliet kisses her, heads off to join...  
Kat, on the couch...

JULIET  
They don't even bother to send the  
kids home anymore. Just pop on a  
shower cap, they're good to go.

KAT  
Lice is a problem everywhere.

JULIET  
Even at HHH?

KAT

Well, no, not HHH. Dumbledore put an Impervius spell on HHH.

JULIET

You should have seen it, Kat. It was total Lord of the Flies. And Ruby was Piggy.

Kat starts to laugh, but Juliet's eyes fill with tears.

JULIET

When they're babies, you spend all your time doing everything you can to make sure they're safe. And then you send them off to school? You're totally powerless. They're at the mercy of these... monsters.

KAT

Oh, sweetie. Ruby will be okay. Kids are stronger than we think.

JULIET

Why does she have to be strong? She's just a little girl.

KAT

Have you tried role-playing?

JULIET

With Peter.

KAT

I'm serious. I did it with Benny. Have Ruby pick the most ferocious animal she can think of, like Benny picked a lion. Then pretend you're the mean kid, and have Ruby channel that animal.

JULIET

What if she picks a pig?

KAT

Encourage her to be a wild boar. She just needs to stand up to them.

JULIET

How's it possible with everything that's happened you're comforting me?

KAT

Because I love you.

JULIET

(a beat, then)

Do you know anything about this place she rented in Santa Rosa?

KAT

No, why?

JULIET

She ever talk about having family there, a boyfriend?

KAT

We weren't that close but she did talk about a guy once. After a budget meeting, we went out for drinks. She started saying how she messed up his life, that he'd never forgive her...

JULIET

She mention a name?

KAT

She did, like a cowboy name... What was it? God, in med school, I could remember everything. Maybe it wasn't a cowboy, could it be a state?

Juliet's suddenly remembers something, grabs her PHONE. Flips to the PHOTO of the FURIOUS DAD.

JULIET

It wasn't this guy, was it?

KAT

Bruce LeCrone? No, he's a Dad at the school.

JULIET

Then why was he yelling at her at the lottery?

KAT

Probably about his daughter. She was just suspended.

EXT. JULIET'S MINIVAN/BRUCE LECRONE'S HOUSE - DAY

Juliet, wet slicked back hair, gets out of her car as Al approaches from his car. Off her HAIR:

AL

You just go to the gym?

JULIET

You know me, lots of time to work out.  
(getting something from the car)  
I had a lice check.

Al reacts as she produces a STROLLER. Off his look:

JULIET

It was negative. And sorry, but I can't leave the baby.

She pulls out Isaac, wrestling him into the stroller as...

ISAAC  
Who's the baby? Me? I'm not a baby.

AL  
Hey, Isaac. Ready to interview a bad guy?

Just as Juliet notices Isaac's hooded tee is an atlas of crust and gunk. She yanks it off, turns it around. Now the hood's under his chin. He flips it up, covering his face.

JULIET  
He'll be good.

ISAAC  
Oh no! Mommy! Help me! I don't have a face!

As Juliet leans inside a small opening in the car window --

JULIET  
You guys okay in there?

-- REVEAL Ruby, with slicked back hair, and Sam in the backseat, watching a DVD, no answer.

JULIET  
Okay. Anyone comes up, you sit on that horn until I come out.

She CLOSES the door, clicks the auto-lock, turns to Al.

JULIET  
Ready?

Al shoots her a look -- he's been ready for awhile.

EXT. BRUCE LECRONE'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - MOMENTS LATER

They RING the bell. A beat, the door opens: Bruce LeCrone, 40s, the dad from the Lottery.

AL  
Bruce LeCrone? My name's Al Hockey. My partner and I are investigating the death of Abigail Hathaway.

ISAAC  
(muffled by hood)  
And I don't have a face!

BRUCE  
(suspiciously)  
You're police?

AL  
Private investigators.

JULIET  
The Board of HHH brought us in.

BRUCE  
I don't have anything to say to you.

JULIET  
Would you prefer that we contacted  
the police? Because we can do that.

He shuts the door in their faces.

AL  
We're good at this.

A FILIPINA NANNY comes down the driveway, pushing a TODDLER  
in a stroller. Juliet's a dog watching a steak go by.

JULIET  
I need thirty minutes.

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

Juliet extracts Isaac from his stroller, looks up at Sam and  
Ruby, with her BACKPACK, who sit sullenly on the bench.

JULIET  
Go play, go!

They reluctantly head off, as she plops next to Bruce's nanny  
LOLA while Isaac starts to scratch his head. Juliet shoves a  
baseball cap over it, gives him a pat on the bottom.

JULIET  
You too honey, go have fun.

Isaac sidles off as...

LOLA  
Your son is so cute.

JULIET  
Not at four AM, he isn't. Gum?

Rummaging in her purse. Only Leanne's box of flax crackers.

JULIET  
Cracker?

LOLA  
No, thank you. I have celiac.

JULIET  
Me too! These are gluten free.

Lola accepts a cracker. Juliet takes a huge bite. Grimaces.

JULIET

Blech. Pencil shavings must be gluten free.

LOLA

You know Mariposa Bakery? Gluten free everything. And good.

JULIET

I've heard it's amazing.

LOLA

Because of no gluten I lost fifteen pounds.

JULIET

You look great. So, is that your son? He's adorable.

LOLA

Oh, I'm the nanny.

JULIET

Because I was going to ask how his sister likes HHH. One of the playground mommies told me she goes there.

LOLA

It's a good school. Very strict.

JULIET

I heard. The Mommy also told me about some suspensions.

Lola sniffs. Her opinion of Big Sister is obvious.

LOLA

The missus, she's so angry at Isabel. But the Dad, he said, I gonna fix it with the principal. But he couldn't, and now Isabel is home.

JULIET

Why'd he think he could fix it with the principal?

Lola motions locking her lips with a key.

JULIET

Oh, c'mon. Now you've got me interested.

LOLA

These two? I been working there three years, they never once ask me to babysit for date night. He go out, she go out, never together. But you know who I see him with at Starbucks twice?

JULIET  
The principal? You think they were...?

LOLA  
What do I know? I'm just the nanny.  
(suddenly alarmed)  
Charlie! Why you scratching?

