

CASTLE



“A Death in the Family” Ep. 110

Teleplay by
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Story by
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Directed by
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“A Death in the Family”

CAST

Blue Production Draft
February 19, 2009

RICHARD CASTLE
KATE BECKETT
MARTHA RODGERS
JAVIER ESPOSITO
LANIE PARISH
KEVIN RYAN
ALEXIS CASTLE
CAPTAIN ROY MONTGOMERY

WILL SORENSON
JULIA HAMMOND
JIMMY “THE RAT” MORAN
MARIO GUERRERA
SAL TENOR
JACEY GOLDBERG
CLARK MURRAY
COURTNEY MORANTZ
MAGGIE DOWD
OWEN
AUSA CANDACE “HARD CANDY” ROBINSON
ATTORNEY
FBI AGENT #1
FBI AGENT #2
HEAVY
ANNOYED WOMAN

“A Death in the Family”

NON-SPEAKING

White Production Draft
February 19, 2009

SCENE 1

TOW TRUCK OPERATOR

SCENES 1, 4, 5 & 6

DOCTOR JOSHUA LEEDS (DEAD)

SCENE 4

CSU PHOTOGRAPHERS

SCENE 9

BUSTY BLONDE

SCENES 25 & 26

BARFLIES

SCENE 26

WAITRESS

SCENES 33 & 24

FBI AGENT

SCENE 37

HOSPITAL NURSE

SURGEON

FEDS

SCENE 46

AUSA AIDE

“A Death in the Family”

Locations

White Production Draft
February 19, 2009

INTERIORS

ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY’S OFFICE
CORRIDOR

BAR

BECKETT’S UNMARKED VEHICLE

BOUTIQUE

DRESSING AREA

CASTLE’S LOFT

CASTLE’S OFFICE

LIVING ROOM

DOCTOR’S OFFICE

DR. LEEDS’S OFFICE

RECEPTION

WAITING ROOM

DR. LEEDS’S OFFICE BUILDING

CORRIDOR

IMPOUND LOT

MORGUE

HALLWAY

VIEWING ROOM

PARKING GARAGE

PRECINCT

BULLPEN

INTERROGATION ROOM

OBSERVATION ROOM

ST. MARCUS HOSPITAL

CORRIDOR

HOSPITAL ROOM

WAITING AREA

SUV

EXTERIORS

CITY (STOCK)

NEW YORK CITY (STOCK)

OFFICE BUILDING

STREET

FADE IN:

1 EXT. STREET - DAY

1

PUSH IN on a car's wiper blade. Underneath it, a half-dozen parking tickets. We drift past the tickets, coming around to the driver's-side window, where we find an orange "FINAL VIOLATION" sticker, that reads: "This car will be towed."

A tow truck hooks to the car, lifting it up.

From inside the car, we see the TOW TRUCK OPERATOR get back into his cab. CAMERA DRIFTS DOWN, past the dash, to reveal...

A MAN'S BODY slumped over, head-down in the front passenger footwell.

His head is encased in a plastic bag, wrapped with duct tape at the neck. The body jerks up, as the car is pulled by the tow truck out into traffic.

CUT TO:

2 INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, CASTLE'S OFFICE - DAY

2

CASTLE sits at his desk across from CLARK MURRAY, mid-50s. Clark is showing Castle morgue photos of a WOMAN's midsection presenting multiple stab wounds. The photos are labeled: "JOHANNA BECKETT."

MURRAY

A stabbing, Rick? Isn't that a little pedestrian for you? Usually when you call me, it's to ask what happens if you put a head in a microwave.

CASTLE

This one's a little less made-up. The victim was the mother of the detective I've been following.

MURRAY

Ah.

CASTLE

The case has been cold ten years. I figured, since you're the best forensic pathologist in the city, you might find something they missed.

MURRAY

You know reality isn't fiction,
right? The odds of finding anyone's
killer after ten years are...

CASTLE

Astronomical. I know. But I'd
appreciate it if you could take a
look.

Castle rises.

MURRAY

I'll do what I can, but don't make
any promises that I can't keep.

Murray gathers up the material as Castle escorts him from his
office.

CASTLE

Of course not.

3 INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, LIVING ROOM - DAY

3

As Murray heads toward the door, Castle hears from behind him:

MARTHA (O.S.)

What was Dr. Death doing here?

CASTLE

Just a little consulting.

MARTHA

It sounded like you were looking
into Detective Beckett's mother's
murder.

CASTLE

Mother, must you always eavesdrop?

MARTHA

I wasn't eavesdropping. I just
happened to be passing by your
office door. I live here too, you
know.

CASTLE

I'm aware.

MARTHA

Does she know you've been poking
into her mother's case?

CASTLE

What's the point in telling her unless I've found something new?

MARTHA

Did you ever stop to think that you might be invading her privacy?

CASTLE

It's not like I'm looking through her underwear drawer. I'm trying to find her mother's killer.

MARTHA

You're digging up her past without her permission. You should either tell her or leave it alone.

Just then, the front door opens and ALEXIS enters with a huge grin on her face.

ALEXIS

He asked me! Dad, he asked me!

CASTLE

Who asked you?

ALEXIS

Owen! I told him I had to ask you, but you'll say yes, right? I told him yes, but you have to say yes, so say yes.

CASTLE

Yes?

ALEXIS

Yes!

CASTLE

What am I saying yes to?

ALEXIS

The Junior-Senior Prom.

CASTLE

Whoa-whoa-whoa. You're neither a junior nor a senior.

ALEXIS

True. But Owen's a junior.

CASTLE

Owen? He's only fifteen.

ALEXIS

He skipped a grade. Dad, please,
please, please, please.

CASTLE

If I say yes, will you promise to
stay out past your bedtime and have
a good time?

ALEXIS

Yes!

She answers a little too enthusiastically.

CASTLE

But not too good a time.

ALEXIS

Dad, all we've done is hold hands.

CASTLE

("gross")
Ew. Please. I don't need details.

ALEXIS

So I can go?

CASTLE

Of course you can go.

She giddily kisses her dad, pulls out her phone, and runs
upstairs to call Owen.

ALEXIS

(calling back)
Oh. I'm going to need a dress.

MARTHA shoots Castle a look.

MARTHA

So, this Owen. You like him?

CASTLE

Don't know. I haven't met him.

MARTHA

You're letting her go out with
someone you haven't met? What kind
of father are you?

Off Castle, we...

CUT TO:

4 INT. IMPOUND LOT - DAY

4

CSU PHOTOGRAPHERS take pictures of the BLUE MERCEDES, the plastic-encased head, and the slumped body.

On BECKETT and Castle, approaching the car.

BECKETT

Castle, I'm not going to run a background check on your daughter's date.

CASTLE

Come on. She says he's quiet. He keeps to himself and he lives with his parents. Tell me he doesn't sound like a serial killer.

They join RYAN and ESPOSITO.

ESPOSITO

Who's a serial killer?

BECKETT

Castle's daughter, Alexis, just got asked to prom.

CASTLE

It's her first real date.

RYAN

And you're worried he's a serial killer? You should be more worried he's a teenage boy.

CASTLE

He's only fifteen.

RYAN

Between satellite TV and the Internet, fifteen's the new twenty-five.

ESPOSITO

Dude's right. If I had a daughter her age, I wouldn't let her leave the house.

