



JERRY BRUCKHEIMER
TELEVISION

THE WHOLE TRUTH

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THE WHOLE TRUTH

INT. KITCHEN - RIDGEWOOD, QUEENS - DAWN

A family eats breakfast. GLEN SELLARDS (40s), his wife JOLENE (30s), their twins BRIANNA and ZACH (15). Jolene wears a head scarf. Glen counts out her morning pills, pours her orange juice, sets down some cinnamon toast. *

JOLENE *

Stop fussing over me, I'm fine. *

But she's obviously putting on a good face, and everyone's gloomy. Glen springs into action, folding his hands on the table and imitating his wife: *

GLEN *

"Stop fussing over me, Glen, I prefer cinnamon toast." *

JOLENE *

(giggling) *

I do not sound like that. *

ZACH *

(cracking up) *

You totally do, Mom. *

BRIANNA *

Wait, wait, I can do Dad! "I teach History class in high school, and I'm a total geek!" *

This imitation is *spot on*, and they all BUST OUT LAUGHING. Jolene leans in and kisses her husband gratefully; he's magic to her. The moment is cut short by at KNOCK at the door. At this hour? Brianna goes off to see who it is. She returns with TWO PATROLMEN. *

PATROLMAN *

Glen Sellards, you are under arrest for the murder of Maria Covas. *

As Glen's cuffed and read his rights, his family silently implodes... *

INT. APARTMENT - UPPER EAST SIDE - DAWN

The giant window of a spartan living room shows SUNRISE OVER MANHATTAN. KATHRYN PEALE (40s), a make-up-less beauty in a TJ Maxx pantsuit, stares out. Her boyfriend JOSEPH (20s) ambles in and curls around her. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOSEPH

What do you see? *

KATHRYN *

I see a monster posing as a family
man, who raped and murdered one of
his students, then dumped her body
like yesterday's trash. *

JOSEPH *

You gonna be okay? Or are we
looking at weeks of insomnia? *

KATHRYN *

I issued a warrant for his arrest
at 6:30. It's 6:32. I'll be
"okay" when he's someone's wife at
Riker's. *

JOSEPH *

Sometimes you scare me, Kathryn
Peale. *

KATHRYN *

Imagine what I do to myself. *

JOSEPH *

(massaging her neck)
Can you come to my gig tonight? *

KATHRYN *

(softening)
You're great, Joseph. But I don't
think I can seriously date someone
who has "gigs" at this point in my
life. *

He chuckles. Her Blackberry TRILLS. She lunges for it. *

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

Peale here. *

She listens, pockets the phone, turns to Joseph. *

KATHRYN (CONT'D) *

I'm officially on my way to okay. *

EXT. DELI - HELL'S KITCHEN - DAWN

A TV above the register replays last night's Knicks' win. *

JIMMY NOLAN (40s), one handsome devil in vintage red Reeboks, *

watches while waiting in line for his morning bagel. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

Sweet hoop dreams, the Knicks
pulled it out!

*
*

The TRANNY ahead of him is equally astounded.

*

TRANNY

Yeah, but Robinson mangled that
pass to Lee.

*

JIMMY

Get out of here, Lee catches like a
girl.

(off the Tranny's
look)

Like a girl who can't catch?

Jimmy's Blackberry BEEPS and he answers.

*

JIMMY (CONT'D)

...Are you frikkin kidding me?

He steps OUTSIDE. His TOWN CAR and DRIVER wait at the curb.
The Tranny follows him out and whistles low.

*

TRANNY

What do I have to do to get a
chauffeur driven ride?

*
*

JIMMY

Knock down everyone in your path
till you became the city's best
defense attorney.

*
*

Jimmy drops his card, boards his car and speeds off.

*

EXT. CANAL STREET SUBWAY - SHORT TIME LATER

Kathryn emerges from the Number 6 train as JIMMY'S CAR pulls
over. Jimmy leaps out, matching Kathryn's quick strides. We
TRACK THEM as they fly toward the COURTHOUSE.

*
*
*

JIMMY

What gives, Katie? No courtesy
call before you arrest my client?

KATHRYN

I wasn't in the mood for a Jimmy
Nolan laser and light show.

*
*

JIMMY

I would've brought him in quietly!

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHRYN

Why is it the guilty ones always
have your number on speed dial,
Jimmy?

JIMMY

Come on, the DA's way off on this
one - Glen Sellards couldn't kill a
cockroach.

*
*
*

KATHRYN

More to the point, are you really
wearing red sneakers to
Arraignment?

JIMMY

Why not? My kids approve.

KATHRYN

I worry about your children, Jimmy.

JIMMY

What do you mean? They love me -
everybody does!

He waves to a STREET VENDOR who calls out his name.

KATHRYN

I take it you're not including your
ex-wife?

*
*

JIMMY

One bad apple! It was sweet of you
to remember my kids' birthdays, by
the way.

KATHRYN

The universe has seen fit to make
you a father twice. Such
astonishments are indelible. Are
we doing that NYU panel on the
20th?

JIMMY

Yeah, want me to pick you up?

KATHRYN

If you're still talking to me after
what I do to your client.

JIMMY

Katie, my client will be sending
you roses by then!

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

They've arrived at the COURTHOUSE. We GO WIDE as they join the MAELSTROM surging into the neoclassic edifice. *

INT. NEW YORK STATE CRIMINAL COURT - 20 MINUTES LATER *

Arraignment. JUDGE RAHIM (50s) presides. We INTERCUT between Kathryn and Jimmy: *

KATHRYN

Maria Covas was just 17, your Honor, the only child of a devoutly religious family. *

JIMMY

Glen Sellards is loved by one and all: students, family, you name it. *

KATHRYN

In fact, it had been her family's dream that she would one day devote herself to religious life. *

JIMMY

He's got deep ties to LaGuardia High and St. Bartholomew's in Queens, where he worships every Sunday. *

KATHRYN

Instead, her desecrated, naked body was found in an alley behind the school where Glen Sellards taught History. *

JIMMY

He also takes care of his wife Jolene, who is undergoing her third round of chemotherapy, your Honor. *

KATHRYN

Due to the abhorrent nature of the crime and the obvious threat Mr. Sellards poses to society, we ask that he be remanded without bail. *

JIMMY

I have a list of character witnesses as long as Broadway, your Honor, and I respectfully ask that Glen be released to his family at this time. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Glen Sellards sits in the gallery, scared shitless, his FAMILY AND FRIENDS behind him. The FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MARIA COVAS are out in equal force across the aisle. The Judge shuffles some papers. Everyone in the courtroom sits forward a little, until: *

JUDGE RAHIM

Court does not regard the defendant to be a flight risk. Bail is set at two hundred thousand. *

Gavel CRACKS. An OUTCRY from one side, CHEERS from the other. *

EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS - MOMENTS LATER *

A CONFLAGRATION OF REPORTERS swarm our characters as they exit the building. SMASH TO Zach Sellards addressing one: *

ZACH

There's no way my father killed Maria Covas. *

SMASH TO ESTEBAN COVAS, the victim's father, growling at another: *

ESTEBAN

I will see that animal dead for what he's done! *

SMASH TO Jimmy taking Glen Sellards aside: *

JIMMY

You got me and everything in my toolbox to defend you against this witch-hunt. *

SMASH TO Kathryn shielding ALAMEDA COVAS, the victim's mother, from the herd: *

KATHRYN

I'll use every legal means in my power to convict your daughter's killer. *

THE CROWD logjams on the sidewalk. As they do, a SPARK IGNITES: Esteban Covas takes a brutal swipe at Glen Sellards. As BLOOD BREAKS FROM GLEN'S LIPS, and COPS THRONG, Jimmy and Kathryn lock eyes. *

TITLE OVER: THE WHOLE TRUTH

END TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT ONE - "THE PROSECUTION"

INT. DA'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Three floors above the courtroom. SEVERAL HUNDRED ADAs are riveted to the breaking news streaming on their computers. *

REPORTER *

... And that's the latest in what's quickly becoming known as the "Ave Maria" case. *

The entire place HUSHES as Kathryn enters, trailed by her assistant TINA, who's handing her messages. *

TINA

The Post, The Times, Newsday.

Kathryn crumples the messages and tosses them at ADAs' heads as she goes: *

KATHRYN *

Conference room, conference room, conference room. *

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM - CONTINUOUS *

Kathryn enters, finds a fortune cookie in her jacket and pops it in her mouth. She's somehow forgotten the fortune inside, which she spits into the trash. On cue, Tina runs in with a Mountain Dew. ADAs CROWD IN BEHIND. Kathryn launches: *

KATHRYN *

Glen Sellards was obsessed with Maria Covas. *

Kathryn shows a photo of SELLARDS HUGGING MARIA TOO TIGHTLY AT A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY. *

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

He bombarded her with phone calls, then sexually assaulted and choked her to death in an alley ten feet below his office window. *

She shows a photo of MARIA'S BODY UNDER SELLARDS' OFFICE WINDOW. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

We have an eyewitness who places Sellards and Maria in the alley *moments before the killing*. The only people who put him elsewhere are - no surprise - his wife and daughter, who are no doubt terrified by the psychotic who rules their home. Sellards' shoe print was found next to the body - this is too easy! - and his skin and saliva DNA was present on Maria Covas' breasts. Read me clearly: NYPD delivered this one on a very pretty platter. Let us return the favor by building an unassailable case.

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*

VOICE

What's our weakest link?

It's boomed from the back of the office. The ADAs part to reveal SENIOR ADA TERRENCE "EDGE" EDGEComb (mid-40s, African American). Edge has luggage in hand, and sombrero on head.

