

"LAW & ORDER:
SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT"

"BLIND"

Written by
Guy Jackson

writtenbyguyjackson@gmail.com

LAW & ORDER:

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

"BLIND"

TEASER

FADE IN

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

DETECTIVES STABLER and BENSON wait at their adjoining desks. Shuffling endless amounts of paperwork in front of them. Mouths drooling with hunger.

Stabler notices a CHINESE DELIVERY GUY. Two bags of food in his grasp.

STABLER

About time.

BENSON

Finally.

The Delivery Guy fishes out a RECEIPT from one of the bags in his hands.

CHINESE DELIVERY GUY

Eli...ot...Elliot...Stab...ler.

STABLER

Close enough.

Stabler holds a TWENTY out for the Delivery Guy. They exchange the bags and money.

The Delivery Guy isn't happy.

CHINESE DELIVERY GUY

That food cost \$18.97! What, NYPD no tip? You know how hard it is to get to this part of city at this time of night, 5.0? I no scared of you! Po po no keep me down!

Stabler wants to give the Delivery Guy a tip of his fist. But his partner's gaze tells him to otherwise.

BENSON

Elliot...

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Stabler nods his head. Just wanting the guy to leave.

STABLER

Alright. Here.

Stabler gives the Delivery Guy an extra TEN.

STABLER (cont'd)

Now get out of here before I collar you for robbery.

CHINESE DELIVERY GUY

(sarcastic)

You too kind, Mr. Police Officer.

The Delivery Guy leaves.

Stabler hands Benson her bag of food as he sits down.

Stabler hurries to scoop his food out of the bag. Almost as if he hasn't eaten for days.

BENSON

Remind me never to get on your bad side with an empty stomach.

STABLER

You read me like an open book, Liv.

Stabler digs his fork into his food.

STABLER (cont'd)

I've waited all day for this...

Stabler brings the food to his mouth. Just before he can bite down on it...

JANICE (O.S.)

Excuse me. I need to speak with a police officer, please.

Stabler FREEZES with the food in front of his mouth. His head drops with defeat.

Behind, JANICE MOSS, 50's, upper class, stands in the doorway, eyeing the two detectives.

Benson manages to get one bite in. She stands up. Swallowing the food as fast as she can.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

BENSON

Hi. I'm Detective Olivia Benson. This is my partner Detective Stabler. Please. Have a seat.

JANICE

Thank you.

Janice enters the squadroom. She takes a seat at the desk. She seems flustered, but still refined.

Stabler shoves his food to the side.

BENSON

What can we do for you, Ms...?

JANICE

Moss. Janice Moss.

Stabler's eye brow cocks.

STABLER

As in Senator Moss?

JANICE

Yes. Alan is my husband. But I'm not here about him. I'm here to report a vicious crime.

Benson pulls out a notepad and pen.

BENSON

What kind of crime?

Janice takes a deep breath.

JANICE

Rape.

BENSON

You were raped?

JANICE

Oh dear God, no. But my poor, innocent son has been.

Janice pulls out a photo from her wallet. In the photo there is ALAN MOSS, Janice, and her fraternal twins, HARPER, the girl, and PARKER, the boy. Both no older than 16.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (3)

JANICE (cont'd)
That's my little angel right there.
Parker.

Benson writes down some notes.

STABLER
Do you know who raped your son, Mrs.
Moss?

Janice stares Stabler right in the eye.

JANICE
Yes. His teacher. Sylvia Daniels.

Stabler and Benson share a look. Uh oh.

CUT TO

INT. PATRICK ACADEMY LIBRARY - DAY

SYLVIA DANIELS, mid 20's, sits at a table in the library
tutoring a STUDENT. Very beautiful, but frail.

Benson and Stabler enter the library. Eyes locked on to
Sylvia.

STABLER
Don't these teachers ever learn?

BENSON
Let's get her.

Stabler and Benson finally reach Sylvia's table.

BENSON (cont'd)
Sylvia Daniels?

Sylvia looks up. A warm smile on her face.

SYLVIA
Yes?

Benson and Stabler show their BADGES.

STABLER
Detective Stabler and Benson. NYPD
Special Victims Unit. Could you stand
up please and turn around?

SYLVIA
Is something wrong?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON

Just please stand up, Miss Daniels.

Sylvia slowly rises from her chair. Fear rapidly starting to set in.

Benson gently turns her around. Cuffs Sylvia's hands behind her back.

BENSON (cont'd)

Sylvia Daniels. You are under arrest for rape. You have the right to remain silent. If you refuse that right, anything you say will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you can not afford one, one will be provided for you...

Benson and Stabler escort the handcuffed Sylvia out of the library. Students look on in shock.

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Sylvia sits at the table in the center of the room. Far from the image of the hardened criminals who usually occupy this seat.

Benson sits across the table from her. Stabler stands in a corner.

SYLVIA

Why am I here?

BENSON

We were kind of hoping you'd help us answer that.

SYLVIA

I-I don't know. This is a mistake.

STABLER

We got your victim across the hall telling us everything. So why don't you just make this easier for all of us and just tell us what happened.

SYLVIA

Victim? I wouldn't hurt anyone! You have to believe me! This is a mistake!

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY

SERGEANT MUNCH and DETECTIVE FIN occupy the much less threatening interview room of the station.

PARKER MOSS, 16, sits across from them. Flanked by his mother Janice and father ALAN MOSS.

PARKER

What is this all about? Am I under arrest or something?

MUNCH

Parker, you're not in trouble. We're on your side.

FIN

Just tell us about your teacher.

Parker finally looks up.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

PARKER

There's nothing to tell.

JANICE

Parker! Don't lie to the police officers.

PARKER

I'm not lying.

Janice turns to the two Detectives.

JANICE

Why haven't you arrested that predator yet?

ALAN

Yes, Detectives. Why not?

FIN

We need Parker's testimony in order to do so, Mrs. Moss.

MUNCH

Did Sylvia Daniels violate you in any way, Parker?

Parker remains silent.

ALAN

Speak up, son.

Parker lets out a breath of frustration.

PARKER

No. Sylvia Daniels never violated me.

FIN

Your mother told us otherwise. You can tell us.

Parker looks at his mother with a cold stare.

PARKER

She's lying.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Stabler now leans on the table. Directly in Sylvia's line of sight. Sylvia's nerves are on edge.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

STABLER

What exactly is your connection with the Moss' again, Miss Daniels?

SYLVIA

Parker and his sister Harper are students at Patrick Academy where I am currently employed. Due to their parents' careers in politics, they are on the road a lot. Mr. and Mrs. Moss hired me to privately tutor their children in order to help them keep up with their studies.

STABLER

And where do these sessions take place?

SYLVIA

It depends.

BENSON

Answer the question. It depends is not a location.

Sylvia falters for a moment.

STABLER

Any day now.

SYLVIA

My apartment.

BENSON

So would it be safe to say, Miss Daniels, that Parker Moss and yourself would be alone during these private sessions?

SYLVIA

Sometimes, yes. But his sister is usually in attendance as well. I would never take advantage of him or any of my students! I'm just a teacher. Nothing more.

The Interrogation Room's door BURSTS open. DONNA EMMETT, Sylvia's attorney, storms in.

DONNA EMMETT

Not another word, Sylvia. This conversation is over.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

STABLER

Miss Emmett. Right on time.

DONNA EMMETT

Tell me Detective, is arresting innocent people a hobby of yours?

STABLER

Everyone is innocent until proven guilty.

DONNA EMMETT

Interrogating my client without her attorney present. Bush league at best if you ask me.

