

INNER SENSE

Written by

Deano Jones

Deanojones14@yahoo.co.uk
+447534189811

EXT. CITY - DAY

We open with a view of a deprived town. Birds fly through the morning sky, our focus turns to a high tower blocks of flats.

INT. FLAT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

In a cramped two bedroom flat. KAREN JAMES (30s) Single mother, puts on a front to hide her pain and fear. As she dresses her non verbal son COREY (4) A cute young boy who shows signs of being on the autistic spectrum.

KAREN

Hopefully one day you'll be able to dress yourself.

Unable to give his mother eye contact, Corey's attention turns towards the television.

TV NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

Police are still looking for the missing girl. Ella Grayson, who was reported missing on Saturday, last night her father made this appeal.

FOCUS ON TV

At a news conference, a desperate father. GAVIN GRAYSON (40s) sits next to several POLICE OFFICERS and pleas in front of a room full of reporters.

GAVIN (V.O.)

Please. If anyone has any information that will help the Police. Please come forward. We just want our daughter back home.

A photo of Ella appears on the screen. Karen switches off the TV. Corey puts his hands over his ears and squeals. This is his way of coping with sudden change.

KAREN

We can watch TV when we get home,
We have to take you to your doctors
appointment.

Corey squeals at Karen.

KAREN (CONT'D)

It's alright, Mummy just needs to talk to the Doctor about a few things. Let's get your coat on.

EXT. BUSY STREET - DAY

Karen pushes Corey along in his stroller. Through Corey's POV we experience everything he hears and sees on a heightened scale.

COREY'S POV

- The sounds of motor vehicles passing by at an increased level.

- The whispers of voices as they walk past.

- The high pitched sound of a pedestrian crossing.

- A roaring engine of a lawn mower as the home owner cuts his grass.

BACK TO SCENE

Corey's sensory overload causes him to place his hands over his ears as they arrive at the DOCTORS SURGERY.

KAREN

Corey, take your hands off your ears, we're here now.

As they enter the building, Corey screams and rocks forwards and backwards with his hands over his ears.

INT. DOCTORS WAITING ROOM - DAY

Corey sits with his hands over his ears whilst humming to himself as Karen tries to hide her embarrassment. Patients begin staring at Corey.

THE P.A SYSTEM DIVERTS EVERYBODY'S ATTENTION.

ANNOUNCEMENT (V.O.)

Corey James to Doctor Patil.

Karen jumps up from her seat and pushes Corey's stroller past all the staring patients.

INT. DOCTORS CONSULTING ROOM - DAY

Karen KNOCKS on the door. A middle aged Indian doctor. RANJ PATIL (45) summons her into the room.

DOCTOR PATIL (O.S.)

Come in.

Karen enters the room.

DOCTOR PATIL (CONT'D)
Ah, Miss James. Come in take a
seat.

Doctor Patil waves at Corey.

DOCTOR PATIL (CONT'D)
Hello Corey.

Corey avoids eye contact.

DOCTOR PATIL (CONT'D)
What can I do for you today?

KAREN
I wanted to speak to you about a
few concerns I have.

DOCTOR PATIL
About yourself?

KAREN
(hesitant)
About Corey.

DOCTOR PATIL
What concerns do you have?

KAREN
Everywhere we go, Corey has always
got his hands over his ears. Then
he will just constantly scream.

DOCTOR PATIL
When did he start doing this?

KAREN
Just after he turned three. I can't
remember an exact date. It just
started happening.

DOCTOR PATIL
How is his speech?

Karen hesitates.

KAREN
He doesn't talk.

DOCTOR PATIL
If he wants something.
How does he communicate?

KAREN

He screams or squeals. He will take my hand and lead me to the place he wants something from, normally it's the snack cupboard.

DOCTOR PATIL

And how is his eating habits?

KAREN

He's a real fussy eater. He only likes toast, bread sticks, crackers and crisps. He loves cheese puffs, but only a certain brand.

DOCTOR PATIL

Did he attend Nursery?

KAREN

Yes, up until July.

DOCTOR PATIL

And how was he playing with his peers?

KAREN

Nursery said he preferred to play alone.

Doctor Patil nods his head while showing a face full of thoughts.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Then obviously nursery was disrupted due to the pandemic and after the lockdowns. I thought this was normal for kids, as they had gotten so use to playing alone.

DOCTOR PATIL

Can I ask, if you changed something in Corey's daily routine. How would he respond?

KAREN

He'd scream and get upset about it.

DOCTOR PATIL

Did any of the nursery staff talk to you about Corey's behavior?

KAREN

At the time they just said Corey didn't engage as he preferred to sit alone. I just thought this was normal for a four year old. But obviously I wanted to make sure everything was okay before he started school.

DOCTOR PATIL

Miss James, are you familiar with Autism?

KAREN

(shocked)
Autism?