*

EDGE

I brought everyone maracas but they're at the bottom of my suitcase.

*

Kathryn sparkles like Christmas at his arrival.

EDGE (CONT'D)

Greetings, boss lady.

*
*

KATHRYN

Hola, Edge. How was Cabo?

*

EDGE

I spent a week shooting tequila with fishermen whose names I no longer recall.

KATHRYN

Lovely. Weakest link is the forensics. We have defensive wounds, we have genital trauma, but we don't have semen.

*
*
*

Edge smiles. Chit-chat has a short shelf life with Kathryn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EDGE

Maybe Sellards is impotent. He wouldn't be the first rapist who couldn't get it up and killed in a rage because of it.

KATHRYN

And how dismaying to be an impotent rapist! See what we can scare up on Sellards' medical history.

An ADA dashes out.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

I'm having the ME take another look at the DNA. I promise you it will show up on more places than just Maria's breasts. Savages like Sellards aren't so meticulous.

Edge drops his suitcase, opens the file.

EDGE

Maria called Sellards almost as much as he called her. This a romance?

KATHRYN

Maria's family says she was a virgin, and her friends corroborate.

EDGE

Ave Maria indeed. So why's she calling Sellards?

KATHRYN

One theory is she's a young girl trying to fend off a clingy, crazed teacher. I've already subpoenaed his Board of Ed evaluation - because wherever there's a psycho teacher, there's usually a trail of trauma.

Edge looks deeper into the file, impressed.

EDGE

Awards, volunteer work, taking care of a sick wife - Defense is gonna come at us with this stuff.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

KATHRYN

(not worried)

Classic wolf in sheep's clothing.
A front to lure a victim.

EDGE

His home turn up anything?

KATHRYN

Clean as a nun's datebook.
Sellards might be crazy, but he's
not stupid. The whole place reeked
of bleach.

EDGE

And just the one eyewitness?

KATHRYN

We're still looking, but I'm sure
she's just the tip of the iceberg.

EDGE

Let's get our best detective on
this. Stan Fein available?

Kathryn nods to another ADA, who runs out. To the rest:

KATHRYN

Okay, this one's moving fast,
people. New York State law gives
us 180 days to try this thing, but
I feel the need, the need for you
know what. A dead girl demands
justice. And justice is, as we
know, truth in action.

EDGE

Darrow?

KATHRYN

Disraeli. But you're getting
better.

EDGE

(smiles)

"The Poet" is on the job.

As the ADAs FILE OUT, Kathryn glances at the docket, then
looks at Edge in horror.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KATHRYN

Chad Griffin's our third. How can
the DA let that tiny trust fund
tool anywhere near a case like
this?

EDGE

Take a breath. He might be green,
but the DA wants him working. *
Throw him a bone, see what he does.

OFF KATHRYN'S SKEPTICAL LOOK: *

EXT. PASTIS - MEATPACKING DISTRICT - HOUR LATER *

Models in minis crowd the place. We find CHAD GRIFFIN (29),
Upper East Side born and bred, working his magic on one. *

CHAD

Yeah, I basically keep the city bad
guy free.

MODEL

Is it hard?

CHAD

It is way hard. But in my line of
work, *hardness rules*. *
*

For some inexplicable reason, she's buying it. As he goes in
for the kill, the BARTENDER holds up a Blackberry.

BARTENDER

Anyone lose a phone?

Chad sees it's his, retrieves it and finds a bunch of
messages from YOUR BOSS KATHRYN PEALE. *

CHAD

Uh-oh, gotta go - call me! *

And he's history. *

INT. KATHRYN'S OFFICE - HOUR LATER *

Chad stands red-faced in front of Kathryn. Behind her is the
room's only decoration: a yellowing photo of KATHRYN, AGE
TEN, BRANDISHING A GLEAMING SMITH & WESSON. *

KATHRYN *

So whenever I call your phone, you
answer it. *

(MORE) *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

Do we now understand the
fascinating relationship between a
very junior ADA and the Chief
Prosecutor?

*
*
*
*

CHAD

Totally, ma'am.

*
*

KATHRYN

Don't call me "ma'am."

*
*

CHAD

Rodger that. I just don't want to
go back to Misdemeanors. It's a
real waste of my talents.

*
*
*
*

Kathryn waves him away like a gnat and returns to her
paperwork. Tina *ahems* from the doorway.

*
*

KATHRYN

Speak your peace, Tina.

*
*

TINA

Mr. and Mrs. Covas are here.

They are in fact right behind Tina, who flees, stranding
Kathryn with the couple. She offers them seats, but they
remain standing.

*
*
*

ESTEBAN

Our daughter wore a silver
crucifix. I gave it to her for her
Quinceaños. The killer stole it.
A demon took our angel.

*

KATHRYN

I can't imagine how awful all this
must -

*
*
*

ESTEBAN

We want a Latino lawyer.

*
*

They stare adamantly. Kathryn takes a beat, then plucks a
BIBLE exploding with post-its from her shelf. She quickly
finds a passage, puts on her glasses and reads aloud.

*
*
*

KATHRYN

"For it is written, Vengeance is
mine; and I will repay it."

*
*
*

(then)

Mr. and Mrs. Covas, if the death
penalty were available to me, I'd
seek it. If I could publish
Sellards home address online, I'd
do it.

*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

If I could tear him limb from limb
 in Foley Square, I'd be out there
 right now with an apron and a wood
 chipper. I don't have access to
 such recourse, but I do have the
 law. I love the law. It's the
 only thing I'm good at. Just ask
 anyone unfortunate enough to be in
 my personal life. And I swear to
 you, on everything I hold dear, I
 will deliver justice for this
 particular demon.

*
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*
*
*
*

Esteban and Alameda share a look.

ESTEBAN

I have proof that Glen Sellards
 hates Latinos. One of his students
 will confirm it. Would that help
 you put this beast away?

*
*
*

The GLEAM IN KATHRYN'S EYES says yes.

ALAMEDA

Please. Maria was all we had, so
 good, everything she did, never
 trouble, just...joy!

*
*
*
*

Alameda breaks down, her husband turns away, and Kathryn
 finds herself holding the grief-stricken woman.

*
*

EXT. LAGUARDIA HIGH - ALLEY BEHIND SCHOOL

*

FLOWERS, TEDDY BEARS, CANDLES - a shrine to Maria Covas.
 STAN FEIN (60s), ex-NYPD detective, crusty as it gets,
 ponders it with Kathryn.

*
*
*

STAN

I bushwhacked a bunch of students
 who will testify they saw Sellards
 here around the time of the murder.

*
*
*

KATHRYN

Excellent.

STAN

And Maria's best friend told me
 Sellards inserted himself into
 every school club Maria joined.

*
*
*

KATHRYN

Because that's what stalkers do.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

STAN

But you got one chink in the armor,
Katie. The reporting cop? Was on
the force with him twenty years
back. Dumb turd can't secure a
crime scene. Once even moved a
body so the photog could get a
better shot.

*
*
*
*
*
*

KATHRYN

(stunned)
My God. The Defense will have a
field day.

*
*
*
*

EXT. HOT DOG CART - FOLEY SQUARE - LATER

*

Edge saves a place in line for Kathryn, who charges up.

*

EDGE

I can't meet my boss in an office
like a normal person?

*

KATHRYN

Whenever I'm considering adding a
hate crime charge, I start craving
salt.

*
*

EDGE

And we've got a good witness?

*

KATHRYN

One of Sellards ESL students. I'm
trusting Chad to look into it, per
your encouragement.

*
*

EDGE

Alright, that's headway. So why
the long face?

*

She gestures in disgust at a nearby NEWSSTAND. JIMMY NOLAN'S
BIG IRISH MUG is on the cover of every newspaper.

*
*

KATHRYN

He works the press effortlessly -
and they don't even know they're
being worked! He makes everything
look so frikkin easy. We took the
bar together - I snorted No-Doze,
wept and prayed. He finished an
hour early and waited outside with
a tray of jello shots like it was
Spring Break.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EDGE

That's what's bugging you?

KATHRYN

No!

Heads turn. She lowers her voice.

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

What's bugging me is Jimmy Nolan is
 too ambitious to take a case he
 didn't think he could win. So what
 does he know that we don't?

*
*
*

EDGE

Ya got me.

*

KATHRYN

Ya got me, too. But whatever it
 is, he will *not* win the media
 battle. Perception becomes
 reality, and the reality is we have
 to step up our press.

*
*
*
*

EDGE

What exactly are you proposing?

*
*

KATHRYN

We play to the city's Latin
 population, get their blood up. If
 this ESL student checks out, and
 the hate crime is a go, some New
 York Post boldface could obliterate
 the clown cop and put us over the
 top.

*
*
*
*
*
*

EDGE

You sure about this, Katie?

*
*

KATHRYN

You know what, Edge? I'm putting a
 moratorium on "Katie" starting now.
 It's *Kathryn*. Katies are cute.
 Kathryns are formidable mo-fos.

*
*
*
*
*

They've finally reached the front of the line. The HOT DOG
 VENDOR hands Kathryn two ready-made dogs.

*
*

VENDOR

Just the way you like 'em,
 Prosecutor - spicy mustard,
 sauerkraut, double onions.

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EDGE

I'll tell you what's formidable -
those dogs.

*
*
*

INT. KATHRYN'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

*

Kathryn's a frenzy of work when Chad bounds in.

*

CHAD

Check this: Sellards' ESL student
wants to testify that Sellards
called Latinos "Dirty Pigs" - and
worse!

KATHRYN

That's encouraging news. Will she
be credible on the stand?

