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thegoodwife

Episode #102

"You Can't Go Home Again"

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THE GOOD WIFE #102
"You Can't Go Home Again"
CAST LIST
9/3/09

ALICIA FLORRICK
WILL GARDNER
DIANE LOCKHART
CARY AGOS
KALINDA SHARMA
PETER FLORRICK
GRACE FLORRICK
ZACH FLORRICK

KENNY CHATHAM (formerly Kenny Yost)
LAUREN CHATHAM (formerly Lauren Yost)
RICHARD CHATHAM (formerly Richard Yost)
DANIELLE RAINES (formerly "Lisa Raines")
JUDGE HESTER JAMES (formerly "Judge Hilda James")
JUDGE EARL HOVICK
SPENCER RANKIN
CARL RANKIN (formerly "Earl Rankin")
SHELLY DELGADO
ELEANOR ABERNATHY (formerly "Eleanor Blackthorne")
OFFICER DIAZ (formerly "Jeffrey Diaz")
BRIAN KELLER
TERRY STREIGER (formerly "Terry Wallace")

SECRETARY
PARTY GOER
BAILIFF
AUTOMATED VOICE (V.O. only)
NEWS ANCHOR (V.O. only)

Omitted

POLICE OFFICER (now "Officer Diaz")

THE GOOD WIFE #102
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SET LIST
9/3/09

Interiors:

ALICIA'S APARTMENT
 MASTER BEDROOM
 BATHROOM
 KITCHEN
 SPARE ROOM
 DINING ROOM
 HALLWAY
 GRACE'S BEDROOM
27TH FLOOR
 ALICIA'S OFFICE
 BULLPEN
28TH FLOOR
 HALLWAY
 LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM
 RECEPTION
 WILL'S OFFICE
 INTERVIEW ROOM
 WORKSTATION
CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING
 HALLWAY
 COURTROOM
TAMMS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION - PHONE ROOM
FLORRICK HOME - MASTER BEDROOM
ALICIA'S CAR
 MOVING
 PARKED
CHATHAM HOUSE
 DEN
POLICE STATION
 HALLWAY
 HOLDING AREA
ALICIA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - FOYER/FRONT DOOR
HIGHLAND PARK - NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM
RESTAURANT
LAW LIBRARY STAIRS

THE GOOD WIFE #102
"You Can't Go Home Again"
SET LIST
9/3/09

Exteriors:

CHATHAM HOUSE
FRONT YARD
CAPSTONE PREPARATORY SCHOOL
DROP OFF AREA
STUDENT AREA/WALKWAY
HIGHLAND PARK
BACK YARD
HOME
SIDEWALK OUTSIDE CHATHAM HOME
SIDEWALK BY RANKIN HOUSE
RANKIN HOUSE
BACK YARD
STREET
ALICIA'S CAR - OUTSIDE CHATHAM HOME

ALICIA
(into phone)
Hello?

AUTOMATED VOICE (O.S.; ON PHONE)
This is a collect call from Tamms
Correctional Institution from --

PETER'S VOICE (O.S.; ON PHONE)
Peter Florrick.

His voice stops her, as it always does -- partly making her
heart flutter, partly pissing her off.

AUTOMATED VOICE (O.S.; ON PHONE)
To delete this call, press 1. To
to accept this call, press --

Alicia punches 2, has arrived at the --

4 **INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - SPARE ROOM - CONTINUOUS** 4

Stuffed with boxes -- everything from the old life that
doesn't fit with the new. Starts her search for the cleats.

ALICIA
Hi, Peter.

INTERCUT WITH:

5 **INT. TAMMS CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION - PHONE ROOM - SAME TIME** 5

PETER sits at a table, phone at his ear, brightening at her
voice. Behind him a line of prisoners wait their turn.

PETER
This a good time?

ALICIA
... Sure. You alright?

PETER
Hanging in there.
(awkward beat; then)
Kids around? Can I talk to them?

ALICIA
Actually, Zach's still in the shower
and Grace just sat down to eat.

(CONTINUED)

PETER

Oh. Tried to call earlier but the
line was long...

Alicia's distracted, checks her watch while still rooting
around boxes. Or maybe there's not much left to say.

ALICIA

So...

PETER

(awkward beat; then)
Used to be more comfortable with
each other's silences, didn't we?

And they did. Alicia tries to stay focused on the search.

ALICIA

I'm sorry, we're just really
running late. Do you think you
could try back later?

PETER

Yeah. Just tell them I called.

ALICIA

I will. Bye.

PETER

Bye.

He hangs up. Misses her. END INTERCUT. Then, eureka --

ALICIA

(re: cleats; calls out)
Found 'em!

And she also finds a trophy... **along with a photo of a
beaming Grace and a proud Peter, holding the same trophy in
front of their elegant Highland Park home.**

GRACE (O.S.)

We should never have had to move.

Alicia turns to see Grace in the doorway, witness to her
mother's nostalgia. The girl takes her cleats, pads off. On
Alicia, left with the sentiment...

6 INT. 28TH FLOOR - LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

6

Ten seconds into a new associates staff meeting. WILL, DIANE, CARY and 20 other fresh-scrubbed types as a harried Alicia slips in, discreetly takes a seat at the table. It's not commented upon, but not unnoticed either.

WILL

A first year associate's primary job is to clock billable hours. And with those numbers down in each of your departments, clearly, some of you aren't doing yours.

DIANE

Now, that's not to say you're all under-performing -- one of our newest associates clocked 225 hours last month alone.

Everyone in the room knows she means Cary -- including Cary.

WILL

But most of you can do better. So while this meeting isn't about naming names, it is about asking you to step up.

Alicia squirms a bit, not in the high billable hours club.

DIANE

And if you can't do that, at least sign a few new clients.

Obligatory chuckles. But not from Alicia, who's not in the "signed clients" club either.

SECRETARY

(at door)

Pardon the interruption, but someone's here to see Mrs. Florrick. I believe it's your son.

Instant red flags for Alicia -- did something happen to Zach? Diane subtly shoots Will a look as Alicia gathers her things.

ALICIA

I'm so sorry -- please excuse me.

We follow her out into --

KENNY
(shrugs; then)
Anyway, right after we got there,
this security guard rolls up and...

ALICIA
And...?

This is the hard part. Out of shame, embarrassment, or both.

KENNY
I kinda freaked... so I ran.
(then)
This morning, when I went by Bri's
house, there were cops there.
Heard he got arrested.

Kenny deposits a baggie of pot on her desk; she's mortified.

ALICIA
What are you doing? What is this?

KENNY
Figure they're after me next.

Alicia becomes aware of Diane and Will crossing past and
glancing in. Great. Quickly covers the baggie with papers.

ALICIA
Look... I'm not sure I understand
what happened but if you were
buying pot --

KENNY
We weren't. Spencer was giving it
to us.

ALICIA
(dubious)
The bottom line is, if you and your
friends broke the law, you need to
go to the police.

KENNY
Yeah, but... I'd still need a
lawyer, right?

She can't argue that. Sees more rubberneckers looking in.

ALICIA
Have you told your parents this?

(CONTINUED)

KENNY

(no)

You know how they are.

He wears their disapproval on his sleeve. She feels for him.

ALICIA

Is there anything else to this story? Anything at all?

He shakes his head. Alicia makes a decision, though reluctantly so. Glimpses KALINDA in the bullpen.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Don't move.