Juliet looks up, sees Isaac and Sam with Charlie. But no Ruby. She scans the playground, she's nowhere in sight.

JULIET  
Sam, where's Ruby?

SAM  
I dunno.

Juliet leaps to her feet, getting nervous --

JULIET  
Ruby?

Juliet races across the playground, SPOTS Ruby's BACKPACK by a PLAY STRUCTURE, TEARS over to it, panicked when she sees the silhouette of a girl inside a PLASTIC TUNNEL.

JULIET  
Rubes?

Juliet climbs into...

INT. PLAYGROUND - PLASTIC TUNNEL - CONTINUOUS

...and finds Ruby, eating her LUNCH.

JULIET  
Rubes? What are you doing?

Ruby's lip starts to tremble. Juliet sees Ruby's lunch is untouched except for the apple slices she's eating.

RUBY  
Nothing...

JULIET  
You didn't eat your lunch today.

And the tears start to spill out... Oh my God, history repeating itself. Juliet wraps her arms around her.

JULIET  
Oh my girl... We're gonna figure this out for you, I promise.

On Juliet, more emboldened than ever to solve this case...

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. ABIGAIL'S HOUSE - DAY

Juliet peeks under a WELCOME MAT, in a DRAIN PIPE as Al looks on.

JULIET  
There's gotta be one somewhere,  
like for the cleaning lady...

AL  
Rogelio's going through Abigail's  
hard drive. If LeCrone really was  
her boyfriend, something'll turn up.

Juliet pulls out a ROCK, turns it over -- it's a HIDE-A-KEY.

JULIET  
Every time.

AL  
You know, Liu already hates you. A  
B and E isn't gonna to help.

JULIET  
(producing the KEY)  
We're not b-ing, we're just e-ing. If  
it makes you feel better, I'll dust.

INT. ABIGAIL'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

No need for dusting. It's immaculate. Juliet and Al sift  
through Abigail's drawers, FILES, PHOTOGRAPHS...

AL  
Okay, say the Nanny's right, she's  
sleeping with LeCrone, then suspends  
his kid from school. So, he kills  
her why, he felt betrayed?

JULIET  
Or she threatened to expose him. Or  
his wife found out and she did it.  
Okay, you're having an affair,  
where do you keep the evidence?

AL  
If you're Silverback or Tiger Woods,  
in your text messages.

JULIET  
Abigail doesn't seem the sexting  
type. Besides, cops have her phone.

Juliet heads off to search her bedroom as Al calls after her:

AL  
So why don't I call Liu, see if  
he's got anything?

JULIET (O.S.)  
Oh my God, I found it!

INT. ABIGAIL'S HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Juliet searches through the UNDERWEAR DRAWER as...

JULIET  
A naked photo of Bruce and Abigail, a  
used condom, and a bag of cocaine!  
All paper-clipped together.

Al races in...

AL  
You're kidding?

JULIET  
Yes, but you're not calling Liu  
'til we have something that good.

He shakes his head, bemused, starts out when --

JULIET  
Al? Al, listen to this.  
(reads a LETTER)  
*"Dear Abigail, do the words too little,  
too late mean anything to you? You  
weren't there when I needed you. End of  
story. Apologize all you want, it won't  
matter."* Signed Dakota. That's a cowboy  
name. And a state.

Now intrigued, Al pulls out a STICKER from the drawer --

AL  
You know who still handwrites  
letters? Prison inmates.

He shows her the STICKER: "Visitor, Folsom State Prison."

INT. AL'S GARAGE - DAY

Rogelio's on the phone, looking at his COMPUTER.

ROGELIO  
Dakota Houlihan, doing five to seven for  
Meth. And as of two months ago...

INT/EXT. JULIET'S MINIVAN/PRISON PARKING LOT - INTERCUT

Al rides shotgun, talking on BLUETOOTH as Juliet digs around  
in the back, searching for something:

ROGELIO (O.S.)  
...Abigail was making regular deposits  
into his commissary account.

AL  
 Boyfriend? He finds out she's  
 seeing LeCrone on the side, hires  
 someone to whack her?

JULIET  
 (re: balled up CLOTHING)  
Aha.

ROGELIO (O.S.)  
 You got something?

She strategically pulls her BRA out through her armhole as...

AL  
 Her bra.

JULIET  
Sports bra.

ROGELIO  
 Is this something you two should be  
 handling in private, because I'm  
 still on the phone --

AL  
 No.

JULIET  
 No underwires in prison.

INT. FOLSOM PRISON - VISITING ROOM - DAY

Juliet and Al watch as a Guard brings in DAKOTA HOULIHAN, 20s,  
 tattoos crawling up his neck, puzzled but playing cool.

DAKOTA  
 You're not my lawyer.

JULIET  
 No, but I'm a lawyer. No waiting  
 period for attorney visits. We're here  
 to talk about Abigail Hathaway.

DAKOTA  
 I figured somebody'd show up sooner  
 or later.

AL  
 Why's that?

DAKOTA  
 I saw on the news she got killed.

AL  
 So you two were close?

DAKOTA  
 She was my mother.

AL  
 Did not see that one coming.

JULIET

Wow, Dakota... We didn't realize...

DAKOTA

It's okay, I didn't either, 'til like three months ago.

JULIET

Did she reach out to you?

DAKOTA

Took awhile. When I turned 18, I put my name up on a reunion registry. Didn't hear from her all that time.

JULIET

Then she surprised you with a visit?

DAKOTA

Wrote first. I wasn't too nice. It was right after I got sent up.

JULIET

But she kept writing?

DAKOTA

Telling me she was sorry. How she was just a kid, fifteen, her parents made her do it. Picked someone from their church to adopt me. Not like it's their fault either. Sheriff's deputy, you don't think he's gonna be the kind of guy gets off on beating up kids.

AL

Why do you think she looked you up now, after so many years?

DAKOTA

Wanted to make amends. Said she was getting a second chance.

JULIET

A second chance? At what?

DAKOTA

Being a Mom I guess.

(softens)

She was nice, you know? Didn't even ask what my bid was for.

Juliet and Al share a look -- was she pregnant?

