CASTLE

“A Chill Goes Through Her Veins”
Ep. 105

Written by
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Directed by
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Studio Draft November 26, 2008
Network Draft December 2, 2008
White Draft December 4, 2008
Blue Pages (Full) December 10, 2008

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CAST

Blue Production Draft
December 10, 2008

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

ROGER (ALSO “VOICE” AND “MAN” IN SCENE 9)
BEN DAVIDSON
JULIE DAVIDSON
SHERIFF CLAY SLOAN
ALBERT BOLLAND
CHARLES WYLER
KEVIN HENSON
ELIZABETH FORTE
DOORMAN
DELORIS MARSH
Non-Speaking

Blue Production Draft
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SC. 4
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS
CROWD

SC. 5
WORKERS
UNIFORMS
C.S.U. TECH

SC. 11
BELLA
SIMONE

SC. 12
BELLA
SIMONE

SC. 24
DELIVERY MEN

SC. 35
WORKER
Locations
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INTERIORS
BECKETT APARTMENT
   BEDROOM (ACTS 1, 6)
   CLOSET (ACTS 1, 6)
PRECINCT (ACTS 4, 6)
   CONFERENCE ROOM (ACT 1)
   BULLPEN (ACTS 1, 2, 4, 5)
   HALLWAY (ACT 3)
   INTERROGATION (ACTS 4, 5, 6)
   RECORDS ROOM (ACT 6)
FORENSICS LAB (ACT 1)
APARTMENT BUILDING
   HALLWAY (ACTS 1, 4, 5)
   DOORMAN’S STATION (ACT 4) OMITTED
DAVIDSON HOUSE (ACT 2)
COFFEE SHOP (ACT 2)
BECKETT’S UNMARKED (ACTS 2, 3, 4, 6)
STORAGE FACILITY (ACT 2)
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CASTLE LOFT (ACT 4)
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WYLER’S STORE
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   DELIVERY AREA (ACT 3)
JAIL
   INTERVIEW AREA (ACT 3)
ROGER’S APARTMENT
   LIVING ROOM (ACT 4)
   KITCHEN (ACT 4)
   BATHROOM (ACT 4)

EXTERIORS
STREET (ACT 1)
CONSTRUCTION SITE (ACT 1)
DAVIDSON HOUSE (ACTS 2, 6)
STORAGE FACILITY (ACT 2)
WYLER’S STORE
   DELIVERY AREA (ACT 3)
CITY (ACT 4)
MUELLER BROS. DELIVERY (ACT 4)
ACT ONE

1 FROM DARKNESS

We open on the shimmering moon, shining in a pool of black. Suddenly, it RIPPLES and we realize that we’ve staring at a reflection in a puddle, newly disturbed by a drop of water. As the water settles, CAMERA moves slightly to reveal another shape reflected in the water... Something floating above. Something ghostly and white.

Before we can figure out what we’re seeing, another drop hits, obscuring our view... and another... and another. Something’s dripping.

We follow the droplets up, up until the moon comes back into view, hanging low in the sky. We follow the water, past the moon to...

A WHITE WINGED CREATURE hovering in the darkness, its WINGS flapping and fluttering. But as we draw closer, we can tell that this is no bird, but...

AN ANGEL -- Her wings spread out beyond her fluttering gown. Her skin is ice white and shimmering.

The dripping water takes us up to her peaceful, halcyon face, where we see an eerie sight. This angel’s face is frozen in a layer of ice. Melting ice. Beads of water roll down her forehead and drip from her eye, as if she were crying.

And just when we’re about to ask what the hell this is...

A BLAZE OF WORK LIGHTS IGNITE, blinding the darkness and showing our angel for what she truly is...

The FROZEN BODY of a GOWNED WOMAN, tangled in the rebar and crossbars of construction, her wings nothing but the tattered remains of a garment bag that her body was wrapped in. As SOUNDS OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE rise, we too rise from the body, now looking more mangled than serene.

PRE-LAP A RINGING PHONE...

2 INT. BECKETT APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT BEFORE DAWN

We find BECKETT tangled up in her sheets. Still half-asleep, she finds the phone and answers.

BECKETT
Beckett.
(pause)
Yeah. Okay. On my way.
She sits up and checks her clock. It’s pretty early. She rises. Murder books and mysteries are stacked on her bed stand, including the works of Richard Castle.

INT. BECKETT APARTMENT, CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

As MUSIC PLAYS Beckett opens a drawer. Her holster and gun are neatly laid out inside. She takes out her piece, checks her clip, and straps it on. This is not a super-slick gearing up moment, but rather the banal routine of someone who does this everyday.
She reaches for a jewelry box and as she pulls it close, we reveal that its top is a framed photo of a man and a woman in their early forties. We should assume that these are her parents.

Inside the jewelry box is her BADGE, a MAN’S WATCH, and a SIMPLE SILVER NECKLACE with a RING on it.

Again, part of her morning ritual, she slides on the watch, then clips the badge onto her belt.

She takes out the silver necklace and closes the jewelry box. She glances at the photo and then slips the necklace over her neck, tucking it away under her shirt so it is completely unseen.

EXT. STREET – PRE-DUSK

Beckett steps out of her car... all cop. ESPOSITO approaches holding a cup of coffee. He hands it to Beckett.

    ESPOSITO
    Why can’t they find bodies between 9 and 5?

Beckett takes the coffee.

    BECKETT
    Early bird gets the collar.

CASTLE emerges from the crowd. Esposito sees Beckett react.

    ESPOSITO
    Yeah. He was here before I was.

    CASTLE
    Ooh. Finally. You’re gonna love this.

Beckett sees CONSTRUCTION WORKERS gathered around some girders.

    BECKETT
    What?

    CASTLE
    Telling would ruin the surprise.

Beckett and Esposito follow Castle to the site.
BECKETT
Don’t you sleep?

CASTLE
I’m a writer. I have all day to sleep.

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - CONTINUOUS

They near the CRIME SCENE, moving through the small crowd of WORKERS who look on. Beckett nods to RYAN who stands nearby.

BECKETT
Ryan.

Ryan turns to the crowd.

RYAN
C’mon. Show’s over.

BECKETT
Okay. So what’s so special?

They come upon LANIE, amidst the crossbars, examining a BODY - THE BODY of the woman we saw in the opening image. She’s wearing a gown and above her, tangled in the rebar, is a ripped, tattered GARMENT BAG.

CASTLE
Awesome, right? My first cold case.

Off Beckett’s look.

CASTLE
C’mon. It was a little funny.

Lanie looks down from her perch...

LANIE
Not so much funny as true. She’s frozen solid.

BECKETT
What was the temperature last night?

RYAN
Mid-40s.

LANIE
It wasn’t exposure.
ESPOSITO
Site’s active. The boys tell me no
way she was here last night.

Beckett examines the body.

BECKETT
So where did she come from?

She notices the dripping.
BECKETT
She’s melting.

CASTLE
Maybe we should be looking for a pair of ruby slippers.

BECKETT
While you’re at it see if you can find one of those flying monkeys. Maybe they left her here.
(to Lanie)
So what can you tell me?

LANIE
There are pieces of plastic on her skin from the garment bag.

BECKETT
So she was inside it.

LANIE
Mmm-hmmm. Other than that, it’s gonna take a while for her to thaw. But I can tell you, she hasn’t been here long. Maybe a couple of hours.

BECKETT
What about security?

ESPOSITO
Chain link. Bolt cutters took care of that.

RYAN
Looks like our guy was hoping she’d disappear in the concrete pour.