(re: pot)

And get rid of that.

Kenny re-pockets the pot as Alicia goes out into --

10 **INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS**

10

ALICIA

Kalinda.

KALINDA

(approaches; re: Kenny)

Your kid's older than I thought.

ALICIA

He's not mine. Listen, can you do me a favor? Find out about any police activity in Highland Park last night? See if Kenny Chatham is a person of interest or if there are any warrants out on him.

KALINDA

For...?

ALICIA

Pot. Possession, possibly buying.

KALINDA

So if he's not a relative, who is he?

ALICIA

I knew his mother.

11 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - WILL'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER**

11

Alicia raps at the open door, finds Will inside.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
Hi. Can I talk to you a minute?

WILL
Everything okay with your son?

ALICIA
Actually, it wasn't Zach, he's a family friend who got into some trouble.

WILL
Legal trouble or my parents don't understand me trouble?

ALICIA
I'm not sure yet, but I was hoping if I could drive him home...

Will hesitates, works hard to not show his disappointment.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
I know. I'll make up the time.

He nods reluctantly. She smiles, goes. Off Will, concerned.

12 **INT. ALICIA'S CAR - MOVING - MORNING** 12

Alicia behind the wheel. Kenny stewing as he rides shotgun.

ALICIA
So... did you not go to school today because of this?

KENNY
Haven't been going. Probably do a GED thing later.

ALICIA
Wait, you dropped out?

KENNY
'Bout six months ago. You guys had already moved by then.

Wow, a lot has happened since she left. Kenny sees her processing this, reads it as judgmental.

KENNY (CONT'D)
I remember your being way cooler than this.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
Sorry to disappoint you.

KENNY
And I don't get why you can't help me
without getting them involved.

ALICIA
Out of respect, Kenny. You still
live at home. You and I both owe
your parents that much.

KENNY
You don't owe 'em anything. They
blew you off. That's who they are.

She considers this, doesn't argue the point. A beat as they
draw nearer...

ALICIA
So... you ready to do this?

KENNY
I was kinda hoping you'd go in
first.

ALICIA
(considers him; then)
Lucky I remember how cute a kid you
were.

13 **EXT. CHATHAM HOUSE - CONTINUOUS**

13

Alicia heads past a landscaped yard and up to the front door
of a large, traditional home. Alicia becomes aware of
VOICES. Lots of them. A charity function? A social
gathering? Alicia looks back at the car; Kenny meekly waves,
slumps out of view. Alicia steels herself, rings the bell.
LAUREN CHATHAM opens the door.

ALICIA
Hi Lauren.

Lauren is stunned to see her. So are a dozen female
contemporaries hovering in the b.g.

Clearly, she's the subject of intense curiosity. Lauren, for
her part, doesn't know how to handle this unexpected visit.

(CONTINUED)

LAUREN
Hi... what are you... you look
great... you know, I've been
meaning to call...

ALICIA
Look, I'm sorry to just show up
like this, but... I need to talk to
you about Kenny.

A14 **FLASHBACK - TEN YEARS EARLIER - DAY**

A14

Alicia is an regular participant in these community meetings.
Stands near a punch bowl as Lauren sidles up. Whispers --

LAUREN
Unless we can start serving
cocktails, I'm quitting the board.

ALICIA
You're terrible, you know that?

They grin as 8 YEAR OLD KENNY steps up, wanting Mom's
attention. Instead, he gets Alicia's; she smiles at the boy,
smooths his hair as --

LAUREN
Honey, Mommy's busy.

Alicia feels for the disappointed boy as he pads off, leaving
Lauren to survey the room, ostensibly put upon.

LAUREN (CONT'D)
I'm just saying... someone else has
to start hosting these meetings.

ALICIA
Please, you love this.

LAUREN
(grins; caught)
Maybe. But I couldn't do it
without you.

It seemed sincere. At the time. Then, Lauren notices an
urbane woman across from them, noting --

LAUREN (CONT'D)
Oh my god -- is Diana still wearing
that ring?

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
She's waiting until the divorce is
final.

They both feel sorry for Diana, particularly as neither of
them would ever take that route --

14 **OMITTED**

14

(CONTINUED)

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14 CONTINUED: 14

15 INT. CHATHAM HOUSE - DEN - DAY

15

Well-appointed. Alicia faces a tense Lauren.

ALICIA

My guess is you can probably clear
all this up at the station.

LAUREN

(by way of explanation)
They change, kids. Get influenced
by other people...
(then)
Where is he now?

ALICIA

In the car. Asked me to smooth the
waters.

The irony. Lauren is embarrassed and paranoid.

LAUREN

You didn't have to drive all the way
out here. You could've just called.

ALICIA

I could have. But a boy I saw grow up
asked me for help. And his mother used
to be a friend.

Of the fair-weather variety, it turns out. They lock eyes
but are interrupted by a frantic PARTY-GOER --

PARTY-GOER

You need to come outside.

Lauren rushes out as Alicia's CELL RINGS. She follows, still
stung as she answers her phone--

ALICIA

Hello?

16 INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - INTERCUT

16

Kalinda's on the other end --

KALINDA

He is wanted by the police.

ALICIA

What? Who?

(CONTINUED)

KALINDA

Kenny. But not for buying pot --

Alicia doesn't hear the rest, because she's out into --

17 **EXT. CHATHAM HOUSE - FRONT YARD - CONTINUOUS** 17

Where she sees Kenny cuffed, face down on the ground as he's searched by POLICE -- who confiscate the baggie of pot. Lauren, meanwhile, is hysterical, held back by the Partygoer.

LAUREN
Oh my god! Kenny!

OFFICER DIAZ
(to other officer)
'Bout an ounce, too.

Kenny's lifted to his feet, winces as the cops lead him off, as neighbors and on-lookers look on, aghast at the spectacle.

LAUREN
Where are you taking him?!

KENNY
Ow! Ow! You're hurting me!

Alicia rushes up as Officer Diaz shoves Kenny into the car.

ALICIA
Can you tell me what's he being charged with?

OFFICER DIAZ
Who the hell are you?

ALICIA
(beat; then)
His attorney.

OFFICER DIAZ
Felony murder.

Off Alicia.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

18 **INT. LAW LIBRARY STAIRS - DAY**

18

On the move, as Kalinda debriefs Alicia.

KALINDA

Police are alleging that Kenny Chatham and Brian Keller broke into a guest apartment on property owned by Carl and Wendy Rankin.

ALICIA

Wait a minute, they broke in?

KALINDA

Nothing was reported stolen but --

ALICIA

Kenny said they were at a friend's.

KALINDA

The Rankin's 17 year old son, Spencer, lives above the garage, but wasn't home at the time.

ALICIA

Is that why the police think it was a burglary?

KALINDA

That, and they have Kenny and Brian's fingerprints on a window that was jammed open.

Great. The debrief continues as we cut to:

A19 **INT. POLICE STATION - HALLWAY - DAY**

A19

Alicia and Kalinda, climbing out of Alicia's car. They head for the station.

KALINDA

Theory is the boys encountered a security guard as they were leaving, struggled with him, then shoved him down the stairs. M.E. says the guard died of blunt trauma, likely from hitting his head on concrete, at approximately 11:20 p.m.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KALINDA (CONT'D)

-- five minutes after the guard
called in a perimeter check.