*

CHAD

She'll be *brilliant*.

KATHRYN

According to whose standards?

*
*

CHAD

Yours?

*
*

KATHRYN

And do my standards include an
unimpeachable witness, who will be
articulate, poised and commanding
on that stand?

*
*
*
*
*

CHAD

Totally they do.

*
*

Kathryn pauses to consider, then makes a call.

KATHRYN

Good afternoon, Jimmy. I'm adding
a hate crime charge. Still want to
sit on that NYU panel with me?

*
*
*

(listens, then)

Well, I'm glad you're being so big
about this. I know being big about
things can be challenging for you.

*
*
*
*

As she smiles and disconnects, Edge wanders in.

*

EDGE

Do I see a happy face?

*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHRYN

I just told Jimmy Nolan we're
adding a hate crime charge.

CHAD

Which I was instrumental in
securing.

EDGE

Uh, okay. And at the risk of
creating *too good* a mood in here,
Stan Fein has some interesting
info. Glen Sellards was once fired
from a private school in Westport -
because of an affair with a 15 year
old student.

The three share a look of amazement. Now they're cooking
with gas.

INT. PISTOL RANGE

Kathryn and Edge, firing away, have the place to themselves.
They talk in the spaces between the DEAFENING ROAR OF SHOTS.

EDGE

Sellards Board of Ed profile says
he has "rage issues." And his
doctor says he suffers from what is
politely called seminal deficiency.

KATHRYN

Hence the lack of semen DNA on
Maria's body.

EDGE

I gotta say, having a wonky dong
would really crimp my style.

KATHRYN

Why do some guys constantly have to
refer to their dongs?

EDGE

Why do some women wear the same
pantsuit three days straight?

KATHRYN

Uh, because I have more important
things on my mind?

(lowers her pistol)

What's wrong with you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EDGE *
 What's wrong with *me*? You're the *
 one dragged me to a shooting *
 gallery to "unwind." *

KATHRYN *
 Edge, a girl is dead and her *
 killer is grading papers in Queens. *
 If we don't have better DNA - even *
 with everything we've got - we *
 might have serious trouble. *

EDGE *
 Are you kidding, we're halfway *
 home! Why are you so strung out *
 about this case anyway? *

KATHRYN *
 Because I know this girl Maria *
 Covas! *I was this girl.* Strict *
 family, belief in God, everyone's *
 pride and joy - it's not as fun as *
 it sounds. *

She moves to a bench, puts her head in her hands. Edge joins *
 her. *

EDGE *
 Look, we're doing *fine*. Just stop *
 white-knuckling it and driving *
 everyone around you crazy. *

KATHRYN *
 The staff hates me, don't they? *

EDGE *
 Naw. They're just a tad terrified *
 of you. *

KATHRYN *
 I wish they weren't. Underneath *
 this terrifying exterior, there's a *
 very likeable person trying to get *
 out. She just doesn't sleep when *
 bad people win. *

EDGE *
 (smiles) *
 You still seeing that musician? *

KATHRYN *
 He's nice to me. It's infuriating. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EDGE

Jesus, let someone be nice to you.
 Look, I gotta run. The wife and I
 are bungee jumping this weekend,
 and I want to hit Macy's for an
 electric blue body glove.

*
*
*

KATHRYN

Oh, Edge, you do live up to your
 name.

*

EDGE

And "Kathryn" will live up to hers.
 (then)
 But I'll be there for you first
 thing tomorrow, you know that.

*
*

KATHRYN

Excellence is not an act, it is a
 habit.

EDGE

Aristotle?

KATHRYN

Run DMC. But you're getting
 better.

*
*

He kisses her on the forehead, then stands to go. Before he
 can, Kathryn's phone RINGS. Caller ID says JIMMY NOLAN. She
 answers, listens, goes ashen, disconnects.

*
*
*

EDGE

What is it?

*
*

KATHRYN

The thing Jimmy Nolan knows that we
 don't. We're screwed. Completely
 and utterly screwed.

*
*
*
*END ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT TWO - "THE DEFENSE"

EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS - AFTER ARRAIGNMENT (BACK IN TIME) *

Esteban Covas takes a brutal swipe at Glen Sellards. BLOOD BREAKS FROM GLEN'S LIPS. COPS THRONG. We catch up in time: *

Jimmy hustles Glen and his family into a waiting TAXI. *

INT. JIMMY'S FIRM - WEST VILLAGE - SHORT TIME LATER

The first two floors of a FEDERAL TOWNHOUSE. Jimmy sprints in and his Bronx-bred receptionist RHONDA (60s) meets him. They move past stacks of files and STAFF running to and fro. *

RHONDA

Oh, I'm always happy when you win one from that meany Kathryn Peale.

JIMMY

Rhonda, the girl can't help it. You just get cranky when you're doing the government's dirty work. *

RHONDA

(giggling, handing him messages)

The Post, The Times, Newsday.

JIMMY

Let's burn through 'em.

INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

PHOTOS OF JIMMY'S TWO BOYS and Vintage Reeboks everywhere. ALEJO SALAZAR (30s, Latino), sprints in behind Jimmy. *

ALEJO

I've just filed the Discovery motion, we'll want to stay on them.

JIMMY

Great. Lena!! *

LENA GAUDET (30s, African American), gorgeous in a beautiful Donna Karan suit, arrives.

LENA

Do we need to shout like we're at the docks?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

Sorry, I forgot about your years in the veddy fancy world of commercial litigation.

LENA

Those years are over as of last month. Now I'm a criminal defense lawyer.

*

JIMMY

You bet your ass you are. Okay, these charges are bullcaca. Glen Sellards - a teacher who's 24/7 about his students - is an easy mark. He takes care of a sick wife, tutors ESL kids on the weekends - there's no room in his schedule for murder. So why is the DA is targeting *Glen*, and not a hundred other better suspects?

*

*

*

*

ALEJO

(consulting a list)

Only faculty had access to the area where the body was found, and Glen would sneak cigarettes there.

*

JIMMY

So circumstantial I'm disgusted.

ALEJO

Many calls between Glen and Maria.

LENA

Sounds like a love thing.

JIMMY

He's mentoring a student - is that a crime?

LENA

So his phone records should show calls to other students, right?

JIMMY

Now you're earning your keep.

ALEJO

An eyewitness places Glen and Maria at the murder site.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LENA

Statistically, eyewitnesses are wrong about half the time.

JIMMY

Which is why we're in business. Pull everything we can on this one paltry eyewitness.

ALEJO

A shoe print at the scene matches Sellards'.

JIMMY

No brainer. Find out who else near the crime scene has the same shoes. Photogs, detectives, coroner.

ALEJO

Last item: Glen's skin and saliva DNA was found on the victim's breasts, and genital trauma indicates rape.

*

LENA

Ooo, that's not good.

JIMMY

If there's no semen, nothing says the trauma was caused by Glen. And last I checked, skin and saliva DNA does not a rape make. Glen could have sneezed on her for goddsake.

*

*

LENA

What about the Ave Maria angle?

JIMMY

Look, Maria was a teenage girl in New York City, not Jesus' mommy. If dirt on her comes up, we'll use it and *the press* - not us - will look like the bad guys. Okay, they'll come at us with the DNA - we'll give them students who put Glen and Maria within sneezing distance. They'll bring the phone records - we'll show calls to and from other students. We'll discredit their eyewitness, find someone with the same footprint, come up with six other worthier suspects. Done, done and donner.

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

*

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*

*

*

*

*

*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

This one's greased lightning,
kiddies. Every-effin-body from the
Mayor's office to the Department of
Ed wants Glen Sellards kebabbed for
a crime he didn't commit. Lena,
man the fort. Alejo, let's head to
the Sellards' so we can start
chipping away at this. Rock and
roll, people!

*
*

INT. SELLARDS' LIVING ROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

The place is abuzz. Glen, with stitches on his lip, sits at
the computer with Jolene by his side. Zach watches the
LATEST NEWS REPORT ON THE CASE, and Brianna fields calls on
the RINGING-OFF-THE-HOOK land line. The doorbell CHIMES.
Glen opens the door on Jimmy and Alejo, and welcomes them in.

*
*
*
*
*

JOLENE

Hello! We were just looking at e-
mails from Glen's students -
they're raising money for his
defense!

*
*
*
*
*

Jimmy smiles, checks out the e-mails, then notices AMATEUR
ARTWORK on the walls.

*
*

JIMMY

What's all this?

*
*

GLEN

Last year I taught Native American
history. These are symbols for
"gratitude" a bunch of my kids drew
for me.

*
*
*
*
*

(pointing to one)
Maria drew this one.

*
*

JIMMY

That's great, Glen, we'll get it
into evidence. But we need to ask
some questions.

*
*
*

On this, Brianna and Zach take their mother down the hall.

*

JIMMY (CONT'D)

There are lots of calls between you
and Maria. Any reason?

GLEN

She was nervous about college.
It's nerve-wracking for these kids.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALEJO

But especially Maria?

GLEN

Maria required a little more
attention sometimes, yes. She was
fragile in a certain way, then
tough as nails too...

*
*
*
*

He trails off, desolate.

*

JIMMY

What about your sex life?

GLEN

Oh, wow. Really? Because - ?

*

ALEJO

We don't want to be caught unawares
if there are any indiscretions.

GLEN

Well, my wife and I haven't had sex
in, um, almost a year. Due to her
illness. But I love her with all
my heart, and she loves me.

*
*
*

ANGLE ON HALLWAY where Brianna listens.

*

JIMMY

Good, that's good.

*
*

ALEJO

An eyewitness places you and Maria
at the crime scene at 3:30 PM, the
approximate time of the murder.