AL

You ever hear her talk about a Bruce LeCrone?

BRUCE (PRELAP)

I told you...

INT. BRUCE LECRONE'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - EVENING

Juliet confronts Bruce LeCrone while Al stands to the side, talking quietly on his CELL.

BRUCE  
...I don't have anything to say to you.

JULIET  
Well, we have something to say to you and it might be better if we did it in private.

BRUCE  
I don't know what you think you've got, but --

JULIET  
Was she pregnant?

Through the door, Juliet sees Lola FREEZE, overhearing...

BRUCE  
You've got to be kidding --

Lola races away as Bruce starts to close the door. Al arrives, done with his call, puts an arm out to stop the door:

AL  
Sixteen phone calls between you and Abigail over the past month, five appointments with a "B.L." in her calendar. Any of that jog your memory, Mr. LeCrone?

BRUCE  
We weren't having an affair, I was her lawyer.

INT. BRUCE LECRONE'S HOUSE - STUDY - DAY

CUT TO Juliet and Al, mid-interview with LeCrone.

BRUCE  
I was helping her on a personal matter, I'm a family lawyer.

JULIET  
(realizing, to Al)  
She was looking to adopt. That was her second chance.

AL  
So that outburst at the Lottery?

BRUCE  
It was about my daughter.

JULIET

You were angry Abigail suspended her?

BRUCE

She's a good kid, she made one stupid comment about a classmate who'd gained a lot of weight.

JULIET

Unbelievable, it's everywhere.

BRUCE

It is everywhere. So punish her, but don't ruin her life.

AL

Oh, I see. So you thought, as Abigail's lawyer, you deserved preferential treatment?

BRUCE

She should've at least discussed it with me. When I tried to make an appointment, she played duck and cover, so I confronted her where she'd have to talk to me.

JULIET

Mr. LeCrone, the adoption, did you ever match her with a baby?

BRUCE

No.

JULIET (PRELAP)

So LeCrone alibied out...

INT. APPLEBAUM HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Juliet's on the PHONE as she makes PASTA for dinner. Isaac's pretending to be an animal. Ruby's at the table, thinking.

JULIET

...she's not pregnant and Molly drives a blue Prius, fantastic, we basically have nothing --

ISAAC

(monkey sounds)  
Hoo hoo hoo!

JULIET

-- Ugh, if Liu was right and this was just another joyride gone wrong --

ISAAC

I thought of an animal, I'm a monkey!

RUBY

A monkey's not ferocious.

JULIET  
 Al, I gotta go.  
 (clicks off)  
 What about you, Rubes? Did you  
 think of an animal?

RUBY  
 A cheetah?

JULIET  
 That's perfect. Okay, so, we're  
 gonna pretend we're in the  
 lunchroom. I'm Lauren, and I'm not  
 gonna let you eat with me --

ISAAC  
 Woo hoo hoo hoo hoo!

JULIET  
 -- but you're going to stop  
 them by thinking of your  
 inner cheetah.

RUBY  
 I don't have an inner cheetah, and  
 how is that going to do anything?

JULIET  
 Because you'll be ferocious and  
 stand up for yourself.

RUBY  
 But you said at the park you were  
 gonna fix this. Are you gonna get  
 me into HHH?

Before Juliet can respond, we HEAR the DOOR OPEN and --

SAM (O.S.)  
 Mom says it all the time!

PETER (O.S.)  
 Well, don't listen to Mom!

As they burst in, Sam wearing a SHOWER CAP --

JULIET  
 Oh no, you have it too?

SAM  
 Just eggs.

PETER  
 You know who came to talk to  
 me when I picked him up from  
 soccer practice? The  
 principal.

JULIET  
 I checked him but I didn't see any.

PETER  
 Not about lice. Your son called a  
 first grader a bitch. A first grader!  
 (MORE)

PETER (CONT'D)  
 (to Sam)  
 What is wrong with you?

Peter turns, Juliet flushes. He should have known.

PETER  
 Plus he never handed in his math homework.

SAM  
 If I didn't do all of it, I can't hand it in as mine.

PETER  
 (to Juliet)  
 Seriously?

MARJORIE (O.S.)  
 Hello?! I come bearing presents!

RUBY (jumping up) Grandma!  
 ISAAC Presents?

The kids race out to greet her as:

JULIET  
 I've never been so happy to hear my mother's voice.

INT. APPLEBAUM HOUSE - LIVING AREA - MOMENTS LATER

MARJORIE APPLEBAUM, 60s, regal, intimidating, watches as Peter crouches at the media cabinet, the kids excitedly crowding around as Juliet heads in.

RUBY  
 Mom, Grandma bought us a Wii!

Juliet glances at her mom: butter wouldn't melt in her mouth.

JULIET  
 Mom, hi. We talked about this, remember? Peter and I haven't decided how we feel about this yet.

MARJORIE  
 You're always handing them your phones, what's the difference? Besides it's not just a video game, it's a fitness program. Ruby, come try first.

Juliet's anger flashes at this. But before she can retort, her phone RINGS. She steps away to take the call --

JULIET  
 Rogelio, what do you have?

INT. AL'S GARAGE - INTERCUT

Rogelio's at his computer on the PHONE:

ROGELIO

I know it's your kid time, but my PO just left. Anyway, I found an email in Abigail's deleted files from two days ago saying "You better stop".

JULIET

Who's it from?

ROGELIO

Lopez Automotives. Owner's name is Gabriel Lopez. NCIC says he's got a record, assault and battery.

JULIET

A mechanic? Her car was in the shop, that's why Kat was giving her a ride that night.

ROGELIO

Maybe she was delinquent on her bill?

JULIET

How late's it open?

ROGELIO

Nine.

Just as Marjorie approaches.

MARJORIE

So Ruby tells me you didn't get into that charter school.

JULIET

Thanks, Rogelio.

(clicks off)

It's not like we were personally rejected. It's a lottery, but we've been talking to some people, there might still be a spot.

MARJORIE

You know, when you were little, other kids gave you a hard time, and you turned out fine... Ish.

JULIET

I was miserable.

MARJORIE

Misery is not always so bad. It makes you stronger.

JULIET

Let her be unhappy? That's your advice?