ESPOSITO
A few more feet to the left and she would’ve.

CASTLE
Kind of odd to go to the trouble of freezing someone, then dumping them.

BECKETT
Since when did killing become normal?

CASTLE
It’s like there’s two different personalities at work here.
(MORE)
CASTLE (cont'd)
A killer who stores a body is a keeper. He wants souvenirs. But a guy who dumps a body --
BECKETT
Doesn’t want to be reminded of their crime. Maybe the flying monkey’s a schizophrenic.
(to Lanie)
Let’s get the usual. DNA. Prints.

LANIE
Won’t be able to get anything until she thaws.

Beckett sees a C.S.U TECH approaching, camera in hand.

BECKETT
Give me some close ups. I want to run her through missing persons.

The C.S.U tech nods.

CASTLE
Oh cool. Like on the Discovery Channel, when they plug the photo into one of those facial recognition databases.

BECKETT
Yeah. Just like that.

6
INT. PRECINCT, CONFERENCE ROOM – DAY

A STACK of FILES drops in front of Castle.

BECKETT
Welcome to the Department’s facial recognition database.

Ryan and Esposito chuckle.

CASTLE
By hand? That’s like life before Tivo.

ESPOSITO
Maybe you can download an “app” on that phone of yours.

Castle looks through the folders.

CASTLE
There’s a lot of missing people.
BECKETT
One way or another, we eventually find them. Some turn up dead, some turn up in a double-wide with a stripper named Trixie outside Atlantic City.

ESPOSITO
And some just don’t turn up.

Esposito tosses Castle a file.

CASTLE
Dana Sullivan?

ESPOSITO
She and her boyfriend leave a club. He’s a few steps behind her ‘cause his cell phone rings. She turns a corner just a few seconds before him. And when he comes around, she’s gone. Street’s totally empty. No traffic. Nothing.

CASTLE
Yeah. If you believe the boyfriend.

ESPOSITO
Except we pulled security footage. A bank camera showed him following her around a corner. As they come around, they should’ve come into view of another camera. He shows up. She never does. In the space of three feet, she literally just disappeared.

CASTLE
People don’t just disappear off the face of the earth.

RYAN
Sure they do. Quantum physics, alien abductions, Schrodinger’s cat. One minute, you’re getting a hot dog in the park, the next you’re fighting Sleestaks on the far side of a dimensional rift.

CASTLE
I don’t buy it. There’s gotta be an explanation. A story that makes it all makes sense.
Beckett nods to the picture of the FROZEN WOMAN.

**BECKETT**
Okay, Castle. What’s her story?

**CASTLE**
I don’t know how it starts, but I know how it ends. Frozen at a construction site. So flying monkeys aside, the first question is - how did she get there?

**RYAN**
Considering she was frozen solid, she had to have been kept pretty close.

**CASTLE**
Not necessarily.

(off their look)

Look, it’s like figuring out a plot. Sometimes you have a great idea for an ending and have to work backwards to figure out how to get there.

Castle gets up and moves to a city map. Points where the construction site would be.

**CASTLE**
Here’s the site. But her body may not have been kept as close as you think. It takes a long time for a body to thaw.
RYAN
What? You freeze a body once for one of your books?

CASTLE
No. But I cooked a turkey for Thanksgiving. Twenty-eight pounder. Took all night to unfreeze. And she’s at least what, 110 pounds?

BECKETT
She’s a person. Not a turkey.

CASTLE
Just making a point.

Just then Beckett’s CELL PHONE RINGS. She answers.

BECKETT
Beckett.
(listens)
Okay, I’ll be right there.

Beckett ends the call.

BECKETT
Lanie’s got an ID.

CUT TO:

INT. FORENSICS LAB - DAY

The WOMAN’s body is prostrate on the table, as Lanie gives the vitals. Beckett and Castle stand by, gowned, outfitted.

LANIE
Melanie Kavanaugh, thirty-four at the time of death. Turns out C.O.D. was a blunt force trauma to her head.

She points at X-Rays. Castle comes and takes a good look. *

BECKETT
How’d you get her ID?

LANIE
Hair drier.
(off Beckett’s look)
Used it to thaw her hands. Her fingerprints were in the system.

BECKETT
For?
LANIE
Misdemeanor drug possession.

CASTLE
She doesn’t look like a junkie.

LANIE
No. She’s in pretty good shape, considering. Judging from the lack of frost and tissue degeneration, I’d say wherever she was stored the temperature rarely varied.

CASTLE
Like a freezer.

LANIE
Freezer’d do the job. If she’d been stored with dry ice, she would’ve been more brittle on the side the ice was on.

BECKETT
Any signs of rape or assault?

LANIE
No damage other than to her skull.

BECKETT
How long has she been dead?

LANIE
Now that’s a two-fold question.

BECKETT
How so?

LANIE
Considering how long she’s been like this, factoring decomposition, I’d say she was probably frozen within twenty-four hours of being killed.

BECKETT
What do you mean, “how long she’s been like this”?

LANIE
According to the records I pulled, this woman’s been missing for over five years.
Beckett reads from Melanie’s file, which is splayed out over her desk. Castle returns from the breakroom with coffee.

BECKETT
She had a troubled childhood, drug problems in her teens and twenties.

CASTLE
I know.

BECKETT
How do you know?

CASTLE
I already read the file. She kicked the habit. Met and married Samuel Kavanaugh. She worked in a restaurant. He’s a bank manager. They have two kids.

BECKETT
When did you read the file?

CASTLE
When you were in the little girls’ room.

BECKETT
I was gone for like a minute.

CASTLE
Speed reader. Picked it up from my years stranded in the New York Public Library.

She starts to read again.

CASTLE
You want the Cliff Notes or, in this case, Castle notes?

BECKETT
How do you know you didn’t miss something important?

CASTLE
Like after Melanie disappeared, her husband waited a day to call the cops?
BECKETT
A day? That makes no sense.

CASTLE
It does when you get to the third paragraph. Before they were married, Melanie was what is now known as "a runaway bride."

Beckett skims the report.

BECKETT
Does it say why she ran away?

CASTLE
No. But all it really takes is your best friend saying, "it’s never too late to change your mind."

Beckett peruses the page.

BECKETT
According to the husband, Melanie vanished a whole two weeks before their wedding.

CASTLE
Only she came back. Three years of happily ever after, she runs away again. Comes back. Rinse-lather-repeat three more times. And no indication where she went.

BECKETT
She must have had a reason.

CASTLE
Oh, I’m not judging her. Some people love the institution, but hate the day-to-day.

BECKETT
You one of those people?

Castle shoots a look at Beckett.

CASTLE
Guess I just haven’t met the right girl.

Their eyes meet and rapidly dart apart.
CASTLE
But that’s why the husband didn’t call the police. Because she’d done it before.

Beckett begins reading the next page.

CASTLE
Which seemed reasonable to the detective at the time.

BECKETT
No evidence of foul play, so he closed the case.

Beckett picks up the picture of Melanie, frozen, dead.

BECKETT
For five years, her husband thought she just ran away.

CASTLE
Guess we should tell him his runaway bride’s finally come home.

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY – DAY

Knock. Knock. Knock. Beckett and Castle are outside of apartment 917. The last known address of Melanie’s family. From inside you can hear a man moving toward the door.

VOICE (O.S.)
Who is it?

BECKETT
New York City Police Department.

The door opens revealing a MAN, late 40s.

MAN
Can I help you?

Beckett badges him, cuts to the chase.

BECKETT
Detective Beckett. Are you Samuel Kavanaugh?