BENSON

We were just having a friendly chat, Councilor.

DONNA EMMETT

Come on, Sylvia. Time to leave.

STABLER

Not so fast.

DONNA EMMETT

Detective? Last time I checked you needed a person to commit a crime for you to hold them.

STABLER

We have a statement coming from the victim any second now.

DONNA EMMETT

Uh huh. Nice try. Stay away from my client. Both of you.

Stabler and Benson share a smile and move to leave the interrogation room.

INT. VIEWING ROOM - DAY

A.D.A. ALEX CABOT and CAPTAIN CRAGEN observe through the one way mirror at Sylvia and Donna.

CRAGEN

So what do you think?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

CABOT

She's right. Without a confession or Parker's testimony we can't keep her. Cut her loose.

Stabler and Benson exit the interrogation room. Joining Cabot and Cragen.

STABLER

She's not budging.

Fin and Munch exit the interview room.

BENSON

Any luck with Parker?

FIN

Parker won't spill either. But something doesn't seem right.

MUNCH

A public figure like Moss wouldn't just make a false accusation against some tutor unless she had good reason to.

FIN

Senator Moss is about to file a restraining order against Sylvia Daniels.

CRAGEN

That could help. What's in bounds at this stage, Cabot?

CABOT

Tail her. Keep your distance though. Emmett is not one to take following her client lightly. But if we can catch Daniels baiting Parker out of his home we can charge her with child endangerment and violating a restraining order. That would be more than enough to send her to Rikers.

CRAGEN

I'll have a patrol car stand outside the Moss residence for the time being in case Sylvia Daniels wants to arrange another rendezvous with Parker.

Parker and his parents emerge from the interview room. Donna and Sylvia exit from the interrogation room as well.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

Janice's eyes burn a hole through Sylvia.

JANICE

You're letting her go?!

CRAGEN

Mrs. Moss, at this time we can't hold her any longer.

SYLVIA

Why are you doing this to me? I would never hurt Parker!

Janice moves to SLAP Sylvia across the face. But Benson holds her back just in the nick of time along with Alan.

CRAGEN

Mrs. Moss I suggest you leave before you make us charge you with attempted assault. The case is still open. If any crime has been committed we will find it.

JANICE

Stay the hell away from my son you whore!

The word visibly hurts Sylvia's feelings.

ALAN

Let's go, darling.

Janice finally calms herself down. Alan wraps his arm around her shoulder and leads her out of the squadroom.

Parker and Sylvia lock eyes.

ALAN (cont'd)

Parker. We're leaving. Let's go.

Parker looks away. Follows his parents out.

Sylvia leaves with Donna in the opposite direction.

MUNCH

Well, that was fun.

CRAGEN

We need to keep this investigation quiet or the media will have a field day with this case. Munch, I'm a little short handed right now. Mind tagging along on this one?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (3)

MUNCH

Wow, like being carded at the liquor store. You're making me feel young again, Captain.

CRAGEN

I'll take that as a yes. While the Moss' and Sylvia Daniels play he said she said, I want you and Fin back up at the school to canvas the headmaster and Sylvia's colleagues. Benson and Stabler I want you to talk to the sister. She's the only other one that would know what really goes on at these tutor sessions. Find out exactly what did.

Benson and Stabler nod their heads. As do Munch and Fin. They all disperse in their respective directions to complete their next tasks.

CUT TO

INT. PATRICK ACADEMY HALLWAY - DAY

Munch and Fin walk with DR. PHIL WATKINS, the headmaster of Patrick Academy through a corridor inside the school. It's a beautiful campus that definitely has some serious financial backing.

Students move about the hallway. In between classes.

DR. WATKINS

Patrick Academy is the premier and most prestigious academic institution in New York and quite possibly the country. None compare to our great faculty, award winning facilities, or our students' educational growth.

FIN

Must cost an arm and a leg to get in here.

MUNCH

Among other things. Tell me Dr. Watkins, do you require an autograph from the students' famous parents as a part of the application process?

Dr. Watkins smiles.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

DR. WATKINS

Very funny, Sergeant. It is true that most of our student body is comprised of children coming from high profile families, but I believe that is because these families know that an education from the Patrick Academy will give their children the best path in life.

Dr. Watkins points towards his office.

DR. WATKINS (cont'd)

Step in to my office, gentlemen.

Fin and Munch enter the office. Dr. Watkins follows.

INT. DR. WATKINS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Fin and Munch take a seat in front of Dr. Watkins' desk.

DR. WATKINS

It's a tragedy what Sylvia Daniels has been accused of. I refuse to believe it is true. But I'm sure you two will prove that to everyone anyway.

FIN

Has Sylvia Daniels ever had any complaints from other students or their families?

Dr. Watkins takes a seat in his own chair.

DR. WATKINS

None. She is one of my best educators. Some parents felt that her age would be a distraction, especially for the male students, but she is the consummate professional, who takes her work very seriously.

MUNCH

We were told that she was hired by the Moss family to privately tutor their two children.

DR. WATKINS

Yes. Parker and Harper. Such bright young children.

MUNCH

Was Sylvia Daniels randomly selected or did the Moss' request her specifically?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

DR. WATKINS

Actually now that you mention it, the family did request Miss Daniels personally. At first we found that kind of odd since Sylvia was just hired a few months before and we offered them Talia Mallard, who is our most decorated educator. But even after all of that, the Moss' told us that Parker and Harper wanted Sylvia Daniels. So we met their request.

Munch and Fin share a look together.

FIN

We're going to have to ask you for Sylvia Daniels' file. It may prove helpful in our investigation.

DR. WATKINS

Do you have a warrant?

MUNCH

We can get one.

DR. WATKINS

Then do so. Once you have your warrant I will hand over anything you ask for. But until then, good day gentleman.

Dr. Watkins leans back in his chair. A smug smile on his face.

FIN

Do you really want it on public record that we are investigating one of your teachers for a sex crime, Dr. Watkins?

This piques Dr. Watkins interest.

MUNCH

All it takes is one determined paparazzo to leak that out to the public and your enrollment rate will plummet.

FIN

Now I'm not good at math, but at \$40,000 a head in tuition, that's mucho banko out of your paycheck. Doctor.

The smile is wiped right off Dr. Watkins' face. Fin and Munch just stare back at him. No jokes going on now.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

Dr. Watkins pushes a button on his speaker phone.

DR. WATKINS
(into phone)
Marianne?

MARIANNE (O.S.)
Yes, Dr. Watkins?

DR. WATKINS
(into phone)
Could you print out a copy of Sylvia Daniels' file for the two detectives?

MARIANNE (O.S.)
Right away, sir.

Dr. Watkins hangs up. Fin and Munch rise.

MUNCH
Thanks, Doc.

CUT TO

INT. MOSS RESIDENCE, FRONT DOOR - DAY

Benson knocks on the front door of the Moss' penthouse. Stabler at her side.

BENSON
They're not going to let us talk to her. They've already been though enough today.

STABLER
Yeah, but you heard Cabot. If we don't get something, that teacher is going to walk.

After a few seconds, the door opens. Alan stands in the doorway.

BENSON
Good afternoon, Senator.

ALAN
Detectives. Are you here to tell me you've finally arrested that woman?

STABLER
We're still working on it, Senator. We actually came here to talk to--

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

ALAN

Parker? I'll get him right away--

BENSON

Actually we're here to talk to Harper.

Alan gives Benson a confused look.

ALAN

Harper? My daughter?

Janice approaches Alan from behind.

JANICE

Who is it, Alan?

ALAN

Detectives Benson and Stabler. They want to speak to Harper.

JANICE

Harper? What for?

BENSON

We just want to see if she knows anything about the situation. We can use all the help we can get.

Alan and Janice share a look.

BENSON (cont'd)

Please.

Alice and Janice move out of the way, allowing Benson and Stabler to enter the apartment.

INT. HARPER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Harper lies in bed, reading a book with EVOLUTIONARY SCIENCE themes.

Benson and Stabler stand in the doorway.

BENSON

Harper? Hi. My name is Olivia Benson. This is my partner, Elliot Stabler. We're police officers. Can we have a minute of your time?

Harper looks up. Her eyes dart back forth between the two detectives in front of her with distrust.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

HARPER

Can I see some identification?

Benson and Stabler REACT with surprise at Harper's request.

STABLER

Smart girl.

Benson and Stabler mechanically produce their badges.

Harper jumps out of bed. Peers closely at both of their ID's. Looking for any sign of fraud.

HARPER

Alright. What do you want from me?

Benson and Stabler step into the room. Harper closes the door behind them.

Benson notices a POSTER of Paris on her wall.

BENSON

Paris, huh?

HARPER

Yeah. The City of Love.

BENSON

You hoping to study there?

HARPER

Among other things. Are you going to ask me something? Or just talk about my posters?

BENSON

We were hoping you could tell us a little bit about your teacher, Sylvia Daniels.

HARPER

What about her?

STABLER

What do you think of her?

HARPER

She's a good teacher. Way better than those dolts they have educating us at Patrick.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

BENSON

What about your brother? What does he think about her?

Harper shrugs.

HARPER

I don't now. He doesn't take school as seriously as I do. Sylvia has to pay more attention to him in order to keep him focused. I don't have that problem.

STABLER

So does Sylvia need to have private sessions with Parker in order to keep him focused?

Harper smiles. Turns around. She finds this amusing.

HARPER

I'm not an idiot, Detectives. I wasn't cultivated in the public school system cesspool so you don't have to baby me. I assure you can ask me straight out if you want me to tell you if Sylvia Daniels is having an affair with my brother.

Stabler and Benson share a look at each other. No getting past this girl.

BENSON

Are they?

HARPER

No.

Off Benson and Stabler's reaction.

HARPER (cont'd)

Oh...Did my parents tell you they were? So immature...

STABLER

What makes you say that?

Harper looks back at the two Detectives.

HARPER

They're making it up. Daddy's term is coming to an end. It's a reelection year.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (3)

HARPER (cont'd)

What better way to get sympathy votes than to jump on the teacher student relationship victim bandwagon. They're playing you for fools.

BENSON

You don't need to lie to us, Harper.

Harper steps up to Benson.

HARPER

Why would I lie and let an innocent teacher be framed for something she hasn't done?

Benson and Stabler study Harper's face. Looking for any sign of dishonesty. But there is none whatsoever.

HARPER (cont'd)

Anything else, Detectives? If not there's the door.

Benson smiles. Pulls out a card from her pocket.

BENSON

This is my number. If you think of anything else. Don't hesitate to call.

Harper looks at the business card for a moment. Benson moves to leave the room. Stabler follows her.

Harper watches them go. Not letting her eyes off of them for a second.

EXT. MOSS RESIDENCE - DAY

Stabler and Benson exit the building. Head towards their car.

BENSON

Nice family, huh?

STABLER

Somebody's lying to us. I just don't know who.

BENSON

It's obviously Harper who's lying to us. Don't tell me you believe her story about her father making it up as a publicity stunt?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

STABLER

I've seen worse. Let's head back and see what Munch and Fin found.

Stabler and Benson enter their car.

CUT TO

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY

Benson, Stabler, A.D.A. Cabot, and Munch stand in front of a board with pictures of the players involved in the case.

Their head shots are all taped to the board with arrows pointing in every direction.

SYLVIA, PARKER, HARPER, and MR. and MRS. MOSS.

CABOT

What do we have?

MUNCH

None of the faculty members at the school were any help.

STABLER

But something is definitely off with these two kids.

BENSON

They're hiding something. But what?

CABOT

And why.

STABLER

We got to get into Sylvia's place.

CABOT

Well that is going to require a warrant. Which needs probable cause.

STABLER

Which we don't have.

BENSON

Has Fin finished going over Sylvia's file?

MUNCH

He should be done any second now.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON

Alright, well what do we know so far?

Benson stands up and peruses through each of the head shots. She points at each one after saying their name.

BENSON (cont'd)

Janice Moss comes in telling us that Sylvia Daniels is having a sexual relationship with her sixteen year old son, Parker Moss. However, Parker denies all claims and tells us that his mother lied about the allegations.

Stabler stands up as well. Looks at the photos even closer.

STABLER

Parker's twin sister, Harper, denies all claims as well and also says that her parents are lying, but for the reason of publicity for Senator Moss's reelection campaign run this year.

BENSON

So what's the connection?

MUNCH

Both kids are saying their parents are lying about the allegations.

STABLER

Yeah, but Sylvia Daniels has private sessions with Parker and has had several complaints from parents regarding her age being a distraction.

CABOT

So her age automatically makes her a rapist?

STABLER

Parker requested her personally. There's got to be something there.

FIN (O.S.)

We got an M.O.

Fin and Captain Cragen emerge from an office. Fin holding Sylvia's file in his hand.

BENSON

Tell me she's got a record.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

FIN

Not exactly. Her file was squeaky clean. But there was a period a few years back that was missing from the file. Like someone just cut and pasted it somewhere else. So I checked her out.

CRAGEN

Five years ago, Sylvia was a T.A. at NYU after she graduated. There were two reports of students filing charges against her for sexual harassment. Case was dropped after a deal with the school dismissed it before it could ever go to trial.

BENSON

Should be enough for probable cause right?

Cabot mentally weighs the idea.

CABOT

It'll be close. Let me talk to Donnelly. She might go for it.

CUT TO

INT. JUDGE DONNELLY'S OFFICE - DAY

Cabot follows JUDGE DONNELLY into her office. Donnelly is in an obvious rush.

JUDGE DONNELLY

Make it quick, Cabot. I'm due in court in fifteen minutes.

CABOT

Then I'll get right to the point. I need a search warrant for Sylvia Daniels' apartment because the people believe we will find substantial evidence linking her participation in a sexual relationship with a minor.

Judge Donnelly studies the warrant in front of her. She doesn't like what she sees.

JUDGE DONNELLY

You're probable cause is a sexual harassment case from five years ago that was dismissed?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

CABOT

But Senator Moss and his wife both
claim--

Judge Donnelly hands the warrant back to Cabot. Unsigned.

JUDGE DONNELLY

Sorry Alex. I'm not about to sign a
warrant with weak reasoning like that.
Find me something more concrete and
I'll sign your warrant.

Judge Donnelly puts on her coat and exits the office.
Leaving a discouraged Cabot behind.

CUT TO

INT./EXT. STABLER'S UNMARKED - NIGHT

Stabler and Benson sit inside the unmarked patrol car just
outside Sylvia Daniels' Soho apartment on Grand and
Broadway.

The boredom drips from their faces.

STABLER

I think Donnelly's right. We're on a
wild goose chase.

BENSON

Yeah well you heard Cragen. Brass has
Senator Moss' case as high priority.
If we don't catch Daniels doing
something it's going to be our asses.

Stabler brings a walkie talkie to his mouth.

STABLER

(into walkie talkie)

Fin. Munch. How's the weather on the
upper east side?

INT./EXT. FIN'S UNMARKED - NIGHT

Fin and Munch stand posted outside the Moss' residence on
the upper east side on Madison and 74th.

FIN

(into walkie talkie)

Boring. And Munch's jokes are putting
me to sleep.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

MUNCH

This is comedy gold I'm throwing at you.

FIN

I'll pass.

(into walkie talkie)

We'll keep you posted, Elliot. Fin, out.

INT./EXT. STABLER'S UNMARKED - NIGHT

Stabler and Benson sip at their coffees. It's been a long night.

Suddenly someone exits the apartment building. Female. In a hurry.

Benson notices first.

BENSON

Elliot...

Stabler looks in the direction Benson points. It's Sylvia.

STABLER

Here we go.

(into walkie talkie)

Hey Fin, we got Daniels leaving her apartment in a hurry. You got anything on your end?

INT./EXT. FIN'S UNMARKED - NIGHT

Fin scans the area. Nothing out of the ordinary.

FIN

(into walkie talkie)

Negative, Elliot. I got noth--

MUNCH

There.

Someone exits the Moss' residence. Shrouded in a HOODED SWEATSHIRT. Concealing their face. Young.

FIN

(into walkie talkie)

Scratch that. I got a teen leaving the Moss building. We're following.

The car moves forward. Tailing the walking teen.

INT./EXT. STABLER'S UNMARKED (MOVING) - NIGHT

Stabler's car follows Sylvia down the street. She moves towards a SUBWAY STAIRWELL.

STABLER
(into walkie talkie)
Suspect is heading into the subway.
Looks like we're going for a ride.

EXT. STABLER'S UNMARKED - NIGHT

Stabler parks the car on the side of the road. He and Benson exit the vehicle. They follow Sylvia down into the subway station.

INT. SUBWAY PLATFORM - NIGHT

Fin and Munch follow the teen into the same car on the train. The doors slide close.

INT. TRAIN - NIGHT

Benson and Stabler keep their distance, but never let their eyes off of Sylvia on the other end of the car. The train RUMBLES along.

EXT. PREMIER HOTEL - NIGHT

Fin and Munch follow the teen to the entrance of a luxurious hotel. They stop outside.

FIN
(into walkie talkie)
We got the teen going into a hotel.
What's your position?

INT. PREMIER HOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

Stabler and Benson stand at the end of the hall. Watching Sylvia enter a hotel room.

STABLER
(into walkie talkie)
We're already in.

The teen rounds the corner. Identity still shrouded. Stabler and Benson ready themselves.

The teen knocks on the door. After a few seconds the door opens. Sylvia greets the teen with a smile. They KISS.

Stabler and Benson POUNCE.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

STABLER (cont'd)
NYPD let me see your hands!

Sylvia and the teen turn. Totally in shock.

BENSON
Sylvia Daniels step away from the
child.

Benson grabs Sylvia. Turns her around. Cuffs her.

BENSON (cont'd)
You are under arrest for child
endangerment.

SYLVIA
No wait I can explain!

STABLER
You do know what a restraining order
is, right Miss Daniels?

SYLVIA
You don't understand!

STABLER
Save it!

Stabler turns to the teen.

STABLER (cont'd)
Parker? It's alright.

Stabler removes the hood from the teen. His face fills
with shock. Benson's does as well. It's not Parker...

It's Harper.

Fin and Munch enter the hallway. The sight of Harper
confuses them as well.

Harper just looks at Stabler. No emotion in her eyes.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT

Harper sits in the center of the room. Not an ounce of remorse or apology on her face. Both of her parents sit on either side of her. Embarrassed looks on both their faces.

Benson and Stabler stare at them. Not saying a word.

BENSON

Why did you lie to us, Mrs. Moss?

JANICE

I told you that woman was violating my child.

STABLER

No, you said she was violating your son.

Alan stands up.

ALAN

Detectives, it's late. My wife is very tired. Can we continue this tomorrow?

STABLER

With all due respect, Senator. Sit down. Filing a false police report is a criminal offense. So unless this gets straightened out, I'm going to have to arrest you and your wife.

ALAN

Who the hell do you think you are? Do you know who I am son? I'll have your badge for that tone!

BENSON

Please gentleman.

(to Janice)

Mrs. Moss. Why did you tell us Sylvia Daniels was molesting your son?

Janice meets the eyes of her husband. She has to say something.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON (cont'd)

My partner is right. We will arrest you for filing a false report. Help us out.

JANICE

Because. I can't bear to have the thought of the public knowing I have a lesbian daughter. It would ruin us.

Harper SLAPS her mother.

ALAN

Harper!

HARPER

Shut up you ignorant bitch! Why does everything have to be about you? Selfish hag!

The room goes quiet. All eyes revert to Harper.

BENSON

Harper. Harper. Talk to us.

HARPER

What exactly is the problem? No crime has been committed here. I love Sylvia. She's the only one that understands me. And she's the only one that is ever there for me.

BENSON

Harper. It is a crime. You're 16 years old.

HARPER

But you need my testimony in order to charge her. She did nothing wrong. We are two women who are in total love with one another. You would sever our love like this? How dare you! Are you as bigoted and intolerant as my stupid parents too?

Benson and Stabler share a look.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Fin and Munch surround Sylvia and her lawyer Donna.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

FIN

I guess you picked the wrong night for a private session, huh Miss Daniels?

DONNA EMMETT

Don't answer that.

MUNCH

Meeting with a 16 year old student at a hotel? Doesn't look good. You're looking at a rape conviction, Sylvia.

SYLVIA

No!

DONNA EMMETT

Sylvia--

Sylvia stands up.

SYLVIA

No. I am not a rapist. You don't understand what me and Harper have. She's a beautiful and intelligent individual. No one gives her any credit.

FIN

So that makes it okay for you to have an affair with a minor?

MUNCH

We got text messages from you to Harper telling her to meet you at the Premier Hotel for I quote, "passion time". You're in a lot of trouble, Sylvia.

Sylvia's lip trembles.

SYLVIA

Harper has been alone her whole life. Her parents are never there. She's never in school long enough to make friends. But we understand each other. I don't care if you can't see that. We are in love.

Fin and Munch stare her down. She really is serious.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

Fin and Munch exit the interrogation room with a handcuffed Sylvia.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

The Moss' exit with Harper. Harper and Sylvia immediately make eye contact.

HARPER

Sylvia!

Harper runs towards Sylvia. Benson and Stabler hold her back.

SYLVIA

Harper. It'll be alright! I promise.
I love you!

HARPER

I love you too.

Harper fights in the grasp of Benson and Stabler.

HARPER (cont'd)

Get off of me you monsters! Why are
you taking our happiness away?!

Fin drags Sylvia out of the squadroom. Harper bursts into tears in Benson's grasp.

CUT TO

INT. SYLVIA DANIELS' APARTMENT - DAY

Benson and Stabler, along with other FORENSICS OFFICERS, investigate every inch of Sylvia's Daniels' apartment. It's clean. Taken care of. Nothing out of the ordinary.

INT. SYLVIA DANIELS' BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Benson moves into Sylvia's bedroom. Nothing seems out of place.

Stabler enters the bedroom behind her. A stack of PAGES in his hands.

STABLER

Got love letters. To and from Sylvia
Daniels.

Stabler reads one of the letters out loud.

STABLER (cont'd)

"My one and only true love, Harper.
They may not accept our love, but we
will be together one day. In this life
or the next."

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON

She's got a way with words. I'll give her that much.

Benson notices something sneaking out from underneath the bed. Some type of GARMENT.

BENSON (cont'd)

What's this?

STABLER

What you got?

Benson slides on a pair of LATEX GLOVES. She reaches down and pulls out the article of clothing.

Benson holds out it out in front of her.

BENSON

Panties.

STABLER

Maybe they're Sylvia's.

Benson flips the underwear for Stabler so he can say the front. The design of them says it all.

BENSON

Do women in their late 20's wear underwear with unicorns on them?

The sight unsettles Stabler. Benson looks back at him. We got her.

CUT TO

INT. ARRAIGNMENT COURT - DAY

A CLERK pulls a file to read for the court. Sylvia Daniels along with her attorney Donna Emmett stand at the DEFENDANT PODIUM. Cabot at the PROSECUTION PODIUM.

CLERK

Docket ending 3328. The People versus Sylvia Daniels. Multiple counts, Rape of a Minor in the Third Degree.

JUDGE BILLINGS presides over the court.

JUDGE BILLINGS

How do you plea, Miss Daniels.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

DONNA EMMETT

Not guilty, Your Honor.

JUDGE BILLINGS

Bail?

CABOT

The people request remand, Your Honor. Miss Daniels would be considered a risk for future contact with the victim.

DONNA EMMETT

Your Honor, this is an insult to the United States judicial system and to my client's civil liberties. Miss Daniels is a top notch educator with no criminal record and strong ties to the community.

CABOT

Your Honor, Miss Daniels has had multiple complaints previously charged against her for sexual misconduct.

DONNA EMMETT

Which were never brought to trial.

CABOT

And may I add, Your Honor, Miss Daniels willingly contacted and scheduled a meet up with a minor even after the family filed a restraining order against her.

DONNA EMMETT

Which was not for the minor in question. She tutors the girl for goodness sake.

JUDGE BILLINGS

That's enough, Councilor.

Donna and Cabot both shut their mouths.

JUDGE BILLINGS (cont'd)

Now Miss Emmett your client did solicit a minor from her home even with a restraining order filed against her, regardless of the person it was intended for. However, Miss Cabot, Miss Daniels would be in no way a threat to anyone outside of this courtroom.

(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

JUDGE BILLINGS (cont'd)

I'm setting bail at \$10,000 and that she refrain from making any contact with any member of the Moss family. Next case.

Judge Billings BANGS his gavel. Sealing Sylvia's fate.

CUT TO

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - DAY

Cabot enters the squadroom. A discouraged look on her face.

Benson approaches.

BENSON

So?

CABOT

Judge Billings gave her ten grand for bail. It was paid before she even stepped out of the courtroom.

BENSON

How's that possible? On a five year teacher salary?

Stabler takes a seat at his desk. Hears the remnants of Benson and Cabot's conversation.

STABLER

Maybe our victim bailed her out.

Stabler's phone RINGS. He answers it.

STABLER (cont'd)

(into phone)

Stabler.

Cabot nods her head.

CABOT

Bail was paid by a check from the Moss family.

BENSON

Harper bailed her out...

STABLER

(into phone)

We'll be right there.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

Stabler hangs up the phone. Benson notices Stabler's newly found enthusiasm.

BENSON

What's up?

STABLER

That was Warner. She's got the DNA results from the underwear we found in Sylvia's apartment.

BENSON

Let's go.

CABOT

I'll join you.

Benson and Stabler exit the squadroom. Cabot right behind them.

CUT TO

INT. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S ROOM - DAY

Benson, Stabler and Cabot, pace behind DR. MELINDA WARNER, the unit's medical and forensics examiner.

WARNER

I got back the DNA results for your mystery panties.

BENSON

Tell us you found Sylvia Daniels' DNA on them.

WARNER

Since this isn't your traditional male on female rape, there was no semen to go base a DNA sample on.

STABLER

But?

Warner pulls out a file.

WARNER

We found a host of other fluids embedded in the fabric of the underwear. Traces of menstrual blood confirm that the victim Harper Moss did in fact wear these panties.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

CABOT

What about Daniels?

WARNER

I also found traces of saliva. Very faint. But enough to collect a DNA sample.

Warner hands Cabot the file.

WARNER (cont'd)

And it's a match. It's Sylvia Daniels' saliva.

STABLER

This is what we need, right Cabot? There's no way we're getting testimony from Harper against Sylvia. We need her to confess for a guilty plea.

Cabot smiles.

CABOT

This should be more than enough for Daniels to confess for a deal. She's looking at 4 to 8 years right now.

WARNER

That's not all though.

Cabot and the Detectives all look at Warner with confused looks on their faces.

BENSON

There's more?

WARNER

There was another sample of Harper's DNA in the underwear. Not blood related.

Warner approaches a screen with DNA samples on it.

WARNER (cont'd)

This is her blood sample. This is the mystery sample.

STABLER

Harper's saliva?

WARNER

That's what I thought. But when I examined it a little more closely.
(MORE)

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

WARNER (cont'd)

I found it to be vaginal secretions. A very large amount. Much more than just typical arousal.

BENSON

Vaginal secretions? You mean--

WARNER

Yeah. Your victim had an orgasm. Most likely caused by mouth to genital contact.

Benson and Stabler share a look with one another.

CABOT

I think I'm going to have a little chat with Sylvia Daniels.

CUT TO

INT. SYLVIA DANIELS' APARTMENT - DAY

A soft TAPPING raps on the front door of the apartment. Sylvia answers it.

Cabot greets her.

SYLVIA

My lawyer told me I don't have to talk to you without her present.

CABOT

Then don't talk, just listen.

Sylvia shuts her mouth. Cabot shows Sylvia the file of her DNA match.

CABOT (cont'd)

The Medical Examiner just found traces of your DNA inside a pair of Harper Moss' underwear. You go to trial, you are looking at up to 8 years in prison.

Sylvia barely reacts.

CABOT (cont'd)

Now if you come with me back to the police station, your lawyer can meet you and then we can discuss a deal. I strongly suggest you consider this.

Sylvia's lip trembles. Anger building.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

SYLVIA

You will not scare me into thinking that the love between Harper and I is wrong. You have no right. So do me a favor and why don't you just go to hell?

Sylvia SLAMS the door shut in Cabot's face.

CUT TO

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Court is already in session. Judge Donnelly presides over the court.

The Moss family sits behind the Prosecution's chair. Harper among them.

Stabler sits in the witness chair. Cabot paces in front of him.

CABOT

Detective Stabler, please tell the jury what happened on the night of September 15th.

STABLER

My partner Detective Olivia Benson and I, along with Detective Odafin Tutuola and Sergeant John Munch were observing Sylvia Daniels to make sure she complied with the restraining order enforced against her by the Moss family. At approximately 10:33 PM, Miss Daniels exited her apartment building in a an obvious rush while also trying to conceal her identity. After pursuing Miss Daniels into a subway station, we continued pursuit on foot, which led us to the Premier Hotel where Miss Daniels and Harper Moss, whose identity was unknown to us at this time, met at a room in the hotel. After Sylvia Daniels kissed Harper Daniels, Detective Benson and myself apprehended the suspect.

CABOT

Nothing further.

Cabot takes a seat. Donna Emmett stands up to question Stabler.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

DONNA EMMETT

Detective Stabler, who exactly did the restraining order prevent my client from making contact with?

STABLER

The Moss' 16 year old son Parker Moss.

DONNA EMMETT

Parker Moss you say? Yet you arrested my client for meeting up with Harper Moss, his sister?

CABOT

Objection! Leading the witness, Your Honor.

DONNA EMMETT

Withdrawn.

JUDGE DONNELLY

Get to your question, Miss Emmett.

DONNA EMMETT

Detective, Parker Moss lives at 375 Grand Avenue, correct?

STABLER

Yes.

DONNA EMMETT

Then why were you parked outside of Miss Daniels' apartment all the way downtown on Madison Street?

STABLER

Precautionary measures.

DONNA EMMETT

I see. And after following my client through the subway you still were nowhere near the Moss residence?

Stabler pauses.

STABLER

No.

DONNA EMMETT

So Detective, if your job was to protect Parker Moss at his home, why were you wasting time following Miss Daniels through Downtown New York?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

Cabot doesn't say anything. She can't.

STABLER

We though Harper Daniels was Parker Daniels.

DONNA EMMETT

Exactly. You thought. And you were wrong. Just as you thought you saw my client inappropriately kissing her?

CABOT

Objection.

The Judge ignores Cabot's request.

STABLER

I know what I saw. Sylvia Daniels lured Harper Moss to a hotel to have sex with her.

DONNA EMMETT

She was holding a private tutor session for one of her students.

STABLER

You can reword it all you want. But I saw a teacher taking advantage of a 16 year old girl.

DONNA EMMETT

Of course. Because your judgment has been on the mark this whole time, Detective. Nothing further.

Stabler shuts up. Donna returns back to her seat.

LATER

Dr. Warner is now on the stand. Cabot interviews her.

WARNER

During my autopsy, there were traces of saliva, blood, and vaginal fluid all found embedded in the material of the underwear.

CABOT

The People's Exhibit A, Your Honor.

Cabot produces the underwear in an EVIDENCE BAG.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

CABOT (cont'd)

And did all three belong to Harper Moss, Doctor?

WARNER

No. The saliva found in the underwear belonged to Sylvia Daniels.

CABOT

Moving back to the vaginal fluid, Dr. Warner, did you discover anything noteworthy about it during your analysis?

WARNER

Yes. The amount of vaginal fluid contained within the fabric was much more than what a typical adolescent female secretes during arousal.

CABOT

Meaning?

WARNER

The amount of fluid present could only be there due to a female orgasm. And with the presence of Sylvia Daniels' saliva, it was most likely initiated by mouth to genital contact.

CABOT

Thank you, Doctor.

Cabot walks back to her table. Donna stands.

DONNA EMMETT

Dr. Warner, when you first received this pair of underwear, would you say the fluid samples were fresh or recent?

WARNER

No.

DONNA EMMETT

Enlighten me, Doctor, could you possibly say how long it was since they were deposited?

CABOT

Objection.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

DONNA EMMETT

I'm simply trying to establish Dr. Warner's skill to verify her competency, Your Honor.

Judge Donnelly nods.

JUDGE DONNELLY

Overruled. Answer the question, Doctor.

WARNER

Although I cannot be exact, I would say a couple of weeks.

DONNA EMMETT

I see. And tell me Doctor, in regard to my client's saliva you say you found, was that in abundance as well?

WARNER

No. It was quite small. But enough for a full DNA sample.

DONNA EMMETT

Isn't it true you also found traces of fluoride in the underwear as well?

Cabot looks up. Completely surprised.

WARNER

Yes.

DONNA EMMETT

So that's toothpaste correct?

WARNER

Yes.

CABOT

Objection.

DONNA EMMETT

So would it be safe to say that my client could have been brushing her teeth and found one of her students' undergarments and simply moved them?

WARNER

Objection, Your Honor. Please.

DONNA EMMETT

Nothing further.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (3)

Donna walks back to her seat. Sylvia gives her a thankful smile.

CUT TO

INT. CABOT'S OFFICE - DAY

Cabot shoves her salad to the side on her desk. Benson, Stabler, and Warner stand in front of her.

CABOT

How could you not tell me about the toothpaste?

WARNER

It was in my report.

BENSON

How's it going in there, Alex?

CABOT

Not good. That jury is believing this fiasco. Right down to the last drop. If we don't get Harper to testify against Sylvia Daniels, we're down for the count.

STABLER

Then we better be convincing.

CUT TO

INT. HARPER'S BEDROOM - DAY

Benson and Stabler stand in front of Harper. She sits on the bed. A sly grin on her face.

BENSON

You have a subpoena by that court that requires to you testify, Harper.

HARPER

So?

STABLER

If you don't show up, we're going to have to arrest you.

HARPER

Oh, I'll show up. But I can't promise anything after that.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON

Harper. This woman is not in love with you. She took advantage of you.

HARPER

You can go now.

BENSON

Harper--

HARPER

Now!

Benson and Stabler get the hint. Leave the room.

CUT TO

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Harper now sits in the witness chair. Cabot stands in front of her.

CABOT

Miss Moss. Please tell us what your connection is to the defendant, Sylvia Daniels.

Harper remains silent. Cabot rolls her eyes. It isn't the first time she has asked her.

JUDGE DONNELLY

Miss Moss, answer the question.

HARPER

No. I will do no such thing.

JUDGE DONNELLY

May I remind you, young lady, you are in a court of law? If you don't answer the question, I will have no choice but to hold you in contempt and send you to a jail cell.

Harper holds her hands out. Ready to be cuffed.

HARPER

Anytime, Judge.

Janice and Alan's faces both fill with disbelief.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

JUDGE DONNELLY

As you wish. Harper Moss I find you in contempt and you are to be arrested immediately. Baliff, please escort Miss Moss to her cell.

The Baliff cuffs Harper and leads her out of the courtroom.

Benson and Stabler just look at each other. No answers in sight for either one.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Harper sits on the bed inside the cell, leaning back up against the wall is bolted against.

Benson appears outside the cell. A PRISON GUARD opens up the cell.

PRISON GUARD

You got about five minutes. Seven tops.

BENSON

Thank you.

Benson enters the cell. The Prison Guard locks it behind her. Leaves the area.

BENSON (cont'd)

Harper why are you doing this?

HARPER

I'm not going to send the woman I love to prison because of an outdated mindset.

BENSON

And what mindset is that?

HARPER

That two women can't be in love with one another.

BENSON

Harper, that is not what she is on trial for.

Harper stands up. Moves to a corner. Not facing Benson.

BENSON (cont'd)

You are one of the smartest girls I have ever met, Harper. You really are. But you are not a woman yet. You are still a minor. And sexual relationships between adults and minors is illegal. Regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Harper remains staring at the wall. Stays quiet.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON (cont'd)

Look at where you are, Harper. You are
in a jail cell. You don't belong here.

Harper turns around. Furious.

HARPER

So what do you expect me to do? Tell
everyone that I was violated? I was
raped? I thought lying on the stand is
a crime.

Benson steps closer to Harper. Lowering her tone to soothe
Harper's anger.

BENSON

I just want you to tell the truth.
Nothing more. Nothing less.

Harper ponders this.

BENSON (cont'd)

If you truly think you are in love.
Then tell the jury that. It's up to
them to decide. Not you.

The Prison Guard returns. Benson senses him. The prison
cell door opens. Benson exits.

CUT TO

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

Judge Donnelly makes eye contact with A.D.A. Cabot.

JUDGE DONNELLY

Do you have your next witness,
Councilor?

CABOT

We do, Your Honor. The people again
call Harper Moss to the stand.

Harper enters the courtroom. Walking straight ahead. Eyes
focused ahead.

The entire courtroom's attention focuses on the walking
Harper. She makes her way to the witness stand. Sits
down.