ALICIA

And because he died during the
commission of an alleged burglary,
Kenny's looking at felony murder.

KALINDA

20 year minimum in prison. Want me
to go with?

ALICIA

(no)
It's not exactly my first time.

Kalinda smiles wryly as Alicia heads into --

19 INT. POLICE STATION - HOLDING AREA - CELL - CONTINUOUS 19

Alicia steps in -- this isn't Tamms and the offenders aren't
in uniforms. They're drunk, homeless or just plain criminal.
Kenny's among them, rushing forward with words spilling out.

KENNY

Are you getting me out?

ALICIA

Not yet. I just came to make sure
you were --

KENNY

I didn't know anybody died, I don't
know how anybody could have.

ALICIA

We probably shouldn't talk here --

KENNY

Like I told you, I ran home. I yelled
up at Brian to get out, but he
couldn't hear me, he was still inside.

ALICIA

The police are saying you --

KENNY

I never even saw the guard, just
his car!

He's scared, pleading. Alicia wants to believe him but --

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Then why did you lie to me, Kenny?
Why didn't you tell me you broke in?

KENNY

Because we didn't.

Okay, so he's still playing games.

ALICIA

Okay, look, there'll be a bail
hearing, and a judge will decide if
you can be released pending trial --

KENNY

Talk to Spencer -- he knew we were
coming. He said to take what we
needed, he even told us where the
spare key was -- we just couldn't
find it so we pushed a window open.

His eyes start to fill. He wipes at them, shaking.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Mrs. Florrick, I swear... I ran
home.

Alicia studies him, stripped of all his teen bravado, and
glimpses the boy she once knew.

20 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - WILL'S OFFICE - DAY**

20

Alicia makes her pitch to Will and Diane.

WILL

Not the strongest case.

DIANE

But she's signing a client. And if
his parents live in Highland Park,
payment won't be an issue.

WILL

I don't know. When the connections
are personal, it can get tricky.

DIANE

Blurring the line between
friendship and business usually is.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Actually, I'm not friends with his parents anymore, which is why I'd prefer someone else to be the attorney of record.

DIANE

I don't understand, if these people aren't friends, why do this at all?

ALICIA

Because my relationship with them has nothing to do with how I feel about their son.

(bittersweet memory)

I used to baby-sit him.

(off their looks)

I'll do all the briefs, all the legwork, but I'd be more comfortable if someone else tried the case.

DIANE

This is becoming less lucrative every minute.

(to Alicia)

So you sign your first client, but you want a second associate to be the face of the case.

WILL

Give herself a bridge. I get that.

Off Will and Diane, a decision to make.

21 INT. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

21

Alicia hustles down the hall, is intercepted by Kenny's father, RICHARD CHATHAM, and defense attorney TERRY STREIGER.

ALICIA

Richard, I'm glad you're --

RICHARD

Want to explain to me why the attorney I hired for my son just got turned away --

Alicia looks to see Lauren in the b.g., in prop-wife mode as Richard does all the talking.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
Didn't Lauren tell you? I was
there when --

TERRY
(extends hand)
Terry Streiger, and excuse me for
saying so, Mrs. Florrick, but I
think you're in over your head.

RICHARD
Terry's been a defense attorney for
over 20 years. He's a top-rated
ABA member, well-known and well-
respected, so thanks for your time,
but we'll take it from here, okay?

It's still all about appearances for the Chathams.

ALICIA
Actually, no, it's not okay. Your
son asked me to represent him --

RICHARD
Without our consent --

ALICIA
He doesn't need it. He's 18.

RICHARD
(taken aback; then)
And how do you think he's going to
pay for it?

ALICIA
I don't know. But we'll work
something out. And while I'm not
as seasoned as Mr. Streiger, I
guarantee you I care more about
your son than he does.
(then)
Kenny will get the best defense.

She steps away, past a powerless Lauren and into --

22 INT. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING - COURT ROOM - CONTINUOUS 22

Where Alicia is stunned to see Cary at the defense table,
chatting up sexy ASA DANIELLE RAINES. Alicia beelines for
him.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
(sotto)
What are you doing here?

CARY
Last time I was on the south
side, was at this tavern on --

CARY
(to Raines)
Excuse me.
(to Alicia)
Diane said you needed a first
chair.

But before she can say more, the door to a holding area is opened, revealing Kenny. The BAILIFF closes the door, ushers Kenny to the defense table.

Seated in the gallery now are Richard, Lauren, and Terry. Kenny meets their gaze, scared and ashamed. Arrives.

ALICIA
Kenny, this is my associate, Cary
Agos. He's... one of the best
attorneys at the firm. He'll be
helping me with your defense.

CARY
(shakes his hand)
Good to meet you. This should be
pretty simple -- get you out on
bail and get you home.

Kenny's grateful for the reassurance as JUDGE HOVICK enters.

BAILIFF
Court is now in session. The
Honorable Earl Hovick presiding.

JUDGE HOVICK
Ms. Raines.

RAINES
Your Honor, due to the seriousness
of the charges, the state opposes
bail at this time. We believe the
defendant not only poses a flight
risk but a danger to the community--

Alicia looks at Cary, who's waiting for the prosecution to finish. Alicia knows you've got to be aggressive, stands.

ALICIA
Excuse me, Your Honor, but based on
what?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Mr. Chatham has no criminal history
and strong ties to the community.
In fact, his parents are seated
here in the gallery...

(points them out)

... to assure the court their son
will appear for trial.

In the b.g., another ASA has entered the courtroom, hustles
over to Raines, hands her a note.

RAINES

Begging your pardon, Your Honor,
but the State has just secured a
cooperating witness who's placed
Mr. Chatham at the crime scene and
identified him as the attacker.

JUDGE HOVICK

(without a second thought)

Then bail's denied. Defendant is
remanded to custody. Next case.

Everyone's stunned. Alicia, Kenny, his parents.

KENNY

You said it was gonna be simple.

ALICIA

Your friend Brian must have cut a
deal with the State's Attorney.

Kenny is led away by the Bailiff. Cary looks at Alicia --

CARY

First one who does is usually the
first one out.

Alicia turns to the gallery to see Lauren's devastated stare.

23 **INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - DINING ROOM - NIGHT**

23

Alicia, Zach and Grace finishing a comfortable dinner.

ALICIA

...There's something I want to talk
to you guys about.

ZACH

That sounds serious.

ALICIA

It is, actually.

(CONTINUED)

GRACE
Is it about Dad?

ALICIA
No. No, he's fine. I'd just...
rather you hear this from me.
(chooses words)
Kenny Chatham was arrested for --

GRACE
Murder, right? And you're like one
of his lawyers. That's what Janna
told me.

ZACH
Yeah, Shane IM'ed me about it.

GRACE
Everyone's totally freaked.

ALICIA
Oh. Well, obviously you've heard.
So, can I answer any questions? Do
you want to talk about it at all?

ZACH
Not really. Been hearing about it
all night as it is.

GRACE
It's all anybody back there is
taking about.

ALICIA
I'm sure, and it has to be pretty
upsetting to you guys, too.

Both shrug -- no. Alicia's confused by the lack of impact.

ZACH
Mom, we only ever saw Kenny 'cause
he was your friend's son.

GRACE
We have our own friends in Highland
Park.

ZACH
At least in cyberspace.

GRACE
Since we're not allowed to go back.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
That's not true.