MARJORIE

You can't fix everything, Juliet.  
Your generation of parents, with your  
hand sanitizers and your playdates.  
Last week I saw a man leading his  
toddler around on a leash.

JULIET

You brought over a workout Wii,  
how's that better? And think of  
the message you're sending, you're  
agreeing with the bullies.

MARJORIE

Maybe the bullies have a point --

Before Juliet can blow, Peter enters as interference --

PETER

How we doing? Kids are  
getting kinda hungry.

MARJORIE

-- I love Ruby, but I want  
her to be healthy.

JULIET

And I don't?  
(to Peter)  
You know what, hon, you're gonna have  
to feed them. I have work to do.

MARJORIE

At this hour?

JULIET

You're giving me grief about  
missing dinner for work?

MARJORIE

When I missed dinner, it was  
because I had a serious case.

JULIET

(to Marjorie)  
I have a serious case.

PETER

It's fine, I got it under  
control.

MARJORIE

Working out of a garage in Daly City?  
I'm a federal judge, I had cases with  
Constitutional implications.

JULIET

And meanwhile I was eating Mrs.  
Paul's with the housekeeper!

MARJORIE

I was a single mother, Juliet. I  
did my best.

JULIET

Well, your best wasn't good enough.

Marjorie sits, about to reply, when Peter rubber-bands a SHOWER CAP smack at her chest --

JULIET

Peter!

PETER

She was about to put her head back.  
Don't we have to fumigate it or something?

INT. LOPEZ BODY SHOP - GARAGE - NIGHT

Juliet enters, passes Tattooed MECHANICS working on CARS.  
GABRIEL LOPEZ(30), big man in a Carhartt, approaches.

JULIET

Mr. Lopez?

GABRIEL

Yeah, can I help you?

JULIET

Uh, friend of mine referred me. I haven't had my car serviced in way too long, I was wondering if you could give me an estimate.

GABRIEL

What kinda car?

JULIET

Minivan. Toyota Sienna.

GABRIEL

Sure, we can do that.

He gestures for her to follow him, but she points to her PHONE, "one sec". He nods, heads off. She puts her phone to her ear, pretends to take the call as she scans the place...

...a CAR tears in. Mid-'90s Toyota. DRIVER gets out as MECHANICS descend, taking out the RADIO etc. ON Juliet, suspicious...

INT. LOPEZ BODY SHOP - BACK AREA - MOMENTS LATER

Gabriel's writing up an INVOICE as Juliet approaches --

JULIET

You guys are busy for this hour.

GABRIEL

We're open late on Wednesdays.

-- when she spots a BOY, 8, at a corner table, doing homework. His T-shirt says "Don't Eat the Marshmallow."

JULIET  
Hi. You go to HHH?

He looks up, nods. She crosses back to Gabriel:

JULIET  
That's actually the friend who  
referred me, Abigail Hathaway.

Gabriel stops, studying Juliet -- what's her angle?

GABRIEL  
Sad what happened.

JULIET  
(quietly so the Boy doesn't hear)  
She know what was going on here?  
(off Gabriel)  
Oh, come on, Mr. Lopez. That car  
that just came in was disassembled  
faster than my son can take apart  
his Legos. This is a chop shop.

GABRIEL  
Get the hell out of here.

JULIET  
I don't care, I just care about  
what happened to Abigail.

GABRIEL  
You think I had something to do with  
that? I just finished two thousand  
dollars worth of repairs on her '76  
Country Squire. That's more than the  
car's worth, who's gonna pay me now?

JULIET  
Two grand, I'm sorry. Well, thanks  
for the estimate.

EXT. LOPEZ BODY SHOP/JULIET'S MINIVAN - NIGHT

Juliet approaches her Minivan, pretends to get in then DUCKS  
DOWN, RACES back across the street...

...to a COUNTRY SQUIRE parked at the edge of the lot. She  
tries a DOOR, it's locked. She peers in... THROUGH THE  
WINDOW, she sees an INFANT SEAT, DIAPERS, FORMULA and a...

JULIET  
Diaper Genie?

Just then, SOMEONE GRABS her from behind, covers her mouth,  
YANKS her out of frame and we...

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Juliet's kicking and squirming, trying to fight off a BANGER who holds his hand over her mouth as he drags her...

BANGER  
You scream, we'll kill you.

...over to a ring of BANGERS, SKI MASKS on. Juliet sees she's outnumbered. Stops squirming, nods. He takes his hand away.

BANGER  
Why you snoopin' around?

JULIET  
...I didn't see anything, I was just picking up my friend's car, I'm just a Mom...

BANGER #2 flashes a KNIFE just as she notices a TATTOO ON his NECK: "MS-13" in baroque script.

JULIET  
Mara Salvatrucha?

It's hard to surprise a Banger, but Juliet has done it.

JULIET  
Dudes, you're making a mistake.

BANGER #2  
(laughing)  
*Mirala, se cree muy chingona.*

JULIET  
I might not be such a hardass, but my friend Arturo Garza sure is.

Wow, two for two. Not buying it --

BANGER  
Oh yeah, you and he carpool together?

JULIET  
I'm going to reach into my bag and take out my phone, okay? I'm just going to show you a picture.  
(pulls out her CELL)  
Look. See. Arturo y yo.

ANGLE ON: a PHOTO of Juliet with ARTURO GARZA, HOOD OF HOODS.

JULIET  
We're besties.

INT. ARTURO GARZA'S TRUCK - NIGHT

Low-riding Chevy pickup, all tricked out. ARTURO GARZA (29) covered in tattoos, drives, Juliet sits shotgun.

ARTURO

When I put my protection on you, it was kinda an honorary thing. I didn't really expect you to use it.

JULIET

I owe you one. You know, your friends are real warm and fuzzy. Slashing my tires was a nice touch.

ARTURO

Feel lucky it was just slashed tires. And those guys aren't my friends.

JULIET

You know who sent them?

ARTURO

Nah, they're just street soldiers, they work for hire. But how about we focus on getting you a new set of Michelin's. On the house.

JULIET

Whose house? Yours or Gabriel Lopez's?

ARTURO

Just keep your neck clean. Next time it might be a cholo flying a red bandana. Then I can't do jack for you, Mami.