DOCTOR PATIL

It's not an illness or a disease. It's simply the way someone's brain works differently to others.

KAREN

What are you trying to say? That you think Corey has Autism?

DOCTOR PATIL

No, No. We would need to carry out further assessments before we can make that conclusion.

KAREN

What do you mean by further assessments?

DOCTOR PATIL

We would refer Corey to a Pediatrician, and since he is non verbal, he will get referred to the speech and language team. We also do generic blood testing. It's all part of the pathway to Autism.

Karen interrupts.

KAREN

You've got it wrong. My son does not have Autism.

DOCTOR PATIL

Look, I know when you first hear the word Autism.

(MORE)

DOCTOR PATIL (CONT'D)

It's daunting, But there is a large spectrum and we just need to discover where Corey sits on this spectrum.

Karen sits back in her chair trying to process the information.

DOCTOR PATIL (CONT'D)

Here, take this leaflet and give it a read.

Doctor Patil hands Karen a leaflet. The words AUTSIM in big bold letters.

DOCTOR PATIL (CONT'D)

Is there anything else I can help you with?

Karen wipes away her tears.

KAREN

No, Come on Corey let's go.

Karen abruptly exits the room.

EXT. DOCTOR SURGERY - DAY

Upon exiting the building, Corey takes his hands off his ears as Karen drops the leaflet into a nearby trash can.

KAREN

He's not autistic, he's just different.

Karen wipes her remaining tears and pushes Corey down the street in his stroller.

INT. FLAT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

As Karen dresses Corey in his school uniform. The news plays on the TV in the background.

TV REPORTER (V.O.)

Police have now extended their search for the missing seven year old Ella Grayson.

Karen glances over at the TV as another photo of Ella is shown.

TV REPORTER (V.O.)

In a recent statement, Police have confirmed that this is being treated as a missing persons case. As Police continue their search.

Karen grabs her mobile phone.

KAREN

Mummy take a picture of you. I'll put it on Facebook. Corey's first day at school.

Corey avoids eye contact, he turns his head away from the camera.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Corey look this way.

Karen clicks her fingers as she tries to get Corey's attention.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Corey.

Corey looks towards Karen, then looks away.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Corey, Corey. Look this way.

She takes a photo of Corey whilst he continues looking away.

KAREN (CONT'D)

It's okay, I was camera shy when I was your age too.

Karen puts her phone in her pocket.

KAREN (CONT'D)

We better go and get the bus. We don't wanna be late for your first day at School.

INT. BUS - DAY

Karen and Corey get onto the bus. Corey puts his hands over his ears and begins humming to himself.

KAREN

Corey.

Karen pays the bus fare, whilst passengers stare at Corey. She spots an empty seat at the back of the bus.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Let's go sit at the back.

She leads Corey towards the back of the bus as everyone continues to stare at Corey humming to himself.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Corey, Shhh! It's okay.

His humming gets louder.

KAREN (CONT'D)
You sit next to the window.

Corey takes his hands off his ears and sits down in the empty seat. As Karen sits down, she notices a lady staring at Corey. She locks eyes with the nosey lady, causing her to turn away.

INT. TRAVELLING BUS - DAY

Corey sits in his own little world, oblivious, as the window next to him begin steaming up. Two circles resembling a recycling logo emerge on the steamed up window. Corey looks at the window and begins following the circles with his finger.

KAREN
We're the next stop.

Karen turns to Corey.

KAREN (CONT'D)
Did you draw that?

Corey looks on confused. Karen presses the bell, Corey puts his hands over his ears as the noise of the bell unsettles him.

EXT. BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL - DAY

Karen holds Corey's hand as they walk towards the school. Corey begins getting anxious, his humming returns, which gets louder and louder as they approach the gate.

KAREN
Corey calm, It's just like nursery.

As they approach the school gate. Corey's humming turns to screaming.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Corey, hey.

Karen tries to console him but he continues to scream as Parents look on.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Corey, stop.

Corey becomes more distressed as Karen looks on worried.

KAREN (CONT'D)

Corey what's wrong?

COREY'S POV:

Standing in front of Corey, a ghostly pale, stone faced girl. The missing Ella Grayson.

BACK TO SCENE

Corey grips his ears tightly, his scream gets louder as Karen tries to comfort him.

TITLE: INNER SENSE

INT. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT - DAY

In a busy specialist department. DC EMMA FORRESTER (40s) She's the boss and everyone knows it. Walks with authority. She approaches SARAH BLAKE (60s) No nonsense Mackem. A tough old cookie who's been around the block.

FORRESTER

Blake.

Sarah acknowledges Forrester.

BLAKE

Forrester, what can I do for you?

FORRESTER

We have been assigned The Ella Grayson case. So I need to assemble a team that I can put out on the front line. Right now, the police have nothing.

