

SHOWTRIAL

Written by

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Episode 5: THE LONG VOYAGE  
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Black screen. Indistinguishable voices. Fade into a card.

**Day 5 of trial - JUDGE RULES STEPHEN VENDLER LETTER AS  
ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE**

And we open with a short montage/collage of sound and cards that will guide us through some key moments of the trial that have taken place since we were last in the courtroom.

(Sound of legal arguments in background tbw)

**Day 6 of trial - TRIAL PAUSED DUE TO COMPLAINT ABOUT JUROR  
RESEARCHING DETAILS OF "LADY TEASE" ONLINE**

(Sound of judge stating that a juror will be dismissed and eleven-person jury etc tbw)

**Day 7 of trial - TRIAL RESUMES. THE CROWN RESTS ITS CASE  
AGAINST DHILLON HARWOOD AND TALITHA CAMPBELL**

(Sound of judge dismissing jury and saying that they will next hear the case for the defence of Dhillon Harwood tbw)

CU on Dhillon. He is staring straight in front of him. A pair of hands adjusting his tie for him

Meera Harwood steps back and looks at her son.

MEERA

Tell me now. If you have to. This  
is your chance. Tell me now.

He stares at her.

DHILLON

I've told you everything, mum.  
There's nothing more to say.

She makes one final adjustment to his tie. Then she kisses his forehead.

MEERA

Just stay calm and don't let them  
provoke you.

He looks at her.

DHILLON

I love you.  
(his lip wobbles)  
And I'm so sorry that I've put you  
through this.

He chews his lip to stop from crying. His distress and apology seem utterly sincere.

MEERA

Tell the truth, Dhillon. It's all that you can do.

**TITLES**

NISHA (V.O.)

You and Talitha Campbell were best friends?

3

INT. COURTROOM - DAY - 16

3

Dhillon is now on the stand and replying to Nisha. Talitha watching with something like curiosity.

DHILLON

Yes.

NISHA

Had you ever had a physical relationship?

DHILLON

No...I mean not really...no.

NISHA

But would you agree with an earlier witness that you were inseparable?

DHILLON

We pretty much always hung out together.

NISHA

When you applied to the same university, was it so you could preserve that friendship?

DHILLON

Yeah. We did apply to different colleges in Oxford but...(we didn't get in).

His tone is quiet, almost diffident.

NISHA

You have listened carefully to the evidence from the Stephen Vender letter?

DHILLON

Yes.

NISHA

The jury have now seen the contents of Stephen Vendler's letter to his wife.

(beat)

Did you ever discuss with Talitha her killing somebody during sex?

DHILLON

I can't lie, Talitha had never said anything like that. No definitely not.

NISHA

She never mentioned killing a girl as a sexual fantasy?

DHILLON

Absolutely not, I don't believe that.

NISHA

What about strangling, choking in general?

DHILLON

I mean she was definitely into girls as well and that whole femdom thing a bit...

NISHA

Femdom being female domination...

DHILLON

Yes I never thought it was more than game-playing.

Talitha shakes her head in the dock. As if admiring his chutzpah.

NISHA

Now you said to the police, and the jury have heard your interview, that Talitha chose to use her scarf during sex with Hannah?

DHILLON

Yes. I was pretty high and I mean I wasn't so aware of it because...I mean that wasn't...I couldn't see Talitha so well because of my own...

NISHA

Your own what?

DHILLON

Position.

NISHA

What was that position?

DHILLON

I was performing oral sex on Hannah.

On the jury. A faint look of unease here. A grimace there.

NISHA

Did you have any part in the strangulation?

DHILLON

No.

NISHA

Did you assist with the disposal of the body?

DHILLON

Yes I did.

NISHA

Why? If you had had nothing to do with it? Why didn't you call an ambulance?

(She knows the Prosecution will ask this too so getting in first).

DHILLON

It's something I ask myself all the time as well. But like I say I was really drunk and had taken quite a lot of drugs so I wasn't thinking properly. And also, Talitha...

A beat.

NISHA

Talitha?

DHILLON

Ever since school that was kind of the pattern. We would get into trouble and out of trouble and it was something we did together.

NISHA

OK the jury will hear testimony about that issue from your head teacher and also from psychologists.

He nods.

NISHA (CONT'D)

Did you ever try and get away from Talitha?

DHILLON

(firmly)

No. Why would I want to? She's a one-off. She's a total original and I've always loved that about her.

On Talitha again in the dock. What does she make of this "loyalty" from somebody who has stabbed her brutally in the back?

NISHA

Would it be fair to say that you and Talitha enjoyed pushing boundaries?

DHILLON

Yes I think that would be fair. And even when we were in a panic and Talitha said we had to put the body in the water...

NISHA

I'm sorry, Dhillon, Talitha said you had to...?

DHILLON

What oh yeah I see what...no I mean it could have been that we should do it...I'm not trying to suggest...

NISHA

That's OK carry on...

DHILLON

...so there was a sense...

NISHA

A sense of what?

DHILLON

That none of it was real. It was all just another thing. Like in school. Like a college ball with the jugglers and the lights and the fancy dress. And the next day would be...just another day.

NISHA

You described to the police a "fugue state" in the following days.

DHILLON

That's just a kind of shorthand. I felt...there are no words for it really.

NISHA

Do you regret your actions that night, Dhillon?

DHILLON

Absolutely. And I know I have to pay a price for it. But I swear to God that I didn't kill Hannah. I swear on my mother's life and she is sitting watching me now.

(beat)

I am prepared to take responsibility for my terrible decisions that night. And part of that is telling the truth now.

And he looks across at his mother. But what does she think about all of this?

JUMP CUT TO:

4

INT. COURTROOM - DAY 16

4

Adam for the prosecution is now cross-examining Dhillon.

ADAM

In your police interview, Dhillon, you said you had sex with Hannah before the ball?

DHILLON

Yes I did.

ADAM

That was a lie wasn't it?

DHILLON

Yes.

ADAM

You told Lucinda Bright you were wearing a condom when you weren't.

DHILLON

Well...

ADAM

That was a lie wasn't it?

DHILLON

It was a misunderstanding.

ADAM

You told the police that the fire on which you were actually burning evidence was because you did your best thinking staring into the flames.

DHILLON

OK so what you are doing is making a big list of things that aren't exactly...(true)

ADAM

...lies...

DHILLON

...so that your next question can be: 'you're a habitual liar aren't you?'

ADAM

You'll put me out of a job.

DHILLON

I was confused and frightened.

ADAM

Let me take you back to Hannah. Originally, you and Talitha and Hannah were friends?

DHILLON

Yes.

ADAM

You socialised together.

DHILLON

Yes.

ADAM

But then suddenly Hannah made a complaint about you to Stephen Vendler?

DHILLON

I don't know.

ADAM

You don't know?

DHILLON

Tally said...she had done.

ADAM

Did Talitha know what the complaint was about?



DHILLON

That I was harassing her.

ADAM

What were you harassing her for?

DHILLON

I didn't think I was at the time.  
Looking back...

ADAM

Sex?

Dhillon shakes his head.

DHILLON

I thought...I thought...

He looks down. A tear drops from his eye.

DHILLON (CONT'D)

I thought I had fallen in love with  
her.

ADAM

You thought you had?

Dhillon does not answer.

ADAM (CONT'D)

How did this possibility of being  
in love manifest itself?

DHILLON

I called her a lot. I get stressed  
if somebody doesn't return a call  
and I imagine they hate me or I've  
done something wrong.

ADAM

You called her a lot? That's it?

DHILLON

Sometimes I would, you know, turn  
up at places and try and talk to  
her.

ADAM

Stalking her?

DHILLON

I wouldn't call it stalking.

ADAM

Another 'misunderstanding' perhaps.  
So what was it about Hannah that  
you thought you loved?

DHILLON

Her intelligence. Her humour. She was different from a lot of students because of her background.