MAN
Who?
BECKETT
Samuel Kavanaugh.
(off his blank look)
Our records indicate he lives here.

MAN
I think you have the wrong apartment.

BECKETT
917?

MAN
Yeah, but I live here. My name’s Roger, not Sam.

BECKETT
And you don’t know any Sam Kavanaugh?

ROGER
No. What’s this about?

CASTLE
How long have you lived here?

ROGER
About eight months.

CASTLE
It has been five years. He probably moved.

ROGER
Whoa, hey. Hate to break it to you, but if you’re looking for the guy who lived here before me, he didn’t move.

(beat)
He was murdered.

Off Beckett and Castle,

END ACT ONE
ACT TWO

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN – DAY

Castle sits with Beckett and Ryan, while Esposito runs background on Samuel Kavanaugh.

ESPOSITO
Samuel Kavanaugh. Shot outside a grocery store about a year ago. Small caliber. Double tap to the chest. Wallet and cash were missing.

RYAN
Poor schlub’s wife disappears. Four years later, he gets shot in a mugging? What are the odds?

Beckett picks up a picture of SAMUEL, examines it. He’s tight-lipped, pent-up.

CASTLE
Pretty long, unless they were connected.

ESPOSITO
Four years between murders? One’s a popsicle, the other’s a pop and drop? How could they possibly be connected?

Castle breaks it like a story.

CASTLE
What if him and his wife got themselves into something they couldn’t get out of? Maybe something to do with her drug habit.

RYAN
And some skell waits four years to finish the job?

CASTLE
Maybe he found out what really happened to his wife and was about to go to the police with it.

RYAN
I don’t believe it.
CASTLE
Give me 250 pages and I bet I could make you.

BECKETT
We’re solving a murder, Castle, not writing a book.

CASTLE
I could call it, “A Chill Goes Through Her Veins.”

ESPOSITO
I like it.

CASTLE
And BAM, said the lady, I got another best-seller.

Beckett shakes her head, moving on.

BECKETT
What happened to their kids?

ESPOSITO
Living with Melanie’s folks. They’re up in White Plains.

BECKETT
I guess I’m going to White Plains.

She grabs her jacket.

BECKETT
Canvass the construction site. Someone must’ve seen something.

ESPOSITO
The foreman said they have a homeless problem at night. I figured we wait ‘til later and find them at the site, instead of chasing ‘em through the city.

Castle looks from Beckett to Esposito.

CASTLE
Hmmm. White Plains or homeless?

ESPOSITO
Yeah. They’re both pretty creepy.

CUT TO:
EXT. DAVIDSON HOUSE – DAY

Beckett and Castle head up to the front door. A man, late 50s, comes chasing two little girls, BELA, 8, and SIMONE, 6, around from the back of the house. We notice he has a slight limp. This is Melanie’s father, BEN DAVIDSON.

Beckett looks at the girls closely.

**BECKETT**
Those must be the daughters.

Ben lets out a huge Jurassic ROAR to the scary delight of his grandchildren. Beckett almost hates to ruin the moment.

**BECKETT**
Mr. Davidson?

Ben smiles as his granddaughters dance around him.

**BEN**
Yes, ma’am, I sure am.

Beckett reveals her badge. The smile slowly begins to die.

**BECKETT**
Detective Beckett.
(eyes the two girls)
Is there somewhere we can go?

INT. DAVIDSON HOUSE – DAY

JULIE DAVIDSON, Ben’s wife, mid 50s, sits on the couch, stunned. Ben is quietly devastated.

**BEN**
I don’t know whether to be happy it’s finally over or cry.

**BECKETT**
Hope is a terrible thing to lose.

Castle glances at pictures of the grandkids. He also sees one of Melanie and her parents, arms around each other, during one of their better times.

**JULIE**
It’s the not knowing that’s the hardest. I think we’ve both known for awhile now that Melanie was never coming home.

**BECKETT**
I’m very sorry.
BEN
What happened to her?

BECKETT
We still don’t know. What do you remember about the days leading up to her disappearance?

BEN
We talked to her a couple of days before. My wife did, I mean.

JULIE
Everything seemed fine.

BECKETT
She didn’t mention anything about leaving?

JULIE
No.

CASTLE
We’re aware your daughter had some issues.

BEN
They had nothing to do with what happened.

CASTLE
How do you know?

BEN
Now you sound like the cop who first had the case. Convinced she ran away, convinced she was back on drugs...

BECKETT
But you didn’t think that.

Ben looks over at the grandkids.

BEN
Melanie wasn’t the greatest mom, but she loved her kids. She never would have left them. Not like that.

BECKETT
What about her husband, Sam?
JULIE
He thought it was the drugs, too.

BEN
Did you know he waited over a day before he reported her missing?

CASTLE
She had run off before...

BEN
I’m not gonna stand here and deny that. But if Sam thought our daughter was in trouble, why the hell didn’t he call for help right away? Even if she’d gotten locked up, she’d have been better off than - ah, what the hell’s the use now. The time to ask these questions was five years ago and the cop who had the case didn’t wanna ask them.

Beckett doesn’t know what to say. Then,

BECKETT
How are the girls handling it, not having their parents?

JULIE
They ask about them, y’know. Why their parents died. But we don’t have any answers. Not for Melanie and not for Sam.

BEN
That’s all we want. Answers.

CUT TO:

EXT. DAVIDSON HOUSE – LATER

Beckett and Castle walk back to the car.

CASTLE
Sounds like they were pretty unhappy with the original investigation.

BECKETT
From where I stand, they had reason to be.
CASTLE
The guy whose case it was, you know him?

BECKETT
Detective Sloan was before my time.

CASTLE
He still around?

BECKETT
If you count being a Sheriff in Jersey, then yeah, he’s still around.

14  INT. COFFEE SHOP – NIGHT
A slow night for a late night breakfast joint. Beckett and Castle sit across from SHERIFF CLAY SLOAN. He’s clean cut, silver-haired, focused on himself.

SHERIFF SLOAN
Melanie Kavanaugh. So she was finally found after all these years.

Sloan shakes his head, perplexed at the turn of events.

BECKETT
She wasn’t found. Her body was.

SHERIFF SLOAN
Sorry to hear that. From the moment I took the case, I figured it might end bad...

BECKETT
Really? Her parents led us to believe you were pretty sure she’d run off.

SHERIFF SLOAN
Well, her being found dead and her running off aren’t exactly incompatible. Not with her history.

CASTLE
Her parents believe your investigation never made it past her history.

SHERIFF SLOAN
The Davidsons were hurting. But facts were facts.
BECKETT
Seems like facts weren’t facts after all.

He eyes them both, realizing he’s been in the hot seat all along.

SHERIFF SLOAN
Don’t you dare play Monday morning quarterback with me. I was on a missing persons, not a murder. You have a dead body. All I had was a woman with a drug habit and a history of disappearing before and during her marriage.

BECKETT
And a husband who didn’t report her missing for over a day.

SHERIFF SLOAN
For good reason. He cooperated. He voluntarily allowed C.S.U into their apartment. Anything I asked, he did.

CASTLE
Did you know he was murdered too?

Sloan’s look tells them he didn’t.

SHERIFF SLOAN
What?

BECKETT
He was gunned down in the street about a year ago. Do you still think facts are facts, Detective?

SHERIFF SLOAN
It’s Sheriff now.

BECKETT
Right.

SHERIFF SLOAN
And people get killed all the time. Look, what do you want from me? She had a pattern, I had reports of her in Philly with a meth head ex-boyfriend. It was what it was.
BECKETT
But you never went down there to check it out?