BLAKE

What do you need from me?

FORRESTER

I want you to assist and help head up a team. I want nothing but the best. Our mission is to find this little girl.

BLAKE

First person I want to assign is Jake Stone. We've worked on several cases together. Stone is the best in his field.

FORRESTER

Great. You and Stone head up the rest of the team.

Forrester heads over to her desk. As Blake makes her way towards a nearby office.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Blake enters the office. Inside, INSPECTOR JAKE STONE (30s) He's tall, no nonsense, physical specimen. At the desk next to him, the complete opposite. LEO KNIGHT (20s) quirky nerdy well educated male.

STONE

Blake. What can we do for you?

BLAKE

We've been assigned the missing Ella Grayson case.

STONE

What do you mean we?

BLAKE

Forrester requested that I head up a team of the best agents to assist in finding Ella. I told her I wanted you to head up the team with me.

STONE

So, what do we need?

BLAKE

Right now, we only have the police reports. No witnesses, No evidence. We need to start from the bottom and work our way up.

STONE

In that case. Knight, you're one of the smartest tech guys I know. How would you feel about joining the team to head up everything technical?

KNIGHT

I've never been out in the field. I just investigate online fraud and occasionally hack a few things here and there.

BLAKE

You'll be Perfect.

Blake and Stone exit the office.

KNIGHT

But.

INT. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT - DAY

Blake and Stone walk and talk down a long corridor.

STONE

We need a good body language expert.

BLAKE

I know just the person.

STONE

Sheps?

BLAKE

Yep.

STONE

Great choice.

BLAKE

Also someone who's not afraid to get their hands dirty.

STONE

What about Tate?

Blake stops in her tracks. She turns to Stone.

BLAKE

He's a big risk.

STONE
But he gets results.

BLAKE
Okay, that should head up our team nicely.

STONE
I'll go and round them up. When shall we meet?

BLAKE
I'll set a board room. Let's say thirty minutes.

Stone checks his watch as the pair head off in different directions.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Whilst walking down the street, Karen stops and stares at a little boy in a stroller who resembles Corey, except he's happily sitting as his mother, LUCY (30s) pushes him along.

LUCY
Hi Karen.

KAREN
Oh, Hi Lucy.

Karen watches Lucy go by, her thoughts, nothing but sheer worry about Corey. She continues her journey down the street.

INT. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT - DAY

Stone and Knight make their way towards the meeting room.

KNIGHT
So let me get this straight. No surveillance footage.

STONE
Nope.

KNIGHT
No witnesses.

STONE
Nope.

KNIGHT
No signs of any foul play.

STONE

None.

KNIGHT

And that's why the police flipped us this case.

STONE

You know it.

KNIGHT

How does a little girl just vanish of the face of the planet?

STONE

Well, Knight. That's for us to figure out.

KNIGHT

The most famous missing persons case in the world still remains unsolved after fifteen years.. Madeleine.

Stone interrupts.

STONE

This way.

He leads Knight into a meeting room, where the rest of the team await their arrival.

INT. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT - MEETING ROOM - DAY

Jakes enters meeting room, Knight takes a seat next to GABRIEL TATE (30s) The muscle of the team. Behind Tate, body language expert KATE SHEPHERD (20s) Simply known as SHEPS. Her piercing eyes don't miss a beat. Stone stands at the front next to Blake.

STONE

Thank you all for coming.

BLAKE

If you're wondering why you're here? Forrester requested that me and Stone head up a team of the best agents in their field.

STONE

We're here to find the missing Ella Grayson. The Police have no leads.

(MORE)

STONE (CONT'D)

So today, we're gonna try and piece together Ella's last day before she went missing.

Blake hands out files to the team.

BLAKE

All we have is the police report. And an interview with Gavin Grayson. Ella's father.

SHEPS

He's not a suspect in any of this? Is he?

BLAKE

Right now, we can't rule anything out.

They open up the file.

STONE

Subject is Ella Grayson. She's nine years old. Reported missing Saturday evening.

TATE

Do we have a pacific time she went missing?

STONE

Her Father reported her missing just after eighteen hundred hours.

BLAKE

Ella's last known location was Figmore park.

SHEPS

Do we have any details on who she was spotted by?

BLAKE

It was by a Darcey Davies. They knew each other from their local dance school.

STONE

Maybe follow up with Darcey in case she missed any small details when questioned by the police that may help our case.

TATE

Has anyone come forward with any doorbell or dash cam footage?

STONE

Not yet.

TATE

Maybe it's worth scoping out the area for any ring door bells or potential CCTV footage.

STONE

Tate, I'll leave that with you.

KNIGHT

What's the feeling on the family right now?

BLAKE

So far they've come across as two parents desperate to find their daughter.

SHEPS

I'll drop by and introduce myself, explain that we've taken over the case and I'll see if I can pick up on any suspicious body language.