CASTLE

Thanks, guys.

RYAN

We got a shotgun in the trunk, if you need to borrow it.

As they approach the vehicle, Beckett sees the decomposed face in plastic and winces.

RYAN (CONT'D)

The car was towed in a few hours ago. Parking violation. When the attendant went looking for the VIN number, he found the vic facedown in the passenger's footwell with the bag over his head.

CASTLE

Six parking tickets and a tow sticker, no one ever looked inside?

BECKETT

Welcome to New York. You got an ID?

ESPOSITO

Dr. Joshua Leeds, 37. According to the business cards in his wallet...

Esposito hands her one.

ESPOSITO (CONT'D)

...he's a plastic surgeon. Car's registered to him as well.

BECKETT

Money in the wallet?

ESPOSITO

Yeah. A few hundred.

BECKETT

So we can rule out robbery.

CASTLE

A bag duct taped over his head? That's not a very efficient way to kill someone.

BECKETT

No. But it's very personal. Find and notify next of kin, see how long he's been missing.

LANIE looks up from the passenger-side door.

LANIE

From the state of decay, I'd say about a week.

RYAN

That matches the date of the first parking ticket.

LANIE

Preliminary cause of death indicates asphyxiation, but I'll run toxicology just in case.

ESPOSITO

That's a pretty thin bag. Why didn't he just rip it off?

BECKETT

He must've been restrained.

LANIE

That's only half the story.

Lanie holds up his fingers.

LANIE (CONT'D)

His fingernails were removed. And each finger presents signs of having been broken pre-mortem.

BECKETT

Broken?

LANIE

If I had to guess, I'd say our doctor was tortured before he was killed.

SMASH CUT TO:

CASTLE TITLE CARD

5 INT. MORGUE, VIEWING ROOM - DAY 5

Lanie pulls back the sheet for COURTNEY MORANTZ, late-20s. Courtney's face twists up, emotional. She nods. Lanie covers the body again and then gives a little nod to the hallway, where we find...

6 INT. MORGUE, HALLWAY - DAY 6

Beckett and Castle, with Esposito, in the hallway, looking through the window.

ESPOSITO

His fiancée, Courtney Morantz. Reported him missing a week ago.

BECKETT
CSU have any luck with the car?

ESPOSITO
They're testing fiber and prints. We
should have the results tomorrow.

BECKETT
Thanks.

Lanie leads Morantz out of the viewing room, into the hallway.
She's devastated, but tries to fight back her tears.

BECKETT (CONT'D)
Ms. Morantz. I'm Detective Beckett.
I'm very sorry for your loss.

COURTNEY
I knew it. When he didn't come
home, I just felt it.

CASTLE
How long have you been engaged?

COURTNEY
Almost a year. We were getting
married next month. At the gardens.
What did they want? Money?

BECKETT
It doesn't appear that it was a
robbery.

COURTNEY
Then, why?

BECKETT
We were hoping you could tell us.
Was Josh involved in anything that
might have brought him into contact
with criminal elements?

COURTNEY
Like what?

BECKETT
Like gambling or drugs?

COURTNEY
Not my Josh. That wasn't who he
was. He was... everything to me.

She struggles to maintain her composure.

CASTLE

On the day he disappeared, did you notice anything different about him?

COURTNEY

Different?

BECKETT

Like, was he worried, or distracted, or scared?

COURTNEY

He was fine. He was... We were going to meet. We had an appointment to taste cakes. When he didn't show, I called the office, they said he had left. I called his cell phone, but he didn't pick up.

Beckett takes it in, feeling her loss.

CASTLE

If his office is in Midtown, do you have any idea why his car was found on 133rd Street?

COURTNEY

133rd Street? That's Harlem. He never goes that far north. He always takes the Midtown tunnel to the L.I.E. If he was going to be late, he'd call. He'd always call. He'd always let me know... What am I supposed to do?

Beckett feels her pain, but doesn't have the answer.

CUT TO:

7 INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY

7

Beckett and Castle enter to see Ryan and Esposito putting up items on the murder board.

BECKETT

Anything on the canvas?

RYAN

Nada. Locals only remember seeing the car after it got the tickets. No security cameras on the street.

ESPOSITO

Fiancée's story checks out. Cake shop confirms she was there waiting.

RYAN

Heading to meet his fiancée at the cake store in Great Neck. How'd he end up dead on a street in Harlem?

CASTLE

Maybe the doctor had secrets that even his fiancée didn't know. Like, maybe he secretly made a living by using his surgeon's skills to harvest the organs of tourists for the black market organ trade. Oh, that one's good. I'm writing that down.

Beckett shoots Castle a look.

BECKETT

Instead of making up stories, we're going to establish a timeline. The first ticket was when?

ESPOSITO

Last Wednesday morning.

BECKETT

He was last seen at work Tuesday, so sometime between leaving work and getting ticketed, Joshua Leeds was killed. You guys take the Midtown garage where he kept his car, we'll hit his office.

Beckett rises and grabs her coat. Castle follows, as they head to the elevator.

CASTLE

Hey, can I ask you something?

BECKETT

Since when do you ask permission to ask a question?

CASTLE

It's about your mother's case.

And instantly, a heaviness comes over Beckett.

CASTLE (CONT'D)

I just wondered if you ever thought about reopening it.

BECKETT

What are you doing?

CASTLE

Nothing. I just thought maybe, together-

BECKETT

No.

CASTLE

I have resources.

BECKETT

Castle, you touch my mother's case, and we're done. You understand me?

CASTLE

Okay. But why don't you want to investigate?

BECKETT

Same reason alcoholics don't drink.
(off his look)

You don't think I've been down there? You don't think I memorized her file? My first three years on the force, I spent every off-duty minute looking for something someone missed. It took a year of therapy for me to realize, if I didn't let it go, it was probably going to destroy me.

She steps into the elevator.

CASTLE

I'm sorry. I didn't know.

BECKETT

Well, now you do.

The elevator doors close.

CUT TO:

8

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

8

We PUSH IN on a Midtown office building.

9 INT. OFFICE BUILDING, CORRIDOR - DAY

9

A BUSTY BLONDE with obviously-fake boobs walks past Beckett and Castle.

CASTLE

I think we're getting close.

Beckett looks at Dr. Josh Leeds's business card.

BECKETT

Suite 1475.

But Castle is distracted by the blonde.

CASTLE

Hmm? Sorry.

Beckett rolls her eyes.

BECKETT

What is it about men and boobs?

CASTLE

It's biological. There's nothing we can do about it.

BECKETT

Okay. But doesn't it bother you when they're so obviously not real?

CASTLE

Santa isn't real, but we still love unwrapping his presents. Why? You thinking about maybe getting a little work done? Stack the rack? Pop the top?

BECKETT

Keep talking and I'll give you a free nose job.

They come to suite 1475 and enter.

10 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE, WAITING ROOM - DAY

10

A simple office waiting room with a reception window. An ANNOYED WOMAN stands at the reception bar, speaking with MARIO GUERRERA, one of Dr. Leeds's nurses.

ANNOYED WOMAN

No, you don't understand. My stitches were supposed to come out two days ago. I'm not leaving until I see Dr. Leeds.

CASTLE

Then you're gonna be waiting here an awfully long time.