Arturo pulls up in front of Juliet's house.

JULIET

I'm enough people's Mami. I'm your lawyer.

ARTURO

Used to be my lawyer. Now we're just friends. But I can't help you with that one.

Juliet follows his gaze to see Peter in the doorway, arms crossed. ON Juliet, Oh God, she's in trouble...

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Peter is mid-rant --

PETER

It's not just irresponsible, it's selfish.

JULIET

I'm sorry, I thought I was gonna be back earlier --

PETER

-- This isn't some Mom's night that ran late. Your tires were slashed, you were dragged into an alley?!

Juliet searches for a response...

JULIET

You know, I didn't have to tell you.

PETER

What?

JULIET

I'm just saying --

PETER

-- You have three kids! And a husband who's really not up for being a single dad. While you were off low-riding with your homies, I was vacuuming lice out of your mother's handbag!

JULIET

Hey, I'm the one who stayed up all night washing everything on sani-cycle --

PETER

-- It's like you get off on danger.

JULIET

That is not true --

PETER

-- You work with a gun-toting ex-cop, and you go off to the Mission by yourself?

JULIET

I wasn't sure it was anything solid. I mean, so far, we've got nothing, Al's not getting paid --

PETER

So you thought about Al, but not about us?

JULIET

This whole thing is about us, and getting Ruby into school.

(off Peter's look)

(MORE)

JULIET (CONT'D)

Yes, fine, you were right, but I found a lead, diapers in her --

PETER

-- I don't care about being right. You're so obsessed with HHH, you're acting like an idiot. Maybe your mother's the one who's right. Maybe you shouldn't be trying so hard to protect her.

JULIET

Really? You're siding with my mother? You know the Rule.

He shakes his head, softening.

PETER

Honey, I'm not getting laid if you're dead either.

Juliet takes a beat, hearing him.

JULIET

I'm sorry.  
(it was scary)  
Believe me, I'm not doing that again.  
But can we forget you broke the Rule?

She smiles at him, flirting. He smiles back, he can't stay mad long, he loves her. And as they head off to bed...

INT. AL'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Morning. Al's pouring himself coffee when he HEARS MUSIC coming from outside. Stops, confused...

INT. AL'S GARAGE - DAY

MUSIC'S PLAYING. Rogelio's on the computer, while Juliet's at the BOARD, putting up colored FLASHCARDS as Al enters...

AL

Oh no, the cards are out.

JULIET

Hey, what works for tracking three kids' schedules works for solving homicides.

AL

How long you been at this?

JULIET

Peter dropped me off before he took the kids to school.

AL

What happened to your car?

JULIET

Off-topic. Actually it's not, but we'll get to that. Okay, yellow cards are everything having to do with baby -- yellow, because we don't know the gender.

AL

Baby? LeCrone said he didn't find Abigail a match.

JULIET

He didn't. We think she found her own because of our first card, "Diaper Genie". Long story, but off "Genie", we combed through her financials and found our second card, "A Woman's Own."

ROGELIO

Actually, I found it but I thought it was a clothing store.

JULIET

Like any woman would shop at a place called "Woman's Own."

ROGELIO

It's a birthing center.

AL

She found a birth mother?

JULIET

That's what we're thinking. And guess where the center is? Our third card...

(re: FLASHCARD)

"Santa Rosa." Her two month rental where she was probably planning on taking care of said baby. Okay, purple cards, Rogelio's computer searches, purple because his new PO's name is Violet --

AL

Cute.

JULIET

-- He went through Abigail's internet history looking for anything 'baby', and found this.  
(smacking a purple card)  
A "Facebook Page" advertising a baby for adoption. Message threads asked for fifty thousand dollars.

AL

Baby-selling? Any posts from Abigail?

JULIET

No, but she visited the site  
fourteen times. And get this --  
the IP address is a match to...

(tapping another CARD)

"Lopez Automotive", AKA Chop Shop.  
Owned and operated by an HHH Dad.

AL

Chop Shop?

JULIET

Which brings us full circle to why  
Peter dropped me off this morning.

DETECTIVE LIU (PRELAP)

So is it a chop shop...

INT. LIU'S PRECINCT - DAY

Liu reacts as Juliet and Al try to keep pace with him --

DETECTIVE LIU

...or a baby-selling Chop Shop?

AL

Apparently both.

JULIET

But we think what got her killed  
was the baby part.

DETECTIVE LIU

(looks past Juliet to Al)

How?

AL

We know she wanted a baby, and this  
guy's a dad at her school. So  
maybe she made a deal, then tried  
to back out, or maybe she brought  
her car in, stumbled onto it, and  
was gonna expose him.

JULIET

Liu, you're the one who said there's  
been a string of stolen cars.

Gabriel Lopez is your guy. You bust  
him, you're gold in the department.

(checks her WATCH, always a mom)

But you should do it soon before  
his kid comes back from school.

INT. LOPEZ BODY SHOP - DAY

Liu and SIX UNIFORMED COPS in Kevlar burst in.

COPS (VARIOUS)

POLICE! Get your hands up!

Chop shop crew hits the floor as Juliet enters behind Al.  
Lopez drops, looking at Juliet as:

DETECTIVE LIU  
(to his Officers)  
Clear the office, back room,  
bathrooms...

Officers start searching as --

UNIFORMED POLICE OFFICER  
Detective, over here.

The officer hoists a section of a WHITE GRILL. Dented,  
smeared with something brownish red. Liu turns to Gabriel --

DETECTIVE LIU  
Is that blood?

GABRIEL  
I dunno.

DETECTIVE LIU  
Here's what I know. This matches  
my victim's, you're looking at the  
death penalty.

GABRIEL  
I didn't bring that car in here.

JULIET  
Then who did?

Gabriel hesitates.

DETECTIVE LIU  
You think this goes better for you  
if you don't cooperate?

GABRIEL  
One of my guys.

DETECTIVE LIU  
Which one?

GABRIEL  
Oscar Lima.

JULIET  
The Capoeira teacher?  
(off Liu's look)  
Before she died, Abigail fired him  
from the after-school program.  
(to Gabriel)  
Oscar Lima works for you?