GLEN

But that's - that's impossible. As
my wife and daughter told you, I
was home by then. Who is this
witness?

*
*

ALEJO

We'll know when the DA delivers its
evidence list.

JIMMY

Okay, here's the biggie. Your skin
and saliva DNA was found on Maria.
Any reason why it would be there?

*
*
*

Glen looks around the room, bewildered.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GLEN

Maria and I saw each other at Debate Club the day she died - I'm the faculty moderator. When I'd conduct vocal exercises, I'd stand close to the students to see if they were doing them correctly.

ALEJO

Then this happened with students other than Maria as well? Ones who would presumably testify to that?

GLEN

Of course! Wait - this is insane. I devote my life to my vocation, and because of it I'm accused of *murder*?

JIMMY

Glen, when you and Jolene came to me about your defense, I was *honored* to take it on. I am who I am because of hard-working, underpaid, beyond-the-call-of-duty teachers like you. You're a sitting duck target for a lazy DA, and I'm telling you my whole team's all over this. *Don't worry.*

GLEN

Well, okay. Just promise me one thing - I get to testify in my own behalf. That's only fair, right?

OFF GLEN'S DESPERATE LOOK:

INT. ALEJO'S OFFICE - FEW DAYS LATER

PHOTOS OF ALEJO AND HIS LOVER WITH IMPORTANT PEOPLE fill the space. Lena enters. Alejo keeps working.

LENA

Jimmy wanted me to tell you he's meeting with our investigator.

ALEJO

I'm aware of that, thank you.

LENA

(scanning the PHOTOS)
Is this your partner?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LENA (CONT'D)
 (Alejo nods curtly) *
 You're at the White House.

ALEJO
 We've been twice.

LENA
 Did you crash or have an invite?
 Alejo's eyes narrow. Lena spins on her heels and exits. *

EXT. OTB - WALL STREET - NEXT MORNING

LARRY COMBS (50s) ticks through bets as Jimmy approaches. *

LARRY *
 Where's Alejo? *

JIMMY *
 I left him back at the office with *
 Lena so they could sharpen their *
 teeth on each other. I brought her *
 aboard to up our game, not play *
 Twister. *
 (Larry grins) *
 So what have you got for me, Lar? *

LARRY
 The reporting cop? Total douche.
 Tampering, drinking - you name it.

JIMMY
 Are you serious..?

LARRY
 As Monday morning.

JIMMY *
 Mamma mia, that's good pizza.

LARRY *
 And Maria's mother called Child *
 Services on her husband last year - *
Esteban Covas was threatening to *
kill Maria.

JIMMY
 Whaaaat?

LARRY *
 I'm looking into his alibi. If he *
 doesn't have one, you might be able *
 to toss the jurors another suspect. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jimmy's phone BEEPS. He sees KATHRYN PEALE on caller ID, smiles broadly: won't this be fun. He connects. *

JIMMY

Ms. Peale, how fascinating you should call right at this moment.

(his face falls)

You sure you have enough for a hate crime charge? Okay. No, no, I'll still do that NYU panel with you. *

(disconnects) *

Dammit. Kathryn Peale's adding a hate crime charge. *

LARRY

Then I guess it's a bad time to bring up the fact that Glen Sellards once worked at a school in Westport - until he was fired for screwing a student. *

Jimmy's rendered speechless. OFF HIS LOOK: *

EXT. BASKETBALL COURT - WEST 4TH & 6TH AVENUE - LATER *

Pick-up game in progress. The PLAYERS part appreciatively as LENA glides through, heading for Jimmy, who's got the ball. *

LENA

The Westport student Glen allegedly had the affair with? She had emotional problems. Glen failed her and she struck back with an accusation. The Dean will testify on Glen's behalf. *

JIMMY

Praise Buddha! That's exactly what Glen said when I called him. But don't tell Katie's office yet. Let her feel superior about the hate crime for a bit. *

LENA

It's insane, Jimmy, teachers now buy insurance because of all the sex allegations. I put the research on your desk. *

JIMMY

Getting my money's worth with you. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LENA

Glad you feel that way, because I want to be your second on this.

JIMMY

Excuse me...? Alejo's my second.

*

LENA

Jimmy, the victim is a young woman of color.

JIMMY

And Latin - like Alejo.

LENA

But female like *me*. And the prosecuting attorney. And half the jurors.

*
*
*

JIMMY

Look, Lena, you'll get your turn. A little competition is good between you too, but you will *not* damage a relationship I've built for years, you got me?

*
*
*
*
*
*

LENA

I have no intention of doing that. But you need me next to you at trial, Jimmy - and you know it.

*
*
*
*

She takes the ball from him, shoots, and sinks it.

*

INT. JIMMY'S FIRM - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER THAT DAY

*

Alejo and Lena sit at the ready, looking everywhere but at each other. Jimmy enters in his soaked-through sweats.

JIMMY

Motions in two days. Gimme everything we got.

ALEJO

Numerous e-mails between Glen and students, but Maria is the only one he talked to on the phone.

JIMMY

Okay, that sucks.

LENA

No Debate Club student remembers vocal exercises the day Maria died.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

That sucks too.

ALEJO

Three witnesses place Esteban Covas
at work at the time of the murder -
so he can't be a suspect.

*
*

JIMMY

Okay, suckie, suck, suck.

LENA

You can still introduce his wife's
call to Child Services. It puts
Maria in a climate of violence that
points away from Glen.

ALEJO

Or it makes us look like creeps by
airing the family's dirty laundry.
It's getting that DNA dismissed as
rape-related that's most important.

*
*

JIMMY

What's the hold up with DA's
evidence? *We need that ME report.*

*

ALEJO

I'll call Edgecomb again.

LENA

Why don't I call this time?
(off Alejo's look)
Just another voice might help.

*

JIMMY

Good idea.
(Lena goes)
I like how she thinks.

ALEJO

You like how she walks.

JIMMY

Simmer down, buddy. We are *the go-*
to firm for criminal defense right
now and we need to build on that
with someone of her caliber.

*
*
*
*

RHONDA ON INTERCOM

Larry Combs is here, guys.

*

JIMMY

Show him in, Rhonda.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Larry enters with TRISH MORGAN (17, scared).

LARRY

Jimmy, Alejo - Trish Morgan.
Trish, tell them what you told me.

TRISH

I think this boy I know might have something to do with the case.

JIMMY

Uh, why do you think that, Trish?

STUDENT

He was Maria's secret sex buddy.

Jimmy clears his throat, puts on his best poker face.

JIMMY

Um, where can we find him?

CUT TO:

INT. RIKER'S ISLAND - HOLDING CELL - SHORT TIME LATER

Jimmy and Alejo sit with TODD ENGLER (17).

JIMMY

What'd they pick you up for?

TODD

Possession. Just pot. My pops won't bail me out. Can ya help?

ALEJO

Do you have information for us?

TODD

I didn't hurt Maria Covas. Me and her were hitting it but...no way.

JIMMY

Why so quiet about the affair?

TODD

Her dad would have killed me. She had this virgin rap, whatever. But if you get my phone from the cops, there's a sick vid on it you might like. I know my friends did!

JIMMY

Think this is funny?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TODD

Naw. But it sure as hell ain't no
Ave Maria story.

*
*

OFF TODD'S LEER:

*

INT. RIKER'S BAIL OFFICE

*

Jimmy receives Todd's things. He finds TODD'S CELL PHONE,
locates the VIDEO FILE, clicks ON. As he and Alejo watch it,
THEIR EYES WIDEN, and Jimmy places a call to Kathryn Peale.

*
*
*

JIMMY

Ms. Peale, you'll be interested to
know I'm watching a video that
makes your Ave Maria case start to
look like a Hail Mary pass. Of
course it might not make it into
evidence. But once a few high
schoolers go blabbing to the press
about its sexual nature, well, my
work will be done for me. Let the
games begin, Kathryn. Let the
games begin!

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*END OF ACT TWO

Michael Katcher

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT THREE

INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - NEXT MORNING *

Jimmy sits with his feet up, cooing over a a New York Post
 Headline - "AVE MARIA SEX VID!" His Blackberry BEEPS. *

JIMMY *

(picking up) *

Glenny boy! Why, yes, I have seen
 the headlines. Oh, I'll handle it
 respectfully - of course. But it
 helps, it *certainly* helps. *

CUT TO: *

INT. DA'S OFFICE - SAME *

ADAs are watching a REPORT ON THE SEX VIDEO, when a SHOUT
 rises from KATHRYN'S OFFICE: *

KATHRYN'S VOICE *

How could we not have known about
 Todd Engler?! *

Everyone hunkers down as Kathryn rockets to EDGE'S OFFICE.
 As she arrives, Edge appraises her calmly. *

EDGE *

No one knew about Engler but a
 handful of stoners. Turns out
 Maria had some secrets herself. *

KATHRYN *

Edge, she was religious, her close
 family - *she had to hide a*
boyfriend like that. *

EDGE *

Katie - I mean *Kathryn* - a kid with
 a rap sheet recorded them having
 sex. "Boyfriend" is not the word
 for what Todd Engler is. *

KATHRYN *

Wait a minute. Sellards is still
 the killer. We just have to figure
 out how he and Engler go together. *

EDGE *

Maybe Maria was a pawn of both. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHRYN

That's good. Get Fein on it.

*
*

Before he can even pick up the phone, Chad barges in.

*

CHAD

Okay, I'm thinking we should look
 into where Todd Engler was the day
 of the murder. Everybody's all
he's the new defense witness. But
 maybe he's the new defense *suspect.*

*
*
*
*
*

Kathryn and Edge exchange looks: Chad might actually have
 something there. And it sucks.