11 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE, RECEPTION - MOMENTS LATER

11

Beckett and Castle are in reception with Nurse Guerrera and two other nurses: JULIA HAMMOND, late-40s, and MAGGIE DOWD, late-20s.

JULIA

It wasn't like him to disappear. I think, deep down, we all knew something was wrong.

MAGGIE

We hoped maybe... I don't know.

MARIO

I can't believe he's dead.

BECKETT

Before he disappeared, did he seem agitated at all?

JULIA

It was pretty much business as usual.

MARIO

Except for the wedding. We were trying to clear his schedule for the honeymoon... Maggie thought maybe he got cold feet.

MAGGIE

It's just, why else would he disappear?

BECKETT

When was the last time you saw him?

JULIA

Last Tuesday. He was going to meet his fiancée, Courtney.

CASTLE

When was that?

MARIO

He left around 5:30.

MAGGIE

When I called at six to give him messages, he was fine. He said he was in traffic at the tunnel.

BECKETT

He'd left Manhattan.

CASTLE

(to Beckett)

So why'd he come back?

BECKETT

Did Dr. Leeds have any enemies, anyone he operated on who had complications or bad experiences? Anyone who wasn't happy with the outcome?

JULIA

None of Dr. Leeds's patients have ever had medical complications.

MARIO

That doesn't mean they were always happy.

BECKETT

What do you mean?

MARIO

Cosmetic surgery is about self-image. For some people, it changes their lives. For others, nothing is ever enough.

BECKETT

Did any of them ever threaten him in any way?

They exchange looks. Then Julia crosses to the patient files and pulls one.

JULIA

One... Jacey Goldberg. She was a patient of Dr. Leeds's until a few months ago.

CASTLE

What happened?

JULIA
She wanted a face-lift.

BECKETT
So?

MARIO
So, she'd already had three. Dr. Leeds refused to perform the operation.

CASTLE
What happened?

JULIA
She sued. It was thrown out of court, of course. That's when the threats started.

BECKETT
What kind of threats?

JULIA
She said she was going to ruin his life.

MARIO
She'd just ramble, y'know. I mean, she'd totally lost it. After a while, it just became funny. We never thought...

Julia offers a PICTURE of JACEY GOLDBERG, late-40s. She's had so much work, it almost looks like her face isn't real. She looks kind of like a cat.

12 INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY

12

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY stares at the photo of Jacey Goldberg on the murder board and shudders.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
At the very least, she should be arrested for violating the laws of nature.

Esposito hangs up the phone.

ESPOSITO
Check it out. Jacey Goldberg's husband, Jack, had her committed to Bellevue last month for psychiatric treatment for her little obsession.

RYAN

Guess who testified in support of her commitment?

BECKETT

Dr. Joshua Leeds.

RYAN

Yeah. Mandatory one-month treatment program. She got out last week.

ESPOSITO

Three days before the doctor went missing.

CASTLE

Mentally unstable plastic surgery chick? That's even better than organ harvesting.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY

Let's bring her in.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

13 INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY 13

JACEY GOLDBERG, in all her glory. Sitting next to her is her ATTORNEY. We PULL BACK into...

14 INT. PRECINCT, OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY 14

Esposito, Ryan, Castle, and Beckett stare.

ESPOSITO

Man, why would anyone do that to themselves?

CASTLE

I know. It's like she escaped from *The Island of Doctor Moreau*.

BECKETT

Come on, guys. She's not an animal. She's a human being.

CASTLE

I know, but... Wait. Were you being sincere, or quoting *The Elephant Man*?

Beckett shoots him a mischievous look as she exits the room. Castle smiles and follows.

15 INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY 15

Beckett enters, followed by Castle.

BECKETT

Mrs. Goldberg. I'm Detective Beckett. This is Richard Castle, a consultant with the department.

ATTORNEY

What's this all about, Detective?

Beckett doesn't even acknowledge the attorney.

BECKETT

Mrs. Goldberg, are you familiar with a plastic surgeon named Dr. Joshua Leeds?

JACEY GOLDBERG

Yes.

BECKETT

You recently sued him for malpractice.

JACEY GOLDBERG

That's correct.

Beckett reads from the lawsuit:

BECKETT

For refusing to perform elective cosmetic surgery; specifically, a face-lift, facial implants, and liposuction.

JACEY GOLDBERG

I assure you, each procedure was medically necessary.

CASTLE

Dr. Leeds didn't seem to think so.

JACEY GOLDBERG

That arrogant bastard thought he could play God.

CASTLE

If you wanted the surgery so badly, why didn't you just see another doctor?

JACEY GOLDBERG

Because I wanted the best. Who is he to refuse me the best?

CASTLE

So you threatened to ruin him?

JACEY GOLDBERG

Why does he get to decide what I can and can't do? Why does he get to decide how I look?

BECKETT

Is that why you killed him?

JACEY GOLDBERG

What?

Jacey turns to her lawyer.

ATTORNEY

Detective, what exactly are you accusing my client of?

CASTLE
Dr. Leeds was murdered last week.

JACEY GOLDBERG
"Murdered"?

BECKETT
Just days after you were released from a psychiatric treatment facility that Leeds helped commit you to. That's motive and opportunity, Counselor.

JACEY GOLDBERG
So, I threatened him. That doesn't mean I murdered him.

CASTLE
Actually, usually it does.

JACEY GOLDBERG
I said I'd ruin him, not kill him. Big difference.

BECKETT
Then you won't mind telling me where you were last Tuesday night?

16 INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY

16

Beckett works the murder board. Montgomery's with her.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
So? Where was she?

BECKETT
She was... in the hospital.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
More surgery?

BECKETT
Yep.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
What's she got left to operate on?

Beckett glances down, indicating her privates.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY (CONT'D)
Oh, no.

BECKETT
Oh, yes.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
Seriously? What can they possibly
do down there?

BECKETT
Apparently, quite a lot.

Montgomery shudders.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
If Leeds had a history of turning
people down, maybe there's someone
else out there he pissed off.

BECKETT
Ryan and Esposito are going through
his patient list now, but CSU on
the car came back clean. It'd be
almost impossible for a run-of-the-
mill revenge murderer to be that
invisible.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
You thinking it was a professional?

BECKETT
(nods)
Given Ms. Goldberg's wealth, she
could've easily hired someone for
the job. And her surgery is a
pretty convenient alibi. But
torture and suffocation? That just
doesn't seem like the work of a
disgruntled trophy wife facing the
wrong end of fifty.

Montgomery stares at the murder board.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
A surgeon with broken fingers.
That's someone sending a message.

CUT TO:

17 INT. BOUTIQUE, DRESSING AREA - DAY

17

Several dresses are on a rack. Alexis steps out of the
dressing room, wearing a prom dress. She's feeling just a
little awkward.

ALEXIS
What do you think?

CASTLE
You look beautiful.

Alexis is exasperated.

ALEXIS
You say that about every dress.
Don't you think this makes me look
fat?

CASTLE
Sweetie, no matter how you think you
look, I want you to know that you're
perfect, exactly the way you are.

She "grrrrs" in frustration.

ALEXIS
You're not helping.

Martha enters, holding another dress.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)
Gram?

MARTHA
Oh, God no. It's hideous.

ALEXIS
Thank you!

Alexis disappears back into the dressing room.

CASTLE
What are you doing?

MARTHA
What?