The kids swap looks, yes it is. But why push it?

ZACH
I'm done, can I be excused?

ALICIA
I guess so...

He goes. Now Grace rises, plate in hand.

GRACE
Me, too. By the way, I didn't make
the soccer team.

And they're gone. Off Alicia.

24 **INT. 27TH FLOOR - BULLPEN - EARLY MORNING**

24

Alicia hustles in, nods hello to a vacuuming janitor. Passes Cary's office and, of course, he's already there, offering a wave. Alicia heads into her office, settling in when --

WILL
You're here early.

ALICIA
(re: Cary)
But I'm not the first.

WILL
That's what happens when you're
single and childless.
(then)
I was going to leave you a note.
Wanted to see how things were going
with him as first chair.

ALICIA
Well, he's certainly confident.

WILL
Look, it's your case. Diane
assumed, rightly so, that you were
just looking for a front man to
provide a little cushion since
you're dealing with friends.

ALICIA
Former.

(CONTINUED)

WILL
Sounds complicated.

ALICIA
It is.

WILL
Emotionally or legally?

They share a look. Will really does "get" her.

ALICIA
We couldn't get bail because Brian cut a deal with the S.A. He got immunity on felony murder by taking the lesser charge of burglary and agreeing to testify against Kenny.

WILL
So then what you have to do is --

CARY
(not one to be left out)
Establish there was no burglary.

Alicia looks at a smiling Cary, who's clearly insinuated himself into this conversation for Will's benefit.

25 **EXT. CAPSTONE PREPARATORY SCHOOL - DROP OFF AREA - DAY** 25

A tony facility. Alicia's car out front, having just pulled up. She climbs out from behind the wheel; Cary was riding shotgun. Kalinda emerges from the rear passenger seat.

KALINDA
So I'll dig up what I can on this Brian character.

CARY
And we'll question Spencer Rankin, hopefully get him to agree to testify for the defense, admit he gave Kenny permission. Right?

ALICIA
Right...

KALINDA
These kids go to a fancy campus.

Alicia takes the sights in -- kids in uniforms and high end cars. This is where Zach and Grace used to go to school.

26 **FLASHBACK- CAPSTONE PREPARATORY SCHOOL- 3 YEARS EARLIER- DAY** 26

Alicia drops off a nervous 12 year old Grace (geeky in braces) on her first day of high school.

GRACE
I don't like it.

ALICIA
Your brother's here --

GRACE
And they won't like me.

Alicia locks eyes with her insecure daughter.

ALICIA
Grace, this is the best school in the county. It has a great academic program and a very good sports program. Just give it time. I think you're really going to love it here.

She's snapped out of her reverie by the roar of a couple of BMW's driven by privileged teens showing them off.

CARY
Reminds me of my old high school.

KALINDA
Reminds me of the high schools I used to vandalize.

27 **EXT. CAPSTONE PREPARATORY SCHOOL - STUDENT AREA/WALKWAY - DAY** 27

Alicia and Cary walk toward 17 year old SPENCER RANKIN, leaning against a wall, backpack at his feet as the chats up a girl.

ALICIA
Spencer. My name is Mrs. Florrick. We'd like to talk to you about what happened at your apartment.

He's instantly ill-at-ease with her. Nervous.

SPENCER
You cops?

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

No, but we are trying to help your friends.

He looks at Alicia, suspicious of her natural authority. He picks up his gear, starts to go. Cary gets in step with him.

CARY

(re: Alicia)

Don't let mom make you nervous.

Alicia keeps pace, takes the jab, no choice but to let Cary do his thing.

CARY (CONT'D)

I'm Cary.

(then)

Got yourself a sweet situation above your folks' garage, dude. Like having your own place, right?

SPENCER

I don't know anything about what happened.

CARY

I get it. That's cool.

(grins)

I dunno, guess I'm just envious. Keep thinking what I would've done if I'd had a place like that. Hell, what I'd do now if I had a place like that. I mean, I'm sure you and Kenny had some seriously sick times up there.

SPENCER

I guess.

CARY

Yeah... not gonna happen anymore though, is it? Know why?

(no response)

'Cause the cops are saying he broke into your place. And you know why they're saying that? Because they don't get how good a friend you are to him. They don't know how much you and he share. They don't know you told your best bud it was okay to help himself to your weed that night.

(CONTINUED)

Spencer slows, guilt overtaking him. Alicia's impressed.

CARY (CONT'D)
Yeah, and because of that... the
Ken-ster's facing life in prison.

A long beat, then fighting tears, he says --

SPENCER
If they'd just looked harder for
the key, you know?

Alicia and Cary swap looks -- got him.

28 **EXT. CAPSTONE PREPARATORY SCHOOL - DROP OFF AREA - DAY** 28

Alicia and Cary (working a Blackberry) walk back to the SUV.

CARY
Tell the S.A. we've got a witness
corroborating permission and we cut
Kenny's jail time by ten years.

ALICIA
He shouldn't have to do any jail time.
Without the burglary charge, he can't
be held accountable for what happened
after he left the crime scene.

CARY
You're assuming a jury won't
believe Brian's version more --
Kenny has no alibi. His parents
were asleep when he got home.

Kalinda falls in step with them, notes in hand. But neither
are particularly listening, still arguing about strategy.

KALINDA
Okay, so this Brian's got a temper--

ALICIA
(focused on Cary)
Then we try to find other witnesses
who can place him at or near his
home at the time of death.

KALINDA
Guidance counselor says he's been
suspended twice for fighting.

(CONTINUED)

CARY

(to Alicia)
And what if there aren't any?
It's too risky.

KALINDA

Kenny, however, was always
seen as a sweet kid --

ALICIA

(to Cary)
Well, don't you think we
should at least investigate
the possibility?

KALINDA

'Til he started hanging out
with Brian, that is.

CARY

(to Alicia)
Time line's too mushy for
reasonable doubt. **If we go
to court and** he's found
guilty, it's 20 to life.

KALINDA

Pretty toxic friendship.

ALICIA

(to Cary)
But we should be fighting for total
exoneration -- he's innocent.

CARY

Yeah, but can we prove it?

With that, Cary climbs into the car. Off Alicia.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

29 INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT BUILDING - FOYER/FRONT DOOR - MORNING 29

Alicia herds the kids out toward the front door.

ZACH

Bet the bus is already here.

GRACE

Maybe if you didn't hog the shower--

ALICIA

Just keep it moving...

But they open the door to see Lauren there.

GRACE

Mrs. Chatham?

LAUREN

Oh my god... look at both of you.

ZACH

Hey.

Awkward hugs all around. What's she doing here? Then --

ALICIA

You guys better get going.

Grace and Zach take off, leaving Alicia alone with Lauren.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Did you want to come in?

Lauren crosses the threshold, stepping into the foyer.

LAUREN

I'd heard you'd moved, didn't know where. Wasn't easy to track down an address.

(then)

It's a nice apartment --

ALICIA

Lauren --

LAUREN

I just... I want to know what's happening with the case.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
(understands her need)
Right now, we're looking for
someone who can place Kenny at or
near your house at the time of the
murder.

She nods. An awkward beat.

LAUREN
I talked to Richard. We'll pay
Kenny's legal fees.
(off Alicia's nod)
Wasn't easy to get him to budge.
I'm sure you remember how
controlling he can be.