*
*

KATHRYN

This day gets a fail.

*
*

INT. JIMMY'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Jimmy, Alejo and Lena confer.

JIMMY

Todd Engler - witness or suspect?

ALEJO

His alibi seems solid, so I think
 witness. He opens the jury's mind
 to the notion that Maria was
 involved with people and things
 nobody knew about.

*

LENA

Yeah, but that could include *Glen*.
 I think we have to be very careful
 here, Jimmy. Especially when most
 of Maria's sex life won't be
 admissible past Motions.

*

JIMMY

Wait a second, speaking of Motions,
 why hasn't the DA delivered their
 evidence yet? We need to see
 what's in that ME report!

*

*

ALEJO

(for Lena's benefit)
 I'll call this time.

*

JIMMY

(to Lena)
 Maybe that's best. Alejo and Edge
 go back a ways.

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LENA

Hey, whatever gets the job done.

*
*

Alejo picks up the phone and WE CUT TO:

*

INT. EDGE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Edge is just hanging up from Alejo.

*

EDGE

Salazar is bugging us about our evidence list.

KATHRYN

Give him everything we've got - except the ME's report. We're still looking at the forensics, and we *will not* be rushed on that.

*

INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - LATER THAT DAY

Alejo enters waving a PIECE OF PAPER.

*

ALEJO

DA's evidence list.

*

JIMMY

(looking at it)
Where's the ME's report?

*

ALEJO

Nowhere.

*
*

A smile breaks over Jimmy's face.

*

JIMMY

Katie's nervous about the forensics. Time to call our independent forensic expert!

*
*
*

INT. COMMERCIAL FORENSICS LAB

Independent forensic expert NANCY KOHLHAAS (30s) meets with Lena.

*

NANCY

The marks on the victim's body have nothing to do with rape. And Sellards' DNA is *hardly* present.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LENA
 (very happy)
 We'll be calling you as a witness.

INT. NY STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S LAB

The State's MEDICAL EXAMINER (40s, male) consults with Edge. *

EXAMINER
 On review of the autopsy photos, *
 one thing *is* different. Markings *
 I'd originally thought were
 defensive wounds seem to convey a
 pattern.

EDGE
 What kind of pattern?

EXAMINER
 I'd have to do more tests. But it
 won't be ready for Motions.

EDGE
 Let us worry about that. Take all *
 the time you need. *

OFF EDGE'S INTRIGUED FACE: *

INT. KATHRYN'S OFFICE/JIMMY'S OFFICE - INTERCUT

We CUT BETWEEN both teams pouring over the other side's *
 evidence.

KATHRYN
 Okay, Motions tomorrow. We keep
 the cell phone video out.

JIMMY
 We get Maria's mother's call to *
 Child Services *in*.

KATHRYN
 We argue Todd Engler cut a deal to
 be a witness in return for bail.

JIMMY
 We tell the Judge the DA *refuses* to
 hand over the ME's report and we
 want sanctions. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHRYN

We secure the hate crime witness,
and argue for the existing
forensics as conclusive regarding
rape.

*
*

JIMMY

Top of our list, we argue the
forensics can't be entered until we
see the ME's report!

*

EDGE AND ALEJO

Anything else?

KATHRYN

No, we're good.

JIMMY

Nada, let's rock it.

INT. NY STATE SUPREME COURT - NEXT MORNING

The courtroom is empty except for the COURT REPORTER and
JUDGE LEONARD KIM, (50s), Korean American. Jimmy's sporting
particularly vivid Reeboks and Kathryn's wearing a dress.

*

JIMMY

(whispering)

Since when do you wear dresses?

*

KATHRYN

(counting down)

Three...two...one...

*
*

JUDGE KIM

Ms. Peale, I'd like to compliment
you on your comportment.

He glances at her legs. She smiles brilliantly at Jimmy.

JUDGE KIM (CONT'D)

Mr. Nolan, perhaps you might wear
more appropriate footwear at trial?

*

JIMMY

We can only hope, your Honor.

*

Jimmy's joshing, but Judge Kim returns an ICY STARE.

*

JUDGE KIM

As you both know, I like the
Motions phase to be lean, mean.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JUDGE KIM (CONT'D)

So let's do the hokey pokey and
turns this around.

*
*

TIME CUT THROUGH MOTIONS AS JUDGE KIM DECIDES THEM:

*

JUDGE KIM (CONT'D)

I allow the hate crime witness...

(JUMP TO:)

*

I allow the rape...

(JUMP TO:)

*

I allow Todd Engler as a witness..

(JUMP TO:)

*

I do not allow the cell phone
video...

(JUMP TO:)

*

Or Mrs. Covas' call to Child
Services...

(JUMP TO:)

*

And I'll allow the DNA - but the DA
must turn over the ME's report,
ready or not.

*

*

One GAVEL BANG and they're done.

*

INT. DA'S OFFICE

Kathryn emerges from the elevators and moves to EDGE'S
OFFICE. Chad and other ADAs follow her in.

KATHRYN

We've got our hate crime witness,
Rape and DNA. But we have to turn
over the ME's report before he's
able to determine what those
patterns are.

*

*

EDGE

Send Salazar what we've got, we can
add evidence later.

*

*

KATHRYN

Exactly so. Now we prep witnesses.
Chad, take the ESL student since
you've already interviewed her.

*

CHAD

Great. And what will I be doing at
trial?

*

KATHRYN

Sitting on your hands.

Edge SIGHS. We CUT TO:

*

INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE

Lena and Alejo are scouring TWO THIN VOLUMES when Jimmy comes in from Motions. *

ALEJO

The ME's report just arrived. It's as weak as we thought - abrasions, trauma - but no more of Glen's DNA. Kathryn Peale had reasons to be nervous. *

JIMMY

Just the way we like her. What's left?

LENA

Glen's hounding us about testifying on his own behalf. That makes *me* nervous.

JIMMY

Alejo, head to Queens with Jerry and let's finally decide this. *

Alejo goes out. Lena is about to, when Jimmy stops her.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Give me time to tell Alejo, but I want you to be my second on this. *

OFF LENA'S DELIGHTED EXPRESSION: *

INT. SELLARDS' HOME - SHORT TIME LATER

A group of GLEN'S SUPPORTERS flutter through. Zach leads Alejo and JEREMIAH LANGSTON (30s) into the LIVING ROOM, where his father is just getting off a call. *

ALEJO

Glen, this is Jeremiah Langston. He's a witness coach who works with defendants.

JEREMIAH

I offer techniques so you can relax, speak confidently and so on.

Glen shakes his hand. Brianna sticks her head in. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIANNA
Dad, one of your students moved
Mom's knitting.

GLEN *
Later, Brianna, okay? *

BRIANNA *
But Mom needs to - *

ZACH *
Find it yourself, Dad's busy! *

BRIANNA *
Dad!?! *

JOLENE'S VOICE *
Glen, is everything okay out there? *

GLEN *
It's fine, sweetheart! *
(to Alejo) *
Look, I'm sorry, my wife's health - *
we're just going to have to do this *
later. *

OFF ALEJO'S WORRIED LOOK: *

INT. EDGE'S OFFICE - AFTER HOURS *

Kathryn, white knuckling a Mountain Dew, charges in. *

KATHRYN *
The new ME's report has better *
photos of the abrasions on Maria's *
body, and you know what? *

EDGE *
What? *

KATHRYN *
They look to me like hieroglyphics. *

EDGE *
Why would they be hieroglyphics?

KATHRYN *
I don't know, but I'll bet the barn *
it connects to Sellards. *

CUT TO: *

EXT. HUDSON RIVER PROMENADE *

Jimmy and Alejo jog along the waterfront. *

ALEJO

I don't recommend we put Glen on the stand. I've spent a good deal of time with him at this point, and there's something about his manner - probably from his years in front of a classroom - that might not seem entirely authentic. *

JIMMY *

Good call. Now listen, Alejo, you know I can't eat, sleep or tinkle without you - but I need Lena as my second on this one. *

Alejo's stops in his tracks. Jimmy jogs in place. *

JIMMY (CONT'D)

She's a brilliant female lawyer of color.

ALEJO

She's a climbing recent hire! Jimmy, if this is about race, I'm Latino like the victim.

JIMMY

I know, but last time I checked, you don't look so good in a dress. Look, this kills me, you're my main man, but Kathryn Peale is across the aisle, the victim is female - we need the female jurors. *

Alejo picks up his jog, turns around and heads in the other direction. Jimmy calls after him. *

JIMMY (CONT'D) *

This is just growing pains, A! That's all it is! *

INT. KATHRYN'S OFFICE - DAWN *

SIX EMPTY MOUNTAIN DEWS line Kathryn's desk. As she rubs her sleepless eyes, Tina appears at her door. *

TINA

Brianna Sellards is here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Before Kathryn can ask why, Tina disappears and Brianna enters, jittery, eyes darting around. *

BRIANNA

I don't know if my dad was home the day of the murder. My mom made me say he was. I was taking a nap. *

Kathryn takes a big gulp of Mountain Dew. *

KATHRYN

Brianna, trial starts in two hours. Why are you telling me this now? *

Brianna produces a BOTTLE OF VIAGRA - with GLEN'S NAME on it. *

BRIANNA

I found it yesterday. My dad told his lawyers that he and my mom don't have sex. So why does he have this bottle? And why is it half empty? When I showed it to my Dad he told me to lie that I ever saw it. My dad's lies have been killing my mom for years. I don't want them to kill me. *

After beat, Kathryn intercoms Tina: *

KATHRYN

Get Jimmy Nolan on the phone. *

EXT. SELLARDS' HOME - BACKYARD - DAWN *

Glen leads Jimmy quickly away from the back door. *

JIMMY

You tell me you're not having sex but you're ordering Viagra online?!