GABRIEL  
You think there's big money in  
Capoeira? I'm on the PTA.

(MORE)

GABRIEL (CONT'D)  
I hear Ms. H's looking for a  
martial arts teacher, I hook him  
up.

JULIET  
He have access to your computer?

GABRIEL  
It gives the guys something to do  
with their downtime.

AL  
The threatening email.

DETECTIVE LIU  
You know where we can find Lima?

Gabriel shrugs. Not willing to narc.

DETECTIVE LIU  
We got you on car theft,  
conspiracy. You want me to add  
baby selling to that?

GABRIEL  
My guys, it's not like they fill out W-  
2s. But this one day? I dropped him  
off at his girlfriend's.

INT. PARK HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Juliet, Al and Liu sit on a vinyl-covered sofa, facing a  
Korean couple, PASTOR DANIEL PARK and his wife ANNE.

PASTOR PARK  
Oscar Lima? No, we never heard  
that name.

DETECTIVE LIU  
You sure? Apparently he's your  
daughter's boyfriend.

PASTOR PARK  
Someone has been having a joke on you.  
Samantha is not permitted to date.

Juliet takes in a wall unit stuffed with AWARDS.

JULIET  
Looks like she's too busy for boys.  
Lot of trophies. You mind if I  
take a look?

Juliet crosses to the UNIT as...

DETECTIVE LIU  
You think we could talk to her?

ANNE

She's on a three day youth retreat.  
Future Leaders of America.

...just as Juliet spies a PHOTOGRAPH: it's the Heavysset Teen Girl, less forty pounds, accepting an AWARD at HHH as:

JULIET

Wait, Samantha. I heard her speak at the All-School Assembly. She's going to Harvard next year, right? That's incredible.

(then, strategically)

Does she study in her room?  
Because my son's having a tough time focusing, math especially.  
His teacher suggested maybe his room is too distracting.

Liu shoots Al a look -- what the fuck? Al gestures - give her a minute as:

ANNE

Oh no. No distractions.

JULIET

Do you think I could...?

ANNE

Let me show you...

But Al, reading Juliet, intervenes (not quite as skilled) --

AL

Mrs. Park, is that a Debate trophy?

ANNE

Northern California Parli Champion.

PASTOR PARK

Second time.

As Juliet slips away unnoticed...

INT. PARK HOUSE - SAMANTHA'S BEDROOM - DAY

...goes through drawers, trash. Notices an upside-down MOUSE PAD. Flips it over -- it's printed with a PHOTO of Samantha, on Oscar's lap. Juliet slips it into her purse when she clocks...

...the MADE twin bed with no FITTED SHEET. She pulls up the COMFORTER, REVEALING a big WET SPOT...

JULIET (PRELAP)

Her water broke...

EXT. STREET IN FRONT OF PARK HOUSE - DAY

Al, Juliet and Liu stand by Liu's car.

JULIET

She's not at a Youth Retreat, she's delivering a baby somewhere.

Juliet hands Liu the MOUSEPAD with the photograph.

DETECTIVE LIU

Where'd this come from? You know what, don't tell me.

JULIET

I bet Abigail knew. Samantha was her favorite student.

AL

School principal? Why didn't she tell the parents, she want the baby for herself?

JULIET

Maybe, but with those parents, maybe she was just protecting Samantha. From what we know about Abigail, seems like she could identify.

DETECTIVE LIU

We should check the hospitals.

Juliet turns to Al --

JULIET AND AL

A Woman's Own.

DETECTIVE LIU

A what?

INT. AL'S CAR - DAY

Juliet sits shotgun, on her CELL reassuring Peter --

JULIET

It's a birthing center, not a dark alley, and I'm with Al, although he may kill me on the way --

She glances at Al, who's driving and talking into his CELL.

JULIET

-- You know that's worse than driving drunk.

AL

Change of plans. The State Trooper Liu sent says Samantha and Oscar already checked out. She gave birth less than an hour after she got there.

JULIET  
An hour? I was in labor with Sam  
for thirty-six.

AL  
Maybe she'll get another trophy.

JULIET  
(into phone)  
Scratch the birthing center. We're  
going to a rental house.

EXT. SANTA ROSA RENTAL HOUSE - NIGHT

Three STATE TROOPERS stand at the DOOR. Behind them are Al  
and Juliet. One of the Troopers BANGS on the DOOR --

STATE TROOPER  
Oscar Lima! State Troopers, open up!

No response, just silence. Off this, quietly to Al and Liu:

JULIET  
No baby.

The Troopers get ready to bang down the door, when --

JULIET  
Wait, she just gave birth.  
(then, into door)  
Samantha? My name's Juliet, I work  
for HHH, we're here to help. Can  
you open up?

After a beat, the door opens slowly to REVEAL Samantha, pale,  
exhausted, clearly been crying. To the Troopers:

JULIET  
Give me two minutes.

They look at each other, uncertain, but before they can  
respond, she heads in, closing the door behind her.

INT. SANTA ROSA RENTAL HOUSE - NIGHT

Juliet enters, taking in the room, no sign of a baby -- no  
diapers, no blankets -- as Samantha gets back into bed.

JULIET  
Honey, where's the baby?

SAMANTHA  
...He took her...

JULIET  
Who, Oscar? You know where?

SAMANTHA

(shakes her head)

...It's better. I'm going to college next year, I have to study...

JULIET

Samantha, what's Oscar's plan? Is he selling your baby?

SAMANTHA

It wasn't my idea. I wanted Ms. Hathaway to have her. She set up this house for me, said I could stay as long as I wanted...

JULIET

Was she going to buy the baby?

SAMANTHA

What, no. She offered to adopt her, if that's what I wanted. But Oscar said he'd already committed to some people. That we had a contract and couldn't back out.

JULIET

It doesn't work like that.

SAMANTHA

That's what Ms. Hathaway said when I showed her the Facebook page.

JULIET

So she confronted Oscar and fired him?

SAMANTHA

Yeah. And after the lottery, she was going to come with me to tell my parents.

JULIET

But Oscar made sure she never got a chance.

SAMANTHA

I didn't want to believe it...

(breaking down)

...He's going back to San Francisco... Find her... Please find my baby...