SHERIFF SLOAN
I didn’t need to. I had reports.

BECKETT
The husband’s best friend.  
   (looking at the case file)
Charles Wyler?

SHERIFF SLOAN
Yeah. So?

CASTLE
So he’s not exactly an impartial observer.

SHERIFF SLOAN
The guy owned his own business; he had a family and he was a war veteran. I saw no reason to doubt his word.

CASTLE
Plus, Philly’s a pretty long drive.

SHERIFF SLOAN
She was only missing back then.

BECKETT
No, she was already dead. You just didn’t know it.

Off Sloan,

INT. BECKETT’S UNMARKED – NIGHT

Beckett speeds through the streets. Castle reads the file.

CASTLE
If I ever disappear, make sure he’s not on my case.

Beckett’s not listening. Her mind still with Sloan.

BECKETT
I hate cops like him.

CASTLE
Good thing he’s a Sheriff now.

She never takes her eyes off the road.
BECKETT
Guy’s like him, things only make sense if they fit into a box. So they make them fit. And murderers go free.

CASTLE
Is that what happened with your Dad?

BECKETT
My Dad?

CASTLE
I noticed your watch.

Beckett looks at her wrist. Her watch is oversized. Clearly a man’s wristwatch.

CASTLE
It’s your Dad’s, right? That’s why you wear it?

Her phone rings. She uses it as an out.

BECKETT
(answering)
Beckett.

She listens. Her expression tells us it’s serious.

CUT TO:

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EXT. STORAGE FACILITY — NIGHT

The storage facility is an old printing warehouse along the Westside Highway near the river. Esposito and Ryan approach as Beckett and Castle exit her car.

BECKETT
You found a witness?

ESPOSITO
A homeless guy.

RYAN
Says he saw a dented yellow truck pull up to the site. Heavy-set guy pulls a large bag out of the truck bed. When he comes back out, he doesn’t have the bag anymore.
BECKETT
(re: storage facility)
How’d you find this place?

ESPOSITO
Guy also remembered seeing the word “storage” on the side of the truck.

CASTLE
And they say the dollar isn’t worth what it used to be.

RYAN
We searched the storage places on the Westside, found out this one uses yellow trucks.

He points to several yellow trucks in a row of parking places.

BECKETT
So, who owns the trucks?

RYAN
(checks his notes)
According to DMV, Albert Bolland.

BECKETT
OK. Impound the trucks. Get CSU on the dented one.

17 INT. STORAGE FACILITY - LATER

ALBERT BOLLAND, 40s, heavy set, and knows he’s in trouble.

ALBERT
What body? I don’t know what you’re talking about.

BECKETT
A witness saw someone driving one of your yellow trucks and dumping the body.

ALBERT
You’re lying. No one saw.

Beckett looks at Ryan and Esposito.

CASTLE
Wow. Uh, you probably shoulda tried to deny it first...

Albert bites his bottom lip, knows he’s been caught.
BECKETT
Let me help you. Melanie Kavanaugh, mother of two. Wife of Sam Kavanaugh.

ALBERT
Okay, look. I dumped her. But I didn’t know who she was. And I swear...

BECKETT
You didn’t kill her, right?

ALBERT
That’s right. I found her...

BECKETT
Uh huh.

ALBERT
I didn’t even know she was here.

CASTLE
What do you mean, here?

ALBERT
Fourth floor. Renter was in arrears. We give them three months, then cut the lock and sell the belongings, only all I find is a freezer plugged into a light outlet -- which by the way, is totally illegal.

BECKETT
And you thought storing a dead body in a freezer wasn’t?

ALBERT
You think I knew? When I opened it up, I nearly had a heart attack.

BECKETT
You could’ve called the cops.

ALBERT
What? So I could make the front page of the Ledger? Yeah, that’s good for business. And hell man, I’m thinking what if it had been a mob hit? I mean, I got a family...

BECKETT
So did she.
CASTLE
And finding her, you figured the next logical step would be to dump it at a construction site.

ALBERT
I know this guy, works over there. We’re having a beer a few weeks back and he’s bitching that his tools were stolen. Says the real crime is there’re no cameras at the site, so there’s no way to know who did it. So when I find the body I figure that’s the place for it, right?

BECKETT
Show us where you found her.

INT. STORAGE FACILITY, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

They follow Albert down a dark hallway, carrying flashlights. Castle holds a light under his face.

CASTLE
Spooky place. Near the river, open late. There’s no telling what other secrets could be here.

Albert stops at an old wooden door with a padlock, which Albert has cut off.

BECKETT
Open it.

Albert opens the door. They all stare at the TOP-LOADING FREEZER sitting inside. There’s nothing else in the unit.

ALBERT
That’s where I found her.

Beckett enters the room, stares at the freezer.

BECKETT
Five years in there. Nobody deserves that.
(them)
How was the unit paid for? Credit card? Check?

ALBERT
Cash, every six months. But, like I said, they were overdue three months.
BECKETT
(to Castle)
That puts the last payment about two months after her husband was killed.

CASTLE
Hard to make a cash payment when you’re dead.

Beckett opens the freezer. It’s still cold inside. She sees pieces of the garment bag stuck in the frost from when Albert ripped it out.

BECKETT
The camera in the office – you have footage of the guy who made payments.

ALBERT
We ain’t the White House. That was nine month ago. We keep maybe two weeks at a time.

BECKETT
Looks like Sloan was right. Sam Kavanaugh wasn’t involved.

CASTLE
If it wasn’t her husband, then who?

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO
CASTLE stands in front of the fridge, the freezer door open. Alexis enters. Goes for orange juice.

ALEXIS
You know we have air conditioning?

He kisses her on the head, turns back to the freezer.

CASTLE
I’m just wondering why a person would put a dead body in the freezer.

ALEXIS
Is this a Nikki Heat or a Detective Beckett question?

CASTLE
Beckett.

ALEXIS
Right. The Nikki Heat thing was about incinerating the body in a self-cleaning oven.

Castle pulls out some leftovers in a plastic container.

CASTLE
You put things in the freezer to keep them for later, but once they’re there, you rarely go back. It’s just too easy to forget about them.

Alexis moves next to him, stares in the freezer.

ALEXIS
If I put a body in a freezer it’d be because I was trying to hide it.

CASTLE
At least until you stopped paying the rent on a storage space.

ALEXIS
Did I stop or did something stop me?

He hugs her, warms her arms.
CASTLE
You know, it’s family moments like these that I’ll never forget.

ALEXIS
(teasing her Dad)
With a good therapist, maybe I will.

CUT TO:

INT. WYLER’S STORE, OFFICE - DAY

Beckett with Castle inside a BOUTIQUE STORE that specializes in ANTIQUES. CHARLES WYLER, late 40s, is with them. We join them just after Beckett’s broken the news.

WYLER
It’s hard to see your best friend suffer not knowing what happened to his wife. Where did you find her?

BECKETT
Her body was dumped at a construction site.

WYLER
God... First Sam, now Melanie.

CASTLE
Actually, we think it was the other way around.

WYLER
What do you mean?

BECKETT
Her body was frozen.

WYLER
Frozen?

CASTLE
We’re pretty sure she was killed somewhere around her disappearance.

As Wyler processes the news, Beckett continues.

BECKETT
The detective investigating Melanie’s disappearance said you told him that she was with an ex-boyfriend in Philadelphia.
WYLER
I only told him what Sam told me.

BECKETT
Sam told you?

WYLER
It’s where she ran to before the wedding and a few times after.

BECKETT
But you didn’t know for sure that’s where she went.