GLEN

I - I've had some past sexual issues, and I wanted to be prepared when my wife's strength returned. *

JIMMY

A half bottle should prepare you through next Christmas! *Were you having sex with Maria Covas or not?*

GLEN

No, I swear! But there have been...prostitutes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JIMMY

The morning the trial starts!
 (takes a big breath)
 Okay, I need their names.

GLEN

Jimmy, they can't testify - that
 would destroy my family!

*
*

JIMMY

Listen, Glen, if I need to drag
 every hooker you screwed and stack
 them in a pyramid on the stand to
 explain away the Viagra, don't
 think I won't do it! Now are there
 any more surprises you want to tell
 me about?

*

GLEN

No. Really. Nothing!

JIMMY

Well, we aren't putting you on the
 stand now, that's for sure.

GLEN

Because of a few Viagra?!

JIMMY

Look, you need to march back
 inside, pick out something
 professorial to wear, take a Valium
 if you need. That jury will be
 watching you like a hawk and they
 need to see a confident, relaxed
 teacher - not some Viagra-pumped
 hooker chaser. And forgive me if
 this sounds heartless, but every
 day your wife shows up, jurors will
 think, "If that woman in her
 condition can endure this trial,
 her husband's gotta be innocent."

*

GLEN

But I am innocent!

*

JIMMY

That might be true, Glen, but the
 truth has nothing to do with SQUAT!
*The only thing that matters from
 this point forward is what the jury
 believes.*

*

*

*

END ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT FOUR

INT. COURTHOUSE - HALLWAY OUTSIDE COURTROOM

Wall-to-wall humanity. REPORTERS and COURTHOUSE GUARDS elbow through. Kathryn, Edge and Chad stand in the midst of the madness. The trio looks united and loaded for bear. *

JIMMY'S TEAM arrives, escorting the SELLARDS. Jolene leans on Glen, who's dressed "professionally." Zach follows with a GAGGLE OF STUDENTS wearing "I Support Sellards" buttons. As they move toward Kathryn and crew, Jimmy extends his hand. *

JIMMY

Ms. Peale, why I remember when you were just a grunt in traffic court.

KATHRYN

Mr. Nolan, always a pleasure to shake your trembling hands.

He looks: his hands are a little shaky. Alejo leans in.

ALEJO

Did you bring your beta-blockers?

JIMMY

Nah, I'm good to go. I can talk to a hundred strangers, but new juries skeeve me out. Wish Lena luck.

ALEJO

(to Lena)

I'm here if you need me. *

LENA

Thanks. I guess. I wouldn't mind borrowing your scarf. It's a little chilly in here. *

As he hands over his scarf, a COMMOTION ERUPTS by the elevators. Brianna Sellards is arriving. ALL EYES FOLLOW HER as she moves past her family...and arrives at Kathryn's side. WE FADE THROUGH TO THE COURTROOM: *

BRIANNA ON THE STAND

...it was Viagra and it had my Dad's name on it.

KATHRYN

Brianna, why did you testify to the grand jury that your father was home at 3:30 PM on November 11th? *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRIANNA

To make my Mom happy - she's been
so sick and sad.

*
*

TIME CUT TO JIMMY ADDRESSING BRIANNA ON CROSS:

*

JIMMY

Maybe you lied because you knew in
your heart your father would never,
ever commit such a crime.

BRIANNA

All I know is a girl who used to
call our house was killed in an
alley behind my dad's office.

*
*
*

Jimmy frowns; the Prosecution is in the lead. TIME CUT TO
JIMMY CROSSING EYEWITNESS MELINDA SAGEBRECHT (30s):

*
*

JIMMY

Ms. Sagebrecht, how far is the
alley from your window?

*
*

SAGEBRECHT

A hundred feet? My four year old
was staring at the alley, so I went
over to see what he was looking at.

*
*
*

JIMMY

A four year old is a handful, boy.
I know from my kids.

SAGEBRECHT

He's always six places at once!

*

A few Jurors CHUCKLE. Jimmy chuckles with them, then:

*

JIMMY

So from a hundred feet away, with a
child who's six places at once, you
can identify *two total strangers in
a dark alley across the street?*

*
*
*
*

As she BLUSHES, unable to respond, Kathryn flinches, the
Defense takes the lead, and WE TIME CUT TO SCHOOL JANITOR
CARL AZARIAN (50s) ON THE STAND:

*
*
*

KATHRYN

Mr. Azarian, other than yourself
and other maintenance staff, who
had access to the alley where Maria
Covas was killed?

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AZARIAN

Faculty and front office. Students
aren't allowed - unless accompanied
by a teacher.

*
*
*

Kathryn smirks, and the Prosecution pulls ahead. TIME CUT TO
JIMMY CROSSING AZARIAN:

*
*

JIMMY

But students get into that alley on
their own sometimes, I bet.

*
*

AZARIAN

From the street every now and then,
yeah. They cut a hole in the fence.

*
*

KATHRYN'S EYES dart to Edge. He writes "WTF??" on a pad.

*

JIMMY

When did that last happen?

AZARIAN

Mmm...week before the crime?

JIMMY

So on November 11th, the day Maria
Covas died, *anyone from the street*
could have entered that alley?

*
*
*

KATHRYN

(leaping up)
Speculation, your Honor!

*
*

Jimmy grins; the Defense gains ground. TIME CUT TO LENA
CROSSING ESL STUDENT FATIMA VENCES (15):

*
*

LENA

Fatima, you testified that Mr.
Sellards said bad things about
Latinos.

*
*
*
*

FATIMA

Si. After the school. Him say
Latino peoples bad and them dirty.

*
*
*

LENA

What exact words did he use,
Fatima?

*

FATIMA

(struggling)
He say - say all the time bad word.
I don't know.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

The blood drains from Kathryn's face. Edge turns to Chad. *

LENA

Can you think of any? Any at all?

Fatima wells up, looks out at the Prosecutors. Jimmy fights back a smile. The Defense *soars* ahead. *

INT. KATHRYN'S OFFICE - THAT NIGHT *

Kathryn and Edge stare daggers through Chad. *

KATHRYN

I don't know what strings your daddy pulled to make you an ADA, but you just lost us the hate crime charge and *I will* kill you. *

CHAD

She must have been nervous! *

EDGE

It was your job to prep her so she *wouldn't be*. *

CHAD

Look, I know how I come off - which is sometimes bad - but I want to be a good prosecutor. *

KATHRYN

Unbelievable! We're halfway through this case, and *this* is where we fall down? *

EDGE

Alright, what's done is done. *

KATHRYN

Yes, and what's also done is Jimmy burned through our *best eyewitness* and then opened the jurors' minds to imaginary killers walking through a broken school fence! *

EDGE

Then we jump two steps ahead and finish with Maria's best friend and the ME. We bombard the jurors with Sellards' obsession with Maria. It's at the heart of this trial, and they'll get it. We gut Sellards with his own sick mind. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHRYN *
 (agreeing) *
 And we do it now. *

TIME CUT TO EDGE ADDRESSING MARIA'S BEST FRIEND BROOKE LEHMAN *
 (17, very pretty) ON THE STAND. *

EDGE *
 How would you describe Mr. *
 Sellards in Maria's presence? *

BROOKE *
 Like *totally* crazed. The day she *
 died, she was going to meet him. I *
 was all *don't*. But she said they *
 had some things to "resolve." *

Jimmy winces. The Jurors are mesmerized. TIME CUT TO THE *
 STATE'S MEDICAL EXAMINER ON THE STAND. The Jurors sit *
 forward in their chairs. *

EXAMINER *
 The markings on Maria's thighs were *
 made post-mortem, and indicate to *
 me the handiwork of someone with *
 tremendous psychological distress. *

JIMMY *
 Your Honor, *really*? *

JUDGE KIM *
 Let us strike that, please. *

KATHRYN *
 (pauses, then) *
 Were you able to determine how *
 those markings were made? *

EXAMINER *
 Some kind of small instrument. Not *
 a knife, which would be too thin. *
 Not a stick, which would be too *
 randomly edged. And a pattern was *
 present, which seemed to me to be *
 ritualistic in nature. *

JIMMY *
 (rolling his eyes) *
 Help me out here, Judge? *

JUDGE KIM *
 I'll allow it. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATHRYN

Complex markings made post-mortem
would take time. The killer would
had to have been extremely familiar
with his surroundings in order to -

JIMMY

Come on, this is NUTS!

JUDGE KIM

Ms. Peale, you're out of bounds.

But the damage has been done. Kathryn levels a conquering
look at Jimmy.

KATHRYN

The prosecution rests, your Honor.

Jimmy wipes his brow, whispers to Lena:

JIMMY

We're up. Let's undo some damage.

FADE THROUGH TO JOLENE SELLARDS, THE DEFENSE'S FIRST WITNESS:

JOLENE

Maria called our house frequently.
She seemed to ask more of my
husband than other students.

JIMMY

And your husband's Viagra use?

She and Glen manage sad smiles from across the room.

JOLENE

Friends - even family - have
abandoned me during my long
illness. Not Glen. Yes, I was
aware he occasionally used
prostitutes. He has needs I
haven't been able to meet. But
this much I know - he would never,
ever touch a young girl.