The Baliff steps in front of her.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BALIFF

Raise your right hand.

She does.

BALIFF (cont'd)

Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

HARPER

I do.

Harper sits down. Judge Donnelly turns in her direction.

JUDGE DONNELLY

Are you ready to answer all questions asked of you, Miss Moss?

HARPER

I am, Your Honor.

Judge Donnelly nods.

JUDGE DONNELLY

Proceed, Miss Cabot.

CABOT

Thank you, Your Honor.

Cabot steps to the stand. Harper can barely keep eye contact.

CABOT (cont'd)

Miss Moss, please tell the court what your connection is to the defendant, Sylvia Daniels.

HARPER

She's one of my teachers and she's also my family's personal tutor.

CABOT

And have you ever participated in private tutoring sessions with Miss Daniels, where you and her were the only persons in attendance?

HARPER

Yes.

Cabot pauses for a moment. Readies her bombshell question.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

CABOT

Miss Moss, has Sylvia Daniels ever initiated a sexual act with you?

Harper stalls.

JUDGE DONNELLY

You are under oath, Miss Moss.

Harper holds back tears. Looks at Sylvia. Sylvia smiles at her.

HARPER

Yes. But she never raped me! I love her! You hear me?

CABOT

Miss Moss, please calm down.

Harper stands up. Shouting to the jury.

HARPER

You people just don't get it! We are in love! Don't deny us what you have! Who are you to tell us what is right and what is wrong?

Judge Donnelly BANGS her gavel.

JUDGE DONNELLY

That's enough, Miss Moss. You will sit down now.

Harper finally calms down.

CABOT

Nothing further, Your Honor.

Cabot returns to her seat.

Donna stands up as well.

DONNA EMMETT

The defense rests, Your Honor.

JUDGE DONNELLY

You may step down, Miss Moss.

Tears stream down Harper's face. She looks over at Sylvia.

HARPER

I'm sorry.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (3)

Sylvia just smiles at her. Tears in her eyes as well.

Harper vacates her seat. Leaves the courtroom. She passes by her parents. Doesn't make eye contact with them.

Benson and Stabler sit in the back. Unsettled by Harper's comments.

CUT TO

INT. COURTROOM - NEXT DAY

The Baliff hands Judge Donnelly the verdict from the JURY FOREPERSON.

Judge Donnelly opens the folded piece of paper. Briefly looks inside.

She hands it back to the Baliff.

JUDGE DONNELLY

Madame Foreperson. Has the jury reached a verdict?

The Baliff returns the verdict to the female Juror.

JURY FOREPERSON

We have, Your Honor.

JUDGE DONNELLY

Will the Defendant please stand.

Sylvia rises. Donna stands up right next to her.

Alan and Janice Moss wait impatiently behind Cabot. Harper sits in the seats behind Sylvia.

Judge Donnelly returns her attention to the Jury Foreperson.

JUDGE DONNELLY (cont'd)

What say you?

JURY FOREPERSON

On the charges of Rape of a Minor in the Third Degree, we the jury find the defendant not guilty of all counts.

Sylvia lets out a SIGH of relief.

A big smile curls across Harper's lips.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

The Moss family can't believe the verdict. Neither can Benson and Stabler.

JUDGE DONNELLY

The court thanks the jury for their services. Miss Daniels you are free to go. This court is adjourned.

Judge Donnelly bangs her gavel one last time. Retreats back into her chambers.

Sylvia hugs Donna.

SYLVIA

Thank you.

Stabler just shakes his head.

STABLER

She got away with it.

Stabler leaves the courtroom. Benson follows.

EXT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Alan and Janice wait outside the courthouse. Disbelief all over their faces.

Sylvia and Harper exit the courthouse together. All smiles.

Janice's face fills with RAGE. She storms up to Harper and grabs her arm.

JANICE

Get away from her! Now Harper!

HARPER

Let go of me!

Benson and Stabler notice the commotion. They both rush to the scene.

Without warning, Janice SLAPS Harper across the face. Hard. It knocks her to the ground.

Alan restrains his wife.

ALAN

Janice! Stop!

STABLER

Is there a problem, here?

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

ALAN
We're fine, Detective.

Sylvia touches Janice's arm.

SYLVIA
Mrs. Moss--

JANICE
Don't you dare say anything to me, you
bitch! If I ever catch you near my
daughter again I will kill you!

Sylvia gets the message.

JANICE (cont'd)
Leave! Now!

Sylvia backs away. Descends down the courthouse steps.

BENSON
I'll make sure she gets home.

Benson heads down after Sylvia. Stabler reaches down to help Harper to her feet.

Harper PUSHES his arm away. Runs in the opposite direction.

JANICE
Harper!

Stabler watches her go. But doesn't follow. Janice breaks into tears. Alan holding her close.

CUT TO

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

Stabler finishes up on some paperwork at his desk. Benson enters the room. Tired.

BENSON
I thought you were going home?

STABLER
Just finishing up some things. Sylvia
make it home alright?

BENSON
Yeah. No problems.

Cragen exits his office. Approaches the two Detectives.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

CRAGEN

You two still here?

STABLER

Just looking over the Daniels case
again, Captain.

CRAGEN

Well I know we all wish that verdict
didn't exist but Sylvia Daniels is now
a free woman, and her case is closed.
I want both of you to go home.

Benson's phone RINGS. She answers it.

BENSON

(into phone)

Detective Benson. Okay calm down.
We'll be right there. Just stay calm.

Benson hangs up the phone.

STABLER

What is it?

BENSON

That was Janice Moss. She said Sylvia
Daniels just kidnapped her daughter.Benson and Stabler share a look. They both look at Cragen.
He just nods his head.

Benson and Stabler hurry out of the squadroom.

FADE OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

INT. MOSS' RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Alan escorts Benson and Stabler into the living room of the penthouse.

ALAN

I found your card on Harper's desk. I didn't know what else to do.

STABLER

You did the right thing, Senator.

ALAN

That psycho took my daughter. Why aren't you out looking for her?

STABLER

We need to figure out where Sylvia Daniels may have taken your daughter first, Senator.

Janice and Parker sit on a couch. Janice is crying her eyes out. Holding a picture of Harper close to her chest.

JANICE

She took...my baby...

Benson sits down next to Janice.

BENSON

Mrs. Moss, I now you are going through a tough time right now, but this is really important. I need you to tell me exactly what happened.

Janice SNIFFS.

JANICE

After Harper came home, she locked herself in her room. She wouldn't open it for anyone. So I decided to make her some dinner. And told her I would leave it in front of her door. After a few minutes, I noticed that she wasn't answering me. So I tried the knob, and it opened. And she was gone.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

BENSON

Okay. That's good. But how do you know it was Sylvia that took her?

JANICE

I looked out her bedroom window. And saw Harper climbing down the fire escape. Sylvia's white SUV was waiting below. That's when I called you.

Janice resumes her crying.

BENSON

Parker. You know where Sylvia may have taken your sister?

Parker shakes his head "no".

Alan turns to Stabler.

ALAN

Detective. Please find my daughter. That woman has warped her mind. I don't know what she'll make her do.

STABLER

We're going to find her, Senator. Can you think of any places that Harper likes to hang out. Maybe different places that Sylvia and Harper had tutoring sessions.

Alan shakes his head "no".

ALAN

If Harper wasn't in school or over that woman's house, she was here. Reading. Studying. Such a smart girl...

Stabler takes out his cell phone. Speed dials a number.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

The Squadroom is now alive and kicking. Everyone is back on duty and in all out search mode. Munch mans the computer station relaying all information coming in from the city.

Fin answers his phone.

FIN

(into phone)

Go for Fin.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

STABLER
(into phone)
Fin. Any luck?

FIN
(into phone)
Not yet. We got an Amber Alert for
Harper out in both New York and Jersey.

STABLER
(into phone)
Alright add an APB to that. Sylvia is
driving a white SUV. Shouldn't be too
far.

FIN
(into phone)
I'm on it.
(hangs up)
Munch! I got a vehicle!

INT. HARPER'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Stabler and Benson frantically search the room for any
evidence leading to Harper's whereabouts.

STABLER
Come on, come on. Don't these girls
use diaries anymore?

BENSON
There's got to be something here that
tells us where they're heading.

Stabler SLAMS a desk drawer shut with anger.

STABLER
How can we look for her if we don't
know where to start?

Benson looks up at Harper's walls. Suddenly something
catches her attention...

A poster is missing from the wall.

BENSON
Elliot. Look.

Benson points at the blank spot on the wall.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

STABLER

Where'd it go.

BENSON

What was on it?

Benson and Stabler's mind race. It hits Benson first.

BENSON (cont'd)

Paris.

Stabler and Benson rush out of the bedroom.

EXT. MOSS RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Stabler and Benson head towards their unmarked. Stabler barks into his phone.

STABLER

(into phone)

Munch, I need to know all the flights heading to Paris at all nearby airports for tonight and tomorrow. Now.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

Munch punches up some keys on his computer. His eyes scan the screen at a mile a minute.

Cragen watches over.

MUNCH

(into phone)

Let's see, we got no international flight to Paris scheduled for takeoff tonight at JFK or LaGuardia.

INTERCUT AS NEEDED

STABLER

(into phone)

What about tomorrow?

Cragen points at one of the departures on the screen.

CRAGEN

There.

MUNCH

(into phone)

Wait a minute, we got Flight 2234 out of JFK departing at 8:15AM tomorrow morning.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

STABLER
That's got to be it.

Benson nods.

STABLER (cont'd)
(into phone)
Alright probe all the airport hotels.
See if anything comes up. Credit
Cards, names, address, photo ID,
anything that says Harper or Sylvia is
there.

MUNCH
(into phone)
On it. Give me a sec.

Stabler taps his cheek impatiently with his finger.
Waiting for Munch's response.

STABLER
(into phone)
Let's go, Munch. Today.

MUNCH
(into phone)
Got it! I got a hit on a credit card
charge. Alan Moss.

STABLER
(into phone)
Where?

MUNCH
(into phone)
Ratcliffe Hotel. About an hour ago.

STABLER
(into phone)
We're en route.

Stabler hangs up.

BACK ON STABLER

STABLER (cont'd)
Looks like we're heading to Queens.

BENSON
Step on it.

Stabler does.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

Cragen points at the computer screen.

CRAGEN

Munch, send all available units over to that hotel. I don't want anyone in or out until Sylvia Daniels is in custody.

MUNCH

Right away, Captain.

CUT TO

INT. RATCLIFFE HOTEL AT JFK - NIGHT

Stabler and Benson storm into the lobby. The HOTEL CLERK greets them with surprise.

HOTEL CLERK

Can I help you?

Benson and Stabler flash the badges.

STABLER

NYPD. We need the room number of a customer who just purchased a room with a credit card under the name Alan Moss.

HOTEL CLERK

I'm sorry, but we don't just give away our customers' information--

STABLER

Listen, you just let a 16 year old student and her teacher shack up in your hotel. Now unless you want that all over the public news for all your future non-customers to hear, I suggest you cooperate.

The Hotel Clerk knows his place. Quickly pulls up some information on his computer.

HOTEL CLERK

Room 321.

STABLER

Come with us.

Stabler and Benson sprint up the stairs. The Hotel Clerk follows.

INT. RATCLIFFE HOTEL AT JFK, THIRD FLOOR - NIGHT

Benson and Stabler find room 321. They position themselves on either side of the door.

The Hotel Clerk approaches the door. Nervous.

BENSON

Go ahead.

The Hotel Clerk KNOCKS on the door.

HOTEL CLERK

Miss Moss, there seems to be a problem with your credit card. Could you please open up?

No response.

STABLER

Open it.

The Hotel Clerk SLIDES the keycard. The door opens.

INT. ROOM 321 - CONTINUOUS

Stabler and Benson aim their weapons inside.

STABLER

Sylvia Daniels. This is the police.

Benson notices the ADJOINING ROOM door is open.

BENSON

There!

Benson and Stabler sprint into the next room. Back out into the hall.

INT. RATCLIFFE HOTEL AT JFK, THIRD FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

Where they just see Harper and Sylvia sprinting around the corner.

BENSON

Sylvia! Stop!

Stabler rushes ahead takes point. As soon as he turns the corner...

PSSSSHT!

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

He gets a face full of the innards of a FIRE EXTINGUISHER. Held by Harper. Harper drops the canister. Flees with Sylvia into a ROOF ACCESS STAIRWELL.

Stabler falls to the ground. Temporarily blinded.

Benson comes to his aid.

BENSON (cont'd)
Are you alright?

STABLER
I'm fine! Go!

Benson doesn't think twice. Dashes into the stairwell.

EXT. ROOF - NIGHT

Benson reaches the roof. Gun aimed. Sees Sylvia and Harper on the edge. Only a step from falling to their deaths.

BENSON
Harper! Don't!

Harper and Sylvia turn. They hug each other. Facing Benson.

HARPER
Why can't you just leave us alone?!

BENSON
Harper, listen to me.

HARPER
What are you going to shoot us?!

BENSON
No. Look. I'm putting my gun away. I don't need this.

Benson slowly puts her gun back into her hip holster.

BENSON (cont'd)
Step away from the edge, Sylvia.

SYLVIA
No! I'm done being told what to do.
WE'RE done being told what to do.

BENSON
You don't want to do this. Just step away. Please.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED

SYLVIA

If we can't be together in this life.
Then we will be together in the next!

Stabler stumbles on the roof. His clothes still white from the extinguisher.

BENSON

Harper. Look at me. Look at me.

Harper does.

BENSON (cont'd)

You have so much to live for. I know you feel like Sylvia is the one. And that she is the love of your life. But you're still young. You have everything to look forward to. You are too bright of a young woman to throw her life away.

This gets Harper thinking.

BENSON (cont'd)

You will find love again. I promise you. But you have to step away from the edge of the roof.

Harper looks up at Sylvia. They're eyes meet.

SYLVIA

I love you, Harper. But we have to do this. For us. For our love.

BENSON

Don't listen to her, Harper.

SYLVIA

Come with me, Harper. We'll be together forever. I promise.

Harper's mind races. What to do. What to do. Her gaze switches from Sylvia to Benson. Back and forth.

Sylvia turns her back to the edge.

SYLVIA (cont'd)

I trust you.

Sylvia closes her eyes. Harper turns. Tears streaming down her face. She looks back at Benson. Ready to drop herself over the edge.

CONTINUED

CONTINUED (2)

BENSON

No!

Sylvia FALLS backwards...

Harper stays where she's at. Benson rushes to her.

Harper finally breaks down. Tears streaming like a fountain down her face.

Stabler moves to the edge. Peers down at the pavement. Four stories below.

BELOW

Sylvia's body lies on the asphalt. Dead.

BACK ON STABLER

Stabler looks back at Benson.

Benson holds on to Harper. Close. Just staring back at her partner.

FADE TO BLACK

END OF ACT FOUR