WYLER
It’s the only thing that made sense. Melanie was a good person, but she was troubled. Sometimes, when things got hard, she’d go out and score, y’know. She’d come home high and accuse Sam of ruining her life. She’d say her ex was the only one who ever really loved her. She just couldn’t seem to let go of the past.

CASTLE
How did Sam deal with that?

WYLER
I think he did the best he could under the circumstances.

BECKETT
Must have been quite a guy to keep taking her back.

WYLER
What was he gonna do? I mean, he loved her and they had those two girls. Sam truly believed she was gonna change, that the next time’d be different. But it never was...

BECKETT
If he loved her, why didn’t he report her missing right away?

WYLER
He was embarrassed. He’d given her everything, stood by her during the worst times. And then to find out she was back on the pipe with her old pals.

(MORE)
When the cops wouldn’t help, he went down to Philly himself to try to find the guy, but by then he was gone.

CASTLE
What was it like for him, thinking his wife was out there somewhere?

WYLER
Like I said, he loved her. He never stopped looking. He was even following up on leads the day he died.

Castle shoots Beckett a look.

BECKETT
You remember the boyfriend’s name?

WYLER
Kevin something... Henson, I think. If something happened to Melanie, he’s the one who’d know what.

CUT TO:

INT. PRECINCT, HALLWAY – DAY

Beckett with MONTGOMERY. She hands him a MUGSHOT of Kevin Henson, late 30s, lots of wear and tear.

BECKETT
Kevin Henson, Melanie’s ex-boyfriend. Serving a year for meth in South Jersey. He went in just after the last payment was made on the storage unit.

CASTLE
He stops paying, the storage guy finds her body.

CAPT. MONTGOMERY
Quite a coincidence.

BECKETT
And he was on the outside when the husband gets whacked.

CAPT. MONTGOMERY
Sounds like he’s worth a trip to South Jersey.
INT. JAIL, INTERVIEW AREA – DAY

KEVIN HENSON, tatted up, motorcycle chic, edgy. Castle and Beckett sit with him in an interview area. He’s looking at a photograph of Melanie.

HENSON
Yeah. Melanie came to see me. A month before she disappeared.

BECKETT
Why?

HENSON
I’ve known Mel since we were fifteen. We had a lot of history.

BECKETT
Yeah. So we’ve heard.

HENSON
You ever been in love, Detective? I mean, deep hard love? Makes you do crazy things.

BECKETT
Like kill someone?

The accusation doesn’t faze Henson.

HENSON
Like believe in things that can never be. Mel and I, when we were together, time just stopped. It was like... I don’t know, magic. But from the very first day, her and me? I mean, we both knew it was never going to work. God knows her folks were never gonna let their little girl end up with a tatted-up addict.

   (locks eyes with Beckett)
But sometimes, see... sometimes when we were alone? Together? Sometimes we almost believed.

CASTLE
She still loved you. That’s why she ran away before the wedding.

HENSON
I wanted her to move on. I wanted her to have a life.

(MORE)
I thought he’d give her everything
I couldn’t. But it wasn’t enough.

CASTLE
(realizing)
She was going to leave Sam. That’s
why she came to see you.

HENSON
She’d found out he was having an
affair.

BECKETT
If she didn’t love him, why did she
care?

HENSON
Because she thought he was gonna
leave her and get custody of the
kids, you know, ‘cause of the
drugs. She wanted me to go with
her. Take the kids and just
disappear.

BECKETT
What did you do?

Shakes his head softly, hands the photograph back.

HENSON
I put her on a bus.

CASTLE
You sent her back?

HENSON
What she needed I couldn’t give.
Next day I checked into rehab. I
thought maybe if I got clean...
That’s where I was when she
disappeared. By the time I got out,
she was dead.

BECKETT
How could you possibly know she was
dead?

HENSON
She stopped calling. If she were
alive, she would’ve called.
(he looks down)
So I started using.
(MORE)
And not a day goes by that I don’t think maybe by putting Melanie on that bus I really did kill her after all.

INT. BECKETT’S UNMARKED – DAY

Beckett drives. Castle rides.

CASTLE
An affair certainly explains a lot. Sam kills Melanie or he and his lover kill her together.

BECKETT
So who kills Sam?

CASTLE
The lover. When Sam backs out after all she’s done for him. It’s not like she could go to the police if he broke his promise.

BECKETT
How do you come up with these things, Castle?

CASTLE
I didn’t come up with this one. They did.

BECKETT
You speak “guy.” If Sam had a lover, his best friend would know about it, right?

CASTLE
Yeah. Especially if she was hot.

INT./EXT. WYLER’S STORE, DELIVERY AREA – DAY

Beckett and Castle exit the back of the store into the storage area. They find Wyler supervising the unloading of some ornate desks by DELIVERY MEN. He notices them approach.

WYLER
Detective. Mr. Castle.

BECKETT
You lied to us, Mr. Wyler.

WYLER
Excuse me?
CASTLE
You didn’t think that maybe it was relevant that your buddy Sam was having an affair at the time of Melanie disappearance?

WYLER
All that was a long time ago.

BECKETT
And Melanie was murdered a long time ago.

WYLER
So he had an affair. What’s the point in dragging everyone through the mud? Haven’t their kids been through enough? Don’t they deserve some peace?

Beckett stares daggers at Wyler.

BECKETT
What they deserve is to know what happened to their mother.

Castle sees the anger in Beckett’s eyes. He knows this is personal.

BECKETT
You have a nice business here, Mr. Wyler. But if you don’t tell me what I want to know, I’ll haul your ass to jail for withholding information and prosecute you as an accessory after the fact.

Faced with Beckett’s threat, Wyler folds.

WYLER
Elizabeth Forte. Her name’s Elizabeth Forte. She worked with Sam at his bank.

Off Beckett and Castle,

END ACT THREE
ACT FOUR

INT. PRECINCT - DAY

Castle and Beckett head toward interrogation.

CASTLE
Y’know, the more I think of it, a mistress is a more appropriate murderer. Woman frozen. Man gunned down in the street. It’s all very noir-ish.

BECKETT
Not noir. Noir is retribution and money. This is Dostoevsky.

CASTLE
Dostoevsky?

BECKETT
Passion and longing.

CASTLE
Didn’t peg you for the Russian literature type.

BECKETT
Don’t judge a babe by her badge. Beside, the name of the book is Crime and Punishment. It’s kind of required reading.

They enter...

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION - DAY

... where ELIZABETH FORTE, 40, professional, waits.

BECKETT
Mrs. Forte? I’m Detective Beckett, this is Rick Castle.

ELIZABETH
Why am I here?

BECKETT
Does the name Samuel Kavanaugh ring a bell?

Elizabeth reacts, surprised.

ELIZABETH
What about him?
BECKETT
We found the body of his wife, Melanie. From the looks of it, she was killed around the time the two of you were having an affair.

Elizabeth tenses up.

ELIZABETH
I’m afraid I don’t know what you’re talking about.

BECKETT
Do you really want me to start digging into your life, Ms. Forte? Because that’s just what I’ll do. I’ll get your phone records, your old credit card statements. I’ll even talk to your husband.

ELIZABETH
Please. Please don’t do that. Gary doesn’t know anything about it.

CASTLE
Just take us through what you know.

ELIZABETH
I met Sam when I got transferred to the branch downtown. He was in new accounts. We were both pretty unhappy at the time.

CASTLE
Lemme guess. You started flirting in the breakroom. He asked you out for coffee. You went dutch. One thing led to another and pretty soon you were paying for hotel rooms in cash.

