

SHOWTRIAL

Written by

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Episode 1: #PRAYINGFORHER  
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1 EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, BALL - NIGHT 1 1

Shrieks and whoops. A Ferris wheel. It is all lit up and behind it the city glittering at night. In one of the compartments on the Ferris wheel is a girl we will come to know as TALITHA CAMPBELL.

We also see that she has green fingernails.

Beside her is her friend DHILLON HARWOOD.

2 INT. HANNAH'S HOUSE, HANNAH'S ROOM - DAY 2 2

A door opens. We are with a middle-aged woman called ANDREA ELLIS. She looks into the room and sees two glasses on a table with a bottle of vodka. One of the glasses has toppled over and is dripping liquid to the floor. The duvet is half on the bed and half on the floor. The window to the room is open and the curtain blowing slightly in the breeze.

3 EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, MARQUEE - NIGHT 1 3

Now we are back at the height of a ball on the grounds of a prestigious Russell Group university. No effort spared. A beat from the dancefloor. Fortune tellers, vodka luges, chocolate fountains etc etc. We see a girl working; her name is HANNAH ELLIS. She is laughing as she serves negronis to the already smashed punters. Just coming into shot we see the young woman with the green scarf along with her friend and Hannah's expression harden slightly as she clocks them.

4 INT. HANNAH'S HOUSE, HANNAH'S ROOM - DAY 2 4

Back in the room, Andrea Ellis picks up the toppled glass and wipes away the liquid from the table. She takes the duvet and puts it back on the bed, straightening and smoothing it anxiously with her hands. She goes and picks up a photo which shows her with a younger woman (Hannah). She clenches it tightly so that her knuckles almost whiten and then, still holding it, looks out from the open window at the scruffy space behind, and then up at the sky beyond a line of trees...

5 EXT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, BALL - NIGHT 1 5

The Ferris wheel still turning. A blaze of light in the darkness and beyond it the city of Bristol and the suspension bridge at night...

**EPISODE TITLE ON BLACK SCREEN: #prayingforher.**

6 EXT. CPS - EVENING 3

6

Establisher of an impressive glass edifice at a slight angle from some more traditional Georgian buildings.

*Chyron: CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICES (WESTERN DIVISION)*

VIRGINIA (O.S)  
It's a fishing expedition.

CUT TO:

7 INT. CPS, CORRIDOR - EVENING 3

7

Two figures walking and talking down glass-plated corridors. One is JAMES THORNLEY - Senior Crown Prosecutor for the CPS. He is of white working class Northern Irish origins - sharp and pragmatic, nobody's fool. And he is talking to VIRGINIA HOULT, his boss, Deputy Chief Crown Prosecutor. (NB we should pick out James first).

JAMES  
It is.

VIRGINIA  
But an interesting one.

They reach her office (name plate and legal job title on door). James stands aside to allow her to go first out of respect for his boss but also because he has good manners.

8 INT. CPS, VIRGINIA HOULT'S OFFICE - EVENING 3

8

She takes a seat. He remains half-in the doorway as we see others going past carrying out the duties of the public prosecution service.

JAMES  
They're only going malicious communication to begin with.

VIRGINIA  
Not threats to kill?

JAMES  
It wasn't a direct death threat.

VIRGINIA  
Who's the SIO?

JAMES  
Paula Cassidy.

Virginia nods.

VIRGINIA  
Could be worse.

9 EXT./INT. POLICE STATION, CAR PARK / CASSIDY'S CAR 9  
- EVENING 3

*Chyron: SOUTH WEST POLICE STATION*

The SIO in question DI PAULA CASSIDY is with her sidekick DC ANDY LOWELL and they are walking to her car from the back of the police station.

DI CASSIDY  
Sweet Baby James.

Lowell groans theatrically.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Lot of the girls have got a big old  
crush on him.

DC LOWELL  
Yeah well I remember another big  
old crush on the A1, two dead kids -  
insisted we could only go for  
careless...

DI CASSIDY  
Make nice, we'll need the CPS on  
board for this one if we do end up  
with something.

She beeps her car from a distance.

DC LOWELL  
Went for the Mondeo then.

He nods appreciatively.

DC LOWELL (CONT'D)  
Handsome.

They get into the new car. He looks around appreciatively.

DC LOWELL (CONT'D)  
Love the smell of a new motor in  
the evening.

DI CASSIDY  
Surprised you can remember it to be  
honest, Andy.

He grins.

DC LOWELL

So when are they gonna get the  
divers in the water behind the  
house?

DI CASSIDY

We're on it.

Starts the engine.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Let's go, pussycat.

And she pats the steering wheel fondly to make it clear she's  
not talking to Lowell.

JUMP CUT TO:

9A EXT. PUB, STREET/INT. CASSIDY'S CAR - EVENING 3 9A

*(Contains action from omitted sc 13)*

A crowd of people outside a pub having fags, talking,  
laughing, an energetic vibe.

DI Cassidy and DC Lowell are now sitting in the car which is  
parked up watching the pub which is an unusual and sometimes  
uneasy mixture of town and gown.

Suddenly Cassidy bristles as the door of the pub opens.

DI CASSIDY

There. Let's go.

They both jump out of the car and head across the road.

It is not clear who they are targeting, they move people out  
of the way, pushing through the smokers with a purposeful  
stride.

The spark of a lighter held by a young man. We ASSUME that HE  
is their target.

And then we see the green fingernails of Talitha Campbell  
whom we saw at the ball. Holding the cigarette that he is  
about to light.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Talitha Campbell.

Now Talitha's face. Amused arrogance. She is dressed with a careless mixture of charity chic and expensive accessories and her voice certainly belongs to the privileged classes.

TALITHA

Who are you?

DI CASSIDY

Talitha Campbell, my name is DI  
Paula Cassidy and I am arresting  
you on suspicion of malicious  
communication.

Talitha stares at her incredulously. And then she turns coolly back to her companion. She removes the lighter from him and sparks up her own cigarette blowing an insolent cloud of smoke at Cassidy as she is cautioned [*'I am arresting you on suspicion of Malicious Communication. You do not have to say anything, but it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something you later rely on in court. Anything you do say may be given in evidence.'*]. The smoke fills the screen and:

**TITLES**

10 OMITTED

10

10A INT./EXT. CLEO'S OFFICE, STAIRWELL / STREET - EVENING 3 10A

Sound of two women laughing as they come down the stairs.

CLEO (O.S)  
Two years! You're kidding.

HEIDI (O.S)  
Suspended!

CLEO ROBERTS and her colleague HEIDI MCKINNON emerge onto the street outside their solicitor's office.

CLEO  
Did you bribe the judge?

HEIDI  
The CPS pissed him off so much that  
I think he just did it to punish  
them.

CLEO  
That is SOFT.

HEIDI  
I might have to write to the Daily  
Mail and complain about myself.

We follow them cheerful and relaxed as they head through the city streets towards their favourite bar...

10B INT. POLICE STATION, CUSTODY DESK - NIGHT 3 10B

*(Contains action from omitted sc 14)*

Talitha is being booked in. We see her personal possessions being bagged up. A few rings, her mobile, cards etc. The (bald) custody sergeant points to her bracelet. *It will be of great importance later.*

TALITHA  
You're not having this.

CUSTODY SERGEANT  
You have to...

TALITHA  
It's worth more than you'll earn in your entire career, Baldy, and it belonged to my grandmother so you'll have to come and take it if you want it that much.

DI Cassidy notes this first arrogant sally to which we will grow quite accustomed. Not setting a good tone.

DI CASSIDY  
(smiles at Custody Sergeant)  
Don't worry, Cueball, I've got this.

11 INT. CPS, VIRGINIA HOULT'S OFFICE - NIGHT 3 11

Back with Virginia and James.

VIRGINIA  
So. They've got these threatening texts.

JAMES  
And no Hannah.

VIRGINIA  
But her rucksack and sleeping bag are missing?

JAMES  
Yup.

She ponders this with obvious skepticism.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Why pack a bag and leave your phone though? Also it was her mum's birthday on Friday and she didn't call.

VIRGINIA  
Did you remember every time when you...(were at college).  
(looks at him)  
Yeah I suspect you did.

JAMES  
They're really close apparently.

VIRGINIA  
OK well get down and man-mark them. Cops may not necessarily all be bastards but they're definitely shape-shifting corner-cutters.

JAMES  
Got it.