ADAM

And did it make you angry that this girl from a more humble background you were idealising had rejected you? A kid who has always had pretty much anything he wanted?

DHILLON

It made me sad.

ADAM

How about Talitha? Do you know what made her angry?

DHILLON

You'll have to ask her.

ADAM

I certainly will. But she must have said something to you?

DHILLON

She thought that Hannah was using the complaint to get closer to Vendler because she had a thing for him.

ADAM

Hannah did?

DHILLON

Yes.

ADAM

So you're in love with Hannah or at least you think you might be...

DHILLON

Are you going to keep doing the sarcastic thing about that?

A little flash of arrogance/temper.

ADAM

And in turn Hannah allegedly has "a thing" for a tutor who is sleeping with Talitha.

DHILLON

I don't know if Hannah had a thing for Vendler or not.

ADAM

You just said that Talitha told you that she did?

DHILLON

Doesn't make it true we're not joined at the hip.

From Nisha's face we can tell this is a slip.

ADAM

Oh I thought the whole basis of your defence was precisely that.

(smiles)

Where she leads you follow etcetera?

Dhillon does not answer this.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Let's grant for a moment that your version of events isn't a desperate attempt to evade responsibility. It's a strange way to treat a funny, clever girl you thought you might be in love with. Putting her body into a sleeping bag and throwing it in the river?

DHILLON

You are right. It's terrible. And inexplicable.

ADAM

I don't dispute that it's terrible, Mr Harwood, but it is explicable because you murdered her didn't you?

DHILLON

No.

ADAM

Was it because she didn't return your "love" and instead complained about the way you chose to manifest it through stalking and harassment?

DHILLON

No.

ADAM

And you thought this time somebody might actually listen to your accuser?

DHILLON

No.

Adam signals no further questions.

JUDGE  
We will stop here.  
(to jury)  
Thank you, ladies and gentlemen,  
you may go home for the evening.

They all rise.

5

INT. PRISON, VISITOR'S ROOM - DAY 16

5

Cleo is with Talitha.

TALITHA  
So what do you think?

CLEO  
Of what?

TALITHA  
Of Dhillon's performance. 'I swear  
on my mum's life. I still love  
Talitha'.

CLEO  
What do you think?

TALITHA  
I could never have believed he  
would betray me like that. He's  
so...calm about it.

CLEO  
And it's not as if you'd had lots  
of time to assess his character.

Beat.

TALITHA  
That's mean, Cleo.

CLEO  
Yes I'm sorry it was a bit.

TALITHA  
What can I say? I was young and  
foolish.

Cleo straight-faced.

TALITHA (CONT'D)  
Put the thought bubble away.

CLEO

The Prosecution was pretty fierce with him. And Emma's good. She'll give him a kicking in the morning.

TALITHA

I don't like her.

CLEO

How come? She's great.

TALITHA

I just don't. When it's me up there, I want you.

CLEO

That's not...

TALITHA

Fine. I'll get up and just howl like a dog with its paw in a trap.

CLEO

Is that how you feel?

Talitha's trademark mocking stare.

TALITHA

Fuck off, feelings, people talking about their bloody feelings all the time like a bunch of sissies.

CLEO

OK.

TALITHA

The dog was a joke.

CLEO

OK.

TALITHA

I won't howl.

CLEO

OK.

TALITHA

Enough with the 'OK' routine. It has to be you.

Cleo looks at her. Talitha sighs.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

All right, you can say OK one last time.

Cleo doesn't. Talitha softens face and widens eyes in childlike sincerity or a good act of it.

TALITHA (CONT'D)  
You're my safe-space, Cleo.

Cleo can't help a smile.

CLEO  
I'll talk to Emma. No promises.

6 INT. POLICE STATION, INCIDENT ROOM - EVENING 16 6

The disclosure officer is sitting at his desk as James comes in.

JAMES  
Hey, Phil.

DC HILLCROFT  
(wary)  
Hi.

James stares at him. Phil squirms. This is only going to end one way and he knows it.

JUMP CUT TO:

7 INT. POLICE STATION, INCIDENT ROOM - EVENING 16 7

On screen: footage of Talitha and Dhillon dancing. At one point the scarf is clearly round his neck.

James looks away from the footage and reproachfully at Hillcroft.

JAMES  
Did Cassidy ask you to bury this?

DC HILLCROFT  
It was hours before the murder.

JAMES  
Did Cassidy tell you not to disclose it?

DC HILLCROFT  
She said she didn't think it was relevant. And on balance...

JAMES  
Footage of the scarf being passed between Talitha and Dhillon?  
Footage of him actually wearing the scarf and not visibly returning it to her?

DC HILLCROFT

I mean...what do you want to do  
about it?

On James. What DOES he want to do about it?

8

EXT. STREET - EVENING 16

8

Cleo has left the prison and is now standing checking phone  
messages when...

TROY (O.S.)

I'm gonna be billing you by the  
minute, Cleo. Cash moneys upfront.

Troy comes sauntering into view.

CLEO

I'm on legal aid.

They head over towards a kid's playground or something like  
that in a small urban park.

CLEO (CONT'D)

You can be hard to track down,  
Troy.

TROY

Been sorting out some business in  
Cannock.

CLEO

I'll start preparing the mitigation  
plea.

JUMP CUT TO:

9

EXT. PLAYGROUND - EVENING 16

9

Cleo and Troy seated.

CLEO

You made up the name Lady Tease?

TROY

Right.

CLEO

How come?

TROY

Well Lady T first because her  
name's Talitha and she's posh.

Cleo nods - go on.

TROY (CONT'D)

Lady Tease because she wouldn't let me fuck her.

CLEO

OK, I see the progression.

TROY

Papers making her out to be a slag but actually she could be proper picky.

CLEO

So you and Talitha were kind of friends.

He laughs.

TROY

Are we friends, Cleo?

CLEO

No.

TROY

No see. Services rendered etcetera. But some punters you can tolerate more than others you get me?

CLEO

Yes I do.

TROY

I had more time for her than most of them students. Why? 'Cos she never tried to go all street on me like some of 'em. Downright embarrassing the way they talked as if they weren't all from Custard-Upon-Thames. Talitha is what she is never tries to hide it.

CLEO

I'd agree with that. She is what she is.

TROY

She made me laugh. And she didn't give a shit, didn't care about who she impressed, talked to everybody the same way.

CLEO

You admired that about her.



TROY

Yeah I did. Why I won't talk to those scum from the press and tell 'em what she was like in bed.

CLEO

Well fair play, you can't really.

TROY

More's the pity. But I've got an eye for a bullshitter, Cleo, I can spot 'em from distance. And she is what she is but she made me laugh and she ain't no bullshitter.

A pause as Cleo digests this.

CLEO

What about the credit card?

TROY

What about it?

CLEO

Did Talitha give it to you?

TROY

No.

CLEO

(eagerly)

Did Dhillon?

TROY

No.

Beat. He sighs.

TROY (CONT'D)

You land me with a witness summons and I'll blame Talitha for everything, let's get that clear to start with.

CLEO

Go on.

10

INT. CLEO'S OFFICE - EVENING 16

10

Cleo with Brian and Damian.

DAMIAN

His sister?

CLEO

Jodie was helping Troy serve up at the ball.

(MORE)

CLEO (CONT'D)

The students working that night  
were on it as much as the revelers.

BRIAN

The gear in Hannah's body...

CLEO

Maybe. But at some point Jodie goes  
to the cloakroom which was an  
obvious place both to buy and  
consume...

BRIAN

Saw the bags and spotted an  
opportunity. Got interrupted when  
she had nicked just one or two?

Cleo nods.

CLEO

Hannah probably didn't notice.  
Although these days you can just  
stop your card through an app which  
is what anybody else probably did.  
Hannah's got passed on to a contact  
in the West Midlands where it was  
mainly used at stations.

BRIAN

We can check out any others but  
there's no point in him giving  
evidence.

DAMIAN

A complete waste of time then.