ALICIA
(nods; carefully)
How are things between you?

LAUREN
The same.

30 **FLASHBACK - HIGHLAND PARK - BACK YARD - FIVE YEARS AGO - DAY** 30

A backyard BBQ. Alicia and Peter happy, holding hands and
holding court with friends. Intellectual peers and partners.

PETER
(beaming; re: Alicia)
Get this, I leave to get drinks and
by the time I get back, she has the
governor literally backed into a
corner, nailing him on his lack of
support for the arts.

ALICIA
I was just asking him to explain
his position...

Laughter. Alicia glances at Lauren and Richard. Together,
but apart -- their body language telling the story.

A sob snaps Alicia out of her memory. It's Lauren.

LAUREN
Kenny was all I ever really had.

She starts to cry, folding into Alicia's arms. Off Alicia.

31 INT. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

31

Cary hustles after ASA Raines.

CARY

There she is. What's a nice girl like you doing at a place like the State's Attorney's office anyway?

RAINES

Best place to practice law.

CARY

I don't know about that -- life at a private firm has its perks.

RAINES

I became an ASA because I like duking it out in court, not over lunch.

CARY

Too bad, because that's what I was about to suggest -- talked with my bosses. We're on board with a plea bargain in the Chatham case.

RAINES

Really.

CARY

Thai, Italian or should we just grab a couple steaks?

32 EXT. HIGHLAND PARK - SIDEWALK OUTSIDE CHATHAM HOME - DAY

32

Alicia's car parked. She and Alicia stand nearby, scoping out the stately homes on the block.

KALINDA

Where's Cary? Shouldn't he be out here canvassing as well?

ALICIA

Said he had something else to do.
(then)
Plenty of street lighting.

KALINDA

Clear shot from the house across the street. Maybe the one on the right, too.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

And trust me, a young male running
in this neighborhood after 11 --
definitely would've been noticed.

As they head across the street, Kalinda takes note of the
pristine surroundings.

KALINDA

Think they've got enough manicured
lawns here?

ALICIA

Grass can't be taller than two
inches.

(off her look)

Neighborhood association wields a
mighty sword.

KALINDA

Pretty, doesn't seem like a good
fit though -- your living here.
Was it?

ALICIA

Did it for over ten years, liked it
at the time.

KALINDA

Ignorance is bliss, I guess.

It stings, but before Alicia can respond, Kalinda knocks.

33 **INT. HIGHLAND PARK - NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER** 33

Alicia and Kalinda question SHELLY DELGADO, an RN who tends
to a wheelchair-bound elderly woman, ELEANOR ABERNATHY.

SHELLY

Everyone's pretty shaken up. This
sort of thing just doesn't happen
here. Scandal maybe, but murder?

Then Shelly remembers who's standing there -- Alicia. Oops.

KALINDA

Were you on duty when it happened?

SHELLY

You tell me. I work second shift --
2 to 11 p.m. Not that I ever get out
on time. My relief's always late.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

So when did you leave exactly?

SHELLY

Don't know off the top of my head,
but I can check my time card.

(starts digging in purse)

Got a copy of it somewhere...

ALICIA

Shelly, when you were leaving, do
you remember seeing anyone on the
street? Anyone running?

SHELLY

Not really... I mean I think I saw
someone go inside across the way.

KALINDA

You mean through the front door?

SHELLY

Yeah, because they turned the yard
lights off right after -- made it
hard to fill out my timecard.

ALICIA

Was this person male or female?

SHELLY

Sorry, didn't get that good a look.

It's not much, but it's something. Alicia becomes aware of
someone staring, turns to see that it's Eleanor.

ALICIA

Hello.

ELEANOR

Your husband's doing a fine job.

Alicia smiles at the woman, perhaps her husband's only fan.

ELEANOR (CONT'D)

He's keeping the streets safe...

SHELLY

(re: Eleanor)

Don't mind her. She has dementia.
Only remembers the past.

Figures. Then, Shelly finds her timecard.

(CONTINUED)

SHELLY (CONT'D)
Here it is -- 11:25. That help?

34 INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

34

Cary and Raines lunching. Bargaining as foreplay.

CARY
There's no physical evidence
linking my client to the victim.
No DNA, nothing.

RAINES
Even so, you can't prove he wasn't
there as an accomplice to burglary
and if someone dies during the
commission, it's felony murder
regardless of who killed him.

CARY
Except your witness made a deal --
by copping to burglary, he gets
immunity from felony murder
charges, which means he now has
incentive to lie.

RAINES
(takes a bite)
Fine, 2nd degree murder.

CARY
4 to 15? I don't think so. We'll
do involuntary manslaughter.
(to waiter)
Water please.

RAINES
Not going to happen.
(re: his plate)
Can I try a fry?

CARY
Help yourself. Manslaughter, since
burglary's not in play any more.

RAINES
What?

CARY
I forget to mention we can prove
Kenny had permission to enter?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

CARY (CONT'D)

Spencer Rankin's willing to testify.

Fuck. This is a game-changer for Raines.

CARY (CONT'D)

So, as I was saying --

RAINES

Look, a man's still dead.

(bitter pill)

I'll make a case to the judge for a maximum sentence of five years.

CARY

Make it two and we have a deal.

RAINES

These rich kids really do get away with murder...

Raines considers him, likes him. And vice versa.

CARY

What do you feel like for dessert?

35 **EXT. ALICIA'S CAR - OUTSIDE CHATHAM HOUSE - DAY**

35

Alicia and Kalinda look at a map of the area.

ALICIA

The Rankin house is about half a mile west of here.

KALINDA

The security guard called into operations at 11:15 to say he was doing a perimeter check and he was dead by 11:20.

ALICIA

The prosecution would argue that there was still time for Kenny to have attacked the guard and made it home on foot by 11:25 -- but is that even possible?

KALINDA

Run that distance in five minutes? Only one way to find out.

36 INT. ALICIA'S CAR - MOVING - MOMENTS LATER

36

Alicia driving. Slowly. Kalinda looking out the window. More manicured lawns, more neighborhood association signs.

KALINDA

The average teenage boy sprinting would likely be in the range of 8 to 10 miles per hour.

ALICIA

How do you even know that?

KALINDA

Would you believe me if I told you I was a track coach in a previous life?

ALICIA

Uh... no.

KALINDA

(grins; checks watch)

Okay, been two minutes and we're --

Just then a well-heeled road-rager HONKS, then passes impatiently. Kalinda immediately flips him off.

KALINDA (CONT'D)

Ass.

ALICIA

(enjoys her spirit)

Nice.

KALINDA

You oughta try it sometime.

ALICIA

Flipping someone off?

KALINDA

It's good for the soul.

Alicia considers this; part of her would love to flip off Highland Park. But... --

ALICIA

We're here.

Alicia pulls over in front of the Rankin house.

(CONTINUED)

KALINDA

Just under five minutes. It's pretty tight, but the prosecution's right -- it's doable.

ALICIA

In other words, the nurse's testimony will only go so far.

Sigh. They climb out of the car. Kalinda with her camera.

37 **EXT. HIGHLAND PARK - SIDEWALK BY RANKIN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS** 37

Continued police presence. Crime scene tape visible.

KALINDA

Guess there's no chance the S.A. will let us in without permission.

ALICIA

I don't exactly have a good relationship with the department anymore.