CASTLE
Telling her she looks hideous? Do
you want her to have body-image
issues?

MARTHA
News flash. She already has body-
image issues. It's an intrinsic
part of being a woman.
(off his look)
Every woman in the world has
something about her she hates. We
think our hands are too small, or
our feet are too big, our hair's
too straight, or too curly.

(MORE)

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Our ears are funny looking, our butts are too flat, our noses are too big. And nothing you say is going to change how we feel.

(beat)

What men don't understand is that the right clothes, the right shoes, and the right makeup hides the flaws we think we have. They make us look beautiful to ourselves, and that's what makes us look beautiful to others.

Castle shakes his head.

CASTLE

It used to be that all she needed to feel beautiful was a pink tutu and a plastic tiara.

MARTHA

We spend our whole lives trying to feel that way again.

And now Alexis emerges from the dressing room, and this time, the dress really is gorgeous. Youthful, sweet, demure.

ALEXIS

What do you think?

Castle and Martha share a look: "It's perfect."

CASTLE

I think it's you.

Off Alexis, we...

CUT TO:

18 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE, DR. LEEDS'S OFFICE - DAY

18

Esposito is in Dr. Leeds's office, searching the lower drawer of his desk, when Ryan enters.

RYAN

Staff just got through all the files. No other red flags. Any dark secrets in here?

ESPOSITO

Yeah.

Esposito holds up a wrapper.

ESPOSITO (CONT'D)

Doctor Leeds had a weakness for energy bars.

Esposito shakes his head.

ESPOSITO (CONT'D)

He volunteered with Doctors International. Did *pro bono* work. The guy's a boy scout. Hell, he didn't even have any porn on his computer.

RYAN

That's weird.

ESPOSITO

Yeah. You know what was in his locked desk drawer?

RYAN

A fifth of Scotch?

Esposito pulls out a checkbook and some folders.

ESPOSITO

His checkbook. The man locked up his checkbook. The guy's straight as they come.

RYAN

What about the folders?

Esposito hands him the folders.

ESPOSITO

Wedding crap. Tux rental deposits. Catering invoices.

Ryan goes through them.

RYAN

Maybe some angry couple killed him for their wedding venue.

ESPOSITO

It's as good a theory as any.

RYAN

Hey.

ESPOSITO

What?

RYAN

These aren't all wedding files.

Esposito crosses to see what Ryan is looking at. It's a MEDICAL FILE. But much of the information in it has been blacked out.

ESPOSITO

That's odd. All the patient's personal information has been blacked out.

RYAN

Maybe Dr. Leeds has a secret after all.

19 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE, RECEPTION - DAY

19

Julia, Dr. Leeds's senior nurse, examines the file.

JULIA

It's his handwriting, but I've never seen this file.

ESPOSITO

Can you identify the patient?

Julia looks at the file.

JULIA

Not from his notes. Just that it was a male, mid-fifties.

RYAN

How about the kind of procedure?

JULIA

This is impossible.

ESPOSITO

What?

JULIA

I'm his primary nurse. I run his surgical team. He never operates without me.

ESPOSITO

Apparently, he did.

She checks the date of the file and then turns to Mario.

JULIA

Mario, on Dr. Leeds's calendar,
what do you have for March 18th?

Mario flips back a few pages.

MARIO

He was supposed to be down at Mercy
attending the panel on
reconstructive surgery.

JULIA

Why would he lie? Why would he
operate without me?

20

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY

20

Esposito tapes the redacted medical records to the murder
board. Beckett, Ryan, Castle, and Montgomery are there as well.

ESPOSITO

According to the hospital, the
procedure lasted nine hours.
Neither the assisting nor the
anesthesiologist were with the
hospital. They were both brought in
by Dr. Leeds, but they weren't his
regular guys.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY

A nine-hour mystery operation he
didn't want his own people to know
about?

BECKETT

The hospital must've had some
record of the patient.

RYAN

Get this. They can't locate the
file. It's like it never happened.

CASTLE

Who did you talk to?

RYAN

Patient Information.

CASTLE

Well, there's your mistake. If you
want to find someone who got
treatment at a hospital, you go to
the one department where nothing
ever falls through the cracks.

They shoot him a confused look.

CASTLE (CONT'D)
("isn't it obvious?")
Billing.
(beat, they take that in)
Someone had to pay for it, right?

Captain Montgomery shoots his team a look as if to say, "Why didn't you think of that?"

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

21 EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY 21

Establishing.

22 INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY 22

Castle exits the breakroom with a pair of cappuccinos and crosses to Beckett, who is just finishing up a call.

BECKETT

Thank you. No. I appreciate it.

(hangs up)

It seems our mystery patient's hospital bills were paid promptly and in full.

CASTLE

By whom?

BECKETT

Wire transfer.

Beckett hands a slip of paper to Esposito.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

See what you can find on the account number.

Esposito takes the slip and heads to his desk. Castle hands Beckett the cappuccino. She takes a sip. He considers her a beat. He wants to come clean, tell her he's been looking into her mother's case, but he's torn. Before he can get the words out of his mouth...

BECKETT (CONT'D)

Alexis find a dress?

CASTLE

Yeah. Cute, too. I can't believe she's going to prom.

BECKETT

She's a good kid, Castle. She'll be fine.

CASTLE

Yeah. My only comfort lies in the time-honored tradition of torturing the boyfriend.

BECKETT

What do you mean?

CASTLE

You know, the time-honored hazing that occurs in those few moments that he and I have alone before my daughter descends the stairs.

RYAN

I remember the terror of meeting my date's old man.

CASTLE

What'd he do?

RYAN

Checked my wallet for condoms and showed me his gun collection. My hands were shaking so hard I could barely put on the corsage.

CASTLE

What'd your father do?

BECKETT

I... I don't know, actually. I was in my room.

CASTLE

And how was your date when you finally came to see him?

BECKETT

Now that you mention it... he looked... terrified?
(off their looks)
All these years I thought he was scared of me.

CASTLE

Nope. And now it's my turn.

RYAN

What are you planning?

CASTLE

Something worthy of the name Richard Castle.

Esposito crosses back to them.

ESPOSITO

You're never going to believe this.

BECKETT
(to Esposito)
What'd you find out?

ESPOSITO
That account the money was wired
from? It belongs to the U.S.
Attorney's Office. Whatever the
procedure was, Uncle Sam paid.

CASTLE
Then we can probably rule out boob
job.

RYAN
Why would the DOJ pay for a
cosmetic procedure?

BECKETT
There's only one reason. To change
someone's identity.

ESPOSITO
You think the guy was in Witness
Protection?

BECKETT
The only way they'd go through the
expense of changing someone's
appearance is if he were a very
important witness in a very big
investigation.

RYAN
And had significant threats against
him.

CASTLE
We're dealing with more than
threats. If Dr. Leeds was tortured,
that means our killer's trying to
find this guy.

BECKETT
Then we better find him first.

CASTLE
The guy's a protected witness. How
are we supposed to find him?

BECKETT
We ask the people who are
protecting him.

RYAN

Ask "Hard Candy"? Good luck.

CASTLE

"Hard Candy"?