Turns to leave.

VIRGINIA  
James?

He turns back.

VIRGINIA (CONT'D)  
Tell Butch Cassidy that if this does progress she'll need a tip-top disclosure officer given the family involved.  
(beat)  
They mess this up and we'll end up as a case study for law students.

He smiles assent and leaves.

12A INT. BAR - NIGHT 3

12A

Cleo and Heidi now sitting in the bar - Heidi with a glass of wine, Cleo with a martini.

CLEO

Last time I came here it was with that Red Arrows pilot.

HEIDI

Ah your online dating experiment. I hope you got a full display in the end?

Cleo shakes head with comic solemnity.

HEIDI (CONT'D)

Flypast?

CLEO

Had to press eject.  
(laughs)

All I did was ask how they made the coloured smoke!

HEIDI

It's an entirely legitimate question and one I've asked myself.

CLEO

(mimics officer voice)  
"It's not smoke it's VAPOUR".

HEIDI

Right, OK, one of those.

CLEO

Worst thing was he then proceeded to tell me for the next half an hour.

Heidi laughs again and shakes head.

HEIDI

You want...

She points to Cleo's near-empty glass. Cleo checks her watch.

CLEO

Oh go on...(then).

But then her phone rings before she can finish sentence. She looks at Caller ID.

DSSC.

Shows it to Heidi.

HEIDI  
Nooo. You never said you were... (on duty).

Cleo clicks on answer.

CLEO  
Cleo Roberts, Duty Solicitor.  
(beat)  
OK, what time was she arrested?

She looks for bag scrabbling for pen and picks up a napkin from bar to scrawl a few details on. Heidi gathers coat and bag - their evening is over and Cleo's most important case is just beginning.

13 OMITTED 13

14 OMITTED 14

15 OMITTED 15

16 INT. POLICE STATION, CELL - NIGHT 3 16

Talitha - sans bracelet of course - sitting knees hunched staring at the ceiling. Sees observation hatch open.

TALITHA  
Yeah I'm dead! Of boredom! Where's that bloody solicitor!

17 OMITTED 17

18 INT./EXT. TAXI / BRISTOL STREETS - NIGHT 3 18

Cleo is now inside a cab on her way to the police station. She dials a number on her mobile.

19 INT. POLICE STATION, CELL - NIGHT 3 19

A female police officer comes into the cell.

PC CUTTS  
Phone call coming through, Talitha.

TALITHA sits up and pushes her hair back from her face with a gesture of casual impatience. Gets up to follow PC Cutts.

CLEO (O.S.)  
Hello?

20 INT. TAXI / INT. POLICE STATION, CUSTODY DESK - NIGHT 3 20

Intercut with Talitha at the custody desk and Cleo in the taxi on the phone.

CLEO  
Hi, Talitha, my name is Cleo  
Roberts, I'm a solicitor, I'll be  
coming to see you shortly...

TALITHA  
Good 'cos this is really dumb.

CLEO  
Please don't say anything to  
anybody else until I get there. The  
interview might take a while but  
bear in mind the time you can be  
held without charge is initially  
limited to 24 hours...

TALITHA  
What do you mean..(initially)?

CLEO  
I mean they can go for extensions  
but it usually requires you to be  
suspected of a more serious crime.  
Do you have any questions for me?

TALITHA  
No just hurry up.

CLEO  
Have your family been...

TALITHA  
I don't want them involved.

CLEO  
OK sit tight and don't say  
anything; I'm nearly there.

Clicks off as they stop at lights. On the street outside one of the bars and pubs a group of young people are handing out leaflets to passing drinkers and also drivers at traffic lights.

CABBIE

They're out looking see.

Cleo glances up.

CLEO

Sorry?

He gestures to the group of young people approaching the waiting drivers and giving them leaflets through windows.

CABBIE

The student who's gone missing. I got one earlier, look...

He hands back a leaflet to Cleo. It shows a pretty young woman smiling at the camera. The same young woman we saw Andrea Ellis looking at photos of earlier.

HAVE YOU SEEN HANNAH?

CABBIE (CONT'D)

Three days now. I mean she's obviously dead.

Cleo doesn't answer this.

CABBIE (CONT'D)

Better for her if she is 'cos the alternative doesn't bear thinking about.

CLEO

Sounds like you've given it a go.

CABBIE

(ignoring this)

Could have topped herself as well I s'pose. But I don't think so from the sound of it and they'll have looked at her medical records - mental health and that. They haven't said anything about her phone although sometimes the police don't give all the (details)...

CLEO

Just pull up over there on the corner please.

Cabbie gives her a reproachful look at her lack of willingness to discuss Hannah's probably grisly fate and reaches for a portable card reader. Cleo takes out card to pay.

On the seat beside her: HAVE YOU SEEN HANNAH?

21 EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT 3

21

Establisher and Cleo going in.

22 INT. POLICE STATION, INCIDENT ROOM - NIGHT 3

22

Lot of police hard at work sifting through CCTV and on the phone. We see images of the university campus, maps, timeframes etc. This is a search that is starting to gear up. DI Cassidy sees James coming back into the room.

JAMES

She booked in then?

Cassidy nods.

DI CASSIDY

We'll get going in a bit, she's in quite a rage about the wait.

JAMES

I imagine she's used to getting her own way.

DI CASSIDY

(nodding assent)

What did Virginia Plain have to say?

JAMES

Tell DI Cassidy to get a good disclosure officer...

DI CASSIDY

...sure that's not the name she used for me...

James gives her a quick grin of affirmation.

JAMES

...especially given the mobile phone evidence. Have you got Talitha at the ball yet?

Cassidy nods and pulls up a number of CCTV stills. Including one of Talitha near to the Ferris wheel.

*Wearing a green silk scarf.*

But this goes unremarked upon as it is not yet remarkable.

Cassidy pulls up a final image. It shows a crowd of dishevelled students in black tie and ball gowns assembled for a final ball photo in the early morning.

DI CASSIDY

So this is the photo taken of the survivors from the ball at five AM.

James looks.

JAMES

Talitha's not in it...I don't think...

DI CASSIDY

No. And this was taken five hours after Hannah left her shift serving the negronis to walk home.

She brings up a graphic. It shows a map of the city indicating Hannah's route. A few stars en route. Cassidy indicates them.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Eye-witnesses and CCTV pick up Hannah in a few places. No sign she was being followed. And we know she got back to her room because of her phone.

JAMES

The phone is really strange.

DI CASSIDY

It was wedged down between the bed and the wall like it got pushed there.

JAMES

So an assailant may not have realised...

She nods.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
...or she left in a hurry and  
couldn't find it. You got any  
forensics yet?

Cassidy does a half-and-half face.

DI CASSIDY  
Talitha's DNA is in there but don't  
say what I know you are going to  
say -

JAMES  
- It doesn't mean she was there  
that night.

DI CASSIDY  
Yeah well we don't need her to be.  
Our line of enquiry is based on the  
threats Talitha made to Hannah, so  
forensics are focusing on other  
sources. Bloody annoying the mum  
tidied up before calling us. Rinsed  
out the glasses.

JAMES  
Understandable though.  
(beat)  
So when did Talitha leave the ball?

DI CASSIDY  
She is picked up walking home with  
a housemate after Hannah. They live  
around the corner from each other.

JAMES  
Who's the housemate?

DI CASSIDY  
Kid called Dhillon Harwood. His  
mum's Meera Harwood.

JAMES  
As in the (Meera Harwood)...

She nods. He looks impressed.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Quite a well-connected alibi.

DI CASSIDY  
As I said, we're not actually  
looking for an alibi right now.

He nods - fair enough.

Stops as a cop arrives and signals to her.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
OK, her solicitor is with her now.

JAMES  
Who is it?

Cassidy remembering the comment about her parents getting fancy lawyers.

DI CASSIDY  
Ah no, we may have got lucky here,  
she doesn't want her family told.

JAMES  
How come?

DI CASSIDY  
No idea but she was very specific  
about it. So they just got her a  
duty solicitor.

JAMES  
OK.

DI CASSIDY  
Cleo's one of the better ones  
though so she also got lucky there.

James frowns.

JAMES  
Cleo...

DI CASSIDY  
Roberts.

Looks at him.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Why, do you know her?

JAMES  
Little while back yeah.

Beat - this means something. Then he shakes his head.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
OK I'll let you get on, call me  
with anything important. I'm going  
to visit the mum in the morning.