Kalinda smiles, best she can do is pictures. Then, CARL RANKIN (50's) emerges from the main house, beelines for them.

RANKIN

You get within a hundred feet of my son again and I'll sue you, the Chathams, and your entire firm. He's got nothing to do with this and how dare you intimidate him into giving false information. There was never any permission given to enter, and there was never any pot and he's never going to testify -- you got that, lady? Now get the hell off my property.

With that, he turns, goes. Off Alicia and Kalinda.

38 **EXT. STREET - DAY** 38

Cary and Raines walk. Very date-like vibe.

RAINES

Thanks for lunch. It was... very satisfying.

CARY

So, maybe we mix it up next time, try dinner?

(CONTINUED)

RAINES
I'd like that.

She smiles, takes out a business card, writes her number on the back of it. Electricity between them. But her CELL RINGS. She answers, holds a finger up -- give me a sec.

RAINES (CONT'D)
(into cell)
Hello?

She hands him her card; he studies it, proud of the conquest.

RAINES (CONT'D)
(into phone)
Really. Okay. Thanks.

She clicks off. Disappointment on her face.

RAINES (CONT'D)
Deal's off.

CARY
What?

RAINES
You lost Spencer Rankin -- his father just called our office. Burglary's back on the table.
(then)
See you in court.

39 INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA'S OFFICE - DAY

39

Cary's livid, runs his hand through his hair.

CARY
I had the plea in my hand.

ALICIA
And I had no idea you'd gone to the State's Attorney --

CARY
I told you what the plan was --

ALICIA
But I never agreed to it, Cary, and we never presented it to --

CARY
I cleared it through Diane, alright?

(CONTINUED)

News to her. And for a split second, Cary feels guilty about sidestepping her, but it evaporates just as quickly.

CARY (CONT'D)
And now we've got nothing.

ALICIA
No, we've got an eyewitness who'll testify that at 11:19 she saw --

CARY
A figure from a distance. And the ASA has an eyewitness who can positively identify Kenny as the killer. We don't have a case.

KALINDA
And they don't have conclusive physical evidence.

But gone is Cary's usual slick demeanor. He's angry, agitated.

CARY
I gotta go. I need time to prep for court.

He blows out of the office, knocking down a stack of files as he goes. Alicia looks at Kalinda -- what's his problem?

KALINDA
You realize Cary's never been to trial before.

ALICIA
What? How's that even possible?

KALINDA
Easy. By pleading out every court case that comes your way.

Off Alicia, oh fuck.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

JUDGE JAMES (O.S.; PRE-LAP)
This is a pre-trial hearing...

40

INT. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING - COURTROOM - DAY

40

JUDGE HESTER JAMES (late 40's) addresses the court, she's tough, she's black, and she can smell fear -- particularly on young lawyers. Cary shuffles papers, glances at ASA Raines who barely acknowledges him now. Alicia takes note, then tries to offer a comforting smile to a now jump-suited Kenny.

JUDGE JAMES
Which is another way of saying both sides should come to an agreement before we go any farther.

KENNY
(sotto; to Alicia)
Guess my parents aren't coming.

JUDGE JAMES
But, since you haven't yet -- be advised that there is no jury for this proceeding, there's just me...

JUDGE JAMES (CONT'D)
... and my determination as to whether or not there's enough probable cause to hold this defendant for a long, expensive trial.

ALICIA
(sotto; to Kenny)
I'm sure they're on their way.

JUDGE JAMES
And because this is all about me, I get to ask questions, too.

KENNY
(sotto; to Alicia)
Doubt it. Wouldn't look good.

JUDGE JAMES
Particularly if our esteemed attorneys don't ask the right ones.

And she's looking right at Cary. Oh boy.

JUDGE JAMES (CONT'D)
It's not a fishing expedition, Counsel.
And I won't allow you to use this opportunity as means for discovery.
(then)
Ms. Raines, you're up.

41 INT. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING - COURTROOM - LATER

41

Officer Diaz (seen in teaser), is on the stand; Diaz is tough, buff and dead serious. A confident Raines grills him.

DIAZ

At 11:24 p.m., he was pulled over for speeding, approximately four blocks from the Rankin house.

RAINES

And Officer Diaz, did Brian give any statement at that time?

DIAZ

Yes, he did. He immediately confessed to having fled the scene of a burglary on Belson Street.

RAINES

So, in effect, he placed himself at the crime scene.

DIAZ

Yes, and was arrested at that time.

JUDGE JAMES

In your experience, do spontaneous confessions such as this tend to be accurate?

Cary considers objecting, but how do you object to the judge?

DIAZ

Typically, the perpetrator won't have had enough time to concoct a story, so yes. They usually are.

RAINES

Nothing further.

JUDGE JAMES

Mr. Uh-goes...

CARY

"A-goes," Your Honor.

JUDGE JAMES

Whatever.

Cary rises, approaches Diaz, who looks much bigger up close.

(CONTINUED)

CARY
Officer Diaz.
(his mind goes blank)
Sorry, I need to refer to my
notes...

James raises an eyebrow at this. Cary returns to the table, finds what he's looking for as a concerned Alicia quickly slides him a note: no mention of killing when arrested.

CARY (CONT'D)
(sotto to Alicia)
I know.

He pointedly shows her his own note to that effect.

JUDGE JAMES
Sometime before I go gray, Counsel.

CARY
(re-approaches)
Officer Diaz, when Mr. Keller had this "spontaneous utterance", did he mention that anyone had been killed?

DIAZ
Not until after we got to the station, no.

CARY
So when Brian told you Kenny Chatham was responsible for the victim's death, he had had time to concoct a story.

RAINES
Objection.

JUDGE JAMES
Sustained. If for no other reason than the use of pluperfect tense.

CARY
Nothing further.

Cary sits down. Alicia leans over, whispers --

ALICIA
It gets easier as you go.

(CONTINUED)

CARY
(ignores the implication)
My interests have never been in
litigation.

RAINES
Prosecution calls Brian Keller.

BRIAN KELLER (a bigger, badder version of Kenny) is in a suit
and tie, rises from the gallery, approaches the stand.

42 **INT. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING - COURTROOM - LATER** 42

ASA Raines with Brian, who is now the picture of innocence.
On a nearby table, an architectural model of the crime scene.

BRIAN
Kenny wanted to get high and said
he knew where he could get some
weed. He never said anything about
breaking in, so I was surprised
when he asked me to help jam the
window open. I mean, I did it
but... I was kinda freaked out
after. So I went downstairs.

RAINES
And did what?

BRIAN
Waited for him so we could get the
heck out of there. But then I saw
the security guard.

RAINES
Did he see you?

BRIAN
No, I hid behind a tree.
(pointing to model)
Right in there.

RAINES
I know it's difficult, but could
you tell the judge what you saw?

Brian glances at Kenny, who then turns to Alicia --

KENNY
(sotto to Alicia)
I can't believe he can lie like this.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
(sotto to Kenny)
People do it all the time.

BRIAN
Um... the guard started going up
the stairs.

RAINES
(pointing to model)
Here?

BRIAN
Yeah and I guess he kinda surprised
Kenny because they got into it and
then... Kenny sorta shoved him and
the guard fell backwards. And
then... he just stopped moving.

Alicia studies the model. All lawn, only the one bush. Cary
follows Alicia's gaze, curious. What's she seeing?

CARY
(sotto)
What's the matter?

ALICIA
(sotto)
Nothing, just manicured lawns...

RAINES
So from where you were standing,
there was a clear view of the crime.

BRIAN
Yes.

It's damning testimony and Raines knows it, nods to the Judge
-- finished with Brian. Cary rises to cross but --

JUDGE JAMES
That's plenty for today. Court's
adjourned til 9 tomorrow.

Kenny looks between Cary and Alicia, not sure how to feel.
Alicia turns back to the gallery. Still no parents.

43 **INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT** 43

Grace is on the phone. Zach texting on his cell.

(CONTINUED)

GRACE
(into phone)
Nothing really, just watching TV.

ALICIA
Heads up.
(tosses them jackets)
You two feel like taking a drive?

ZACH
Where to?

ALICIA
I don't know... to see old friends?

The kids brighten at the prospect.

44 **INT. 28TH FLOOR - WORKSTATION - NIGHT** 44

Cary's burning the midnight oil, law books and files spread out before him. After a beat, Will steps past, peeks in.

WILL
Didn't think anyone was still here.

CARY
Prepping for court.

WILL
By reading case law? Better off watching experienced trial lawyers.

CARY
Yeah, well... new kid on the block. Don't get much opportunity to shadow seniors. Though... I have learned a lot watching Alicia. She's definitely got some skills.

WILL
We suspect it's a Georgetown thing.

CARY
(grins)
No doubt.
(then)
Long time to stay friends, since college and all. So, it's really commendable -- your championing her like you do.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

But something about the way Cary has brought this up doesn't quite sit well with Will.

WILL

Yeah, know what's great about someone like Alicia? She's a natural, doesn't have to try so hard.

With that, Will goes. Off Cary, not as smart as he thought he was...

45 INT. CHATHAM HOUSE - DEN - NIGHT

45

Alicia with Richard, who pours himself a drink.

RICHARD

Drink?

ALICIA

No, thanks.

RICHARD

Where are your kids?

ALICIA

Dropped them off at their friends' houses. They really miss it here.

RICHARD

I'll bet.

ALICIA

You two weren't in court today, so I wanted to come by and update you.

RICHARD

Lauren couldn't handle it. She's not like you. She's not that strong.

(beat)

She's asleep now, took a Valium.

ALICIA

It's got to be hard for her, for you both... to see your son like that. But... it's important that at least one of you be there.

He kills his drink. Alicia sits, not quite comfortable.

RICHARD

So, how'd it go?

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
To be honest, not great.
(then)
They have Kenny's prints at the scene
and someone who'll testify he pushed
the guard.

Richard considers this a beat, then --

RICHARD
You think he's guilty?

ALICIA
(startled; then)
No. Do you?

All this weighs heavily on Richard.

RICHARD
I don't know who he is anymore.
(beat; then)
What went wrong, Alicia? You
remember, don't you? We always had
the perfect family.

Off Alicia, all too familiar with the feeling.

46 **EXT. HIGHLAND PARK HOME - NIGHT**

46

Alicia walks Grace away from the home she was visiting, and
toward their car. Zach leans against it, impatient and
texting.

ALICIA
You have a good time?

GRACE
Yeah. Except I forgot how much of
a whiner Janna was.

ZACH
I didn't.

GRACE
Like your friends aren't geeks.

He smirks at his sister, opens the front passenger door but
continues to text. Alicia opens the rear door for her.

GRACE (CONT'D)
Can we please go home now?

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA
(checks her watch)
Told you I had to make more than
one stop, remember?

GRACE
Tell me you're not taking us to the
crime scene.

ZACH
(finally interested)
Seriously? Awesome...

GRACE
This is the real reason we came, isn't it?

ALICIA
Shoot me for having more than one.

47 **EXT. HIGHLAND PARK - RANKIN HOUSE - CONTINUOUS** 47

Alicia's car rolls up. She takes in the Rankin home. Dark.

ALICIA
Tape's all gone -- neighborhood
association probably pulled it down
themselves. Looks like no one's home.
(she climbs out; to kids)
Stay here.

Alicia furtively heads for the rear of the property.

A48 **EXT. HIGHLAND PARK - RANKIN HOUSE - BACK YARD - MOMENTS LATER** A48

Alicia scopes out the guest apartment above the garage. Sees
the window that was jimmed open, the bushes Brian hid
behind. Just like the model. Stands where Brian would have
stood, checking the vantage point. A clear shot.

ALICIA
Damn.

But just then, she gets hit with a spray of cold water: timed
sprinklers. She shrieks, jumps out of the way, soaking wet
in seconds. Pissed, cold... but realizing something.

48 **INT. ALICIA'S CAR - PARKED - MOMENTS LATER** 48

A sopping wet Alicia drops back into the driver's seat.

(CONTINUED)

GRACE ZACH
Oh my god -- What happened?

ALICIA
I ran into the neighborhood
association.

49 INT. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING - COURTROOM - DAY 49

Lauren and Richard in the gallery. Cary sits at the defense table with Kenny. Looks around, nervous, checks his watch.

JUDGE JAMES
Are we waiting for divine
inspiration, Mr. Agos?

CARY
(rises; no choice)
No, my co-counsel, your Honor. But
I'm sure she'll be here any minute.
(rises; then)
Brian...

Cary approaches Brian, who's on the stand. The model of the crime scene is still present.

CARY (CONT'D)
If you don't mind, I'd like to
review the sequence of events on
the night in question.
(points to model)
You testified that while Kenny was
upstairs, you were waiting down
below, is that correct?

BRIAN
That's right.

CARY
How long were you there before the
security guard arrived?

BRIAN
I dunno, a few minutes?

CARY
According to patrol records, he
called in a perimeter check at 11:15.
Do you know what time it was when you
saw the guard?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
A few minutes after that, I guess?

(CONTINUED)

CARY
So, 11:18. How long did you stay
after you saw the guard?

BRIAN
Couple minutes maybe?

CARY
Which puts us at 11:20.

Alicia enters the courtroom, hands documentation to the court clerk before taking a seat at the defense table.

RAINES
Your Honor, all this has been
established in prior testimony.

CARY
Right, right... my mistake.
(then)
Brian, do you know exactly what time
the defendant attacked the guard?

BRIAN
Like you just said, around 11:20 or so.

CARY
And you left the Rankin house when?

RAINES
It's already been stated that he
was arrested at 11:24.

CARY
So it was just four minutes between the
killing and the time of your arrest.

BRIAN
(getting annoyed)
Yes.

JUDGE JAMES
Now that you've dazzled us with
your math skills, Mr. Agos, can we
please move on?

Cary nods to Alicia, who rises.

ALICIA
Were you wet?

(CONTINUED)

BRIAN
What do you mean?

ALICIA
The police report makes no mention
of your being wet at the time of
your arrest. But were you?

RAINES
Objection. What's the weather got
to do with this?

ALICIA
Your Honor, I'd like to introduce
the bylaws of the Highland Park
Neighborhood Association into
evidence. Specifically, page 4
paragraph 2 regarding the watering
of lawns which is only allowed at
night in an effort to save water.

RAINES
Your Honor --

ALICIA
For the record, the Rankins were in
full obeyance with said bylaws.
Their automated sprinkler system is
set to go off every night at 11:15
and run for ten minutes.
(then)
If you'd been where you said you were,
you would've gotten soaked.