CLEO

Not at all.

Damian looks at her.

CLEO (CONT'D)

One, the card issue was bugging me  
so now we know. Two, he likes  
Talitha.

DAMIAN

Fantastic. A reference from some  
drug-dealing scummer should...

CLEO

Not all drug-dealers are scummers  
and he likes her because she's not  
a bullshitter. And funny.

DAMIAN

Funny.

CLEO

She can be quite funny actually. It made me realise that there is a Talitha the jury might respond to.

BRIAN

Risky.

CLEO

We passed the point of non-risky options a long time ago.

DAMIAN

So she gets up on stage. What's her opening gag?

CLEO

The truth.

DAMIAN

About...

CLEO

Everything.

He looks hard at her. Everything. The temperature has just dropped a notch.

He nods slowly.

DAMIAN

It is risky. For all concerned. So tread very carefully and always consider the wider picture. Our family reputation is very important.

CLEO

Not to mention your business image.

He nods.

DAMIAN

Not to mention that. Can I tell you something that won't be funny though, Cleo?

CLEO

Go on.

DAMIAN

If you make me unhappy your exile after the Hargreaves case will look like a holiday on the Maldives.

(beat)

There are definitely no third chances.

CLEO

Well I'll bear that in mind.

She remains - on the surface at least - utterly unfazed by this threat.

**Day 9 of trial - UN PETIT MORT**

11

INT. COURTROOM - DAY 17

11

Dhillon back on the stand and now facing Emma.

EMMA

OK so Dhillon you've spoken about your anxiety issues and how you feel compelled to follow Talitha...

DHILLON

Those weren't my words.

JUDGE

Yes, Ms Hemmings, we can do without the synopsis.

EMMA

Of course, let me make the questions very specific. Whose idea was it to go to the ball?

DHILLON

Both of ours.

EMMA

Not yours?

DHILLON

Both of ours.

EMMA

You didn't have to persuade Talitha to go?

DHILLON

Not to the best of my recollection.

EMMA

And whose idea was it to go and visit Hannah after the ball?

DHILLON

I think that was Tally.

EMMA

You think?

DHILLON

I don't remember, it was just a conversation. It just sort of happened.

EMMA

Who provided the date-rape drug found in Hannah's body?

DHILLON

The what?

EMMA

The GHB. The Chems. The drug often used to incapacitate victims.

DHILLON

Hannah did.

EMMA

Hannah did?

DHILLON

Yes. She was a normal person you know she took drugs like everybody else and chems aren't only to incapacitate.

EMMA

Everybody takes drugs in your world?

DHILLON

Most young people I know yes. Hannah had bought some coke as well at the ball and she had that too.

EMMA

You seem to have played no active role in anything that night. You were just there.

JUDGE

Ms Hemmings.

EMMA

Let me turn to the scarf. Nobody denies this is the murder weapon.

DHILLON

Right.

EMMA

Did you at any point have the scarf in your possession prior to putting it in the fire to burn it?

DHILLON

Let me think.

EMMA

Please do.

DHILLON

I'd have to say no.

Beat.

EMMA

Why would you have to say it?

DHILLON

Sorry?

EMMA

Yes or no without equivocation. Did you ever have the scarf in your possession that night?

DHILLON

No.

On James. He knows this is not true even if it is not a deliberate lie.

EMMA

Not at the ball? Not inside Hannah's room? Only when Talitha supposedly handed it to you and said "burn this for me would you?"

(beat)

I'm assuming THAT was her idea as well.

DHILLON

Yes.

EMMA

Alright.

(beat)

We have heard you claim that you were performing oral sex on Hannah while Talitha was positioned behind her and using the scarf to deny her air.

DHILLON

Yes.

EMMA

Was there ever any discussion of a release signal?

DHILLON

Not that I remember.

EMMA

At no point did you realise that Hannah was in trouble? No sounds, no change in her physical behaviour?

DHILLON

No. I thought...I just thought she was enjoying it.

EMMA

You thought she was enjoying being slowly killed?

DHILLON

Well actually, the French call an orgasm "un petit mort". A little death.

Tiny frown from Nisha. Bum note. Emma pounces.

EMMA

I suspect the term is a metaphor rather than literally the crushing of somebody's windpipe.

DHILLON

Of course but...

EMMA

We have heard from expert witnesses that the process of death from strangulation requires sustained pressure for a few minutes.

(to Dhillon)

You did not notice? No struggling, no evidence that she was fighting for her life?

DHILLON

I told you.

Beat. One of the jurors swallows in discomfort. Emma does a lawyer stare at Dhillon.

EMMA

So putting aside the alleged similarity between sounds of sexual pleasure and a slow asphyxiation resulting in multiple organ failure - when did you first realise there was a problem?

DHILLON

Talitha said something. She started saying Hannah's name. Then I could tell she was panicking so...you know...I stopped as well.

EMMA

And realising that your friend had just choked a girl to death, you had only one option really?

DHILLON

I wasn't thinking straight.

EMMA

Oh this is a pack of lies isn't it, Dhillon? Any decent person of even average intelligence would have called an ambulance.

Glances at judge as she knows she's on thin ice.

EMMA (CONT'D)

You went to Hannah's room alone didn't you?

DHILLON

No.

EMMA

Somehow you had got hold of Talitha's scarf...

DHILLON

No!

EMMA

And you used it to murder a girl who had denied you access to her body and made a very serious complaint against you. You're not a victim under the spell of some makey-uppy temptress, you are a cold and calculating misogynistic killer?

DHILLON

It's not true. None of it's true.

EMMA

You went there. You sexually assaulted her. And then you killed her.

DHILLON

I didn't.

EMMA

Would you agree that the higher the intelligence the better the liar?

JUDGE

You don't have to answer that.  
(to jury)  
(MORE)



JUDGE (CONT'D)

Please disregard that question,  
ladies and gentlemen.

12

INT. ANDREA ELLIS HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - DAY 17

12

James is with Andrea and Amanda reviewing the situation.  
Andrea is troubled.

ANDREA

Sometimes I could almost believe  
him.

JAMES

I think some on the jury still  
might as well.

ANDREA

I knew a girl a bit like Talitha at  
school. Not posh like her but she  
had that way about her.

AMANDA

What way?

ANDREA

She could get people to do what she  
wanted. Some people just have that  
power don't they?

She ponders.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

The stuff about it being slow...

JAMES

She would have also lost  
consciousness remember.

Andrea nods, her hands tightly clenched.

ANDREA

I look at them and I imagine I'm  
Hannah looking at them. He just  
seems so...and...it's like this  
can't be the same person who hurt  
her like that. He's brushed his  
teeth, tasted his breakfast, he's  
thought about his appearance...he's  
just this silly kid...he's tiny  
really...

AMANDA

A lot of people have trouble with  
that part, love.

JAMES

(nods)

People who come face to face with previous sexual abusers are often shocked by their size. They imagine them as much taller, bigger, more powerful...

ANDREA

What if I have to spend the rest of my life worrying that the wrong person is in prison though or that the guilty person is walking free?

(beat)

What then?

James uncomfortable. The million dollar question.

AMANDA

It's about a fair trial. That's the most you can do even if it means sometimes guilty people go free.

JAMES

And better that than innocent people go to prison.

ANDREA

(fiercely)

If I thought the person who killed Hannah got off because of some legal...

She stops, hardly able to articulate the horror of it.

ANDREA (CONT'D)

I don't think I could carry on if I knew that.

This can only add to James's profound conflict now given that he knows the police have probably withheld evidence.

13

INT. JAMES'S HOUSE, LIVING ROOM - EVENING 17

13

James is watching football. Or rather he is not watching it he is staring into space while it goes on. His wife LAURA comes in.

LAURA

You decided what you're going to do?

He shakes his head dumbly.

JAMES

I would never be able to work with the cops in this town again.

LAURA  
Would they know?

He nods.

JAMES  
Then there's Andrea Ellis.  
Terrified that the people who  
killed her daughter might walk  
free.

LAURA  
Do you still think Talitha Campbell  
did it?

JAMES  
Yes.

Beat.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
But evidence that Dhillon had the  
scarf during the ball would help  
her defence.

LAURA  
Golden rule right?

He nods.

JAMES  
His story is rubbish and hers is  
reliant on too many "yeah-but-what-  
ifs"

Beat. He's fidgeting with the remote, glancing at the TV from  
time to time, devoured by uncertainty.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
If only those stupid drunken cops  
had kept their stupid drunken  
mouths shut.

LAURA  
Would that have really...(changed  
anything).

JAMES  
It would I'm afraid. Ignorance is  
bliss and I wouldn't have to make  
this decision again.

AGAIN.

LAURA  
It was different last time.

JAMES

I don't think Cleo would agree with you. I let her do the right thing and she got punished for it. And you know, once you can maybe get away with but twice...

LAURA

Oh, babe, I'm not going to tell you what to do, you have to do what you think is right. But this is the most important case you have ever handled. And part of what's right - for me that is - is US.

She touches her stomach.

LAURA (CONT'D)

And...

James looks back at the screen. Defender gives the ball away and opposition score. He throws down the remote in disgust.

JAMES

Every time, Dean, you stupid great cockney lump! Just hoof it into the stands for fuck sake.

She looks at him and laughs.

LAURA

See.

(tousles his hair)

There's your answer right there.

He looks at her. Hoof it into the stand though or learn from past errors?

He stares into middle distance as we enter through his eyeline another card/sound collage:

14

MONTAGE SCENE

14

#### **TRIAL DAY 10 - EXPERT EVIDENCE**

(Sound of shrinks, head teacher, questions tbw)

#### **TRIAL DAY 11 - DHILLON'S DEFENCE RESTS**

(Judge giving instructions to jury and stating that next up they will hear the case for the defence of Talitha Campbell, reminding the jury of its legal duty not to speak about the case or research it online tbw)

TALITHA (O.S.)

For real?

15

INT. PRISON, VISITOR'S ROOM - DAY 18

15

Cleo is pulling her ear lobe.

CLEO

For real. If I do this turn the  
volume down.

Talitha giggles.

TALITHA

Got it. And if I do this...

Gives Cleo a finger.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

...it's my signal for when I think  
you're being a patronising cow.

CLEO

Use it sparingly.

Beat.

CLEO (CONT'D)

There's something else.

TALITHA

What?

CLEO

I want to question you about events  
in your childhood.

A long beat.

TALITHA

No.

CLEO

It's difficult I know...

TALITHA

Won't they think: Lady Tease  
strangled Hannah in revenge for her  
own...

Breaks off.

CLEO

Abuse.

TALITHA

Whatever.

CLEO

Not whatever.

TALITHA

Still though. Abused becomes abuser  
etcetera.

CLEO

I've given it a lot of thought and  
it's a risk but we can cover that  
with some expert evidence.

TALITHA

I can't fake things, Cleo. I mean I  
can, of course I can, but I can't  
be...(somebody different).

CLEO

Be yourself.

TALITHA

Be myself? You sure about that?

CLEO

Be yourselves then.

TALITHA

Be. Your. Selves.

(beat)

Wow you are deep, Cleo.

CLEO

I know that. Listen to me, Talitha,  
and listen really carefully. They  
have attacked your character over  
and over again. They have  
weaponised your gender and your  
class and your sexual history  
against you. Dhillon's defence, the  
Vendler letter... everybody in this  
country who is following the case  
knows you as Lady Tease.

(beat)

We MUST break that if we are to  
have a chance of winning this.

A critical moment.

**DAY 12 OF TRIAL - NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH**

16

INT. COURTROOM - DAY 18

16

Cleo coming into court. Stops as she hears her name called.

BRIAN (O.S.)

Cleo!

Turns to see him. He comes over to her and takes some photos  
from an envelope. They are DIFFERENT photos of Talitha at  
Green Man.

One shows her *clearly with the bracelet on her hand*. Another shows a tent with piles of rucksacks thrown carelessly together.

CLEO

Well done. Must have taken a bit of slog.

BRIAN

It's not all taking a baseball bat to NIMBYs.

CLEO

I'll give them to our expert witness. He's clear the fragment could have lasted from then if we have evidence of the bracelet being worn.

Turns to go.

BRIAN

Cleo!

She turns back.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

That thing.

She looks at him. Doesn't need to ask what thing. He nods slowly and deliberately. Is he saying: it's true? Is he saying: do it? Either way...

CLEO

Thanks.

17 INT. COURTROOM - DAY 18

17

The most important moment in the trial. Talitha is now on the stand. She looks out at everybody and everybody looks back at her. She seems fragile, much smaller and plainer than the Lady Tease persona that has been given to her.

Cleo smiles at her. She gives a tiny smile back.

CLEO

OK, Talitha, let me just take you back to the night of the ball...

And we run a series of snapshots of Talitha ending with our hero shot of her dancing with the scarf.

CLEO (CONT'D)

What happened to the scarf?

18

INT. COURTROOM - DAY 18

18

TALITHA

I don't know.

CLEO

You really have no idea?

TALITHA

None whatsoever. It got lost somewhere.

CLEO

OK. If you can't remember something you can't remember.

TALITHA

I remember the Ferris Wheel was really cool and I definitely had the scarf because I was messing about with it. I was still quite sober then.

CLEO

What happened after the Ferris Wheel?

TALITHA

We took some more drugs, danced, did the whole ball thing. I think I crashed out for a bit in the chill-out zone. Then Dhillon came and said we had to go.

CLEO

And?

TALITHA

And we went. Walked home.

CLEO

Did you go to Hannah's?

TALITHA

No.

CLEO

Did you suggest 'having a word' with her?

TALITHA

No.

CLEO

Sorting her out? Getting 'Moneyz' to sort her out?



TALITHA

No.

CLEO

Did Dhillon?

TALITHA

No.

CLEO

Did he discuss her at all?

TALITHA

I don't remember. Maybe 'cos we'd seen her at the ball and she called me a silver-spooned whore again I do remember that.

CLEO

Alright. Did you still have your scarf with you?

TALITHA

I wasn't really sure I still had my face with me to be honest.

A few grins in the jury.

CLEO

How about your bracelet?

TALITHA

Well sure because the cops tested it later.

CLEO

Do you know how the micro-fragment got there?

TALITHA

No idea.

CLEO

Had you ever handled the rucksack at any other time?

TALITHA

Don't see why I would.

CLEO

How about the Green Man festival?

TALITHA

I mean I've got a rubbish memory but I doubt if many people could remember whether they touched somebody's rucksack at a festival so...

CLEO

Sure fine, we do have some  
photographic evidence of the  
festival that we will be showing  
the jury later on.

Looks at her papers to allow the jury a second.

CLEO (CONT'D)

Can you tell me how much money you  
took from your parents while you  
were at college?

TALITHA

None. I supported myself.

CLEO

Through...

TALITHA

I did some sex work like a lot of  
girls at college. But other stuff  
too.

CLEO

So being called Lady Tease...

TALITHA

Oh that was just a joke! A friend  
called me that - I don't really  
mind.

CLEO

A silver-spooned whore?

TALITHA

Yes that annoyed me a lot. But that  
was Hannah right I mean everybody  
has her down as some (kind of)...

Cleo is touching her earlobe.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

...she could give as good as she  
got. Hannah was somebody I fell out  
with but I mean... who hasn't had a  
falling out at school or  
university?

CLEO

Who indeed.

It's all quite third gear stuff and then suddenly...

CLEO (CONT'D)

Do you enjoy strangling people  
during sex, Talitha?

That's suddenly changed the mood in the court.

TALITHA  
I haven't tried it.  
(beat)  
And I've tried most things I wanted  
to...

CLEO  
So Dhillon is lying about that.

TALITHA  
He's lying about everything.

CLEO  
Have you ever used your scarf to  
strangle anybody during sex?

TALITHA  
No.

CLEO  
Have you ever engaged in any kind  
of consensual sexual activity  
involving humiliation or role play?

TALITHA  
Yes.  
(beat)  
But with the sex work so it was  
usually me being humiliated also it  
depends what you mean by  
consensual.

CLEO  
That you or others agree by choice  
and critically that you or others  
are free to make that choice.

TALITHA  
Yes.  
(beat)  
Mostly.

CLEO  
Mostly?

Talitha looks at her. She looks down at her hands. There is  
great concentration and tension in the courtroom.

CLEO (CONT'D)  
It might help if I reminded you  
that before somebody is sixteen  
years old they cannot be deemed to  
give consent.

Talitha looks at her. She swallows. She looks up at the  
ceiling.

In the gallery Damian is now staring at Cleo who is impervious to him.

TALITHA  
(to Cleo)  
You know. You've always known.

CLEO  
I would like you to tell the court.

TALITHA  
What's the point though? It will just sound like...

CLEO  
Don't worry about what things sound like.  
(beat)  
Just remember the importance of telling the truth.

Long beat.

TALITHA  
So my mum had these parties.

Stops again.

TALITHA (CONT'D)  
Sometimes I went to those parties.

CLEO  
How old were you then?

TALITHA  
Fourteen. Fifteen.

CLEO  
What happened at those parties?

TALITHA  
I had sex with most of the men there.

CLEO  
You were raped by most of the men there.

TALITHA  
Legally I suppose yeah.

CLEO  
No suppose about it. And did your mother know this was happening?

TALITHA  
She watched.

A murmur. In the jury box, Mrs Plain puts her hands into a praying gesture and almost chews the ends of her fingers.

CLEO

How did that make you feel?

TALITHA

I don't know.

CLEO

How do you think it affected you?

TALITHA

I don't really do 'blame the parents'.

CLEO

Sure but do you think it changed you in some way?

Beat.

TALITHA

Maybe. To be honest I think I would always have been a bit of a brat.

(as if something just occurred to her)

When I get really stressed I sing to myself. It helps my breathing. That's what...behind that glass sometimes...

Indicates the dock.

CLEO

OK.

TALITHA

This French nursery rhyme I learned when I was a little girl. It's about some cabin boy who goes to sea and they run out of food and have to draw straws for who gets eaten. Anyway, the kid gets the short straw and it looks like curtains for him so he prays really hard...

JUDGE

Wait, I know that song! Doesn't his saint grant a miracle and it rains fish on the boat?

TALITHA

That's right so they eat the fish not the kid. Weird shit really.

JUDGE

It is a bit but that's the French  
and fish I suppose.

(and she smiles - a kind  
smile at Talitha)

Carry on, Ms Roberts.

TALITHA

Anyway, I know that singing started  
around the time of those parties.  
So, you know, maybe...

She shrugs.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

...I mean afterwards my mum always  
insisted I had enjoyed it. Said I  
was a little whore - and she meant  
that as praise.

(beat)

That I even demanded to go to the  
parties. And maybe that's true I  
don't know any more.

Cleo glances at Dhillon in the dock.

CLEO

Oh that's a very old trick of  
abusers.

She looks hard at the jury.

CLEO (CONT'D)

Say somebody instigated it.

JUDGE

That is not a question is it, Ms  
Roberts.

CLEO

It absolutely isn't. No further  
questions, Your Honour.

TALITHA

Wait!

All attention on her.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

The whole truth right? Nothing but  
the truth?

A moment.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

My mother also abused me at those  
parties.

Cleo's face. She did not know this part. This is the first time Talitha has ever spoken about it.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

She performed a sex act on me for their benefit.

(beat)

That happened more than once.

The court is still, silent, in shock.

Mrs Plain is looking at Talitha. And her expression has changed a little - she almost looks as if she would give her a hug or make her a cup of tea like a proper mum should.

Cleo glances at Damian. His face is drawn and devastated. We should be in no doubt that he did not know THIS part either.

19 EXT. COURT - DAY 18

19

Absolute pandemonium as Damian leaves. Shouts of *did you know your daughter was being abused, Sir Damian? Where were you when this was going on?*

Brian barges one roughly away.

BRIAN

Get back or I'll knock your fucking head off!

Damian gets into the car and it drives away through the mob.

PRESENTER

*...sensational revelations in court today as Talitha Campbell alleged abuse not only by various celebrities but also her own mother, socialite Lady Cressida Campbell...*

20 INT. JAMES'S HOUSE - DAY 18

20

Laura and James watching news reports of the trial.

LAURA

Still doesn't mean she's innocent.

JAMES

It doesn't.

LAURA

Maybe she got so fucked up by it that...you know...

JAMES

Yeah that interpretation was a risk for Cleo but actually she got a lot of sympathy.

LAURA

Yours too from the sound of it.

He shrugs.

JAMES

She was abused. How would I not have sympathy for her?

LAURA

Maybe she's lying.

JAMES

She turned down plenty of opportunities to lie when it would have suited her to do so.

LAURA

Cleo's smart. Maybe she coached her.

He nods wearily and rubs his eyes. Maybe. But his doubts have only increased. He stares at the mobile in his hands.

21 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY 18

21

Damian is standing looking out at the dark water.

Cleo is just behind him.

He turns to face her. She advances bravely.

CLEO

I've told them to drain the lake if I don't return.

He stares at her. There will be no levity.

DAMIAN

I had no idea. About the last part anyway.

CLEO

I didn't know that either.

DAMIAN

I knew things weren't right. And I did nothing.

CLEO

She told me you were mostly away.



He nods as if that detail is completely irrelevant.

CLEO (CONT'D)

It was one of my only cards - if I didn't rebuild her character she was....

DAMIAN

It's done.

CLEO

And it helped her.

DAMIAN

I could tell from the jury reaction.

CLEO

The Green Man photos that Brian has dug up will also help. Emma's got a good forensics expert.

He nods dumbly. Obviously can only think about what has taken place.

CLEO (CONT'D)

So where's...(your wife)

DAMIAN

Uruguay.

CLEO

Bit random.

DAMIAN

Not if you're Uruguayan.

(beat)

Cressy has family there - cattle ranchers.

CLEO

I imagine access would be difficult for nosy journalists.

DAMIAN

They'd end up in a tin of corned beef.

(kicks at the ground aimlessly)

Used to be the home of Fray Bentos but production's mostly shifted to Brazil now.

CLEO

That's the kind of niche information that will definitely come in handy some time.

He smiles faintly.

DAMIAN

You're good at your job. I like people who are good at their jobs.

CLEO

Thank you.

DAMIAN

Winning is all important to me.

CLEO

Winning is all important to me.

DAMIAN

I can see that.

CLEO

Good not everybody can.

DAMIAN

It can't be true though - you threw your career away once.

CLEO

I should have added: winning on my terms which include doing my professional duty. Otherwise it's not a real victory.

DAMIAN

I disagree. A win is a win even if you tamper with the ball.

CLEO

That's why I'm a better person than you.

DAMIAN

Not a happier one though.

A moment. Is Cleo happy? Perhaps she thinks there are more important things than personal happiness?

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

But that doesn't matter. Happiness is unimportant overall.

He considers her for a second longer, then turns away and looks out over the water again.

CLEO

I'll see you in court again then?

He makes a vague gesture with his hand. Does not turn around.

DAMIAN  
(calls out)  
I want to see her now. You owe me  
that, Cleo.

CLEO  
I'll fix it.  
(without looking back)  
Ask for her forgiveness.

And she walks away leaving him by the lake shore when  
suddenly her phone rings. JAMES. She answers

CLEO (CONT'D)  
Hi, James.

Listens.

CLEO (CONT'D)  
OK. Right.

Starts to walk away.

CLEO (CONT'D)  
I will insist they produce it for  
me.

She heads off trailing conversation while Damian stands alone  
looking out over the dark lake.

**TRIAL DAY 13 - LIAR'S A NOUN**

22

INT. COURTROOM - DAY 19

22

Talitha is back in the dock facing Adam.

ADAM  
Who initiated your relationship  
with Stephen Vendler?

TALITHA  
Do you mean who finally slipped the  
move?

A smile from Adam.

ADAM  
Yes.

TALITHA  
I did. But you know he was  
literally wearing one of those  
sandwich boards with an arrow  
pointing...

She indicates downwards to the anatomical destination. A few  
murmurs of laughter.

ADAM

How long did it last?

TALITHA

It was kind of on and off really.  
Sometimes he'd get in a panic with  
his conscience but he was pretty  
weak.

ADAM

You exploited his weakness.

TALITHA

I didn't need to. He would usually  
call me and if I felt like it...

She shrugs.

ADAM

So it was during one of the times  
that you 'felt like it' that he  
told you that Hannah Ellis was  
making a complaint about your best  
friend Dhillon Harwood.

TALITHA

That's right.

ADAM

And that made you angry.

TALITHA

Yes.

ADAM

Why?

TALITHA

Because I thought she was  
exaggerating to get Dhillon into  
trouble and to get closer to  
Vendler because she fancied him.

ADAM

So you were jealous of her?

TALITHA

I just thought it was transparent  
and a bit pathetic.

ADAM

And you told Dhillon?

TALITHA

Yes.

ADAM

How did he react?

TALITHA

He was worried because of the whole business with Lucinda Bright. And this was much more serious really 'cos unlike that fruitcake Hannah was Little Miss Perfect.

Cleo has no time to get hand to ear. Ice creaks a bit under Talitha.

ADAM

So you were jealous?

TALITHA

I thought she played up the whole genius-from-a-council-estate a bit. 'I'm not like all you posh Oxbridge rejects'.

ADAM

You don't see yourself as a posh Oxbridge reject?

TALITHA

Maybe but I think people have personalities as well as labels.

One of the jurors nods to this - it's a good recovery.

ADAM

How would you describe your personality?

TALITHA

How would you describe yours?

Now Cleo does give her ear a little tug.

ADAM

I'm asking...

TALITHA

Sorry, I know, I was just trying to point out: it's hard to describe a personality in a single answer. Especially one's own.

JUDGE

I think that is a fair comment, Mr Reynolds.

TALITHA

I mean do you want four adjectives like in a job interview or something?

ADAM

OK let's start with that.

Talitha glances at Cleo. In this moment there is deep silent communication between them.

TALITHA

Impatient.

She smiles at Adam as if in mock-apology and it is rather charming which does not go unnoticed by the jury.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

Easily-bored. Sorry some are  
hyphenated because I'm complicated  
that's three.

(beat)

Loyal.

At this point she flashes Dhillon a withering look.

ADAM

How about violent?

TALITHA

No.

(beat)

Not physically anyway. I hate  
seeing people in pain. Not because  
I'm Greta Thunberg either; I just  
find it ugly.

ADAM

So why did you tell Stephen Vendler  
that you fantasized about killing  
somebody during sex?

A beat.

ADAM (CONT'D)

Did you tell him that, Talitha?

TALITHA

I might have done.

Adam looks at the jury stagily perplexed.

ADAM

You might have done?

TALITHA

I don't actually recall ever saying  
that. But it's definitely possible.

Jury frown - what's she saying here?

ADAM

And yet you said you're not...

TALITHA

Stephen liked to talk. Especially when we'd done a bit of coke. You know: scenarios.

ADAM

Scenarios.

TALITHA

He would pester me sometimes to tell him extreme stuff that he would get off on.

ADAM

And you didn't "get off" on it?

TALITHA

I tend to find men nagging me for details about my sexual fantasies extremely boring.

(beat)

Even when they've got funny wigs on.

In the jury box, a couple of women smile including - crucially - Mrs Plain.

ADAM

So you just...made it up for his benefit?

Talitha's eyes sparkle at the open goal.

TALITHA

OK look I hate to break this to you but there's something you need to know.. (about women).

A proper outburst of laughter now, even from the men on the jury. Adam is flustered.

ADAM

So this was his fantasy is that what you're saying?

TALITHA

No. I'm saying that he liked me to talk about scenarios that in the cold light of day might sound weird, disgusting, or even ridiculous.

ADAM

And that was one of them?

TALITHA

I honestly don't think that was one of them.

ADAM

So how do you explain it?

TALITHA

I think he's remembered more general stuff that might have been said and then fitted it to a crime whose details he already knew.

ADAM

Why?

TALITHA

I don't know; because he was angry with me and because he had a bad conscience about it all and because in the end maybe...at a guess...to shift the blame.

ADAM

He killed himself! Do you consider that shifting the blame?

TALITHA

I said it was a guess.

JUDGE

She is quite correct, Mr Reynolds, you cannot expect her to tell you what was on Mr Vendler's mind.

ADAM

Do you have a bad conscience about it all?

TALITHA

No because I haven't done anything.

ADAM

You told Dhillon about Hannah's complaint didn't you?

TALITHA

I warned Dhillon.

ADAM

And you threatened Hannah in a series of texts didn't you?

TALITHA

Because I don't like being called a whore.

ADAM

Might you consider adding "liar" to your list of adjectives?



The judge is obviously about to reprimand him for this but Talitha gets in first.

TALITHA

No because liar's a noun.

Even Nisha laughs out loud at this one.

23 INT. COURT, CORRIDOR - DAY 19

23

James with Cleo.

JAMES

What do you mean: can't locate it?

CLEO

What do the cops normally mean?

JAMES

They usually take longer than this to misplace something.

(thinks)

Hillcroft you miserable coward.

CLEO

He's told Cassidy you asked to see it and she's told him to bin it.

JAMES

She wouldn't do that. He's told Lowell and together...

CLEO

Yes that might be right.

He sees cops approaching.

JAMES

Come on...

24 INT. CAFE - DAY 19

24

James and Cleo with coffees.

JAMES

Recall Cassidy.

CLEO

And ask her what?

JAMES

Ask her what the missing evidence shows.

CLEO

She'll say there was a ton of evidence and she doesn't remember.

JAMES

No she won't.

CLEO

Of course she...

JAMES

I'll talk to her. She won't.

CLEO

She'll hang, draw and quarter you. She'll literally feed your entrails to Andy Lowell.

Beat.

JAMES

It's not a slam-dunk but it does create doubt especially given Dhillon totally denied it.

CLEO

99.9% of my job.

JAMES

Still evens they both go down.

CLEO

Maybe.

JAMES

Big risk putting Talitha in the witness box with that personality.

CLEO

It was but nobody's calling her Lady Tease any more.

(beat)

You gonna tell Cassidy you've told me?

JAMES

Yup.

Shakes his head.

JAMES (CONT'D)

I don't think I'll be Sweet Baby James for much longer.

She raises an eyebrow.

DI CASSIDY (O.S.)  
YOU LITTLE CUNT. YOU TRAITOR. YOU  
FUCKING GUTLESS EUNUCH.

He's right...

25 EXT. COURT, CARPARK - DAY 19

25

...James is walking towards his car pursued by Cassidy. You might say she is fairly cheesed off.

DI CASSIDY  
What the fuck, James, what the  
actual fuck?

JAMES  
Blame your officers and give them  
the drinkaware app.

DI CASSIDY  
It's NOTHING.

JAMES  
Then why did you mark it as not  
relevant?

DI CASSIDY  
It was a judgement call. There is  
tons of footage...

JAMES  
But none that shows Dhillon and  
Talitha playing with the scarf and  
it ending AROUND HIS NECK.

DI CASSIDY  
That's inconclusive.

JAMES  
The fact that it has now  
disappeared completely isn't  
though.

DI CASSIDY  
That wasn't my doing. I would  
never...

JAMES  
No I bet Lowell leaned on Hillcroft  
because he's scared of you.

DI CASSIDY  
Shut up scared you haven't got  
a...(clue).  
(shakes head)  
They've made it ten times worse  
now.

JAMES

I'm sorry, Paula. You're a good officer I know that...

DI CASSIDY

Oh fuck off, you sanctimonious creep. I hope when that smirking little bitch is walking the streets again you will be able to look Andrea Ellis in the eye.

JAMES

I'll be able to look myself in the eye.

DI CASSIDY

Not in this town, buddy.

(beat)

You'd better hope the judge allows it as well.

26

INT. COURTROOM - DAY 19

26

The judge has all the counsel assembled.

JUDGE

Talitha Campbell's defence has requested a recall for DI Cassidy.

NISHA

Why?

EMMA

We have requested evidence from the police that has not been forthcoming.

JUDGE

Misplaced apparently. Both copies. And that makes me extremely uncomfortable.

EMMA

The evidence relates to the scarf.

NISHA

But if it's not there it's not evidence any more.

ADAM

It was seen by a member of the CPS.

NISHA

Who?

Adam won't answer this.

EMMA

I just want to ask DI Cassidy what the evidence showed as I believe it might be helpful to my client's defence. I believe that it might contradict a statement Cassidy made during the prosecution examination and also Dhillon's denial at ever having worn the scarf.

The judge considers.

NISHA

I think this is entirely inappropriate and certainly gives us grounds for an appeal.

JUDGE

(to Emma)

You can bring Cassidy back.

**TRIAL DAY 14 - BUTCH CASSIDY'S LAST STAND**

28

INT. COURTROOM - DAY 20

28

Cassidy NOW on the stand facing Emma.

EMMA

DI Cassidy can I take you back to the evidence you gave during your examination by the prosecution?

DI CASSIDY

Go ahead.

EMMA

My learned friend asked if Talitha had worn the scarf throughout the entire ball?

DI CASSIDY

Correct.

EMMA

And you said yes.

DI CASSIDY

She was. In all the evidence I saw.

EMMA

Did you ever see Dhillon wearing the scarf?

Beat.

DI CASSIDY

There was a lot of mobile evidence...

EMMA

I didn't ask if there was a lot of mobile evidence. I asked if you ever saw a clip that showed Talitha dancing and fooling around with Dhillon.

DI CASSIDY

I don't remember every clip.

EMMA

And at one point in that clip Dhillon wraps the scarf around his own neck and wears it on the dancefloor. *And is not seen to return it.*

A long beat. The jury fidget.

EMMA (CONT'D)

This was seen by more than just you, DI Cassidy. It was seen by your disclosure officer DC Hillcroft. It was seen by the CPS who have finally brought it to our attention.

Cassidy is in deep trouble here.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Your answer was willfully misleading wasn't it? Yes Talitha was wearing it in all the evidence.

(beat)

*But not all the time.*

Silence.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Would you agree, DI Cassidy?

DI CASSIDY

I was not deliberately misleading the jury.

EMMA

Would you agree that you saw evidence that Dhillon Harwood was wearing the scarf?

DI CASSIDY

Not wearing exactly.

EMMA

Was the scarf connected physically to Dhillon Harwood and not connected physically to Talitha Campbell?

DI CASSIDY

I believe so but I don't remember so well there was a lot of...

EMMA

Would you like to tell the jury why they can't see the piece of evidence that shows Dhillon wearing of the scarf?

DI CASSIDY

(mutters)

It has been misplaced.

EMMA

I'm sorry could you...

DI CASSIDY

IT HAS BEEN MISPLACED. That happens.

EMMA

(incredulous)

Both copies?

DI CASSIDY

This was an extraordinarily complex case with thousands of pieces of evidence.

EMMA

And yet you managed to keep hold of all the evidence that favoured the prosecution I see.

JUDGE

That is not a question, Ms Hemmings.

EMMA

No. Just one last question, Your Honour.

Looks back at DI Cassidy.

EMMA (CONT'D)

Is this the first time in your professional career that you have allowed your obvious dislike for a suspect to so cloud your judgement?

JUDGE

You are taking liberties now, Ms Hemmings.

She scowls at Cassidy.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Although I feel compelled to point out that police evidence has been less than satisfactory on this matter, DI Cassidy.

EMMA

(sweetly)

No further questions.

And our final montage/sound sequence.

29

MONTAGE SCENE

29

**TRIAL DAY 15-16 EXPERT WITNESSES**

(The sound of Emma's forensics giving evidence about the bracelet. Also a psychological expert giving evidence on abuse and scotching the idea that victims always go on to abuse others tbw)

**TRIAL DAY 17 TALITHA CAMPBELL'S DEFENCE RESTS**

(Judge summing up - a few vital points tbw)

30

INT. LAKESIDE LODGE - DAY 21

30

Cleo, Brian, Damian, Emma. Eating sushi around a table.

EMMA

Doubt. Over the bracelet, over the scarf, over Cassidy's evidential integrity.

CLEO

None of Talitha's DNA actually on the wine bottle, on Hannah's body, or anywhere else.

31

INT. CPS, MEETING ROOM - DAY 21

31

Virginia, Adam (vaping), James with a bag of crisps and a coke.

JAMES

Straw-clutching. Yeah but this, yeah but that.



ADAM  
(nods)  
What if the other.

JAMES  
Some on the jury are going to go  
with their instincts on this.  
Defence can shout "doubt"...

ADAM  
And they will for sure.

JAMES  
But that can backfire. "Why are  
they using that defence"? If  
they're just pleading for doubt  
does it mean that they suspect what  
I think happened as well?

32 INT. HARWOOD HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 21

32

Meera and Nisha.

NISHA  
She told Vendler that she  
fantasised about killing girls  
during sex.

MEERA  
And just saying 'I might have said  
something a bit like that' is a bit  
bloody weak.

NISHA  
On top of all the other flimsy  
shit. Fucking Cassidy though - that  
was a sting in the tail.

MEERA  
But they don't have anything to  
actually look at.

NISHA  
That makes it worse.

33 INT. LAKESIDE LODGE - DAY 21

33

Talitha's defence team.

BRIAN  
Not having the scarf footage is  
good. It means we can maximise it  
in their minds.

CLEO

He could have put it in his pocket  
even then. Point is he had it.

EMMA

(listing)

Doubt. Weak forensics. Biased Cops.

34 INT. CPS, MEETING ROOM - DAY 21

34

Prosecution team.

JAMES

(listing)

Credible forensics. Straw-  
clutching. Bonnie and Clyde.

35 INT. HARWOOD HOUSE, KITCHEN - DAY 21

35

Dhillon's defence.

NISHA

(listing)

Vendler. Character. History.

36 INT. LAKESIDE LODGE - DAY 21

36

Last word now to Cleo.

CLEO

Who is on trial here? A fragile yet  
resilient young woman called  
Talitha Campbell who had a falling  
out with another student? Or the  
fictional Lady Tease created by a  
prurient media to get abusers off  
the hook yet again?

EMMA

That's good. Most of the jury won't  
know what 'prurient' means.

CLEO

It doesn't matter if they know the  
meaning, it's how it sounds.

DAMIAN

(to Emma)

Drop prurient.

Prelap...

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

*So the judge has finished her summing up and sent the jury to decide the fate of two young people.*

37

EXT. COURT - DAY 22

37

NEWS REPORTER

*Now the jury has to decide between the Prosecution case that both of the accused are guilty. Dhillon Harwood's defence that he was present but not responsible, led astray by his co-defendant. And Talitha Campbell's simple insistence that she knows nothing whatsoever about the crime. Her defence team finished with a strong condemnation of the role of a "prurient media" in the case creating what they labelled a "showtrial" based on weaponising her gender and perceived social privilege...*

38

INT. PRISON, VISITOR'S ROOM - DAY 22

38

Talitha looks up as somebody walks towards her.

But it's not Cleo.

Damian looks at his daughter for a moment.

TALITHA

I'm only doing this because you pay for Cleo.

He nods. Takes a seat.

DAMIAN

Cleo said I should ask for your forgiveness.

TALITHA

Bullshit don't bother.

DAMIAN

I agree. Won't get us anywhere.

TALITHA

And you'd have to actually care enough to want it.

DAMIAN

No it's not...it's just...too late really. And too much to ask in the circumstances.

TALITHA

So why are you here?

He considers this.

DAMIAN

I wanted to say sorry. Which is a bit different.

TALITHA

What for?

DAMIAN

For losing sight of you.

TALITHA

It was never there to lose.

He shakes his head.

DAMIAN

I had an old vinyl 45 of French nursery rhymes - no idea where it came from, a friend of my mother I think. Anyway, that song was on it and I taught it to you when you were small and couldn't get to sleep. Then I gave you the record and you played it all the time on that little red turntable thing you had.

She nods.

TALITHA

I lost it somewhere.

Unfillable silence and sorrow.

DAMIAN

I'm sorry you drew such a short straw, Talitha.

(He's referring to the song).

TALITHA

Let's just hope my Saint can work miracles I guess.

DAMIAN

Well she's certainly been paid enough.

Beat.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)  
Goodbye. Thank you for seeing me.

She nods. He exits. She looks around her at her bleak cell.

TALITHA  
(half-singing very softly)  
Ô Sainte Vierge ô ma patronne, si  
j'ai péché vite pardonne...

She breaks off. Bows her head and looks down at her hands clasped as if in prayer.

But HAS she sinned? And will a miracle save her?

39 EXT. OUTSIDE COURT - DAY 23 39

The usual media scrum. Even more protestors, even more conflicting placards and opinions being given.

40 INT. COURT, CORRIDOR / INT. COURT, JURY ROOM - DAY 23 40

An usher walking to the jury room in response to a signal. Opens the door and we see the jury sitting at their table.

CLERK  
Have you elected a foreperson?

Mrs Plain - of course - raises a hand.

CLERK (CONT'D)  
Have you reached a verdict on which  
you are all agreed?

MRS PLAIN  
Yes.

41 INT. COURTROOM - DAY 23 41

Everybody is there. The butterflies in stomachs are creating an absolute cacophony. Mrs Plain is standing with her hands clasped in front of her. She has a charm bracelet on her wrist and a gold wedding ring. She has dressed up for the moment and represents something quintessentially, fantastically decent. She is trembling slightly but she knows her duty and is prepared to carry it out.

CLERK  
On the charge of murder, do you  
find the defendant Dhillon Harwood  
guilty or not guilty?

A moment.

MRS PLAIN

Guilty.

Gasps. A half-sob from Meera. Dhillon buries his head in his hands. Talitha stares in front of her.

CLERK

And on the charge of murder, do you  
find the defendant Talitha Campbell  
guilty or not guilty?

An AGONISING SECOND.

MRS PLAIN

Not guilty.

A collective gasp of release and in some cases astonishment. Adam bows his head in disappointment. Emma gives a tiny fist-pump. Cleo looks at Talitha who opens her eyes and stares wide-eyed at her. The judge starts some procedural chit-chat about what happens next...

DISSOLVE TO:

42

EXT. COURT - DAY 23

42

James is with Andrea Ellis. She is shellshocked.

ANDREA

I don't know what to think, James.

JAMES

Think that justice has been done  
for Hannah.

ANDREA

Has it though? What if...

JAMES

Don't think about what ifs. Dhillon  
definitely killed her. He is going  
to prison.

They see Cassidy and Lowell together. It doesn't look like a comfortable conversation.

ANDREA

She'll never be my Hannah again.  
She'll just be the Hannah Ellis  
case.

JAMES

No. She will always be your  
beautiful daughter.

(beat)

I wanted to ask your permission for  
something.

Andrea looks at him.

JAMES (CONT'D)

My wife is pregnant. It's a girl.  
We like the name anyway but...we  
were considering Hannah as a middle  
name.

Andrea's eyes fill with tears. She cannot speak but she nods.  
She wipes her eyes.

ANDREA

She'll be clever. She'll be kind.  
She'll be special.

JAMES

She might struggle with a flatpack.

She laughs through her tears and takes his hands.

ANDREA

Thank you. I'll never forget your  
kindness.

He hugs her.

43 EXT. COURT - DAY 23

43

Meera Harwood fighting a scrum of reporters. Shouted  
questions. *Are you going to appeal? Will you resign from  
parliament? How do you feel about the fact your son swore on  
your life?*

44 INT./EXT. NISHA'S CAR / COURT CARPARK - DAY 23

44

Meera sitting with her hands folded in front of her. Her face  
is flat with misery and shock. Nisha is driving.

NISHA

Where do you want to go?

Meera does not answer.

NISHA (CONT'D)

Meera.

Her face. Still. Silent. Where can she go now? She takes a  
pack of cigarettes from her pocket. Winds down the window.

Lights the cigarette. The smoke blows out as shadows of  
reporters move around the car desperate for a shot.

**ON SCREEN: SEVEN DAYS AFTER TRIAL VERDICT**

45

INT. CLEO'S OFFICE - DAY 24

45

Cleo is at her desk when Heidi comes in.

HEIDI

Visitor.

Talitha comes in behind her. She is carrying a bag.

TALITHA

Yo!

Cleo regards her steadily.

CLEO

Going away?

TALITHA

Guess.

CLEO

Paris.

TALITHA

It's my city, Cleo, I need to get this provincial shithole out of my hair.

CLEO

You go, girl.

Beat.

TALITHA

So I came to say goodbye.

CLEO

I'm glad you did.

TALITHA

Funny to think you were just the duty solicitor.

CLEO

It is a bit.

TALITHA

I'm not going to see you again after this am I?

CLEO

No I don't think so.

TALITHA

Just a client.



CLEO

No not just a client. But still a client.

TALITHA

I get it. And you're not gonna marry my dad and become my step-mum?

CLEO

No.

TALITHA

Good because I couldn't handle that - you're more like my sister.

CLEO

I'm nothing like your sister.

TALITHA

No you are actually. And I would have loved a sibling like you instead of that hedge-fund jerk living in Shanghai.

CLEO

OK well I won't argue.

Talitha smiles.

TALITHA

We did it, Cleo.

CLEO

Yeah we did.

Talitha smiles strangely.

TALITHA

*We so totally fooled 'em.*

Cleo stares at her. Goosebumps. Hairs on neck etc. Talitha cackles with glee.

TALITHA (CONT'D)

Ha ha your face. I thought it didn't matter, I thought it was all about the process.

(beat)

Gotcha!

But in what way has she "got" Cleo? The latter is far too cool to play mindgames now though.

CLEO

Send me a photo from the Eiffel Tower.

TALITHA

You got it.

Talitha exits. Cleo sits down. She half-laughs to herself.  
Her phone rings.

CLEO

McKinnon and Roberts, Cleo Roberts  
speaking...

Grabs a pen.

CLEO (CONT'D)

OK and what time was he  
arrested...what kind of knife...?

She goes to the window, phone in hand, and looks out. Talitha  
crossing the road looks back up at her.

Mimes a heart and blows her a kiss.

46

EXT. STREET - DAY 24

46

Talitha walking. She is humming a little to herself. Then we  
hear the tiny refrain of her comfort song.

TALITHA

*Il partit por un long voyage, il  
partit por un long voyage...sur la  
mer Me-Me-Meditarane...*

What will her long voyage consist of though? One thing the  
camera picks out though: she no longer has the green  
fingernails of her opening.

We pull back to show the city in which she is now just a tiny  
dot and the song itself - a reminder of violence and abuse as  
well as escape - playing out over end credits.

SONG

*Ohe ohe Matelot. Matelot navigue  
sur les flots...*

**END OF SERIES**