TIME CUT TO STUDENT SHAYNA BRIDEL (17, serious, glasses)
TESTIFYING FOR THE DEFENSE:

SHAYNA

It was *Maria* who was obsessed with
Mr. Sellards. Brooke Lehman too.

LENA

And you and Maria were close?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SHAYNA *
 Until she met Brooke. Then she *
 started changing her clothes before *
 first period, dressing all hoochie. *

KATHRYN *
 Objection, victim's dress not - *

JUDGE KIM *
 Sustained. Proceed. *

SHAYNA *
 It's like when Maria realized she *
 was pretty this year, she just *
 became guy crazy. *

The Covas family MURMURS. The Defense gains yardage. TIME *
 CUT TO DEFENSE FORENSIC EXPERT NANCY KOHLHAAS ON THE STAND: *

NANCY *
 There was recent genital trauma to *
 the body, but it was also clear *
 that the victim was a sexually *
 active young woman. *

KATHRYN *
 Move to strike, your Honor! *

TIME CUT TO TODD ENGLER ADDRESSING JIMMY FROM THE STAND: *

TODD *
 Maria was kinky, always up for - *

KATHRYN *
 Victim's sex life not relevant, *
 your Honor! *

JIMMY *
 We'll withdraw it, your Honor. *

JUDGE KIM *
 Mr. Nolan, be good, yes? *

Jimmy nods. TIME CUT TO KATHRYN CROSSING TODD: *

KATHRYN *
 Regarding your testimony about your *
 relationship with Maria, did you *
 and she ever display affection in *
 front of Mr. Sellards? *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

TODD

That dude was always up in our grill. He caught us in the park once, and I was like *seriously?*

*

Jimmy shoots an UH-OH LOOK at Lena.

*

KATHRYN

So Sellards trailed the two of you?

Glen huffs and puffs at the Defense table.

*

TODD

Bunch of times, yeah. Once he had Maria's crucifix. He said he found it, but Maria said he was always taking her things.

*

*

*

Jimmy is crawling out of his skin.

*

KATHRYN

Killer's usually want a token of their prey.

*

*

*

JIMMY

(leaping up)
She can't possibly be serious!

*

*

*

JUDGE KIM

Mr. Nolan, sit down. Ms. Peale, you're warned.

*

*

*

Kathryn flashes Edge a sly victory smile. The Defense has fumbled with Todd Engler, and they need to retrieve the ball.
TIME CUT TO STUDENT MEER KOHLI (17) ON THE STAND:

*

*

*

MEER

Last summer a bunch of us started the Native American Art Project to thank Mr. Sellards for being such a good teacher. Maria was actually the one who organized it.

*

*

*

*

*

*

JIMMY

Defense submits into evidence a drawing made for Glen Sellards by *Maria Covas herself*. It shows one of the many Native American symbols for the word "gratitude."

*

*

*

*

*

Jimmy returns to the Defense table, where Lena drops a hand on his knee to stop his incessant Reebok tapping.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

LENA

Take your beta blockers.

JIMMY

Naw, I'm good.

Edge rises to address Meer. *

EDGE *

Did you ever see Maria and Mr.
Sellards alone together, Meer? *Meer looks out at the group of SELLARDS SUPPORTERS, then up
at Judge Kim, who indicates he should answer. *

MEER *

I saw them alone in Room 206, where
Debate Club meets. Then I saw them
coming out of Mr. Sellards' office. *

EDGE

What were they doing both times?

MEER *

The first time, just talking. The
second time, Maria borrowed a scarf
from Mr. Sellards and I saw him,
like... *

EDGE

You are under oath, Mr. Kohli. *

MEER *

(hesitantly) *

He, um, tucked it into the top of
her shirt. She looked scared.A RUMBLING rises in the courtroom. JIMMY'S REEBOKS start
shaking furiously. Lena looks panicked. *

EDGE *

When did this occur? *

MEER *

The day Maria died.

The RUMBLING grows; Judge Kim works his gavel. Jimmy averts
his eyes. *

INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - THAT NIGHT *

Jimmy's wearing circles in the carpet, as Lena explains: *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LENA

Meer Kohli never mentioned seeing
Glen alone with Maria.

ALEJO

Because you interviewed him at
school where he didn't want to say
anything in front of his friends.

JIMMY

Okay, alright, can the three of us
come together for the sake of this
case?? They've got Glen with his
hands down Maria's blouse! It
doesn't mean he raped her, let
alone killed her, but he was -

ALEJO

(dawning on him)

He was tucking in the scarf she'd
borrowed from him...

GHOST IN ON: LENA BORROWING ALEJO'S SCARF THE FIRST DAY OF
TRIAL.

ALEJO (CONT'D)

I've got it!

OFF ALEJO'S EXULTANT FACE:

INT. COURTROOM - NEXT MORNING

Alejo is showing Meer Kohli, now back on the stand, a PHOTO
OF A SCARF. Kathryn is coiled to object.

ALEJO

Is this the scarf Maria borrowed
from Mr. Sellards?

MEER

I think so...yes.

KATHRYN

Once again, your Honor, Defense is
not allowed to present evidence of
the victim's dress in a case of
Rape.

ALEJO

I respectfully submit that there is
presently not enough evidence to
prove this *is* such a case, your
Honor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Judge Kim pauses - *for the first time the entire trial.* *
 Jimmy and Lena freeze. The room goes silent, then: *

JUDGE KIM *
 Proceed carefully, Mr. Salazar. *

Kathryn shakes her head. *

ALEJO *
 Defense asks forensic expert Nancy *
 Kohlhaas to return to the stand. *

Meer Kohli steps down. TIME CUT TO NANCY KOHLHAAS BACK ON *
 THE STAND: *

ALEJO (CONT'D) *
 Ms. Kohlhaas, can DNA be *
 transferred to skin via clothing? *

NANCY *
 Happens all the time, yes. *

ALEJO *
 So the DNA present on Maria's *
 breasts could have been deposited *
 there *not by a sexual encounter* *
between herself and Glen Sellards, *
 but by something as innocent as a *
 borrowed scarf? *

NANCY *
 Absolutely. *

MURMURING in the gallery. Jimmy BEAMS at Alejo; saves don't *
 get much better than that. TIME CUT TO PROSTITUTE WILLA *
 PAULING (30s) ON THE STAND: *

WILLA *
 ...Yeah, Glen would come to me *
 every couple weeks for a date. *

Glen closes his eyes at the Defense table. Behind him in the *
 gallery, his wife Jolene stares straight ahead. *

WILLA (CONT'D) *
 Always popped a little blue pill so *
 he could go the distance. *

JIMMY *
 Did he ever mention needing Viagra *
 for Maria Covas? *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLA

The dead girl? Nope. He just said
his wife wasn't doing it for him.

She's gone too far. Jimmy's about to cut her off when -

WILLA (CONT'D)

And could I hook him up with some
of my *younger* girlfriends.

Jimmy blanches, the courtroom STIRS, Judge Kim SMACKS HIS
GAVEL - and Jolene Sellards collapses. Zach fans his mother
as Glen, trying to get to her, is restrained by COURT
OFFICERS. CALLS for a DOCTOR! ring out, but Jolene revives.

INT. ALEJO'S OFFICE - THAT NIGHT

Lena steps in. Alejo doesn't look up from his work.

LENA

Good job today.

ALEJO

You're not required to say that.

LENA

Look, I realize I'm new here, but
on some cases you'll work better,
and some I will. That's all it is.

As he contemplates her, his phone RINGS and LARRY COMBS
APPEARS. Alejo puts the call on SPEAKER.

LARRY

Someone get over to Glen's house
ASAP. The cops are there.

SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. SELLARDS' HOME

JIMMY'S TOWN CAR speeds to a stop in front. As Jimmy
emerges, PARAMEDICS bring a BODY BAG from the house. He
rushes INSIDE. Glen is kneeling on the living room floor,
drenched in tears. Zach's holding him for dear life.

GLEN

Her heart couldn't take it...it
just stopped.

END OF ACT FOUR

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT FIVE

EXT. COURTHOUSE STEPS - NEXT MORNING *

Jimmy and team, dressed somberly in black, are heading inside *
 when Jimmy gets a call from LARRY COMBS. He picks up. *

JIMMY *

What is it, Lar? *

(listens, then) *

What do you mean "a shoe?" *

As Jimmy listens, a HUGE GRIN spreads across his face. *

INT. COURTROOM - SHORT TIME LATER

Glen sits hunched over at the Defense table as the REPORTING *
 COP(50s, pock marked) sneers on the stand. *

JIMMY *

...And four years ago you were *
 fined for contaminating a crime *
 scene? *

REPORTING COP *

That was *four years ago*. *

Jimmy nods at the evasion and proceeds to the evidence table. *
 There he finds a CASUAL SHOE. *

JIMMY *

Do you recognize this shoe? *

REPORTING COP *

Yeah. How'd you get my shoe...? *

JIMMY *

It's not your shoe, Detective, it's *
 Glen Sellards' shoe. You both own *
 size 10 Rockport Tour Classic *
 shoes. So whose footprint is at *
 the crime scene? Glen Sellards' *
 footprint? Or the footprint of a *
 detective who's been fined for *
 contaminating crime scenes? *

The Defense pulls way out in front. OFF KATHRYN'S LOOK OF *
 DISGUST WE TIME CUT TO THAYER PENDLETON (40S) ON THE STAND: *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PENDLETON

...I determined there was no basis for the student's claim of sexual harassment. But because of pressure from Chidley's school board, I had to fire Glen.

*
*
*

KATHRYN

Isn't it true, Mr. Pendleton, that you are married to a former Chidley student?

JIMMY

Uh, relevance, your Honor?