And off this, we...

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. SANTA ROSA RENTAL HOUSE - NIGHT

SQUAD CARS. Samantha's tended to by a PARAMEDIC. Liu hands out COPIES of the MOUSEPAD PHOTO to State Troopers, Juliet.

DETECTIVE LIU  
Okay, this is who we're looking for.  
According to Applebaum, he drives a  
silver Explorer. You get plates?

JULIET  
She was his girlfriend, not a mechanic.

DETECTIVE LIU  
God, you're a pain in the ass.

JULIET  
He's a 20-year-old Latino guy  
driving around with a newborn. Add  
that to your APB.  
(re: MOUSEPAD PHOTO)  
And you're welcome for this.

Before Liu can retort, Al joins, clicking off his PHONE --

AL  
So our tech associate says highest bidder  
on Facebook's a couple from Marin.

But Juliet's distracted by the PHOTO Liu passed out --  
something peeks out from Oscar's T-shirt -- a half-exposed  
TATTOO: MS-13. Almost to herself:

JULIET  
He's a Mara Salvatrucha.

Liu looks up intrigued as Juliet pulls out her CELL, dials:

JULIET  
Arturo, hey -- No, I'm not calling  
about my tires. Listen, I think  
one of your guys is into something  
you're not gonna approve of.

Al turns to Liu --

AL  
I'm telling you, she's bad-ass.

EXT. PARK - DAY

A STING. UNDERCOVER COPS, including Liu, in civilian  
clothing, on a BENCH, by the SWINGS, etc. A COUPLE waits  
anxiously with an EMPTY STROLLER and full DIAPER BAG.

JULIET (PRELAP)  
That poor couple...

INT/EXT. AL'S CAR/PARK - PARKING LOT - DAY

FIND Juliet and AL, with a WALKIE TALKIE, sitting in Al's car, scanning the area.

JULIET  
 ...They tried three times to adopt  
 legally, Oscar doesn't even have  
 the decency to show up on time?

Al clocks her shifting uncomfortably in her seat.

AL  
 I don't have a diaper in my car.

JULIET  
 It's okay, there's a sandbox over there.  
 (off Al's horror)  
 Kidding.

DETECTIVE LIU (THROUGH WALKIE)  
 Silver Explorer entering the  
 parking lot.

Juliet and AL turn to see Oscar's EXPLORER PULL IN.

JULIET  
 You know, if we can get to him  
 before he reaches the couple --

AL  
 -- then Liu can only prove intent, and  
 your poor couple will face lesser  
 charges. You quit your job as a public  
 defender, but once a PD, always a PD.

JULIET  
 Can you not say "P"?

Just as the CAR DOOR OPENS, Oscar steps out. He goes into the backseat, pulls out an INFANT CAR SEAT, then heads towards --

-- the Couple, whose faces light up at seeing him. But Oscar pauses, looks around, sensing something. Suddenly drops the BABYSEAT, takes off --

LIU  
 Get him!

-- Liu and another COP race after Oscar as Al leaps from the car, flying after him. The STUNNED COUPLE are arrested as --

-- Juliet scrambles over to the now CRYING BABY, pulls her out, soothing her as she looks to see --

-- Al, tackling Oscar to the ground. Just as Liu and his GUYS arrive, GUNS pointed. They cuff and Mirandize him as...

JULIET  
 (to baby, in 'Motherese')  
 I knew it was a murder.

INT. HOSPITAL MATERNITY WARD - PATIENT ROOM - DAY

Samantha sits in bed, as a MATERNITY NURSE swaddles her BABY --

SAMANTHA  
 Is she okay?

MATERNITY NURSE  
 Perfect. She passed all her tests  
 with flying colors.

As the Maternity Nurse hands Samantha her baby girl --

JULIET  
 Like mother, like daughter.

And we find Juliet in the VISITOR CHAIR.

MATERNITY NURSE  
 Congratulations, Mom.

SAMANTHA  
 Thank you.

The Nurse heads out. Samantha looks over at Juliet.

SAMANTHA  
 Did you call my parents?

Juliet nods. Samantha's lip trembles.

JULIET  
 You know, when I had my third child and  
 I quit my job as a lawyer, my mother  
 basically held a funeral. She wore  
 black for an entire month. I think it  
 was also so she could look skinnier  
 than me, but...

Samantha can't help but smile, Juliet's good at this.

JULIET  
 ...You can't always make your  
 parents happy. You have to be  
 happy.

SAMANTHA  
 It's just, why couldn't they have  
 trusted me? I know right now it looks  
 like they shouldn't have. But even  
 when I was little, I wasn't allowed  
 play-dates or sleep-overs, then no  
 boyfriends, no prom... They didn't let  
 me be normal and make mistakes.

(MORE)

SAMANTHA (CONT'D)

So, I went and made this huge mistake, and he killed the one person who believed in me. And I know they thought what they were doing was right, but if they hadn't been so focused on helping me succeed, if they'd just... not tried to...

JULIET

Fix everything?

SAMANTHA

Yeah.

(re: baby)

I'm not going to do that to her. And I'm gonna love her no matter what.

JULIET

Samantha, your parents love you no matter what.

SAMANTHA

Not after this. You don't know my parents.

JULIET

Oh, I do. I was doing my fifth grader's math homework yesterday. He could've done it himself. But we parents screw up, you'll see, we don't always give our kids the benefit of the doubt. But that doesn't mean we don't love them.

Samantha starts to break down, the tough girl exterior gone.

SAMANTHA

I know... I'm just scared.

JULIET

It's scary.

Just then, Samantha FREEZES. Juliet turns, sees Anne and Pastor Park arriving, faces full of complicated emotions.

SAMANTHA

I'm so sorry.

Anne sees her daughter in pain. As she races to Samantha...

ANNE

(enveloping her)

It's going to be okay.

(then, taking in the baby)

Oh my, she's...

SAMANTHA

Her name's Abigail.

Anne waves her husband over...

ANNE  
Come, come, look.

Pastor Park hesitates, still struggling with this. Then he just starts to cry, overwhelmed.

SAMANTHA  
Daddy, I'm okay.