She looks at him half-amused.

DI CASSIDY

Oh don't tell me. They've handed down a new set of victim-friendly guidelines.

JAMES

Yeah well we are supposed to get involved early now.

(grins)

Manage the expectations you lot have falsely inflated.

Exits. She shakes her head and stares at the ball images again.

23

INT. POLICE STATION, INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT 3

23

Cleo is with DC Lowell.

DC LOWELL

Hannah Ellis. Second Year Student. Philosophy and English Literature. Returned home after working at the college ball. Since then... nada.

CLEO

Oh yes, I saw people in town giving out leaflets.

DC LOWELL

Hannah's very popular. And like us her friends are worried about her.

He hands her a sheet. Cleo starts reading. Raises an eyebrow.

DC LOWELL (CONT'D)

First one was sent five days ago.

CLEO

So two days before she... (disappeared).

DC LOWELL

(nods)

Last one was the day of the ball itself.

DI Cassidy walks into the interview room.

DI CASSIDY

Hi, Cleo, how's tricks?

(Cleo and Cassidy have known and respected each other a long time). Lowell exits.

CLEO  
Is there anything I need to know,  
Paula?

DI CASSIDY  
Yes actually. Talitha Campbell is a  
rude, entitled little cow.

Cleo grins.

CLEO  
And you'd just love to throw her  
arse in the slammer?

DI CASSIDY  
No comment obviously but do tell  
her she'd be well advised to watch  
her manners.

CLEO  
Got it.

24

INT. HARWOOD HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 3

24

On screen: a political show and an interviewee called MEERA HARWOOD who is the shadow Minister for the Environment.

*INTERVIEWER (O.S)*  
*And I'm joined now by the Shadow  
Minister for the Environment. Meera  
Harwood, what do you have to say  
with regard to the new planning  
legislation...?*

*MEERA (O.S)*  
*Good morning. Well I would imagine  
those rubbing their hands at the  
removal of regulations will be  
consultants, property companies, as  
well as friends, collaborators,  
university pals, or anybody else  
with those attributes that seem to  
permit "special access" to the  
Prime Minister these days...*

Pull back to show Meera is watching her performance as she prepares food in a big kitchen that clearly belongs to a wealthy family. Her son - a louche good-looking 21 year old called DHILLON HARWOOD comes into the room and gives an ironic look at his mother's interview on the TV screen.

DHILLON  
Cos that's not self-obsessed...

She gives him a LOL face and waves his hand from some of the food she is chopping as he reaches for it.

MEERA  
They were saying a girl from your college has gone missing.

DHILLON  
Oh right yeah.

MEERA  
Did you know her?

DHILLON  
Who?

She looks at him. Who?

DHILLON (CONT'D)  
In my year. We took some courses together.

MEERA  
Her mum did an interview. She was in bits.

DHILLON  
So's her daughter probably.

Meera is shocked by this flippancy. He laughs.

DHILLON (CONT'D)  
I'm kidding! Hannah's probably just gone off somewhere, mum. It's the end of term.

MEERA  
Well I hope so. That poor woman.

DHILLON  
I'm going down to the cottage for a bit by the way.

MEERA  
Oh, Dhillon. You've only just got home!

DHILLON  
I know, it's just I've got that dissertation and I work better down there.

MEERA

Ok.

He pats her arm.

DHILLON

Love you.

She smiles at him.

MEERA

This'll be ready in about half an hour.

25 INT. POLICE STATION, CONSULTATION ROOM - NIGHT 3

25

Cleo comes in escorted by PC Cutts. Talitha looks at Cleo. This may be one of the most important people she will ever meet but she, of course, does not know it yet.

CLEO

Talitha, I'm Cleo Roberts, the solicitor, we spoke on the phone. Just have to go through a few boring things with you...

TALITHA

Oh nooo, it's been so exciting until now...

Cleo smiles and sits down.

CLEO

So you know Hannah Ellis.

TALITHA

Hashtag praying for her.

Cleo looks at her sharply.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

Well really, all those internet fakes, I hope she's OK but I'm not gonna pretend I like her.

CLEO

No, well the police have shown me some stuff that suggests you were quite a long way from that.

TALITHA

It was just a few stupid texts, no big deal.

CLEO  
Her disappearance is though.

Talitha exhales impatiently.

CLEO (CONT'D)  
Let's get your account of things  
first.

26 INT. HARWOOD HOUSE, DHILLON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 3

26

Dhillon is now on his bed texting "Tally"

CALL ME.

Stares at phone for a second and then he flicks to his photos/videos and opens a video clip. The images are a little bit blurred but they show two girls talking to each other.

And the two girls are Hannah and Talitha. As they notice they are being watched, Hannah puts up a hand in protest.

HANNAH  
(half-laughing)  
Dhillon! Stop bloody filming me.

DHILLON (O.S)  
It's guerrilla film-making. You'll  
thank me later when I show you  
Hannah: the movie.

HANNAH  
I'm serious stop it now.

We see Talitha come into view and then a hand over the camera ends it.

TALITHA  
Put the phone away, Dhillon, you  
weirdo!

Laughter.

HANNAH (V.O)  
You're such an idiot.

So they were friends once, but there is also the hint of something else? Exasperation in Hannah's tone.

Dhillon frowns at screen of his phone.

DHILLON  
(muttering)  
Call me back, Tals, you stupid  
bitch.

27 INT. POLICE STATION, CONSULTATION ROOM - NIGHT 3

27

But "Tals" can't because she is currently explaining her side of things to Cleo.

TALITHA  
We had a falling out.

CLEO  
Over...?

TALITHA  
A few things really.

CLEO  
Can you give me an example.

TALITHA  
Hannah went a bit nuts. Started accusing people of stuff, saying that I denied abuse on campus and enabled predators.

CLEO  
What kind of predators?

TALITHA  
Oh this guy we were both friends with, he's just a bit OCD that's all, typical Hannah though...

CLEO  
So you and Hannah were friends once?

TALITHA  
I mean we hung out for a bit but she got on my nerves in the end. Also she was hostile about...

Breaks off. Cleo?

TALITHA (CONT'D)  
Doesn't matter.

CLEO  
Try me.

TALITHA

I do a bit of webcam and escort work sometimes. Lots of students do - it's not a big deal.

CLEO

So why did she have an opinion on that?

TALITHA

Don't ask me.

CLEO

I think the police might.

TALITHA

(shrugs)

Bigotry I guess, she didn't believe sex work was just like any other job.

CLEO

That's an alternative opinion not bigotry.

Talitha not massively interested in the distinction.

TALITHA

Yeah well - it beats relying on my shithouse family for maintenance.

CLEO

You don't get on?

TALITHA

They haven't told you who my dad is?

Cleo shakes her head.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

Sir Damian Campbell.

Cleo raises an eyebrow.

CLEO

The property developer?

TALITHA

(nods)

Bulldoze an orphanage with the kids still inside to build a luxury hotel.

Beat.

CLEO

OK well putting your dad to one side...

TALITHA

It got a bit noisy. Ended up with words being exchanged and that's the end of it really.

CLEO

Yeah except it's not because you're in a police station.

Talitha doesn't look very impressed by this.

CLEO (CONT'D)

This isn't an ordinary malicious communication interview because the recipient of your threat is part of a missing person case. I would advise you to reply "no comment" to their questions.

TALITHA

Isn't it better I just tell them the truth?

CLEO

No. At this stage I still worry that the police haven't given me full disclosure.

TALITHA

But what else could they disclose? This is it.

CLEO

The other problem is your manner. They will video the interview.

Talitha stares at her a little angry, a little amused.

CLEO (CONT'D)

So I still suggest a 'no comment' at this moment in time. But whichever option you choose, please don't suddenly change tack, it's the worst thing you can do really.

Talitha shrugs.

CLEO (CONT'D)  
I'll go and tell them we're ready.

Talitha watches her leave.

28 INT. POLICE STATION, CORRIDOR - NIGHT 3

28

Cassidy walking summoned urgently by Lowell.

DC LOWELL  
It's happened again...

JUMP CUT TO:

29 INT. POLICE STATION, INCIDENT ROOM - NIGHT 3

29

Cops looking at large screen.

DI CASSIDY  
Where is it?

POLICE OFFICER  
Small train station just outside  
Cannock.

DI CASSIDY  
Any CCTV this time?

POLICE OFFICER  
Nothing. They bought a ticket to  
Sandwell and Dudley.

DI CASSIDY  
Hannah has no connections there?

Lowell shakes his head.

DC LOWELL  
Rucksack missing, sleeping bag  
missing, card still being used ...  
it could be her.

DI CASSIDY  
(firmly)  
Phone still in her room. No CCTV  
both times - somebody is obviously  
aware of it. You want the press  
saying we don't take a missing girl  
seriously?

He shakes his head.

DC LOWELL

But we need to liaise with West  
Midlands and flag it urgently with  
them.

Shakes her head.

DC LOWELL (CONT'D)

OK will do. But if they're using  
the card there and Talitha  
is...(here).

DI CASSIDY

Let's see what she comes up with.

About to exit. But senses him looking back at screen which shows movement on a bank account belonging to Hannah. Turns back to him.

DC LOWELL

Shall we tell the CPS?

DI CASSIDY

They're on a different clock -  
he'll be tucked up with hot milk  
and teddy soon.

(beat)

Let's just take one thing at a  
time.

The first tiny communication gap opening between the two camps. It will become highly significant at the trial.

30

INT. JAMES'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - NIGHT 3

30

James comes in from work and kisses his wife Laura who is pregnant. The kitchen is very clean and organised, she is making their tea, watching local TV. He sniffs.

LAURA

Lasagne.

JAMES

Great.

He looks at the TV.

PRESENTER (V.O)

*...concern is mounting for the  
welfare of student Hannah Ellis as  
groups of her friends have started  
to distribute leaflets in the city  
centre.*

(MORE)

PRESENTER (V.O) (CONT'D)  
*Police are keeping an open mind and have expressed hope that Hannah has not come to any harm. But her sudden disappearance is out of character and they are urging people at the college ball where Hannah was working to come forward with any photos or video clips. Back to you in the studio, Parminder...*

JAMES  
They've arrested somebody.

She looks at him - ? He points to the TV with the remote while simultaneously muting it.

LAURA  
They haven't found her though?

JAMES  
No but the cops seem pretty convinced she's come to harm. I still think...

Shrugs.

LAURA  
Who is it? Is he related to her?

He shakes his head.

JAMES  
She. Fellow student.

LAURA  
A girl? Blimey.

JAMES  
Yeah but they don't think she's responsible for...just that she's connected in some way.

LAURA  
Will you work on it then?

JAMES  
Already am. Potentially a big deal because the family is...wealthy.

Laura shakes her head.

LAURA

Then she'll probably get off. They  
won't want to harm her career  
prospects.

JAMES

Might work against her too.

He looks down. Then...

JAMES (CONT'D)

Cleo Roberts is handling the  
defence.

Laura glances quickly up.

LAURA

Ah.

JAMES

Had to happen sometime I guess.

Meaningful beat.

LAURA

So the new cot arrived.

JAMES

Great.

LAURA

It's flatpacked.

JAMES

No problem.

She half-smiles at the deliberate nonchalance - of course anything flatpacked is a problem to a normal man. But the atmosphere has changed with the introduction of Cleo's name. *People will perhaps assume that the tension is over past romance but it isn't.*

Interview underway. Cassidy and Lowell for the cops. Talitha and Cleo on the other side. Names on screen and a small camera recording the interview.

DC LOWELL

How well do you know Hannah,  
Talitha?

TALITHA

No comment.

DC LOWELL

What was the cause of your falling out?

Talitha exhales with unconcealed contempt.

TALITHA

(singsong)

No comment.

DC LOWELL

Do you see the text message we have marked number one? Can you read it out to us?

Talitha stares insolently at him. No. So he does.

DC LOWELL (CONT'D)

"For the last time, Talitha, I just want you and that creep to leave me alone" That's Hannah to you.

DI CASSIDY

Who's the creep, Talitha?

TALITHA

...

DC LOWELL

Text two you to Hannah. "Like either of us are interested in a frigid little swot like you, Hannah" to which she replies "coming from an upper class whore!".

DI CASSIDY

So it's not one-way traffic, you clearly don't like each other. But here's where it really gets nasty. Text Four. You to Hannah. "Careful, bitch, it won't cost me much to have some crackhead sort you out."

DC LOWELL

Then Text Five Hannah to you: "Do not threaten me again or I will go to the police." To which you reply: "Fuck you and fuck the police."

DI CASSIDY  
None taken.

DC LOWELL  
Night of the ball you send a last  
text which says "plenty of gin in  
my negroni, loser":

TALITHA  
Oh, man, this is just such complete  
bullshit.

Cleo exasperated. What happened to "no comment"?

CLEO  
I'd just like to remind my client  
of her right to...

TALITHA  
(to Cleo)  
It's fine thanks for the advice but  
I'm bored of saying the same thing  
over and over, I've got nothing to  
hide.  
(beat)  
It. Was. A. Joke

DI CASSIDY  
A joke?

TALITHA  
OK, it looks ugly in the cold light  
of day but yes it was a joke about  
her having to work that night.

DI CASSIDY  
She must have laughed herself  
silly, only we can't ask her  
because she has disappeared.

TALITHA  
Maybe she just wants to be alone  
and away from it all - it does  
happen you know?

DI CASSIDY  
Yes we do know that but it is not  
what we think has happened here.

CLEO  
If you're going to question my  
client about the disappearance of  
Hannah Ellis then you need to...

DI CASSIDY  
OK let's get back to these threats.  
(beat)  
What brought them about?

TALITHA  
A disagreement.

DI CASSIDY  
Over what?

TALITHA  
Stuff.

Beat.

TALITHA (CONT'D)  
Plus, yes, I admit it, I may have  
been a little bit...volatile when I  
sent them.

DI CASSIDY  
Is that what they call it these  
days?

Talitha smiles.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Were you jealous of her?

TALITHA  
Was I what?

DI CASSIDY  
She's smart, pretty, popular...

TALITHA  
Oh I'm quite confident in at least  
two of those areas and I don't give  
a shit whether people like me.

DI CASSIDY  
That's lucky.

Talitha smiles humourlessly.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
So we've got a working class kid  
who's got three A stars from a  
comprehensive and her tutors have  
all said is heading for a First.  
(MORE)

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Then a posh girl who's been thrown  
out of a top private school before  
finally getting pushed through the  
exams. You go to the ball, she  
works at it...

TALITHA  
Oh yeah poor little Cinders...

DI CASSIDY  
...no big old silver spoon in her  
mouth...

TALITHA  
Maybe not but I could tell you  
something else that she wanted in  
there (that might explain)...

She never gets to finish this tantalising statement and  
shrieks slightly as Cleo (deliberately) knocks her plastic  
cup of tea over which spills across the table.

They all jump back.

CLEO  
Eeek, sorry...  
(to Talitha)  
...could you just...

She picks up the plastic cup and hands it to Talitha.

CLEO (CONT'D)  
Hold it. Just hold it yes?

And as she passes her the cup, Cleo burns a stare. The  
message is shut the fuck up and Talitha does.

CLEO (CONT'D)  
I am once again suggesting to my  
client that she replies "no  
comment".

DI CASSIDY  
Sure.

CLEO  
This change should not be taken as  
anything other than a reflection of  
the aggressive and oppressive  
nature of your questions, DI  
Cassidy.

Cassidy is now standing close to the door as a uniform comes  
in and whispers to her urgently.

DI CASSIDY

OK I'm going to suspend the interview here anyway.

TALITHA

What? We've only just...

DI CASSIDY

Some new evidence has just come to light. We will start again in the morning.

She jerks her head to Lowell and exits leaving everybody a little nonplussed.

JUMP CUT TO:

32

INT. POLICE STATION, CONSULTATION ROOM - NIGHT 3

32

Talitha now alone with Cleo who is furious.

CLEO

That was a total disaster.

TALITHA

What new evidence?

CLEO

I really have no idea but if you can't take my advice then you should find another solicitor.

TALITHA

Fine. Beat it then. This one's probably a bit above your pay grade anyway.

CLEO

And who would you like to represent you instead?

TALITHA

I'll represent myself.

CLEO

You're doing a fantastic job so far.

TALITHA

Look...

CLEO

No you look, Talitha. You are in trouble here. I know you think you are untouchable but you are not, nobody is. You come across as cocky, flippant and worst of all indifferent to the fate of a missing girl. The cops don't like you and, should this ever reach court, a jury will like you even less. You say you don't care about the impression you make but I think that indifference will be sorely tested when you are sitting behind a glass screen staring at twelve strangers who won't meet your eye because they're about to send you to prison for the rest of your life.

TALITHA

Don't sugar the pill, love.

CLEO

It's not my job to, love. My only job is to ensure it doesn't get that far. Now try and get some sleep because if they do have more evidence they will be coming at us very hard in the morning.

That's Talitha told. And she doesn't like it.

TALITHA

I may not want my parents involved but you're not the only lawyer in town.

CLEO

(cool)

Let me know when you've decided on that.

Talitha and Cleo leaving the room. PC Cutts takes Talitha in one direction, Cleo goes the other way.

Talitha glances back at her solicitor as if almost regretting her absence already.

34

INT. POLICE STATION, INCIDENT ROOM - NIGHT 3

34

Cops working on screens trawling through CCTV footage etc. Cassidy and Lowell are looking at one screen in particular. It shows two photos. A young man with tattoos and street style clothing in a pub. Then a young man with the same tattoos and clothing outside the ball. Cassidy is biting her nails.

DI CASSIDY

We're sure? We're sure it's him in  
both locations?

POLICE OFFICER

That's Troy Manners. Student ball  
would be a busy night for him.

DC LOWELL

Fits perfectly with the texts.

DI CASSIDY

We can end the surveillance now and  
bring him in.

DC LOWELL

Troy. That's a kind of Brummie name  
isn't it?

DI CASSIDY

Is it?

DC LOWELL

He could be the one behind the card  
use as well. Or one of his crew.

She nods.

DI CASSIDY

Check out his connections.

35

EXT. STREET - NIGHT 3

35

Cleo walking through town.

36

INT. BAR - NIGHT 3

36

Cleo and Heidi are in the bar they like with some beers.

HEIDI

(seriously impressed)

As in Sir Damian Campbell!

CLEO  
That one.

HEIDI  
As in Cressida Blythe-Custard?

CLEO  
(frowns)  
No I'm not sure...

HEIDI  
OK, no idea what her surname really  
was but the mum's like old-school  
posh.

CLEO  
OK.

HEIDI  
She was one of those 90s It Girls  
running around doing tons of coke  
and getting shagged by rock stars  
in the toilets.

CLEO  
Sounds awful.

The both laugh.

HEIDI  
I think she has a boutique light  
healing clinic now to keep her busy  
when she's not playing tennis.

Cleo nods, not really interested in this.

HEIDI (CONT'D)  
But if the daughter wants them out  
of it and we can hang on to this  
case...

CLEO  
Would still be legal aid.

HEIDI  
But the publicity, Cleo! Or keep  
the parents involved and take the  
money, even better.

CLEO  
Careful what you wish for, she's a  
massive pain in the arse.

HEIDI

No, sure, I'll tell you what. I've got a couple of guys off a flight from Addis Ababa who had filled up their suitcases with khat. And guess what! They are pretending this all happened without their knowledge at the airport! Exciting stuff and you can have it, Cleo.

(beat)

You take on the bang-to-rights Class C supply charge and I'll deal with the humdrum: millionaire's daughter in possible murder of fellow student.

Heidi pulls a pack of cigarettes out her bag and gets one out, about to head outside to smoke. Cleo gives her a ha-ha face and nods to the fag in Heidi's hand..

CLEO

So how's giving up going?

HEIDI

Yeah really well. Keep this case and I might get my anxiety to a point where I can give up altogether.

37

INT. POLICE STATION, CELL - NIGHT 3

37

Talitha now lying on her back looking up at the ceiling. PC Cutts opens hatch.

PC CUTTS

What do you want for breakfast tomorrow, Talitha?

TALITHA

There's a choice?

PC CUTTS

You can have a bacon roll or porridge.

TALITHA

Whatever, I don't really care.

PC CUTTS

Most people prefer the porridge. Tea or coffee?

TALITHA  
Is it instant coffee?

PC CUTTS  
No we bring in a barista to prepare  
the perfect flat white.

TALITHA  
Ah you're Funny Cop.

PC CUTTS  
Want me to choose for you again?

TALITHA  
Tea.

Hatch closes. And then a big change from the Talitha we have seen so far. She starts to sing very softly to herself in French.

TALITHA (CONT'D)  
*Il etait un petit navire, il etait  
un petit navire...*

She looks at her fingernails.

TALITHA (CONT'D)  
*Qui n'avait ja ja jamais navigue,  
qui n'avait ja ja jamais navigue.*

We do not know this yet but we will later discover that she sings to herself to fight off terrible panic attacks.

TALITHA (CONT'D)  
*Ohe ohe Matelot, Matelot navigue  
sur les flots...*

Rolls onto her side and curls into a ball sucking her thumb.

FADE TO BLACK.

Early morning and a new office block is being constructed on a site in central London. A team from the property company behind it is visiting the site. A man in a sharp suit and a hard hat we will come to know as DAMIAN CAMPBELL gets a call on his mobile which he answers.

DAMIAN  
Campbell.

Listens.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)  
What? When?  
(beat)  
Who told you?

Starts to walk away from the visiting group snapping his fingers at one of them whom we will come to know as SEB HARDING.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)  
OK I'm going up straight away.

Seb approaches.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)  
We have to go to Bristol. Talitha's been arrested.

SEB  
How much did she have on her?

DAMIAN  
It's not drugs.

They head off towards cars.

39 EXT. CPS - DAY 4

39

Establisher of the CPS building.

40 INT. CPS, VIRGINIA HOULT'S OFFICE - DAY 4

40

James is updating Virginia

JAMES  
So Cleo Roberts is her solicitor.

VIRGINIA  
Cleo Roberts as in... the  
Hargreaves case...

JAMES  
(nods)  
She was the duty on last night. I'm  
sure the family will get rid of her  
soon enough.

VIRGINIA  
She's very good.

Beat.

JAMES

I'm going to talk to the mum.  
Explain the arrests. Make sure she  
knows we're...

VIRGINIA

...on her side.  
(beat)  
I helped write the new guidelines,  
James.

He smiles.

JAMES

I know I'm being a swot.

VIRGINIA

Not hard to be to be top of the  
class round here - Peter's just  
lost the Weston-Super-Mare  
stabbing.

JAMES

Jeez that was...

VIRGINIA

A slam-dunk. I know.  
(beat)  
Is it going to be difficult? You  
and Cleo?

JAMES

Guess we don't know what it's going  
to be until they find a body or  
Hannah rocks up at home with her  
washing in the rucksack. The texts  
aren't enough for anything without  
more evidence. But they're getting  
the divers in the water today I  
think, so...

He shrugs and we prelap...

PRESENTER (V.O)

*Police have confirmed that they  
have now made two arrests in the  
case of missing student Hannah  
Ellis.*

41 EXT. HANNAH'S HOUSE, STREET - DAY 4

41

PRESENTER (V.O)  
*Their identities have not been released but police have stated that at least one of them was known to Hannah although neither are related to the missing student...*

Two police frogmen are walking down the sloping street where Hannah lives and which ends in a little jetty, and water heading out to sea. A van parked up with other officers around including Cassidy who is on her phone.

42 INT./EXT. JAMES'S CAR/ANDREA ELLIS HOUSE - DAY 4

42

James pulls up outside some houses on a suburban council estate. The front gardens offer evidence as to the residents - some are in total disarray and scattered with bikes and other detritus. Some are beautifully maintained and tended. James heads to one of the latter.

A dog barking as he arrives at the front door.

43 INT./EXT. ANDREA ELLIS HOUSE, FRONT DOOR - DAY 4

43

A woman answers the door and a springer spaniel bounds out. James pets the dog and looks at AMANDA WILKINSON who is the police FLO for Andrea Ellis.

JAMES  
(trying to detach himself  
from dog)  
Hi - you're the FLO right?

AMANDA  
Amanda Wilkinson. You must be James Thornley from...

JAMES  
The CPS. How is she?

Amanda pulls a face.

AMANDA  
Come on, Spam, get back inside.

JUMP CUT TO:

44

INT. ANDREA ELLIS HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY 4

44

Andrea Ellis sitting twisting her hands. The living room is spotless. There is a photo of Hannah on the mantelpiece with the dog.

ANDREA

Hannah called him Spam. I wanted to call him Buster but she insisted.

JAMES

It's a funny name.

ANDREA

She could have gone to Oxford you know. She had an offer. But she wanted to stay near to me. If she hadn't...

AMANDA

(takes her hand)

You can't think like that, love.

ANDREA

(to James)

Why would anybody threaten Hannah?

JAMES

That's what they're trying to find out. I should stress it's very early days and I don't want you to be alarmed or upset if she is released under investigation.

ANDREA

She. That's the bit...

Shakes her head in confusion.

JAMES

It doesn't mean she is guilty of anything more than some silly texts but obviously they need to question her.

ANDREA

It's the thought of somebody hurting her you see...

AMANDA

I know...

ANDREA

Deliberately. She's so...soft  
really. And  
somebody...deliberately...you could  
understand more if it was a car  
crash but somebody...they didn't  
need to...that's the bit...

She looks up at the ceiling as her breathing quickens. James tactfully tries to change the topic.

JAMES

I was the first from my family to  
go to college.

She looks at him grateful from the distraction from her thoughts.

ANDREA

Were you?

JAMES

Yeah.

ANDREA

Hannah was always so good at  
school. A stars in everything.

JAMES

My parents were really supportive  
like you. I owe them a lot. My mum  
was an LPN at the local hospital...

ANDREA

How about your dad?

JAMES

The Great Entertainer? Full time  
pisshead.

He smiles to show this is affection and she smiles too,  
finding this almost soothing. But then...

ANDREA

I shouldn't have cleaned those  
glasses. But I didn't know where  
Hannah was so I just...I wanted to  
do something... I never thought...

AMANDA

Come on we've been through all  
this, love.

JAMES

The FLO's right; it's completely understandable. Well look I just wanted to introduce myself, explain our role in the process.

ANDREA

Thank you for coming to see me. Everybody's been so kind. So helpful really. I'm very grateful.

She looks helplessly at the photo of her missing daughter. James deeply moved by her dignity and gratitude at such a terrible time for her.

45 EXT. WESTMINSTER ROOFTOP - DAY 4

45

Meera Harwood is in Westminster as her phone rings. She takes it.

MEERA

Damian.

(listens)

No Dhillon is here, still in bed obviously.

(frowns)

Talitha? You must be joking. Yes of course I'll talk to him.

46 INT./EXT. DAMIAN'S CAR/MOTORWAY - DAY 4

46

On the motorway Damian Campbell is now driving and talking on handsfree to Meera. Seb Harding in passenger seat.

DAMIAN

Thanks, Meera, appreciate it. See you at the next select committee...

MEERA (V.O.)

Try and turn up this time.

He half-smiles and clicks off.

DAMIAN

PM won't have liked her little dig about "special attributes".

SEB

Yeah you don't need an Enigma machine for that one.

DAMIAN

She's got sharp teeth but she's one  
of the more pragmatic ones.

(beat)

Talitha and Dhillon are close -  
knew each other from school.

SEB

The one she got chucked out of?

DAMIAN

No that was Roedean. So what do you  
reckon?

SEB

Malicious communication is an odd  
one and suggests they're chancing  
their arm a bit. They'll only get  
an extension if they're  
contemplating a murder charge...

DAMIAN

Talitha. I mean, she's a lot of  
things but...

Shakes his head in genuine dismay.

SEB

Anyway, we've activated Mr Lindsay.

DAMIAN

Great. He'd find a leak in a  
nuclear sub.

SEB

Duty Solicitor is a Ms Cleo  
Roberts.

DAMIAN

We'll pat her on the back and send  
her straight back to the High  
Street...

SEB

(mock-dignity)

I would certainly hope so.

Damian shakes his head.

DAMIAN

The Commies and NIMBYs are all  
going nuts about me being invited  
onto the new Planning Task Force.

(MORE)

DAMIAN (CONT'D)  
(shakes head)  
They're going to love this.

As always thinking of the bigger picture.

47 INT. POLICE STATION, CORRIDOR - DAY 4

47

Cleo comes through the front desk and heads towards the cells when she stops.

James.

They look at each other for a moment.

JAMES  
Cleo.

CLEO  
Hi, James.

JAMES  
You OK?

CLEO  
Yes.  
(beat)  
I thought you were in Durham.

JAMES  
I was for a bit. But I came back.

CLEO  
Oh.

A really really awkward moment. Which is suddenly broken by...

TROY (O.S)  
Cleo, mate!

She turns to see that TROY MANNERS - the young man from the surveillance footage - is being escorted to the showers by a couple of officers.

CLEO  
Ah, Mr Manners, good to see you're picking up the air-miles still.

TROY  
Frequent Flier!

CLEO  
I do hope you have representation.

TROY  
No Comment.

Laughs. She does too.

TROY (CONT'D)  
They've given me an upgrade this  
time though! They try and pin this  
shit on me I'm coming for my best  
girl you know that.

James expression changes, almost steps across them and Troy  
is moved on. Cleo registers this. A tiny suspicion on her  
mind.

JAMES  
You're on the Talitha Campbell case  
right?

CLEO  
Yes, how do you...

JAMES  
DI Cassidy told me.

Troy disappears. Cleo looks at James. Frowns.

CLEO  
Wait, he's not...

JAMES  
I can't comment, Cleo.

CLEO  
No. Of course you can't. You never  
could.

And she walks coldly past him. He watches her go almost in  
anguish.

48

INT. POLICE STATION, CONSULTATION ROOM - DAY 4

48

Talitha looks up as Cleo is shown in by PC Cutts.

TALITHA  
(to PC Cutts)  
The porridge was shit by the way.

PC CUTTS  
I'll pass that on to the chef.

Cleo sits down.

CLEO  
Do you know any drugdealers?

TALITHA  
Might do, what are you after?

Cleo a slight breath of impatience.

TALITHA (CONT'D)  
I'm a student, 'course I know  
drugdealers.

CLEO  
Been in touch with any recently?

TALITHA  
Not recently no.

CLEO  
The police are holding a drugdealer  
called Troy Manners.

TALITHA  
I don't know anybody of that name.

CLEO  
Sure?

TALITHA  
Positive.

CLEO  
OK.  
(bit disappointed)  
Just a hunch.

PC Cutts comes back in.

PC CUTTS  
Your father has arrived, Talitha.

The effect is instantaneous.

TALITHA  
(to Cleo)  
Did you fucking tell him?

CLEO  
Don't swear at me please.

TALITHA  
Did you?

CLEO

No of course not.

TALITHA

Make him go away. Go on, what are you waiting for, you're still getting paid even if you are on legal aid...

CLEO

OK last warning, Talitha - watch your mouth.

TALITHA

I'm sorry. I'm sorry, Cleo, I'm just so tired now. Please make him go away. And if he's brought Seb Harding with him tell him to fuck off times ten.

Cop looks at Cleo. What do you want to do? Cleo sighs and rises to follow her out.

49

INT. POLICE STATION, FRONT OFFICE - DAY 4

49

Cleo comes out of the custody area and approaches Damian who is sitting texting on his phone.

CLEO

Sir Damian Campbell?

DAMIAN

Please. Just Damian.

CLEO

I'm Cleo Roberts, the duty solicitor assigned to Talitha's case...

He rises and extends a hand.

DAMIAN

Cleo, great to meet you and thank you so much for everything you've done so far.

He exudes easy authority and a man who can uses charm as much as aggression although neither are alien to him.

He gestures behind him to Seb who is seated and also checking messages on his phone.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)  
May I introduce Seb Harding who is  
my lawyer.

Seb pockets his mobile and comes over.

CLEO  
(evenly)  
Pleased to meet you.

They shake hands.

CLEO (CONT'D)  
Talitha has asked me not to tell  
you any details of the case...

DAMIAN  
I have a fairly good idea of what  
is going on.

Cleo frowns. How.

SEB  
OK, Chloe, with all due respect I'm  
sure you've done a great job so  
far...

CLEO  
It's Cleo. And Talitha has also  
been very specific that you are not  
to be involved in any way.

He stares at her for a moment. Which way will this go? Damian  
opts for retreat.

DAMIAN  
Please excuse Seb he can't remember  
my name most of the time. And if  
you would be good enough to give me  
some contact details.

She fumbles for a card with her office details on it and  
hands it to him.

CLEO  
She's OK by the way.

*Isn't this the first thing you should have asked, Damian? He  
gets the point and his eyes glitter for a second. You really  
do not fuck with this man.*

DAMIAN  
Good to hear.

CLEO  
Better get back in there.

They watch her turn and go. Then Damian pockets the card and jerks his head at the door.

SEB  
I thought...

DAMIAN  
Talitha won't budge until she's scared enough.

We will discover that he is right about this.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)  
Let's go and get a coffee.

They go out through the door - Cleo heads back in the other direction.

50 INT. POLICE STATION, INCIDENT ROOM - DAY 4

50

On screen: police interviewing TROY MANNERS whom we've just seen.

*DI CASSIDY*  
*Who's Lady Ts? (pronounced tease).*

*TROY*  
*No comment.*

*DI CASSIDY*  
*Is it Talitha Campbell?*

*TROY*  
*No comment.*

She cuts the footage.

DI CASSIDY  
(to James)  
Etcetera.

JAMES  
Is Lady Ts Talitha?

DI CASSIDY  
Yup, that's her mobile number on his phone. We've got him present at the ball and calling her.  
(MORE)

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Then three days later we've got him meeting Talitha in the pub and receiving an envelope from her.

JAMES

You think she was paying him for...

DI CASSIDY

The Seven Stars is a Town-meets-Gown hotspot for drug exchanges and it's on Troy's Strava favourites. Also where we nicked Lady Tease.

DC LOWELL

He has some Birmingham connections.

JAMES

Why is that relevant?

Cassidy flashes a look at Lowell who has forgotten James does not know this aspect yet.

DC LOWELL

Just covering all the bases.

DI CASSIDY

If Talitha commissioned an attack on Hannah he fits the bill perfectly.

James considers this. He can see the narrative but he's not blind to alternative scenarios.

JAMES

He's a drugdealer.

DI CASSIDY

Yes. DNA's on the database so if he was in Hannah's room, we'll know about it.

JAMES

Have you compared it with the vodka bottle yet?

DI CASSIDY

The bottle is not him.

JAMES

How about Talitha?

DI CASSIDY

No but we're not saying she was present so...

(MORE)

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)

(beat)

The glasses need further tests  
because of the mum.

JAMES

If Troy's a drugdealer there is an  
alternative explanation for all of  
those things you mention. Namely  
that he was selling drugs to  
Talitha at the ball and the  
envelope was connected to that.

Lowell looks at Cassidy and rolls his eyes.

DC LOWELL

Here we go...

JAMES

The thing you guys sometimes forget  
is: I want a conviction as badly as  
you. That's why I don't want to hit  
a jury with evidence that comes  
with a big ribbon marked  
"reasonable doubt".

DI CASSIDY

Let's see what she says about it  
all.

JAMES

Troy's DNA anywhere in her room  
would be the real kicker.

DI CASSIDY

We're on it.

(to Lowell)

Tell them we're almost ready for  
Talitha again.

JUMP CUT TO:

51

INT. POLICE STATION, INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY 4

51

Now the two detectives questioning Talitha again.

DI CASSIDY

Who do you buy your drugs from  
Talitha?

CLEO

Obviously that is a wholly  
inappropriate question you do not  
need to answer.

DI CASSIDY

Let me rephrase it. Do you ever buy  
drugs?

CLEO

Sorry I must have missed the part  
when my client was cautioned  
over...

TALITHA

I don't need to. Men are always  
pestering me to take them for  
reasons which are completely beyond  
me.

Cleo frowns at this answer even though, as we will discover,  
it is true.

DI CASSIDY

Do you frequent The Seven Stars  
pub?

TALITHA

No.

DI CASSIDY

You've never been in there?

TALITHA

Might have done but that wasn't the  
question.

The atmosphere has changed and everybody feels it.

DI CASSIDY

Do you know a man called Troy  
Manners?

Cleo starts. She was right!

TALITHA

No.

DI CASSIDY

That's a lie isn't it?

TALITHA

No.

Beat.

DI CASSIDY

Have a look at this would you? Do  
you know him?

She pushes over an image of Troy outside the ball. Talitha does not answer.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Of course you do. It's Troy at the ball, trusty mobile in hand.  
(beat)  
A phone on which you exchanged several texts.

*She takes out a series of surveillance stills of Talitha sitting in the pub with TROY MANNERS. Cleo wriggles uncomfortably - this looks really bad for Talitha.*

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
We've had this pub under surveillance for a while. That's you and Troy two days after Hannah vanished. You hand him an envelope.

TALITHA  
No comment.

DI CASSIDY  
Flip-flopping again? I can't believe your solicitor hasn't warned you about that as a look.

Cleo a bit helpless.

And now - for the first time - Talitha looks properly scared. She's in trouble and she knows it.

Cassidy's phone vibrates. She looks at it. Rises immediately.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Interview terminated.

TALITHA  
What's happening...charge me with something or let me go. It's only 24 hours I know my rights.

DI CASSIDY  
Unless I ask for an extension which in the circumstances I will certainly get.

TALITHA  
What circumstances?

CLEO  
Talitha...

Stands up.

DI CASSIDY

Talitha Campbell, you are now being arrested on suspicion of murder.

To Lowell.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)

Caution her please, Andy, and then meet me at the car.

TALITHA

What...

DC LOWELL

Talitha Campbell, I am arresting you on suspicion of murder. You do not have to say anything, but it may harm your defence if you do not mention when questioned something you later rely on in court.

Anything you do say may be given in evidence.

Talitha puts her fingers in her ears and starts to do loud mocking I-can't-hear-you singing.

CLEO

OK, take it easy, Talitha...

TALITHA

(clicks fingers and sings  
the old Prince Buster  
classic)

Take it easy. Take it easy. There's no need to worry...

CLEO

They've obviously found a body.  
Stop it.

TALITHA

IF YOU FALL ON YOUR FACE IT'S NO  
DISGRACE IF YOU PICK YOURSELF UP...

Not really the response you would hope for on hearing that an ex-friend has died. Lowell looks at Cleo with an air of pity/triumph. This won't look good.

Damian and Seb are having a coffee.

SEB

Woman of colour's not always a bad thing in a lawyer though. Further down the line I mean - some judges go soft on them.

We will see this casual racism many more times from Seb especially the cynical suggestion that, rather than discrimination, black people receive special favours.

DAMIAN

Obviously I am hoping it doesn't get that far.

SEB

How's Cressy taking it?

DAMIAN

Took to her bed with a bottle of Black Cow and a couple of bars of Xanax.

SEB

(chuckles)

Well that's Cressy.

Damian looks at him sharply. There is something unspoken here but it doesn't go any further. His phone pings a message and he checks it.

DAMIAN

Good we're booked into Wessex House for the night.

SEB

Shame I didn't bring my trunks.

DAMIAN

I really can't stand the way they do their broccoli. All big and burned.

(shakes head)

Just break it into florets and boil it like everybody else...

SEB

Would you accept steaming as a compromise?

Damian smiles thinly and presses a speed-dial. He means it about the broccoli it REALLY annoys him.

DAMIAN

Brian. What have you got on Cleo  
Roberts?

Listens.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Alright that's...

(expression changes)

What! We've just been in there  
and...

Listens a bit longer.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Keep me updated.

Clicks off. Looks at Seb.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Divers have pulled a body out of  
the docks.

(beat)

And they've just re-arrested  
Talitha on suspicion of murder.

53

INT. POLICE STATION, CONSULTATION ROOM - DAY 4

53

Cleo is staring hard at Talitha. A moment.

CLEO

OK so...

TALITHA

Don't worry. I just can't stand all  
this... (process).

CLEO

Why did you not tell me about Troy?

TALITHA

I'm not going to admit to knowing  
dealers in a police station. Also  
he's quite keen on discretion if  
you know what I mean. Besides, we  
always knew him as Moneyz.

(mock West Country)

Because he was always going on  
about wanting his cash moneys.

CLEO

What's your problem with Seb  
Harding?

TALITHA

Bit too close to my mother if you  
know what I mean.

CLEO

And yet your father...

TALITHA

(almost admiring)

Ah but that's my dad. Not giving a  
shit about the untermenschen is the  
ultimate cuss right?

Cleo considers this.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

What happens now?

CLEO

Now I imagine there will be a  
hiatus while they carry out formal  
identification, autopsy, DNA tests  
etcetera.

TALITHA

Then they have to release me.

CLEO

No. They will release you under  
investigation on the malicious  
communication charge but reset on  
the murder charge. That means 36  
hours with the permission of the  
Super which they are sure to get.

Talitha frowns.

TALITHA

Wait, what, I'm meant to be going  
to Paris. Friend's having a gallery  
opening.

Cleo stares at her. She just doesn't get it.

CLEO

(slowly)

They think you paid somebody to  
murder Hannah. You do understand  
that right?

TALITHA

(mock/mimic slowly)

Sure but it's bollocks. Also:  
innocent until proven guilty...

CLEO  
Yeah that's exactly what they're  
trying... (to do).

TALITHA  
Butch up, Cleo, if you do a good  
job here I'll keep you on to sue  
their arses.

Door opens and a police officer comes in.

TALITHA (CONT'D)  
Great, about time, can we get some  
tea and biscuits in here please?

She's back to her "normal" self.

54 EXT. SHORE BY HANNAH'S HOUSE - DAY 4

54

The line of houses down to the water. Massive police  
activity. Now A white tent where Hannah's body lies. DI Paula  
Cassidy is talking to Lowell.

DI CASSIDY  
What kind of texts?

DC LOWELL  
Urgent sounding. "Call me" mainly.  
He sent quite a flurry yesterday.

DI CASSIDY  
Who is he?

DC LOWELL  
The housemate. Dhillon Harwood.  
Gone back to the family home in  
London now term's over.

DI CASSIDY  
You know who his mum is right?

He nods grimly - obviously has low opinion of Meera.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
Don't say anything to the CPS about  
this.

DC LOWELL  
He's gonna find out. And about the  
activity on the bank account after  
the disappearance.

DI CASSIDY

Of course and we're going to tell  
him but one thing at a time. Let's  
get the identification over with  
first and see what's what.

55 INT. HARWOOD HOUSE, DHILLON'S BEDROOM - DAY 4

55

Dhillon is on the bed, laptop on his knees. Also on his bed  
is a half-packed bag.

MEERA

Talitha's been arrested

He looks up.

DHILLON

TALITHA?

MEERA

About the missing girl.

Dhillon says nothing.

MEERA (CONT'D)

Her dad called me. He's very  
worried.

DHILLON

Only thing he worries about is  
share prices.

MEERA

Why do you think they've arrested  
Talitha?

DHILLON

I honestly don't know. I've been  
trying to call her but...(she  
hasn't answered).

MEERA

Guess we know why now.

(beat)

Really wouldn't surprise me if she  
had something to do with it.

DHILLON

That's stupid. She might be a bit  
nuts but she's not a murderer.

She looks at the half-packed bag on the bed. He throws the  
laptop into the bag.

MEERA  
Do you know anything, Dhillon?  
Because if you do you must tell the  
police.

DHILLON  
Of course I don't know anything,  
what would I know?  
(beat)  
I thought she must have just gone  
off somewhere. I can't believe it.

She looks at him.

MEERA  
I hope you don't know anything  
because every time Talitha got into  
trouble at school, you became  
involved in some way.

He zips up his bag.

DHILLON  
Well I'm not. And I don't believe  
Talitha has anything to do with it  
either.

56 EXT. STREET/CLEO'S OFFICE - DAY 4

56

Cleo is walking towards her office.

57 INT. CLEO'S OFFICE - DAY 4

57

Cleo back with her business partner HEIDI MCKINNON.

HEIDI  
Think they'll charge?

Cleo shakes head to suggest 50-50 right now.

CLEO  
Wait for the autopsy I imagine.  
(shakes head)  
Lady Tease pays Moneyz to murder  
Cinderella. Press are gonna like  
it.

HEIDI  
How do you like it?

*The million dollar question.* And Cleo considers.

CLEO

Troy Manners? Anything's possible I suppose but I don't see it.

HEIDI

But what about her?

Before Cleo can respond though they hear a bit of a commotion from the lobby. Somebody is coming through.

Damian Campbell appears with a receptionist JILL trying to stop him.

JILL

I'm sorry...I said you were....

DAMIAN

What's going on with Talitha?

CLEO

(to receptionist)

It's OK, Jill.

(to Damian)

I can't discuss that with you I'm afraid, Mr Campbell.

He nods slowly and looks around the shabby office. He peers at an award on her desk. It is a a framed Diversity in Law award that Cleo has won as a rising star.

He looks at it with amused condescension.

DAMIAN

Rising star eh? 2015. And diversity as well, we all approve of that don't we?

CLEO

Um, no actually, not in my experience.

He laughs.

DAMIAN

You were meant for greater things than a provincial High Street once weren't you, Cleo?

(smiles at Heidi)

No offence, Heidi. I'm assuming you are the McKinnon of...thought so.

(back to Cleo)

Until you stubbed your toe on that unfortunate Hargreaves case.

(MORE)

DAMIAN (CONT'D)  
I know a thing or two about snakes  
and ladders...

CLEO  
I'm sure you do.

DAMIAN  
And I can be either really. I don't  
really have a preference.

CLEO  
As long as you get your way?

DAMIAN  
Precisely.  
(beat)  
Get my daughter to talk to me. Let  
me help her and it will be...  
(he mimes an ascent)  
...to everybody's advantage.

He nods to Heidi and exits. Heidi looks at Cleo.

HEIDI  
Manage him.

CLEO  
It's not...

HEIDI  
Manage him, Cleo. We have to keep  
this case now. It's going to be  
MASSIVE.

58 INT. JAMES'S HOUSE, KITCHEN - EVENING 4

58

James has the flatpack open and is frowning at the parts. He counts some screws in the palm of his hand. His face. FOR FUCK SAKE.

JAMES  
There's a bloody screw missing.

Beat.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
(shouts)  
Laura! There's a screw missing.

59 EXT. POLICE STATION - EVENING 4

59

DI CASSIDY is on the phone with a forensic pathologist.

*PATHOLOGIST (O.S)*  
*It looks as if she was gagged with  
the same item that was then used to  
strangle her.*

DI CASSIDY  
Gagged?

*PATHOLOGIST (O.S)*  
*Yes she had green fibres in her  
mouth and also under her finger  
nails where she tried to release  
the pressure on her neck.*  
*(beat)*  
*Fractured hyoid.*

Cassidy nods slowly considering.

DI CASSIDY  
Green fibres.

*PATHOLOGIST (O.S)*  
*Silk. Possibly a scarf of some  
sort.*

DI CASSIDY  
A green scarf. She was gagged and  
strangled with a green scarf?

*PATHOLOGIST (O.S)*  
*There is no specific evidence of  
sexual assault but we're still  
looking for evidence of recent  
sexual activity. Immersion in the  
water has compromised that side of  
things.*

DI CASSIDY  
OK thanks. Keep me informed.

She hangs up and walks back into the station, her fists clenched, adrenaline is pumping through her, she has the excitement of the predator who has spotted a tiny ruffle of fur on the ground.

Laura now standing in the doorway arms folded. James is lying on his back trying to get a screw into a hole.

JAMES  
Does it need all the screws anyway.

LAURA

Absolutely not it's only got a baby  
in it.

JAMES

The stupid screw just isn't aligned  
with the hole.

LAURA

Story of your life, mate.

His phone rings on the floor closer to her than to him.

JAMES

See who it is. Don't answer if it's  
my dad I'll be here all night.

She picks it up. Shows it to him.

LAURA

DI Cassidy.

JUMP CUT TO:

61 EXT. POLICE STATION, CAR PARK - NIGHT 4

61

James getting out of his car. Cassidy is waiting for him.

DI CASSIDY

She was put in her sleeping bag and  
then they placed a kettlebell in  
her rucksack to weigh her down...

JAMES

That explains that then.

DI CASSIDY

Oh but there's more...

They walk towards the police station entrance.

JUMP CUT TO:

62 INT. POLICE STATION, INCIDENT ROOM - NIGHT 4

62

DI Cassidy and James are studying blown up CCTV and student  
video images. There are a number of images of revelers at the  
ball. We see Troy Manners laughing and joking with security  
outside. And we see the photo of Talitha standing with a  
bottle of champagne by the Ferris wheel.

Cassidy looks at him.

DI CASSIDY  
There it is. What more do you want?

She magnifies the image.

James looks at the growing image. The ICONIC picture that will inform the rest of the trial has now emerged. Beauty and privilege.

DI CASSIDY (CONT'D)  
It was her, James.  
(beat)  
She's wearing the murder weapon.

And our final image is Talitha.

WEARING THE GREEN SCARF.

**END OF EPISODE**