*

KATHRYN

And that she was once a student of yours in middle school?

*
*

JIMMY

Relevance?!

*

JUDGE KIM

Allowed.

PENDLETON

(fidgeting)

We started dating when she was 18 - after she'd graduated.

KATHRYN

Wise to wait until the ink on her diploma had dried. But perhaps you're not the best judge of a teacher's innocence, Mr. Pendleton.

*
*

OFF KATHRYN'S SELF SATISFIED SMILE:

*

INT. JIMMY'S OFFICE - THAT NIGHT

*

BALLS OF LEGAL PAD PAPER are scattered around the room like tumbleweed. Alejo rushes in, clears his throat.

*
*

JIMMY

I'm working on closing, this better be good.

ALEJO

An ex-con who slept on the steps of Glen Sellards' church was just arrested for murder - one extremely similar to Maria's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jimmy's jaw literally drops; this is *better* than good. *

INT. KATHRYN'S OFFICE - SAME

Kathryn, Edge and Chad have just heard the same news.

EDGE

Sellards and the ex-con are either collaborators, or Sellards used his MO to point elsewhere. We find witnesses at the church that link the two of them. That way we show that Sellards consorted with criminals, had a criminal mind. *

CHAD

My family donates a lot of money to the Episcopal church. I could pull some strings, get in there fast, get witnesses who put the two of them together. Give me another chance. *

Kathryn looks to Edge. Edge nods. Chad flies out. *

KATHRYN

But we can't risk the jury being confused: whatever Sellards' association with this ex-con is, Sellards is still Maria's killer. *

EDGE

Let's compare the two autopsies. Are there even similar markings on the other girl's body? *

KATHRYN

Wait. Oh wait. Oh my God. There won't be similar markings on the other girl's body - and I know why. Where are the crime scene photos? *

Edge points to them on her desk. She zeros in on the MARKINGS ON MARIA'S BODY. *

EDGE

What is it?

KATHRYN

(calling out) *
Someone pull the evidence files *
pertaining to Sellards' students! *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Triumph dawns on Kathryn's face. TIME CUT TO THE NEXT MORNING AND REVEREND PAUL SMYTHE ON THE STAND:

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

So you're utterly certain, Reverend, that you saw the man suspected of the recent murder talking to Glen Sellards in the days before Maria Covas' death?

REVEREND SMYTHE

Yes, on the steps of St. Bartholomew's. Glen told me he was fascinated by the man's life story.

Kathryn flashes a grateful look Chad's way. TIME CUT TO DETECTIVE SHERYL GRAHAM (30s) ON THE STAND:

JIMMY

And you're absolutely sure, Detective Graham, that both murders struck you as similar?

DETECTIVE GRAHAM

The bodies were in similar positions, young girls, the same age, Latina.

JIMMY

And you compared the MOs?

DETECTIVE GRAHAM

They seemed similar to me, too.

JIMMY

Then the same person could be responsible for both murders?

DETECTIVE GRAHAM

Yes, sir.

Jimmy sits. His Reeboks are no longer tapping. Kathryn stands. Her face is Sphinx-like, inscrutable.

KATHRYN

Are you an expert in criminology, Detective?

DETECTIVE

No, ma'am. All I know is two girls are dead in similar ways.

Kathryn seems glad she's said it, and we TIME CUT TO THE COURTROOM THE FOLLOWING MORNING:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KATHRYN

Similar ways, yes. But not the
same way.

*
*

The place is packed for summations. Glen Sellards can barely sit up. His FAMILY AND FRIENDS cluster behind him. Across the aisle, THE COVAS FAMILY AND FRIENDS cling to each other.

*
*

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

Only one of these girls withstood Glen Sellards' barrage of phone calls. Only one of these girls endured his stalking in school. Only one of these girls was found brutalized under his office window. But something else distinguishes these two murders.

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*
*
*
*
*
*

Kathryn turns on a projector; an AUTOPSY PHOTO SHOWING A SECTION OF MARIA'S BODY appears on a screen.

*
*

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

The Medical Examiner mentioned ritualistic markings on Maria's body. When magnified, these markings turn out to be Native American symbols. In fact, the exact symbols for "gratitude" Maria had drawn to thank the teacher who would one day kill her.

*
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*
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*
*

THE DRAWING MARIA DREW FOR GLEN SELLARDS now appears next to the AUTOPSY PHOTO. The similarities between drawing and the markings on Maria's body are uncanny.

*
*
*

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

The Medical Examiner testified the wounds were made with a small instrument. I submit that instrument was Maria Covas' Quinceaños crucifix. The crucifix Todd Engler mentioned as once being in Glen Sellards possession. It represented Maria's connection to the girl she was leaving behind, and the woman she was trying to become. Sellards couldn't bear that transition, so at 3:30 PM on November 11th, he met her in the alley underneath his office window.

*
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*
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*
*
*
*
*
*

FLASH ON MARIA - THE FIRST TIME WE'VE SEEN HER ALIVE, BEAUTIFUL AND FULL OF ENERGY - BITING HER NAILS AS SHE WAITS IN THE ALLEY, LOOKING UP AT GLEN'S OFFICE WINDOW.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

FLASH ON GLEN WHISPERING URGENTLY TO HER IN THE ALLEY, MOMENTS LATER. FLASH ON MARIA TRYING TO GIVE BACK THE SCARF SHE'D BORROWED FROM HIM - AND GLEN REFUSING ANGRILY. FLASH ON HER CRUCIFIX BEING YANKED FROM HER NECK. FLASH ON GLEN'S SHADOW HOVERING OVER HER NAKED, DEAD BODY...

KATHRYN (CONT'D)

Glen Sellards copied the methods he'd learned from the ex-con he'd met at St. Bartholomew's. He'd hoped that would throw us off his trail. But then, unable to control himself, he used Maria's crucifix to carve his sick signature on the body he felt was his. Let us hold him accountable for his fiendish acts, and exact justice by delivering -

TIME CUT TO:

JIMMY

- an acquittal, which is the only response to such circumstantial evidence! Ms. Peale tried to tell you about a hate crime, but her witness fell *splat*. And the markings on Maria's body? For all we know there could be a cult out there!! And if they are Native American symbols, they could have been made by *anyone who ever took one of Glen's classes*. That's several hundred suspects! Top it off, the crucifix that supposedly caused these markings has never been found. Let's not listen to fairy tales when a man's life is at stake. At 3:30 PM on the afternoon of November 11th, Glen Sellards - teacher, father, husband - finished his school day...

FLASH ON GLEN PACKING UP HIS BAG IN HIS OFFICE. FLASH ON GLEN LAUGHING WITH SOME STUDENTS AS HE MOVES THROUGH THE HALLS. FLASH ON GLEN OUTSIDE LAGUARDIA HIGH, PASSING BY THE FENCE TO THE ALLEY - AND NOTICING THE LARGE TEAR IN IT. FLASH ON GLEN ARRIVING HOME, RUSHING TO JOLENE IN HER BED AND LOVINGLY KISSING HER BALD HEAD.

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Glen Sellards has lost his job, his reputation, his money, and his beloved wife Jolene.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

JIMMY (CONT'D)

Don't take his freedom. Think
reasonable doubt. You've got it in
spades.

FADE TO: *

INT. SELLARDS' APARTMENT - NEXT DAY

Glen huddles on the couch with Zach and some STUDENTS. The
phone RINGS. Zach picks up, listens, then says softly: *

ZACH

It's in. *

JUMP TO: KATHRYN getting the call. *

JUMP TO: JIMMY getting the call. *

JUMP TO: THE COVAS FAMILY getting the call. *

INT. COURTROOM - LATER THAT DAY

It's the moment before the JURY FOREMAN reads the verdict.
It quivers like a violin holding a high, faint note, then: *

FOREWOMAN

Guilty, your Honor. *

The place ERUPTS. Judge Kim HAMMERS the gavel. *

JUDGE KIM

The defendant is remanded to
custody until sentencing. *

As COURT OFFICERS move toward a dazed Glen: *

GLEN

How can this be happening...?

INT. WALKER'S BAR - TRIBECA - THAT NIGHT *

Kathryn is parked behind a Mountain Dew. Jimmy comes up.
They acknowledge each other silently. He takes the seat next
to her, signals the bartender.

JIMMY

Good work, soldier. *

KATHRYN

You too.

JIMMY

Why can't it be like the old days?
You, me, hacky-sack in the quad? *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KATHRYN

Because we're old. *

(Jimmy smiles) *

Tell me something, Jimmy. When you
took this case, did you know
something I didn't?

JIMMY

Nope. I was just thinking about my
high school History teacher. He
was like a father to me. Except he
wasn't drunk. *

KATHRYN

(nods; knows) *

We still on for NYU? *

JIMMY

My car will pick you up. Hey, ever
seen *Chinatown*? It's playing at
Cinema Village, wanna check it out? *

KATHRYN

I'd love to. But I'm on my way to
a "gig." *

JIMMY

A date?

KATHRYN

Something like that.

JIMMY

Just as well. I should head out to
Montclair and see my boys.

They nod. But neither moves from their bar stool.

INT. SELLARDS' HOME - RIDGEWOOD, QUEENS

Zach, now alone in the world, wipes away tears as he makes a
care package for his father: some books, yellow pads,
pencils. *Then he remembers something and goes to the basement to
retrieve it. As he digs through shelves, he notices a PIECE
OF GLITTERING METAL in the cracks of the floor. He tugs at
it until it dislodges: a SILVER CRUCIFIX NECKLACE SPATTERED
WITH BLOOD. *

He drops it, and staggers back in horror, as we... *

FADE OUT. *