He hurries to hold his daughter, and his new granddaughter. Juliet dabs her own tears away, tiptoes out...

INT. JULIET'S MINIVAN - NIGHT

Juliet's driving home, still moved, when Carly Simon's "Coming Around Again" comes on the RADIO. She turns it up, singing along:

JULIET  
"...Baby sneezes, Mommy pleases, Daddy breezes in... So good on paper, so romantic, yet so bewildering..."

She trails off, eyeing her phone, considering. Then dials:

JULIET  
(vulnerable)  
Mom?

INT. MARJORIE'S CHAMBERS - INTERCUT

As Marjorie taking her JUDGE'S ROBE off, settling at her desk --

MARJORIE  
Oh no, what happened?

JULIET  
Nothing. I was just calling to say hi.

MARJORIE  
You sound funny.

JULIET  
I never thanked you for the Wii.

MARJORIE  
Did you try it?

JULIET  
Not yet but I just wanted to say, it was good enough. You were good enough.

MARJORIE  
No, I wasn't.

JULIET  
Well, you were a role model, first female judge on the ninth circuit? You paved the way so I could... choose to work out of a garage in Daly City.

MARJORIE

Honey, you know I just said that for emphasis. And I only nag you because you're the one person I think might be smarter than me. Might.

JULIET

Thing is, Mom, and I don't like to tell you this often because I don't want to give you the satisfaction, but I'm happy. You're right, I turned out fine.

MARJORIE

Despite being neglected.

JULIET

I think maybe because I was... mildly neglected. The message was you trusted me. You knew I was strong enough. Although Weeping Willow was a little mean.

MARJORIE

I wanted to get a reaction out of you.

Juliet smiles -- some things never change, like Marjorie's always going to have the last word.

JULIET

Okay, I gotta go.

INT. JULIET'S HOUSE - RUBY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Morning. Ruby's sleeping when Juliet sits down beside her.

JULIET

Hey, sleepy head.  
(kisses her)  
Time to wake up.

Ruby stirs, blinking up at her mom. Realizes it's morning.

RUBY

Is it a school day?

JULIET

Yeah.

RUBY

Did you get me into HHH yet?

JULIET

I haven't heard yet. The thing is Rube, I did some checking. There are mean kids there too.

RUBY

There are?

JULIET

Yeah, there are mean kids at every school. And you just gotta learn to deal with it. Because you're strong enough.

RUBY

I'm not.

JULIET

You only think that because I told you I was going to fix things for you. But you don't need me to fix everything. I mean, that day you came home with a shower cap, you didn't even have Hedgehog. All your stuffed animals were in lice baggies. And you were fine, you were playing on the Wii...

RUBY

That's 'cause I was home.

JULIET

No, it's because you have an Inner Cheetah. You come from a long line of Inner Cheetahs, me, Grandma, Daddy. So look what I bought for you.

Juliet pulls out an ANIMAL-PRINT HEADBAND.

RUBY

A Cheetah headband!

Ruby puts it on, makes a cheetah "ROAR".

JULIET

Okay, cheetah, go brush your canines.

And as Juliet watches her daughter happily race off...

EXT. OAKLAND STREET - DAY

Juliet and Kat power-walk and talk.

KAT

So the Board found money in the budget to pay. You know why? Molly, the assistant principal, was selling spots.

JULIET

I knew it!

KAT

Her daughter wanted singing lessons. She didn't know how to pay for it.

JULIET

The things we do for our kids.

KAT  
Or don't do. They offered me her  
job. But I'm not taking it.

JULIET  
Why, you don't want to be like me?

Just as Juliet's PHONE RINGS. Kat watches her answer --

JULIET  
Hey, Rogelio -- Ten? Oh my God,  
I'll head in now.  
(clicks off)  
Our phone's been ringing off the hook  
from this case, we've got like ten  
referrals. I gotta cut our walk  
short. Wait, what were we saying?

KAT  
Nothing, go. I've got Pilates anyway.

INT. AL'S GARAGE - SAME

A KNOCK. Rogelio hangs up the PHONE, heads to the door --

ROGELIO  
Wow, that was quick.

But it's not Juliet, it's Carolyn. He's immediately smitten.

CAROLYN  
Hi, I'm Carolyn.

ROGELIO  
I'll never touch a computer again.

CAROLYN  
What?

ROGELIO  
Are you my new P.O.?

CAROLYN  
Uh, I'm Juliet's babysitter. She  
said she'd leave me a check?

ROGELIO  
She's on her way.

CAROLYN  
I can wait.

ROGELIO  
You wanna play Bingo?

Carolyn heads in, and off this future connection...

INT. APPLEBAUM HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

CLOSE ON A MARSHMALLOW. PULL BACK to REVEAL Isaac, eyeing the tasty treat as Juliet explains:

JULIET

Now, I know you like marshmallows.

He reaches for it. She pulls it away.

JULIET

Uh uh. Wait. Here's the deal. Mommy's going to do a little work. I'll be back in ten minutes. You can eat the marshmallow if you want.

(as he reaches for it)

Wait. Listen. If you leave it, Isaac, when I get back, I'll give you two marshmallows.

ISAAC

I have a idea. You give me two marshmallows now, and then play computer.

JULIET

That's not how it works. It's one now, or two later.

Peter enters with Sam and Ruby, wearing the HEADBAND, racing in --

RUBY

Mommy, I had the best day ever!

SAM

She told the B-I-T-C--

PETER

Sam.

RUBY

I wanna tell her! I used my inner cheetah and I said to her, you can't be mean to me, and then I walked off. And then, for the rest of the day, Jessa and Alice wanted to play with me 'cause they think Lauren's bossy.

JULIET

Honey, I'm so proud of you.

Just as Peter notices Isaac staring down a Marshmallow.

PETER

Buddy, what's going on with the marshmallow?

Juliet catches herself -- her kids are fine, and she doesn't need a damn marshmallow test to prove it.

JULIET  
Nothing. Isaac, just eat it.

SAM  
I want one.

RUBY  
Me too.

JULIET  
Have as many as you want, it's a  
marshmallow party!  
(then, eyeing Ruby)  
Well, maybe just two.

And as our family descends on a bag of MARSHMALLOWS, we...

END PILOT