Elizabeth looks down. Yeah, it was that cliché.

BECKETT
How long was the affair?

ELIZABETH
Not long. Six months.

CASTLE
Why’d it end?

ELIZABETH
I realized that I loved my husband.
CASTLE
Oh please. No one ends an affair ‘cause they realize they’re still in love. They end it because they’re scared. Scared of going to the next level, scared of being found out, scared of ruining their life. So, Elizabeth, what were you scared of?

Elizabeth looks at Castle. Then --

ELIZABETH
Him. I was scared of him.

BECKETT
How?

ELIZABETH
He started asking what I’d do if he wasn’t with his wife, if she wasn’t in the picture anymore.

BECKETT
When was this?

ELIZABETH
A few weeks before she disappeared. When I found out she was missing, I broke it off. He became angry. It got so bad, I had to transfer to another branch.

BECKETT
(incredulous)
You had to...
(lock eyes with her)
Five years. Five years and you never came forward.

ELIZABETH
I have children, Detective. I made a terrible mistake. All I wanted was a second chance.

BECKETT
So did Melanie Kavanaugh. Only she never got hers, did she?

ELIZABETH
What’s it matter? He’s dead. They’re both dead. What’s it matter anymore?
BECKETT
It matters.

CUT TO:

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - NIGHT

On Beckett’s desk is a photo of Sam and Melanie’s TWO GIRLS. Beckett looks up at the murder board. A Post-it that says “Affair” sits atop a photo of Elizabeth Forte. Pictures of Kevin Henson, and Melanie also clutter the board, along with other notes... “Freezer”, “Philadelphia”, “Drugs?” She studies the board puzzled. In the center is a photo of Sam.

BECKETT
How’d you do it, Sam?

EXT. CITY - NIGHT

Over the sparkling city scape of New York, we hear the sound of LASER guns firing.

INT. CASTLE LOFT – NIGHT

Alexis tumbles into frame behind a couch clutching a laser tag gun. She’s geared up, head to toe.

CASTLE (O.S.)
Run Rebel, but there is no defeating the forces of Voltar!

Alexis pops up from behind the couch and OPENS FIRE at...

CASTLE who’s geared up as well. He ducks behind one of the living room columns.

ALEXIS
Death to Voltar! Death to Voltarians!

Castle pivots out from behind the column and opens fire. Alexis scrambles for cover. Castle maneuvers to another column.

With absolutely no regard for the sacredness of the epic laser tag competition, MARTHA wades into the room, wearing a clay facial mask.

MARTHA
Has anyone seen my purse?

Alexis dashes out from hiding and ducks behind Martha.
CASTLE
Mother. We are waging combat on the field of honor.

MARTHA
Honestly. How old are you?

CASTLE
Old enough to afford the top-of-the-line laser guns.

Alexis pops out from behind Martha and fires. Castle’s gear BEEPS. He’s been hit. Alexis grins.

CASTLE
Now look what you did. I’m dead.
I’m dead because of you. Now Voltar will never rule the omniverse.

Just then the doorbell rings. They all look at the door.

CASTLE
Someone order food?

They all look at one another. Nope. Castle shrugs, crosses to the door. He opens it and is surprised to find BECKETT standing there. She takes in his laser tag outfit.

BECKETT
Hi.

CASTLE
Hi.

Alexis comes up behind Castle, in her outfit.

ALEXIS
Who is it?

CASTLE
Detective Beckett.

Martha comes up behind Castle, sporting her beauty facial mask.

MARTHA
Darling, are we entertaining? *

So there’s Beckett staring at Castle, Martha and Alexis, and the three are staring back.

ALEXIS
Dad! Manners.
CASTLE
Right! Please. Come in.

BECKETT
Thanks.

Beckett enters the loft. She looks around, taking it in.

BECKETT
Nice place.

CASTLE
Thanks. Can I get you a drink?

BECKETT
No. I just... Can we talk?

CASTLE LOFT, CASTLE’S OFFICE – NIGHT

Castle leads Beckett into his office. Beckett takes it in. Mysteries on the bookshelf. The details of his inner life.

BECKETT
I feel like Alfred, seeing the Batcave for the first time.

CASTLE
Batman fan. It figures.

BECKETT
Why?

CASTLE
Similar origins. Death of a loved one leads you to a life of fighting crime.

BECKETT
You’re the multi-millionaire crime fighter.

She notices a SMARTBOARD (an electronic whiteboard) in the corner of the office on which he has scrawled out plot points and material for his Nikki Heat novel.

CASTLE
It’s where I outline my books.

BECKETT
Funny. It’s like our murder board.
CASTLE
difference is mine’s fake. Yours is real.

She looks around, but she’s not really looking. She’s in her head.

CASTLE
What’s wrong?

BECKETT
I can’t find it.

CASTLE
Find what?

BECKETT
The answer.

CASTLE
We have an answer. It was Sam.
(off Beckett)
Everything fits. It’s a good ending.

BECKETT
But if we can’t prove it, all it is is a theory. Her family, her kids.
They need more than a theory.
They need to know. I need to know.

He knows she’s talking about more than the case.

BECKETT
But my subject’s dead and without witnesses...

CASTLE
You have your ending. To get the rest, you just have to work backwards. You need to finish the story.

BECKETT
I can’t just make stuff up, Castle.

CASTLE
Then extrapolate.
(off Beckett)
Ok. Yes. It’s like making stuff up.
But it’s making stuff up based on facts. Remember what I said about figuring out a plot?
(MORE)
Sometimes you have your ending and have to work backwards. Well, we have our ending. And we have our killer. We just have to put it all together using the facts at hand.

BECKETT
The facts?

CASTLE
Fact - they had small children.

BECKETT
So?

CASTLE
So according to police statements, they didn’t have a babysitter. With him at work, she would’ve had to have been at home with the kids the day she disappeared.

BECKETT
Ok. But Sam said she went out later that night.

CASTLE
Which the doorman was never able to corroborate.

BECKETT
If she was there and never went out...

CASTLE
Then she was killed in her apartment. Another fact - he lived in Manhattan.

BECKETT
And like most people in the city he didn’t own a car.

CASTLE
Right, so what’s a good husband in Manhattan to do with his wife’s body? He couldn’t leave her in the apartment. He couldn’t carry her through the lobby. So the question is...

BECKETT
How did he get her body to the storage facility?
They think a beat. Nothing comes to mind. Then,

CASTLE
You know what helps? Sometimes if I’m trying to figure out how my character does something, I go walk the scene of the crime. (he smiles) This one time, I was trying to figure out how to throw someone off the Empire State Building. I must’ve spent fourteen hours up there until I figured it out.

BECKETT
I had no idea you were so dedicated to your craft.

CASTLE
Well, yeah, that and *Sleepless in Seattle* had just come out, so lonely women were approaching me all day thinking I was their Tom Hanks. Man, that movie got me laid.

BECKETT
(breaking his reverie)
Castle.

CASTLE
Point is, if you want to get inside a killer’s head, you’ve got to go where the killer was, and see what problems he had to face.

CUT TO:

INT. ROGER’S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN/BATHROOM – DAY

Roger stands in the middle of his living room. Beckett and Castle are examining the apartment.

ROGER
They said he was shot in a mugging. You’re telling me, he was killed here? In my apartment?

CASTLE
Not him. His wife.

ROGER
His wife? What kind of family was this? No wonder I got the place for eighteen hundred. Friggin’ brokers.
Castle moves on to keep Roger from ranting.

CASTLE
Okay, so, you and I are married.

BECKETT
No, we’re not.