BLAKE

Perfect, Go in with an open mind. We can't rule them out.

STONE

Let's head out into the field. Sheps, you and Tate pay a visit to the Grayson's.

SHEPS

Sure.

STONE

Blake and Knight, you head to Birchwood school and follow up with Darcey Davies.

KNIGHT

You got it.

STONE

Then meet me at Figmore park.

They all get up from their chairs and exit the meeting room.

INT. CLASSROOM - BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL - DAY

Children participate in an activity lead by teacher. DOROTHY MASON (60s) The longest serving teacher at Birchwood school. She notices Corey, sat alone. Isolated from his peers. Mrs Mason approaches him.

MRS MASON

Corey.

Corey doesn't respond.

MRS MASON (CONT'D)

Would you like to come and join in with the activity?

Mrs Mason makes her way over to Corey.

MRS MASON (CONT'D)

Corey, come and join in.

Corey turns away from Mrs Mason.

COREY'S POV

Mrs Mason attempts to get Corey's attention. Her voice sounding like she is talking to him under water.

MRS MASON (CONT'D)

Corey. Corey.

A clearer girls voice begin to emerge. Corey turns his head to see Ella stood next to Mrs Mason calling his name.

ELLA

Corey. Corey. Corey

BACK TO SCENE

Corey puts his hands over his ears, his piercing scream startles Mrs Mason.

MRS MASON

Corey! What is it?

The class stop and stare at Corey as he continues his meltdown.

EXT. FIGMORE PARK - DAY

Standing in the middle of Figmore park, Stones looks around, his eyes scan the scenery. He is joined by Sheps and Tate.

STONE

How are the Grayson's holding up?

SHEPS

They're just about coping.

TATE

We scoped out the area. Not one ring door or surveillance camera in sight.

STONE

If she headed north from here, hopefully she was picked up on someone's dash cam?

TATE

That's if she headed North. I mean if she headed east, then the forest area would have acted like a blind spot.

STONE

That's my biggest fear. The forest was the first place the Police searched.

SHEPS

It won't harm to take a second look. Fresh eyes.

STONE

Okay, let's go.

They head towards the forest area of the park.

INT. BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL - RECEPTION - DAY

In the school's reception, Knight and Blake are greeted by the school's receptionist. SHELLY MOORE (30s) Pleasant female.

SHELLY

Hi, can I help you?

BLAKE

I'm DCI Sarah Blake.

She shows Shelly her credentials.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

This is DCI Leo Knight.

Knight shows his credentials.

BLAKE (CONT'D)

We were wondering if we could speak to Darcey Davies.

SHELLY

Is she in trouble?

KNIGHT

Oh, No. Not at all.

BLAKE

We just need to talk to her in regards to her statement she made to the police about the missing Ella Grayson.

SHELLY

I'll just go and speak to the headmaster.

KNIGHT

Certainly.

As Knight and Blake await the headmaster, Karen rushes past frantically as she is met by Mrs Mason.

KAREN

I'm sorry I missed your initial call. I got here as soon as I could.

MRS MASON

We've managed to calm him down. It took over an hour. He was really distressed about something.

KAREN

What was he upset about?

MRS MASON

We have no idea.

KAREN

It must have been something.

MRS MASON

Can I just ask, did Corey receive any one to one support at nursery?

KAREN

Not that I know of?

MRS MASON

Maybe it's worth getting in touch with the local work together team, they can provide a specialist report to help Corey in school.

KAREN

Specialist report for what?

MRS MASON

Sen children.

KAREN

What do you mean by Sen children?

MRS MASON

Special educational needs.

KAREN

Hold on, my son screams and puts his hands over his ears and due to this you're trying to label him.

MRS MASON

Miss James' what you need to understand is I have been a teacher for over forty years at this school. Corey displays the same behaviors as many sen children I have taught.

Karen takes Corey by the hand.

KAREN

I'm not listening to this.

MRS MASON

Miss James, I just want to help.

Karen storms past Blake and Knight. Whilst passing, Corey and Knight's eyes connect. It's the first time Corey has ever given perfect eye contact with a stranger. Karen and Corey exit the school. Shelly re-appears and approaches the pair.

SHELLY

Mr Dawson is ready to see you.

They approach the headmasters office.

INT. HEADMASTERS OFFICE - SCHOOL - DAY

A Stern looking male. CLARK DAWSON (50s) greets the pair.

MR DAWSON
Come in, take a seat.

KNIGHT
I've never been inside the
headmasters office before.

MR DAWSON
Let's not make a habit of it then
hey.

Darcey is brought into the room by Shelly.

DARCEY
Am I in trouble?

MR DAWSON
No, not at all Darcey. These
officers.

Knight interrupts.

KNIGHT
Inspectors.

MR DAWSON
Sorry, inspectors. Would like to
talk to you about Ella.

DARCEY
Okay.

BLAKE
Darcey, can you just confirm to us
the last time you saw Ella.

DARCEY
I saw her Saturday morning. Then I
saw her when I rode past Figmore
park on my bike.

BLAKE
And where did you see her in the
morning poppet?

DARCEY
At our dance school.

BLAKE
What time was that?

DARCEY
Our dance class was at eleven
o'clock.

KNIGHT

Do you remember what you were doing
in your dance class?

DARCEY

We were practicing our freestyle
routines for the dance
championships.

BLAKE

Something that was missed in the
initial police report you gave was
you didn't like Ella very much, did
you?

Mr Dawson looks on.

DARCEY

What do you mean?

BLAKE

I spoke to your dance teacher. He
said you and Ella were rivals at
your dance school.

DARCEY

We weren't rivals.

BLAKE

So how would you describe your
relationship with Ella?

DARCEY

She had her friends and I have my
friends.

BLAKE

Is that enough of a reason to not
like someone?

DARCEY

The reason I didn't like Ella was
because after every dance
competition when Ella came first
and I came second. My dad would
always say Ella didn't deserve to
win.

KNIGHT

But surely it's a win for your
dance school. Not just for Ella?

DARCEY

Not in my eyes. My Dad knows a good dancer when he sees one.

BLAKE

Is there anything else you can think of that you didn't mention to the police.

KNIGHT

It could be something you thought was irrelevant to say at the time.

DARCEY

Not really. We did our routines. Then Ella was making some Tiktok videos with her friends. Then we left.

BLAKE

Tiktok videos?

DARCEY

Yeah, Ella was always posting cringey Tiktok videos.

Blake and Knight look at each other.

BLAKE

Thank you for your time Darcey.

EXT. BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL - DAY

Knight and Blake rush out the school gates towards their parked vehicle.

BLAKE

We need to get access to that Tiktok account.

KNIGHT

You're looking at the best hacker on the team.

BLAKE

When we get back to the office, I want you to gain access to that account.

KNIGHT

Affirmative.

BLAKE

But first, we gotta meet the team
at Figmore park.

They enter the parked vehicle and high tail down the street.

INT. FLAT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Corey sits holds his toy car upside down, he continuously spins the wheels. Karen gets up from the couch.

KAREN

I'm going to run you a bath.

Corey continues spinning the wheels on the car, fascinated by the movement until his attention is diverted by Ella's Voice calling his name.

ELLA (V.O.)

Corey.

He looks around confused. Once again her voice calls his name.

ELLA (V.O.)

Corey.

He stands up. Drops his toy cars and slowly begins backing up until he bumps into Karen.

KAREN

Hey, I was calling you.

Karen leads Corey towards the bathroom. In the living room, his toy car begins moving around by itself, as if someone is sat playing with it.

KAREN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Your bath is ready.

Pan back to living room to reveal Ella playing with the toy cars.

EXT. FIGMORE PARK - DAY

Blake and Knight arrive at Figmore park.

KNIGHT

Anything?

TATE

We swept the area for CCTV and Ring doorbell footage, it's a no go.

SHEPS

We had a walk through the Forrest, we didn't stumble across anything suspicious. Nothing seemed disturbed.

STONE

What about you two?

BLAKE

We went to Birchwood school and spoke to Darcey. The last time she saw Ella was during the hours of her dance class. And then later on when she rode past here on her bike.

STONE

She would have rode past on the one road. It's the only entry into the park.

KNIGHT

What's interesting is Darcey said Ella made a Tiktok video whilst they were at the dance school.

STONE

Wait. A Tiktok video?

KNIGHT

Apparently she was always posting Tiktok videos.

STONE

Darcey never mentioned that in the initial police report. This could be crucial evidence.

TATE

I spoke to her father. Her mobile phone hasn't been located.

BLAKE

That's fine. Knight is going to hack the account.

STONE

In that case, let's head back to base and get access to that account.

They begin exiting Figmore park.

INT. FLAT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Karen is sat on the couch, a laptop open and glass of Prosecco next to her. She types the following words into the google search bar:

DOES MY CHILD HAVE AUTISM?

Karen begins scrolling through the websites reading the information in front of her.

She stumbles across a page offering an AUTISM TEST.

She shuts the laptop. Knowing the answer, but refusing to face reality.

INT. FLAT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

As Corey lays in bed sleeping. Ella's voice begins calling his name.

ELLA (V.O.)

Corey.

His eyes open wide. He sits up in bed and looks towards the dark corner of the room. He sees a figure of a girl standing in the corner.

ELLA (V.O.)

Corey.

He hides under the duvet. His breathing becomes heavier and heavier until a feeling of peace. He slowly pops his up from the duvet, looking towards the corner of the room, relieved to see Ella is no longer visible.

ELLA

Corey.

He turns his head to see Ella stood next to his bed. He lets out a piercing scream. Karen rushes to his aid.

KAREN

Corey?

He cries frantically, rocking back and forth with his hands over his ears. Karen scoops him up.

KAREN (CONT'D)
What is it?

She hugs him tightly.

KAREN (CONT'D)
I wish you could tell me what's wrong.

Karen rocks him back and forth as the pair sob in each others arms.

FADE TO BLACK.

INT. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Knight sits in front of a computer attempting to hack into Ella's Tiktok account. Stone enters the room.

STONE
Have you managed to gain access to that account?

KNIGHT
I'm close.

Stone picks up a pen and writes on the white board in giant letters. ELLA GRAYSON. He pins a photograph next to her name.

STONE
From what we've gathered today. Ella day looks a little something like this.

Stone begins writing on the white board.

STONE (CONT'D)
Eight a.m, She got outta bed. Had breakfast and got ready for her dance class. Eleven a.m, Dad dropped her off at the dance school.

Stone continues writing on the board.

STONE (CONT'D)
Twelve P.M, Ella was picked up and taken home, where Mum prepared her some lunch.

Stone writes the detail on the white board.

STONE (CONT'D)

Then at two thirty, Ella went to Figmore park, where she was last seen.

Knight interrupts.

KNIGHT

Stone, I'm in.

They all gather around Knight. Eyes fixated on the screen.

STONE

Click her profile.

They click on Ella's profile to reveal over two hundred videos. Mainly of Ella dancing.

KNIGHT

Wow, that's a lot of videos.

STONE

Click one.

On the computer screen a video plays of Ella climbing a tree as Gavin records her.

ELLA (V.O.)

Daddy, help me.

GAVIN (V.O.)

You can do it Ella.

STONE

Click one of the dance videos.

On the screen they watch Ella line up next to fellow dance competitors including Darcey.

DANCE COMPETITION MC (V.O.)

In first place. Ella Grayson.

The person behind the camera cheers loudly as Darcey's face shows frustration, as she's consoled by her father.

BLAKE

And that's why Darcey dislikes Ella.

TATE

It's all based on jealousy.

KNIGHT

Hey, I'm just going to throw this out there. Do you think Darcey is a suspect.

TATE

Stones said he's not ruling anyone out.

BLAKE

She's just a spoilt bratty kid. Definitely not capable of anything that involves getting her hands dirty.

STONE

Find the video Ella last filmed at the dance school?

KNIGHT

Loading that up right now.

They all watch the video play out on the screen as all the dance class join in with the latest dance craze, all except Darcey.

TATE

Wow, Darcey really had it in for Ella.

SHEPS

I still don't get the whole TikTok craze.

KNIGHT

TikTok is a real popular app amongst it's younger users. People use it as an outlet to express themselves through singing, dancing, comedy and lip syncing.

TATE

Have you got a TikTok account Knight?

KNIGHT

Umm.. No.

Stone interrupts.

STONE

What's the video next to it?

They focus on the screen as the video shows Ella in Figmore park.

SHEPS

That confirms she was at Figmore park.

STONE

What's the time stamp?

KNIGHT

Saturday, September first. Three twenty one.

SHEPS

The day Ella was reported missing.

They focus on the screen. Ella films herself in front of her phone.

ELLA (V.O.)

One arm up. Now flick over the head and arm down.

TATE

You getting this Knight?

KNIGHT

I told you I don't participate in Tiktok.

STONE

Wait. Pause that footage.

Knight pauses the footage.

STONE (CONT'D)

Go back two seconds.

KNIGHT

Rolling back.

Knight hits play.

STONE

Right there.

KNIGHT

What is it?

STONE

A white van.

Knight rewinds it back.

STONE (CONT'D)
Right there.

SHEPS
Do you know how many white vans
there are in the area.

STONE
Can we try and enhance the footage.

KNIGHT
Enhancing footage.

All eyes fixate on the screen. As Knight plays with the
footage.

STONE
Maybe the driver of the vehicle saw
Ella.

BLAKE
He or She could have been the last
person to see Ella before she went
missing.

KNIGHT
I'll do a print out.

The printer kicks in as Stone fetches the print out.

KNIGHT (CONT'D)
It's the best I could do.

BLAKE
Do we release this to the public?

STONE
Not yet.

BLAKE
But we can't just sit on this.

TATE
Yeah Blake is right, this could
potentially be a suspect.

STONE
I say, let's put the pressure on
our suspect.

TATE
How we going to do that?

STONE

I'll call a press conference.
Release the photo, I'll request the
driver of the van to come forward.

TATE

But what if it's just a delivery
driver or a trades person.

BLAKE

Doesn't matter. The driver of that
vehicle may have some important
information about Ella.

Stone pins the picture of the van on the white board.

INT. FLAT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The TV plays in the background whilst Karen dresses Corey for school.

KAREN

I know yesterday wasn't a great
start. But hopefully today will be
a better day.

Corey's eyes wonder to the TV.

TV SCREEN

On the TV, a news channel broadcasts a press conference lead
by Stone.

STONE (V.O.)

We've stumbled across some
significant evidence that shows
what we believe is a white van
driving past Figmore park, shortly
before Ella went missing. We are
urging the driver to come forward
with any information that will help
us with our case.

The evidence is presented on the TV screen. A Photo of ELLA
appears on the TV screen. Corey points to the TV.

KAREN

What?

Corey continues pointing at ELLA on the TV.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 I know it's sad. I can't imagine
 what her poor parents must be going
 through.

Karen switches off the TV.

KAREN (CONT'D)
 Okay mister. Time to go.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Karen holds Corey's hand, as they approach the school gates, Karen looks towards Corey with an optimistic look on her face.

EXT. BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL - DAY

KAREN
 We're here now Corey. Are you ready
 to have lots of fun today?

As they're about to enter the school gate, Corey is met by a grey stoned face Ella. Without moving her lips, her voice Transcends into Corey's head.

ELLA (V.O.)
 Corey.

He puts his hands over his ears, throws himself to the floor and begins screaming as Parents look on.

KAREN
 It's okay, Corey.

Embarrassed by the commotion, Karen scoops Corey up off the ground and carries him into the school reception. She enters the building and is greeted by Mrs Mason.

INT. BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL - RECEPTION - DAY

MRS MASON
 Good morning Corey.

He shies away from her.

KAREN
 I'm sorry, I don't know what it is,
 but as soon as he enters the school
 gates, he just gets really upset.

MRS MASON

It's all new to him. He will soon get used to the idea of School.

KAREN

I hope so.

MRS MASON

I'll take him to the classroom.

Karen puts Corey down.

KAREN

You go with Mrs Mason.

Karen watches on as Corey is lead to his classroom by Mrs Mason. He looks back at his mum the whole way, showing sadness on his face, until he enters the classroom.

INT. BIRCHWOOD SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Mrs Mason enters the Classroom with Corey.

MRS MASON

You take a seat for me Corey.

Corey takes a seat at the table.

MRS MASON (CONT'D)

Now let me just find those activity sheets.

Mrs Mason turns her back and begins searching her desk.

MRS MASON (CONT'D)

Now where did I put them?

Corey gazes out the window and sees Ella pressed up against the glass staring at him. His face turns to fright.

MRS MASON (CONT'D)

Ah, found them.

Mrs Mason turns around and notices Corey's chair is now empty.

MRS MASON (CONT'D)

Corey?

She looks around confused.

INT. BANK - DAY

Gavin Grayson enters the bank, he's on edge. Nervously looking around. He is greeted by a customer service rep.
DEBBIE (20s)

DEBBIE
Mr Grayson.

GAVIN
Yes.

DEBBIE
What can we do for you today?

GAVIN
I'd like to make a withdrawal.

Gavin scrambles through his wallet looking for his bank card. His hands shaking.

GAVIN (CONT'D)
From this account.

He holds up the SAVINGS BANK CARD.

DEBBIE
Certainly. Follow me to my desk.

Gavin follows Debbie to her desk.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)
If you could just pop your card into the machine.

Whilst his hands shake, Gavin pops his card into the card reader.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)
And now enter your pin.

He enters the pin.

DEBBIE (CONT'D)
And how much would you like to withdraw?

GAVIN
All of it.

Debbie looks at Gavin.

DEBBIE
All of it?

GAVIN
The whole lot.

As Debbie types away on her computer. A location pin is dropped to Gavin's phone.

FOCUS ON PHONE

The words HERE! On the screen along with the pin.

EXT. ABANDONED INDUSTRY ESTATE - DAY

Gavin arrives at the location carrying an envelope full of money. He looks around the abandoned industry estate. Derelict buildings covered in graffiti. His phone rings.

GAVIN
Hello.

He's met with silence.

GAVIN (CONT'D)
I did what you asked. I've got the money, now hand over my daughter.

A deep distorted voice replies.

PHONE VOICE (V.O.)
Drop the envelope.

Gavin places the envelope on the ground. As he stands up, A person dressed all in black, wearing a skull face balaclava, covers his mouth with a rag covered in chloroform, he flops to the ground.

INT. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT - MEETING ROOM - NIGHT

Knight and Tate enter the room carrying take out coffee.

KNIGHT
I bring gifts.

SHEPS
What a legend.

They all grab their coffee cups.

BLAKE
We've had several witnesses come forward with information on the white van.

STONE

Good, we can follow up with those leads in the morning.

Suddenly Forrester bursts into the room.

BLAKE

Forrester, Everything okay?