Rumblings around the courtroom. Brian's starting to panic.

ALICIA (CONT'D)
The truth is, you weren't standing
behind that bush, you were standing
over that guard.

RAINES
Objection!

ALICIA
Nothing further.

Alicia heads back to the defense table. Gets a nod from Cary
as she goes.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

50

INT. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING - COURTROOM - DAY

50

The room has been cleared. Only Raines, Alicia and Cary remain, still seated at their respective tables. Judge James stands before them, hands resting on the prosecution's table.

JUDGE JAMES

That you would pursue a charge of this magnitude without a thorough investigation is unconscionable.

RAINES

Your Honor --

JUDGE JAMES

No direct or circumstantial evidence linking the defendant to the murder, no eyewitness testimony other than that of a co-defendant with a vested interest in the outcome of the trial --

RAINES

Your Honor, if you please --

JUDGE JAMES

Ms. Raines, I strongly suggest you find a way to work with defense counsel to find a more equitable solution.

(rises)

There's a place around the corner, serves deep dish by the slice. I'm gonna get some. By my count, you got about 20 minutes.

She pushes out, leaving Cary, Alicia, and Raines alone.
Beat.

RAINES

Breaking and entering plus possession of marijuana.

CARY

Trespassing and possession.

RAINES

Are you kidding me?

(CONTINUED)

CARY

Look, you're all but guaranteed of a manslaughter conviction against Brian. If you can't spin that into a win with the brass, you're in the wrong line of work.

And she used to think he was charming; Cary checks his watch.

CARY (CONT'D)

And I don't know about you, but I definitely do not want to be here when that judge gets back.

51 INT. CRIMINAL COURTS BUILDING - HALLWAY - LATER 51

Alicia and Cary exit chambers. Buoyed.

ALICIA

You're quite the skilled negotiator.

CARY

Hey, you did all the heavy lifting. Seriously. Well done, Alicia.

He may be sincere. Probably isn't. So Alicia's not going to let her guard down.

ALICIA

... Thanks, Cary.

They approach an expectant Richard and Lauren.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

No jail time.

Lauren could cry, rushes to give Alicia a hug.

LAUREN

Thank you. Thank you so much.

Richard shakes Cary's hand. As emotional as he gets.

RICHARD

Great news, appreciate it. Thanks.

CARY

Our pleasure. Kenny just has to perform a thousand hours of community service --

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

And participate in mandatory drug counseling.

LAUREN

I'll make sure of it.

But Alicia's not so sure she believes this. She studies the couple's body language -- clearly they're relieved, but this has done nothing to bring them closer. Awkward beat.

CARY

So... I can take you to the court clerk to see about getting Kenny's personal effects back, if you like.

RICHARD

Sure.

They head off, leaving Alicia alone with Lauren.

LAUREN

Now that this is over we should...
I don't know, maybe have lunch.
Pretend none of this ever happened.

Alicia can't, nor would she want to do this. She considers Lauren, who's right back into her old way of being. Smiles.

LAUREN (CONT'D)

I'll call you, okay?

ALICIA

It's a nice thought but... you're not going to call, and we're not going to have lunch. And that's okay. It really is.

(beat)

Take care.

Alicia walks away from her old friend. Fine. Is joined by Kalinda, who offers a smile and congrats --

KALINDA

First plea bargain, a gin martini -- another Stern, Lockhart tradition.

ALICIA

(grins; appreciates her)
Thanks, but tonight? Think I just wanna go home.

(CONTINUED)

And she does.

52 INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT 52

Alicia sits in the chair, buried in briefs. TV on in the b.g. She takes a sip of tea, glances over at the king size sleigh bed. Her eye catching sight of something -- a mark on the headboard. She gets up, goes over to it, touches the scratch with her finger, remembering how it got there...

PRE-LAP the sounds of love-making as we --

53 FLASHBACK - FLORRICK HOME - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT 53

Alicia's hand slaps back against the headboard, diamond engagement ring scratching into the wood as she climaxes. REVEAL that she's with Peter, both breathless, sated. Alicia notes the scratch she's just made.

ALICIA

Oops.

Peter follows her gaze, sees the damage.

PETER

That your idea of a notch?

ALICIA

(grins; then)

You think they heard us?

PETER

The kids? Maybe you.

He kisses her.

PETER (CONT'D)

Not bad for an old married couple,
huh?

(then)

I love you.

Alicia looks at him, holds his gaze.

ALICIA

I love you, too.

And she does. Caresses his cheek. But his cell phone rings.

ALICIA (CONT'D)

Don't.

(CONTINUED)

But it's so hard not to...

PETER
It could be work.

He reaches for it, to her sadness. Answers --

PETER (CONT'D)
Peter Florrick.

His face has just the slightest of shifts. He cups the phone, says to Alicia --

PETER (CONT'D)
Office emergency. Just be a minute.

He gets out of bed, heads for the bathroom. Turns on the light, closes the door on her. Alicia listens to his muted voice as he talks to someone...

She's jolted from her memory by the NEWS ANCHOR on TV --

NEWS ANCHOR (O.S.)
Next on news at eleven -- a Highland Park teen is charged with manslaughter in the killing of --

Alicia pulls her hand away from the headboard, sees it all much more clearly now: Highland Park, Peter... herself.

54

INT. 28TH FLOOR - LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

54

"War room" might be a better description. Diane sits at the far end of a long table. Piled on the table, the whole of the Sheffrin-Marks case: briefs, boxes, files -- stacks and stacks of them. Cary stops by, heading out for the night.

CARY
Knew I wasn't the only one burning the midnight oil.

She looks up, surprised to see him there.

DIANE
Cary. How are you?

CARY
Fine, thanks for asking.
(re: her work)
Working on Sheffrin-Marks?

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

DIANE

(yes)

We win this one, and our firm's in
a whole new league.

(then)

What's your excuse?

CARY

Sorry?

DIANE

For burning the midnight oil.

CARY

Same as yours. Been going over the
Landers depo docs for Sheffrin.

She looks at him, impressed.

DIANE

Billable hours.

CARY

Anyway, I wanted to update you on
the outcome of the Chatham case.
Turns out I was able to push the SA
into a very favorable plea bargain.

DIANE

Excellent.

CARY

Okay, well... you have a nice
night.

Cary turns to go. Diane returns to focus to her legal
briefs, not looking up as she offers --

DIANE

Keep up the good work.

Cary stops, turns back, smiles --

CARY

Thanks. I intend to.

55 INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - GRACE'S ROOM - NIGHT

55

Grace sits at her window, looking out as Alicia enters.

(CONTINUED)

ALICIA

Hey. It's after ten. What are you doing up so late on a school night?

GRACE

Just looking out at the view.

ALICIA

It's nice, isn't it.

A beat as they stare out. Sit close. Grace looks at her mom. Maybe she's been too hard on her. Offers --

GRACE

It's a cool room. Smaller than my old one though but...

Alicia smiles, kisses Grace's head.

ALICIA

Know what I was thinking earlier? You hated your old school when you first started going there.

GRACE

Yeah. I kinda did.

They look out the window together. Not unhappy. Grace considers the view, makes a decision to reveal --

GRACE (CONT'D)

Today... I'm sorta glad we moved.

This is a surprise for Alicia. But one that makes her feel better about everything.

ALICIA

Me, too.

Off Alicia, home.

FADE OUT.

END OF SHOW