CASTLE
Relax. It’s just pretend.

BECKETT
I don’t want to pretend.

CASTLE
Scared you’ll like it?

BECKETT
If we’re married, I want a divorce.

ROGER
You two like this all the time?

CASTLE/BECKETT
Yes.

They look at each other, then--

CASTLE
Ok. We’re not married, but they are. Say the doorman’s right. That means, Melanie usually got home by four.

BECKETT
She’d need to make dinner for her kids.

CASTLE
Which puts her in the kitchen.

They move to the kitchen. It’s tight. Castle and Beckett are close. (Note: This scene should play like a dance)

CASTLE
Then Sam gets home.

BECKETT
Banker’s hours. Usually around six.

CASTLE
Figure the kids have already eaten.
BECKETT
So, they’re what? Watching TV in the bedroom?

ROGER
In my bedroom?

CASTLE
Shh. We’re on a roll.

BECKETT
They fight.

CASTLE
About the affair.

BECKETT
About Philadelphia.

Castle moves closer to Beckett.

CASTLE
Things get heated.

BECKETT
She turns her head and --

CASTLE
He whacks her with something.

Castle and Beckett look around, see cooking implements.

BECKETT
A pot or a pan?

CASTLE
Fractures her skull and it’s over.

BECKETT
But the kids are in the bedroom. He needs to get her out of here before they see.

Castle reads the terrain. Then...

CASTLE
Hallway bathroom. No line of sight. He can control things in there.

They move to the bathroom. Roger trails, becoming engrossed.

CASTLE
He needs to buy time.
BECKETT
He puts her in the tub, closes the door. Tells his kids that Mom went out to the store.

CASTLE
Which according to the case file, the doorman could never substantiate.

BECKETT
So, no car. How did he get her out of the apartment?

ROGER
Maybe he hailed a cab?

They both turn to look at him. Give him a “You idiot” look.

CASTLE
Yeah. He and a cabbie are gonna wrestle a body into his trunk.

BECKETT
Oh I know. Maybe the doorman helped. How much do you tip for a body?

Roger retreats. Castle turns to Beckett.

CASTLE
* The doorman!

BECKETT
* Castle, I was joking.

CASTLE
* What if she was already in the freezer when he took her from the apartment?

ROGER
* A freezer? He would’ve needed a truck.

CASTLE
* In my building, if there’s a delivery or a pick-up, someone has to sign it in.

ROGER
* Yeah. Here too. Anyone with a delivery that big would need to sign the ledger.
BECKETT
The ledger?

ROGER
The doorman’s ledger downstairs.

32 OMITTED 32
INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY – DAY

On A THICK LEDGER, with names and dates.

WOMAN’S VOICE
Yes. That’s my signature.

DELRIS MARSH, 70, at her door, the chain still latched. Beckett holds the ledger up for her to see.

BECKETT
I know it was five years ago, Mrs. Marsh, but the only delivery that day was to this apartment. If you can remember anything about the delivery at all...

DELRIS
Sure, I remember. I don’t get many deliveries.

CASTLE
What do you remember?

DELRIS
That I had to go downstairs and straighten things out.

BECKETT
Straighten what things out?

DELRIS
I told the doorman I never ordered a freezer. I live alone, what do I want with a freezer? But the guy brings it up anyway. Loaded it on the freight elevator while I’m still talking to the front desk.

Beckett and Castle exchange a look.
BECKETT
What happened when you went downstairs?

DELORIS
I told the doorman they had the wrong apartment again and when I got back upstairs the guy was gone. Does this have to do with that missing woman?

BECKETT
Yeah. It does.

DELORIS
Because I told that other cop all about it.

BECKETT
Detective Sloan?

DELORIS
Don’t remember his name. But I told him just like I told you.

INT. BECKETT’S UNMARKED – DAY

Castle eyes a PHOTOCOPY of the delivery ledger. On it MUELLER BROS. DELIVERY. We look up to find ourselves outside...

EXT. MUELLER BROS. DELIVERY – DAY

Beckett and Castle arrive outside of a ten foot gate. A SIGN near the gate’s entrance says MUELLER BROS. DELIVERY SERVICE. They exit the car, enter the site.

CASTLE
I don’t get it. If Sloan had that woman’s report, why didn’t he follow up on it.

BECKETT
He wasn’t looking for a story. He’d already written it.

Castle nods, then his eyes are drawn to something OFFSCREEN.

CASTLE
That’s the same kind of truck we saw at Charles Wyler’s store.

Beckett turns to see: a DELIVERY TRUCK.
BECKETT
He must have a contract with them.

A WORKER approaches the truck with supplies propped on a dolly. He opens the back as the driver lowers the truck’s hydraulic lift. Castle smiles.

CASTLE
You need help with some heavy lifting, who would you call?

BECKETT
Your best friend.

END ACT FOUR
ACT FIVE

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION – NIGHT

Wyler sits at the table, deflated. Beckett sits across from him, while Castle leans on the far wall.

BECKETT
We can trace the rental of the delivery truck to you, Mr. Wyler. If I have to, I can bring the woman you delivered the freezer to in to identify you.

WYLER
Look, I had nothing to do with what happened to Melanie.

CASTLE
You’ve lied about everything else, why not that?

WYLER
I never had any reason to hurt her.

BECKETT
But Sam did. She kept running back to that ex-boyfriend. I mean, how much could the guy take?

WYLER
He called me that night. Said I needed to come over right away. When I got there, the kids were asleep and Melanie was in the tub in a garment bag. He said she came after him and he just snapped.

CASTLE
Here’s an idea: instead of killing her, how about a divorce?

WYLER
You don’t think I knew how wrong this was?

CASTLE
Why help him get rid of her body? Why take that risk?

WYLER
Because he made a very bad mistake. And what about the kids? Their mom was dead. If he went to prison...
BECKETT
So you arranged to get a truck.

WYLER
He said it couldn’t ever be traced to him. That’s why we sent the freezer to the old lady. That’s why I rented the storage space. Because we knew the cops would look at Sam.

BECKETT
You made the payments?

WYLER
Sam couldn’t take any chances. He’d give me the cash and I’d stop by twice a year.

CASTLE
For five years?

WYLER
Seemed a lot easier than moving her.

BECKETT
Why’d you stop paying?

WYLER
I’m truly sorry about what happened to Melanie. But what was I supposed to do? Keep paying for the rest of my life?

BECKETT
The DA and I will make sure of it.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - NIGHT

Beckett, Castle, in the bullpen with Captain Montgomery. Castle’s reading a file.

CAPT. MONTGOMERY
Her body gets dumped ‘cause this guy Wyler didn’t pay a bill? That’s...

CASTLE
You can say it. Pretty cold. Ironic that such a selfish act ultimately revealed the truth.
BECKETT
There were people who knew the truth all along. They just chose not to come forward.

CAPT. MONTGOMERY
Still, karma came back to put a cap in her husband’s ass, so all’s right with the world.

He heads off. Beckett looks at the clock, sees that it’s late. She turns to Castle, who’s nose deep in a file.

BECKETT
I’m going to go talk to Melanie’s parents. Let them know how this shook out. You coming?

CASTLE
The woman with the freezer delivery told us she talked to a cop.

BECKETT
Yeah. Sloan.

CASTLE
Only he didn’t list her name in his report.

BECKETT
He probably didn’t think it was important. After all, he didn’t think he was looking at a murder.

CASTLE
Right. So if you’re not investigating a murder, why are you talking to a neighbor about her freezer delivery?

Off Beckett mulling that over -

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - NIGHT

Deloris, still only at the crack in the door, talks to Beckett and Castle.