ESPOSITO

Assistant U.S. Attorney Candace
Robinson. She makes mobsters cry. *

23

INT. ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, CORRIDOR - DAY

23

ASSISTANT U.S. ATTORNEY CANDACE "Hard Candy" ROBINSON strides
down the hallway with Beckett and Castle trailing. *

AUSA ROBINSON *

I'm sorry, Detective, but you must
know that information on protected
witnesses is confidential. Whether
or not you have proof we employed
Dr. Leeds, and whether or not you
have proof that an operation took
place, is irrelevant.

BECKETT

Not to my victim, it's not. Not to
his family and certainly not to his
fiancée. They were planning a life
together that they'll never have.

AUSA ROBINSON *

Look, I'm not unsympathetic to your
situation, Detective, but we all
have our jobs to do.

BECKETT

Ms. Robinson, doesn't it matter
that the man you employed was
murdered and that whoever killed
him may be looking for your
witness? *

AUSA ROBINSON *

Detective, you are asking me to
expose a witness in an ongoing
Federal investigation, and I am
telling you it's not going to
happen.

AUSA Robinson strides off. Beckett's frustrated. *

24

EXT. STREET - DAY

24

Castle and Beckett walk and talk.

CASTLE

So what now?

BECKETT

This witness of theirs is the key. Without knowing who he is or who's after him, there's no way to take the next step.

CASTLE

There may be another way to find out who their witness is.

BECKETT

Yeah? How?

CASTLE

Candace Robinson's office deals almost exclusively with organized crime.

*

BECKETT

So?

CASTLE

So, what if we ask the other side?

BECKETT

What, you want to ask the mob who the witness is?

CASTLE

Well, clearly they know who he is if they're trying to kill him. Like you said, he's gotta be a significant witness in a big case.

BECKETT

So what, Castle? We hop in the car and drive down to "The Bada Bing!"?

CASTLE

I know a guy. Owes me a favor.

BECKETT

What is this? A Mamet play? You "know a guy"?

CASTLE

From the early Derrick Storm days. He's a capo with one of the families. He's actually pretty nice.

BECKETT
For a criminal.

CASTLE
I'm just saying, maybe he knows something. Maybe he can tell me what the Feds won't.

Off Beckett's look, we...

CUT TO:

25 INT. BAR - DAY

25

Even though it's the middle of the day, this place hasn't seen sunlight in years. Castle enters to find a couple of BARFLIES planted on stools. In the back corner booth, set up as his office, SAL TENOR, Italian, mid-50s, goes over a stack of paperwork.

As Castle approaches, a HEAVY grabs Castle, twists his hand, shoves him face-first against a table.

CASTLE
Whoa, whoa. Hey, I'm an old friend.

HEAVY
Sal?

Sal stares at Castle, but there's no recognition on his face.

SAL TENOR
Kill him.

The Heavy grabs Castle, powering him toward the back of the bar.

CASTLE
Whoa! Hey-hey-hey.

And now Sal starts to laugh.

SAL TENOR
No. No. Let him go. Let him go. I was just messing with him.

The Heavy lets Castle go.

CASTLE
Not funny, Sal. Not funny.

SAL TENOR
You're right. It wasn't funny. It was frickin' hilarious.

(MORE)

SAL TENOR (CONT'D)
Richard frickin' Castle. The Master
of the Macabre. What brings you
down off your cloud of money?

CASTLE
You know that favor?

Sal's smile disappears. He nods.

SAL TENOR
Yeah. I know that favor.

CASTLE
I'm here to call it in.

CUT TO:

26 INT. BAR - LATER

26

A WAITRESS puts down two Scotch and sodas. Sal looks up at her and waits for her to go before continuing. Then:

SAL TENOR
(hushed tones)
The guy you're talking about?
Worked for the Spolano family.
Jimmy "the Rat" Moran. He was an
underboss, a favorite of the Old
Man's. But he got squeezed out by
Junior when the Old Man kicked.
Rumor has it, he turned state's a
few months back and the Spolanos
are running scared. Apparently,
Moran has it all - ledgers,
calendars, bills of lading. Enough
to take down the entire top level.

CASTLE
No wonder he changed his face.

SAL TENOR
Well if they got to the surgeon,
it's only a matter of time until
they get to him.

CASTLE
When I was writing *Storm Warning*,
you told me that some hit men have
a signature weapon or style.

SAL TENOR
Yeah.

CASTLE

This killer used a plastic bag and duct tape to suffocate their victim. Does that sound like anyone you know?

Sal Tenor shakes his head.

SAL TENOR

You'd have to ask the Spolanos.

CASTLE

I don't think they'd like that.

SAL TENOR

Probably not. I bet you who else would know.

CASTLE

Who?

SAL TENOR

Jimmy "the Rat."

(beat)

Rick, listen, this is serious stuff you're into. Being a writer is one thing, being a writer working with cops is another. You cross these people, they'll gut you without blinking an eye, and all the best-sellers in the world won't protect you. You follow?

Off Castle, we...

CUT TO:

27 INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY

27

Esposito and the gang, in front of his computer. On the screen is a PICTURE of Jimmy Moran.

ESPOSITO

Jimmy "the Rat" Moran, aka Jimmy Pretty. Linked to gambling, loansharking, and extortion schemes.

RYAN

You want a guy to be loyal, you probably shouldn't nickname him "the Rat."

BECKETT

Dig up what you can on known associates of the Spolano family.

RYAN

Sure. And while we're at it, we can bang our heads against a brick wall. Y'know, just for fun.

ESPOSITO

(off Castle's look)

Professional hits are the hardest to close because of the anonymous nature of the murders. The usual rules - motive, relationship to the victim - don't apply.

BECKETT

We need to talk to Moran. See what he knows.

CASTLE

What makes you think your friend "Hard Candy" is going to cooperate now?

BECKETT

You have your sources, I have mine.

CASTLE

It's not your ex-boyfriend, is it? Mr. FBI? Tall, dark, and judgmental?

BECKETT

Yeah, why? Is that a problem?

CASTLE

Not for me. But then again, I'm not the one he wants to get back together with.

Off Beckett, we...

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

28 EXT. OFFICE BUILDING - DAY

28

Beckett leans against a car outside an office building, holding a brown bag and a coffee. She watches as WILL SORENSON comes out of the building and approaches the car.

SORENSON

Well this is a nice surprise.

BECKETT

Hopefully this will be, too.

She hands him the brown bag. He looks inside.

SORENSON

Am I really that predictable?

He pulls out a rainbow sprinkle doughnut and smiles.

BECKETT

Maybe I just know you too well.
After all, we were an item once.
You might want to eat it before
anyone sees. Might ruin your FBI
street cred.

SORENSON

Yeah, I'd never hear the end of it.

He starts to split the doughnut in half.

BECKETT

No, you eat it. I'm not really into
sprinkles anymore...

He looks disappointed.

SORENSON

Right. So you're buttering me up,
or should I say "sugaring me up"?
Is this the part where you ask me
to bend the rules to help you on
your case?

BECKETT

Am I really that predictable?

SORENSON

Maybe I just know you too well.
What do you need?

BECKETT

To talk to Jimmy Moran.

SORENSEN

Jimmy Moran? The mobster?
(off her look: "yeah")
What makes you think I can help
with that?

BECKETT

Because the FBI and the U.S.
Attorney's Office have him in
Witness Protection.

SORENSEN

And you know this how?

BECKETT

Word on the street.

Sorenson sighs.

SORENSEN

Look, even if it's true, I don't
work organized crime cases.

BECKETT

No. But we both know how this
works. You reach out to the agent
in charge, he talks to the AUSA
running the case, and I get to talk
to Jimmy Moran.

SORENSEN

(smiles, shakes his head)
And I do this for you, why?

BECKETT

Let me put it another way: the
Spolanos know that Jimmy Moran's
cooperating with the government. We
know they want him dead, because
they murdered the surgeon you Feds
hired to change his face.

(off Sorenson)

You guys put this doctor in harm's
way. Which means you're gonna do it
for him, not me.

Off Sorenson's look, we...

CUT TO:

29 INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, LIVING ROOM - EVENING

29

A door BUZZER sounds. Castle emerges from his office wearing a BLOODY LAB COAT and holding a prop Halloween SEVERED HEAD.

Alexis comes rushing down the stairs in her prom dress, looking beautiful.

ALEXIS

Dad! No! No severed heads.

CASTLE

But...

ALEXIS

No.

Martha comes in from the kitchen.

MARTHA

Really, Richard.

ALEXIS

Take it off.

CASTLE

All right. All right.

Castle pulls off his bloody lab coat and tosses it and the severed head into his office. Alexis crosses to the door and opens it, revealing her date, OWEN, dressed in a tux and holding a corsage. He's a little shy and awkward, and gives off the air of a newborn puppy.

ALEXIS

Hi.

OWEN

Hi. You look really nice.

ALEXIS

Thanks. You, too.

Castle and Martha appear behind Alexis. Castle has his FlipCam out and is filming.

ALEXIS (CONT'D)

(noticing the camera)

Dad.

CASTLE

Just pretend I'm not here.

ALEXIS
Dad, Gram, this is Owen.

OWEN
Hi.

MARTHA
Well, don't you two look just
adorable. And a corsage.

Owen opens the corsage box.

OWEN
Here. It goes on your wrist.

He takes the corsage out and slides it on her wrist. Martha
takes the plastic box.

MARTHA
It's beautiful.

Alexis takes Owen's hand.

ALEXIS
Ready?

CASTLE
What? That's it? I haven't even had
a chance to ask him if he's killed
a man.

ALEXIS
Dad, he hasn't. But I might.

CASTLE
Okay, sweetie. Have fun, don't do
anything I would do.

And she and Owen get the hell out of the apartment, leaving
Castle with Martha. Castle closes the door behind them.

CASTLE (CONT'D)
My little girl's growing up.

MARTHA
At least one of you is. A severed
head?

CASTLE
That was just to start. I was all
set to do my Christopher Walken.
(à la Walken)
"Tell me, little man, you ever,
serve time, in a prison?"

MARTHA

How about you leave the acting to
me, funny man.

Castle's phone rings. He checks caller ID and answers.

CASTLE

(à la Walken)

"Detective. Tell me, have you ever
killed a man?"

INTERCUT AS NEEDED:

30 INT. PRECINCT - NIGHT

30

Beckett on her cell, grabbing her coat.

BECKETT

Castle?

CASTLE

It's my Walken. Pretty good, right?

BECKETT

Needs work. Listen, Sorenson's on
board. He pulled some strings and
got the U.S. Attorney's Office to
cave.

CASTLE

And they agreed to let you question
Moran?

BECKETT

We have a meet in an hour. You in?

CASTLE

I'm on my way.

CUT TO:

31 INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

31

Beckett's unmarked.

32 INT. BECKETT'S UNMARKED - CONTINUOUS

32

Beckett and Castle sit, waiting.

CASTLE

Seriously? A parking garage?

BECKETT

What?

CASTLE
That's pretty cliché.

BECKETT
No one said the Feds were
imaginative.

CASTLE
Next thing you'll tell me is
they're in a black Suburban with
tinted windows. *

Just then, a BLACK SUBURBAN SUV with tinted windows pulls
into the parking lot. *

CASTLE (CONT'D)
Someone's been watching way too
many Bruckheimer films.

33 INT. PARKING GARAGE - CONTINUOUS 33

The SUV pulls to a halt nearby. Sorenson steps out, along
with AUSA "Hard Candy" and a second FBI AGENT. Beckett and
Castle get out of the car and cross.

AUSA ROBINSON
Five minutes, Detective. That's all
you get.

BECKETT
The NYPD appreciates the
cooperation.

SORENSEN
(re: Castle)
Want me to watch the monkey?

BECKETT
"The monkey" stays with me.

SORENSEN
Suit yourself.

CASTLE
Hey. I really like the car. Very
nondescript.

Sorenson rolls his eyes and opens the door of the SUV.
Beckett and Castle climb in the back.

34 INT. SUV - MOMENTS LATER 34

The seats face each other, limo-style. Inside is JIMMY "THE
RAT" MORAN. His face is obscured by a ski mask.

BECKETT

Mr. Moran. I'm Detective Beckett.
This is Richard Castle.

MORAN

Richard Castle? Like the novelist?

CASTLE

Exactly like.

MORAN

I thought you guys were cops.

BECKETT

Mr. Castle's consulting on the
case.

MORAN

Look, I already told the Feds
everything I know. You want info on
the Spolanos, ask them.

BECKETT

We're not here about the Spolanos.
We're here about Dr. Leeds, the man
who operated on your face.

MORAN

What about him?

CASTLE

He was found murdered last week.

Moran takes it in.

MORAN

"Murdered"? The doc was murdered?

CASTLE

Asphyxiated. They duct taped a bag
over his head.

And it's clear that this means something to Moran.

BECKETT

We think it may have been the
Spolanos.

MORAN

"May have been"? "May have been"!

BECKETT

Given how Leeds was killed and your insight into the organization, we were hoping you might be able identify the-

Moran slams himself against the seat and starts banging on the window.

MORAN

Hey! Hey!

Sorenson opens the door.

SORENSEN

What's wrong?

MORAN

Get me out of here!

AUSA ROBINSON

(to Beckett)

What did you do?

MORAN

You dumb bitch! Why didn't you tell me?

BECKETT

We can help you, Mr. Moran. We can find the guys who did this. But you've got to tell us if there's anyone in the Spolano family who kills that way.

MORAN

Yeah. Yeah, there is.

(beat)

Me. The duct tape. The bag. That was my MO.

(off their looks)

Don't you get it? They're sending me a message. And if they got to the doc...

He turns to Candy and Sorenson.

MORAN (CONT'D)

Take me back. Now!

Off Castle and Beckett, we...

CUT TO:

35 INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - NIGHT

35

Elevator doors open. Beckett steams into the precinct with Castle trailing. Esposito and Ryan meet them.

RYAN
How'd it go?

BECKETT
Do the words "unmitigated disaster"
mean anything to you?

ESPOSITO
What happened?

CASTLE
We scared the key witness in a huge
Federal case so bad that now he
won't testify.

RYAN
Oh, is that all.

Captain Montgomery steps out of his office. He looks grave.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
Beckett. I just got a call from
DOJ.

BECKETT
Sir, I can explain...

Montgomery holds up his hands.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
No. It's Sorenson. On the way back
to the FBI safe house with Moran,
someone pulled up next to them and
opened fire. He was in the back
with the witness. Both of them were
shot.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE36 EXT. CITY - NIGHT 36

Establishing.

37 INT. HOSPITAL, WAITING AREA - NIGHT 37

Castle and Beckett stand with Captain Montgomery, Esposito, and Ryan.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY

Car was a late-model sedan, dealer plates. The guy pulls up at a light with a mask on. Blew the tires and then opened fire at the back of the vehicle.

*

CASTLE

I thought the glass would be bulletproof.

ESPOSITO

They used cop killers. Teflon rounds. Went right through the door.

*

*

Beckett finishes her conversation with a NURSE, and crosses to join them. They look expectantly.

BECKETT

He's still in surgery.

(beat)

"The Rat's" gonna survive, though.

She's trying contain her emotion. Her anger. She crosses to a vending machine. Bad coffee, but it's something to do. Castle joins her.

CASTLE

You want to talk?

BECKETT

What's there to say? I was the one who pushed for it. I was the one who got Will involved.

CASTLE

There's no way you could've known this would happen.

BECKETT

You sure about that? If this were
one of your stories, you know what
you'd say?

(MORE)

BECKETT (CONT'D)

"There are no coincidences."

(off his look)

Their vehicle was attacked leaving our meet.

CASTLE

So?

BECKETT

So, we were followed. Someone who knew about our investigation found out about our meet. We were the ones who led them to Moran. So yeah, I should've known and if I were a better cop, I would've.

Castle takes this in. Beat. Then:

CASTLE

You think this is your fault? Yeah, you pushed for it. And not because it's your job, but because you care. About the victims, about their families. About his fiancée and the life they'll never have. Most people, when they run into a wall, they give up. Not you. You don't let go and you don't back down. That's what makes you extraordinary.

(beat)

And that's why, no matter what happens, you're going to figure out who did this and you're going to make them pay.

Beckett looks up at Castle. They hold each other's eyes a beat. Then she looks up and sees a SURGEON talking to Captain Montgomery and a few of the FEDS. As Beckett moves toward them, Ryan and Esposito approach.

RYAN

He's gonna make it. He's gonna be okay.

Beckett lets out a sigh of relief. She turns to Castle. He gives her a nod. It's as close to a smile as the situation affords.

38 EXT. CITY - NIGHT

38

It's late. The lights on the Empire State Building switch off for the night.

39 INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

39

Dark. We hear the sounds of a key in the lock. The front door opens revealing Alexis and Owen.

OWEN

I had a good time.

ALEXIS

Me, too.

An awkward moment as Owen leans forward. Alexis leans forward. They share a sweet, awkward kiss. And then:

OWEN

Good night.

ALEXIS

'Night.

She closes the door and turns. Sees her dad standing at the door of his office.

CASTLE

Did you have fun?

ALEXIS

As a matter of fact, I did. This dating thing is kinda nice.

CASTLE

How was Owen? Don't worry. I closed my eyes for the kissing.

She shoots him a grin.

ALEXIS

Yeah. Me, too. You know, you didn't need to wait up for me.

CASTLE

That's my job. Waiting up. Making sure you're okay. And tonight I realized I don't have much longer to do it. A few years, you'll go to college, get married, have kids, and I'll only see you on holidays. Until, of course, I lose all my money to some gold-digger and have to move in with you.

ALEXIS

Wow. I feel like I just lost thirty years of my life.

CASTLE

That's how it happens. One day you're in your tutu, and the next you're too old for severed heads.

ALEXIS

Dad, don't worry. No matter how old I get, I'll always be your little girl.

She gives him a hug.

CASTLE

Promise?

ALEXIS

Promise. Now go to bed.

CASTLE

'Kay.

*
*

Castle watches her head up the stairs.

40 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

40

Sorenson lies in the bed, post-op. Monitors, IVs, and tubes. Beckett looks on. As we PUSH IN on her, her look becomes more and more determined until finally, she turns and walks away.

41 EXT. CITY - MORNING

41

Establishing.

42 INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY

42

Beckett's at the murder board, going over the details. She's wearing yesterday's clothes. Castle, with Esposito and Ryan.

RYAN

Desk officer said she was in at four this morning. She's been at the board ever since.

ESPOSITO

She called us in at 6 a.m. to recheck every person we've talked to on the case.

RYAN

And she's had like nine double espressos.

Castle approaches her.

CASTLE

Hey, I was reading online about
this new thing called "sleep." It's
supposed to be really good for you.

BECKETT

Shhhh.

Beckett crosses out something on the board.

CASTLE

That little speech last night, I didn't mean to make you go all *A Beautiful Mind*.

BECKETT

It wasn't anyone in the U.S. Attorney's Office. They wouldn't need us to find him. So it has to be someone we talked to.

CASTLE

You think it's my mafia connection?

BECKETT

If he's in a rival family, he wants Moran alive to testify because if the Feds bring down the Spolanos, the other families can take over their territories. No, we're looking for someone who had access to the doctor before we got the case.

CASTLE

So that leaves the fiancée and his staff.

RYAN

Yeah, except the fiancée's clean. Alibied and accounted for last night. Phone records don't indicate any calls to unknown numbers.

CASTLE

And I thought you already ran up the staff.

ESPOSITO

We did, and there was no record of anything that would indicate ties to organized crime.

Esposito hands Beckett three folders.

BECKETT

And last night?

ESPOSITO

Maggie Dowd was at dinner with friends. Mario Guerrero worked late packing patient files. And the senior nurse, Julia Hammond, claims she was home alone.

BECKETT

Can anyone corroborate that?

ESPOSITO

No. But that doesn't mean she's a killer.

BECKETT

Doesn't mean she isn't.

Castle flips through a file.

CASTLE

If this were a story, it'd be Maggie Dowd.
(off their looks,
explaining)
Because she's the only one with a verifiable alibi. The others didn't think they'd need one.

BECKETT

What was Mario doing packing up patient files?

ESPOSITO

They're closing up shop. Patient files are all going to new doctors.

BECKETT

It's just kind of a weird thing to be doing on a Friday night.

RYAN

Yeah, well. When you're low man on the totem pole, that's what life is like. People think they can call you into work at 6 a.m. on a Saturday.

Beckett takes Mario Guerrero's file and looks through it.

BECKETT

Julia Hammond and Maggie Dowd. How long were they with Dr. Leeds?

ESPOSITO
(checks files)
Hammond was with him ten years.
Maggie came on a few months back.
Why?

BECKETT
Our low man on the totem pole,
Mario Guerrero, was only hired by
Leeds last month.

Castle takes the file and looks at it.

RYAN
We checked him. Even called his
nursing school. He's clean.

Beckett grabs her jacket and heads for the elevator.

BECKETT
They can't all be clean. Check
again.

Castle races to catch up to her.

43 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE, RECEPTION - DAY

43

Beckett and Castle enter to find stacked boxes in the
reception area. Julia Hammond emerges.

JULIA
Detective. Is everything okay?

BECKETT
Where's Mario? I need to speak to
him.

Mario emerges from the next room.

MARIO
What's wrong?

BECKETT
Mario, I need you to come with me.

MARIO
Why?

BECKETT
I need to ask you a few questions.

MARIO
Did I do something wrong?

Beckett's cell phone rings. She answers.

BECKETT

Beckett.

44 INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - SAME TIME

44

Esposito, on his cell.

ESPOSITO

It's Maggie.

BECKETT (O.S.)

What?

ESPOSITO

We double-checked everything. Even called the nursing schools again. This time we had them send pictures. And the one of Maggie...

Ryan holds the faxed picture of Maggie Dowd next to the police picture of Maggie Dowd.

ESPOSITO (CONT'D)

It's a different girl.

45 INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE, RECEPTION - DAY

45

Beckett hangs up the phone and turns to Julia and Mario.

BECKETT

Where's Maggie?

JULIA

She didn't come in today. Why?

Castle notices business cards in a holder at the reception desk. He picks one up. *

CASTLE

Detective.

He hands her one of the cards. She reads it. Her eyes widening.

BECKETT

Dr. Leeds is affiliated with St. Marcus Hospital?

JULIA

Yeah. We do our procedures there.

CASTLE

That's where Jimmy Moran is. If she has hospital ID...

BECKETT

She can finish the job.

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX46 INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR - DAY

46

Maggie Dowd, dressed in hospital scrubs, wearing a St. Marcus ID badge, and holding a clipboard, makes her way down the corridor.

Up ahead, TWO FEDERAL AGENTS stand guard at a hospital room doorway. Further down the hallway, we see AUSA Robinson in conversation with one of her AIDES. *

As Maggie approaches the room, the FBI Agents take notice of her.

FBI AGENT #1

Room's restricted. I need to see your ID.

She passes it to Agent #1, who checks it.

FBI AGENT #1 (CONT'D)

You have a Maggie Dowd on your list?

Agent #2 checks the name on her handheld PDA. Nods.

FBI AGENT #2

She's on the roster. You can let her through.

They let Maggie in.

47 INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

47

Maggie crosses to the bed where Jimmy "the Rat" Moran lies half-conscious with tubes and IVs coming out of him. The EKG beeps a steady rhythm.

MAGGIE

I gotta say, Jimmy, you're a hard man to find. Took me weeks to even find out that you changed your face. The old one was better, by the way.

Moran, in a morphine haze, sees Maggie. We register a flicker of panic in his eyes. From her pocket, Maggie removes a syringe and a vial. She stabs the vial and draws up the liquid. His EKG starts to speed up.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Sodium thiopental. It's what they use in lethal injections.

(MORE)

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

It's not as much fun as a plastic bag, Jimmy. Not nearly as much begging and pleading. But it does the trick.

Maggie walks over to Moran's IV tap and sticks the needle in. She presses the plunger, releasing the medication into the IV tube. Then she leans in close to Moran. His eyes track hers.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Oh, and I got a message from Junior, Jimmy. He says, "Go to Hell."

Maggie rises, and turns around to see Beckett, Castle, AUSA Robinson, and the FBI Agents behind them. *

BECKETT

You're under arrest for the murder of Dr. Leeds and the attempted murder of Jimmy Moran.

Castle steps to the IV.

MAGGIE

You're too late.

CASTLE

Oh, no. Oh, God.

Castle pulls out the IV tube. It's not attached.

CASTLE (CONT'D)

Hey, wait a minute... It's not attached! It's like we knew you were coming.

BECKETT

Attempted murder of a Federal witness. What's that go for these days?

AUSA ROBINSON *

Twenty-five to life.

48 INT. PRECINCT - DAY

48

Beckett steps out of the interrogation room. "Maggie" sits stoically inside. AUSA Candy is in the hallway with Captain Montgomery.

BECKETT

(to "Hard Candy")
She's all yours.

Candy nods to Montgomery and heads into the interrogation room. Montgomery falls in step with Beckett as they head toward the bullpen.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY

Looks like you managed to set things right with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

BECKETT

She's turning state's. When Moran recovers, the Feds'll have two witnesses against the Spolanos.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY

Only Maggie back there can link them to murder.

BECKETT

Her name's Carla Dante. They call her "Carla Coldblood." She's been killing for the family for five years. When Jimmy dropped dime, the Spolanos sent their best.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY

Lady hit man. A real blow for women's rights. And the real Maggie Dowd?

BECKETT

Works at a hospital in Seattle. She had no idea her identity'd been stolen. Carla even pulled recommendations for her off a job-hunting site to get the position with Leeds a few months back. She was hoping to find pictures of Moran, and when she didn't, she went after Leeds.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY

And when he didn't talk, she killed him. But why stay on at the office?

BECKETT

If she'd left before Leeds's body was found, it would've seemed suspicious. She probably didn't think he'd be sitting there for a week. Then, when we showed up, she waited to see how far we'd get.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
Good work, Detective. Very good work.

BECKETT
I never thought I'd be saying this, but I couldn't have done it without Castle, sir.

CAPTAIN MONTGOMERY
Where is Castle, anyway?

On Beckett. She doesn't know.

49 INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, CASTLE'S OFFICE - DAY

49

Castle is with Murray, huddled over autopsy photos of Johanna Beckett.

MURRAY
The original M.E. concluded that the stab wounds were random. Now maybe the killer got lucky, but see this wound here?

CASTLE
Yeah.

MURRAY
It's a low-angle thrust to the kidney. Wound size indicates that the knife was twisted. Her body would've gone into immediate shock.

CASTLE
And these others?

MURRAY
Their angle indicates they were delivered after she was immobilized and on the ground. They're just for show. This is the one that killed her.

CASTLE
This sounds less like a random killing and more like a targeted murder.

MURRAY

There's more. On a hunch, I checked the City M.E. files to see if this was an isolated incident and found three other stabbings around that time, which the M.E. working the case dismissed as random.

CASTLE

Were they related?

Off Murray's look, we know it's something significant.

MURRAY

Are you sure you want to know?

50

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, LIVING ROOM - LATER

50

Castle stands, looking out the window. Martha looks on.

MARTHA

You have to tell her, you know.

CASTLE

Do you know what this will do to her?

MARTHA

The information you have could lead to her mother's killer. You can't keep that from her.

CASTLE

I know. But she said if I opened the file that we'd be through.

MARTHA

It doesn't matter. She has to know.

Off Castle, torn.

51

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

51

Laughter. We find Beckett sitting bedside next to Sorenson.

SORENSEN

No, you didn't.

BECKETT

I totally did. And the guys came in, and he was like, "Where did all the goldfish come from?"

Sorenson laughs and winces simultaneously.

SORENSEN
Stop making me laugh.

BECKETT
Oh, please. It's not like you got
shot.

They both laugh as Beckett picks up the remaining half of a
rainbow sprinkle doughnut from his tray and takes a bite.

SORENSEN
Hey, I thought you were over
sprinkles.

She smiles mischievously at him and shrugs.

BECKETT
Maybe not.

Just then, there's a knock on the door. It's Castle.

SORENSEN
It's the writer monkey. Hey, what's
he still doing around? Haven't you
finished your book yet?

CASTLE
Last chapter.
(to Beckett)
Do you have a sec?

BECKETT
Sure.

SORENSEN
Watch it, Kate. He likes you.

BECKETT
You'll have to forgive him. He's
heavily medicated.

Castle nods as they step out into...

52 INT. HOSPITAL, CORRIDOR - DAY

52

Castle and Beckett are face-to-face.

BECKETT
You look awfully serious. Is
something wrong?

CASTLE
Sit down.

Beckett looks at him.

BECKETT
What?

CASTLE
Just... sit down.

BECKETT
Castle, what's going on?

Castle takes a breath...

CASTLE
It's about your mother.

Off Becket, we...

CUT TO BLACK.

END SEASON ONE