FORRESTER

We have a big problem.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT

Inside the interview room, A shaken Gavin sits opposite Forrester, Blake and Stone.

FORRESTER

Okay Gavin, from the top.

GAVIN

After yesterdays press conference. I received a video message from Ella's phone.

Gavin sits sobbing.

BLAKE

It's okay, take your time.

Gavin pulls out his phone and places the video in front of the trio. He hits play.

PHONE - On the screen, Ella tied up, wearing a blind fold.

ELLA (V.O.)

Daddy, help me. They said they will let me go if you give them money. I want to go home.

Gavin continues sobbing.

BLAKE

What happened after that?

GAVIN

I got a phone call. The person sounded like Darth Vader, they said twenty thousand pound gets your daughter back. When I heard that, I went straight to the bank and withdrew the money.

STONE

Did they send any details on where to send it?

GAVIN

They dropped me a location pin. I went to the location. It was some derelict buildings, the place looked like it had been abandoned for some time.

STONE

Fort-miner industrial estate? That place has been abandoned for over fifteen years.

BLAKE

Then what happened?

GAVIN

My phone rang and they told me to drop the money, after that I just remembered waking up, the money had gone but for some reason they left my phone.

STONE

Do you still have the message with the location pin?

GAVIN

No, they wiped it.

STONE

Damn it.

Gavin begins to blubber.

GAVIN

I'm sorry, I'm just desperate to find my daughter. I stupidly fell for it, I fell for it.

Gavin bursts into tears.

BLAKE

We're gonna do our best to find Ella.

STONE

Mr Grayson, we're gonna need to take your phone so we can analyze the video of Ella.

Gavin wipes his tears away.

GAVIN

Take it.

BLAKE

I'll stay with Gavin. You and Knight analyze that video.

Stone takes the phone and exits the room.

INT. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT - DAY

Stone enters the office holding the mobile phone.

STONE

Drop everything you're doing. We have a break through.

Knight makes his way over to a nearby computer. They hook up the mobile phone.

STONE (CONT'D)

Gavin was sent a video of Ella pleading for money.

KNIGHT

What? Like a ransom video?

STONE

The Grayson's are now twenty K out of pocket.

KNIGHT

Where's the video?

STONE

Saved in his photos.

Knight pulls up the video. It plays on the big screen.

ELLA (V.O.)

Daddy, help me. They said they will let me go if you give them money. I want to go home.

KNIGHT

Wait a second.

Knight replays the video.

KNIGHT (CONT'D)
 Let me just replay it one more
 time.

Knight replays the video.

KNIGHT (CONT'D)
 There. Right there!

STONE
 What is it?

KNIGHT
 I've heard that somewhere before
 Stone.

Knight sits in deep thought.

KNIGHT (CONT'D)
 This ain't a real video.

STONE
 It looks very real to me.

KNIGHT
 It's not.

Knight frantically types away on the keyboard.

KNIGHT (CONT'D)
 Listen to this.

He highlights a section of the video.

ELLA (V.O.)
 Daddy help me.

KNIGHT
 And now compare it to the original
 video.

Knight plays the tik tok video of Ella climbing a tree.

ELLA (V.O.)
 Daddy, help me.

KNIGHT
 When you play them both at the same
 time.

Knight plays both clips at the time.

ELLA (V.O.)
 Daddy, help me.

ELLA (V.O.)
 Daddy, help me.

KNIGHT

They sound the exact same.

STONE

But how?

KNIGHT

AI technology. All it takes is just a snippet of your voice. And now the people behind this are twenty grand richer.

STONE

You think people are behind this?

KNIGHT

This is much bigger than we originally anticipated. We're not targeting a kidnapper, we're targeting.

Stone interrupts.

STONE

A Criminal gang.

KNIGHT

Oh, you bet. And they're using this new wave of technology to laud victims and take money from their families.

Rocked by the revelation, Stone glances at Knight with a serious look on his face.

STONE

But where the hell is this missing girl in all of this?

INT. SCHOOL CUPBOARD - NIGHT

In a dark cupboard, Corey hides away. His breathing gets heavier and heavier until the sound of a light switch flicked on causes complete silence.

ELLA (V.O.)

Corey.

As the lights come on, Ella stands next to Corey. He puts his hands over his ears and screws his face up looking petrified. Ella communicates to Corey without moving her lips. Her thoughts are transcended into Corey's head.

ELLA (V.O.)
It's okay. I'm not here to hurt
you.

He opens his eyes and looks at Ella.

ELLA (V.O.)
You don't need to talk. I can hear
all your thoughts.

Corey takes his hands off his ears. He communicates back to her without moving his lips. As his thoughts transcend into Ella's thoughts.

COREY (V.O.)
What do you want?

ELLA (V.O.)
I need you Corey. You're the only
person who can help me.

FADE OUT.