DEloris
This must be some freezer.
BECKETT
You mentioned that a police officer came to see you. I know it’s been five years but do you think you’d be able to identify him?

DELORIS
Who said five years ago? I never said five years ago.

CASTLE
When did he come see you?

DELORIS
Sometime last year. I remember thinking, why’s a cop coming to talk to me about a freezer I didn’t order four years ago?

BECKETT
Can you tell us anything about the man who came to see you?

DELORIS
He was older. I mean, for a cop.

BECKETT
Uniform?

DELORIS
No. Plain clothes. Like you. He had grey hair, and walked with a limp.

Beckett turns to Castle.

CASTLE
Ben Davidson.

BECKETT
Melanie’s father.

END ACT FIVE
Beckett and Castle sit in front of the Davidson house. There’s a pall inside their tiny space.

They’re both looking through the large dining room window.

ANGLE ON BEN DAVIDSON

He is inside setting the dinner table for the family. The two granddaughters are assisting him, bringing plates and silverware.

BACK ON BECKETT AND CASTLE.

BECKETT

Why’d it have to be him?

CASTLE

You could just leave it like this.
(off her look)
Sam’s dead. Your Captain’s happy.
And those kids look pretty happy.

BECKETT

That’s the difference between a novel and the real world, Castle...

She opens the car door.

BECKETT

A cop doesn’t get to decide how a story ends.

She exits. Castle watches her walk to the door.

EXT. DAVIDSON HOUSE - NIGHT

She hesitates before finally KNOCKING. Ben opens the door.

BEN

Detective Beckett.

BECKETT

Mr. Davidson. Sir, I’m going to need you to come with me down to the station.

Nothing more needs to be said. Ben doesn’t break her stare. Seconds later, Julie appears.
JULIE
Ben, who's at the door?

Julie sees Beckett. Beckett sees the little girls off in the
distance, knowing what they’re wondering. Wondering what will
become of them. Seeing herself in them.

JULIE
Ben, what is it?

The second Ben locks eyes with his wife, she knows the answer
to her question. Off this tableau --

CUT TO:

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION – NIGHT

Ben sits at the interrogation table. Beckett and Castle are
with him.

BEN
I’m here because I questioned a
woman about a freezer?

CASTLE
Not any freezer, Mr. Davidson. The
freezer where your daughter’s body
was stored.

BEN
For the moment, let’s assume what
you say is true. What’s the charge?

BECKETT
If Mrs. Marsh’s answer led to Sam’s
death, the charge would be murder.

Ben smiles, wearily.

BEN
I kept going over everything Sam
told us, everything he claimed
happened that night, until I came
to the same conclusion you both
apparently did: that Melanie never
left her apartment alive... Mrs.
Marsh’s answer merely confirmed
what I already knew.

BECKETT
That your son-in-law was a killer.

Ben looks at her, says nothing.
CASTLE
If you’d figured out what Sam’d done, why not go to the police?
He’d have gone to prison for the rest of his life.

BEN
If he’d been convicted. They didn’t have a body at the time, remember?
His lawyers would have put Melanie on trial, not him.

BECKETT
So you took matters into your own hands...

BEN
Well, you could certainly understand how any father might want to...
How he might follow his daughter’s murderer one dark night, when he’d be sure no other people were around; how he might confront him with a gun he’d brought back from the war; might promise forgiveness in exchange for the truth, and then hearing his admission be... overcome with rage.

(beat; shifts)
Every time he brought the girls to see us, I watched a little piece of my wife die... A visit from your grandkids should be life-affirming, not a reminder of how your only child was murdered.

BECKETT
Killing him wasn’t the answer.

BEN
I never said I killed him. I only said that a father might be justified.

(shakes his head)
The police told me Sam was shot in a robbery. And without evidence, there would be little hope his killer would ever be brought to justice. I suppose we’ll see if that’s really true.

(beat)

(MORE)
And now I’d like to see a lawyer, if I could.

CUT TO:

INT. PRECINCT – NIGHT

Beckett stares at the picture of Melanie. Castle rounds the corner, on the phone.

CASTLE
No, sweetie, I just wanted to make sure I said good night.
(listens)
Sure thing. Strawberry happy face pancakes on me. Mwah. See you in the morning.

He hangs up. Sits next to Beckett.

CASTLE
Alexis missed me.

BECKETT
How did you know?

CASTLE
Spidey-sense.

She offers a half-smile. Ben Davidson suddenly appears, officers leading him down to holding.

CASTLE
Think he’ll be convicted?

BECKETT
I don’t know.
(beat)
But at least those kids’ll know what happened.

Beckett puts the photos back into the case file. Beat. She looks up at Castle.

BECKETT
By the way, it was my mother, not my father.

Castle doesn’t say a word. He leaves the door open for her to continue.

BECKETT
We were all going out to dinner – her, me, my Dad.
(MORE)
BECKETT (cont'd)
She was supposed to meet us at the restaurant, but she never showed. Two hours later, we get home and this detective, Detective Raglin, is waiting. They’d found her. She’d been stabbed.

CASTLE
Robbery?

BECKETT
No. She still had her purse, money, jewelry. No sexual assault either. They said it was gang violence, a random wayward event. (she shakes her head) And just like with Melanie, they never looked outside the box. They made up their minds and moved on. And so her killer was never caught.

CASTLE
Why do you wear the watch?

BECKETT
My Dad took her death pretty hard. But he’s sober now. Five years. (re: watch) So this is for the life I saved...

She reaches in her shirt and pulls out the necklace with the ring on it.

BECKETT (CONT'D)
And this is for the one I lost.

A beat as Castle takes it in. But Beckett doesn’t dwell. She gathers up her coat and forces a smile.

BECKETT
So I guess Nikki Heat has a backstory now.

CASTLE
I don’t know. I really liked the whole hooker-by-day cop-by-night angle, but the powerful emotional stuff could work too.

She smiles, his joke letting her off the emotional hook.

BECKETT
Well, don’t bewilder your fans with substance on my account.
CASTLE
Until tomorrow, Detective Beckett.

BECKETT
Can’t you just say “night?”

CASTLE
I’m a writer. “Night” is boring. “Until tomorrow” is hopeful.

BECKETT
I’m a cop. Night.

He watches her walk away. We hold on Castle’s face.

CUT TO:

INT. BECKETT APARTMENT, CLOSET – NIGHT

And here we see the reverse of the opening scene. She places her gun back in the drawer. And then puts her badge, her father’s watch, and the necklace with her mother’s ring into the Jewelry box. She closes its top to reveal the picture of her father and mother in happier times. She smiles.

INT. BECKETT APARTMENT, BEDROOM – MOMENTS LATER

In a T-shirt and boxers, Beckett picks up the phone and dials. It rings.

BECKETT
Hi Dad.

And she smiles.

INT. PRECINCT, RECORDS ROOM – NIGHT

The light comes on and Esposito enters, followed by Castle.

ESPOSITO
Remember, this never happened. I was never here.

CASTLE
You have my word.

Esposito leads him past rack after rack of file boxes, until he comes to one and opens it.

He pulls out a file. The name on it: JOHANNA BECKETT.

Esposito hands it to him.
CASTLE
Thanks.

ESPOSITO
You tell her I did this, I’ll make you bleed.

CASTLE
Understood.

ESPOSITO
Good luck.

Castle takes a seat at a table and turns on the desk light as Esposito leaves, dousing the overheads.

Lit by the light of the lamp, Castle looks down at the case file. He takes a breath, and opens it.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW