

2/1

INT. TV STUDIO/MELBOURNE - DAY 19 12:50

2/1

Joanna's face. Her eyes shut as makeup is applied to her face.

MAKE-UP

Open.

Joanna's eyes open.

MAKE-UP (CONT'D)

Shut.

Her eyes shut. A brush works on her eyelid.

Joanna, face made up, hair perfect, stands still while a mic is attached to her blouse. Alistair stands beside her. The mic technician finishes his job and moves away. They appraise themselves in a full length mirror.

JOANNA

I brought the blue dress too.

ALISTAIR

No, that's good. You OK?

Joanna's smooth exterior can't quite hide her nervousness. She nods quickly. A man comes up to them.

FLOOR DIRECTOR

Five minutes.

ALISTAIR

Thank you.

They walk out of the room towards a set. Cameras and lights. A sofa and an armchair opposite. A few people milling about. Someone hands Joanna and Alistair a bottle of water each.

Technicians go through last minute checks. A make-up person removes tissue paper from Joanna's blouse and checks their faces.

Then they are alone. Alistair takes Joanna's hand. He whispers to her.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)

Do you think you might cry?

Joanna just looks at him. Alistair takes a small packet of tissues from his pocket and hands them to her. Beckoned by the floor director they walk towards the interview chairs.

TITLE SEQUENCE -

THE CRY

2/2

EXT. ELOURA STREET/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 14 21:50

2/2

The car is parked outside the convenience store. The back door is open. The baby capsule is empty. Joanna is staring at the empty space. A policewoman is behind her. Joanna is startled when the policewoman places her hand on Joanna's wrist. Joanna gasps. But she turns and sees the kindness and concern on the policewoman's face and a blanket is placed around her shoulders. There is a small crowd now around the car. More police are setting up the crime scene. Alexandra, Chloe and Elizabeth have been placed behind the police tape. Joanna is led to a police car. She looks around the crowd of strangers and police and finds Alistair talking to Peter Alexiades. She is given a hot drink. People are talking but she can't hear them. She has eyes only for Alistair. He finally looks up at her.

Alistair and Detective Alexiades are standing in front of Joanna. They are looking at her expectantly - waiting for a response. Joanna's mind has blanked out the last five minutes.

ALISTAIR

Where's your bag? Your handbag.
Where is it?

Joanna searches her mind for the answer.

CHLOE

Dad!

Chloe has Joanna's bag. She holds it out and Alistair gets it.

JOANNA

I don't know...

Alistair gives it to her.

PETER ALEXIADES

Joanna, is there someone you want to call?

Joanna stares blankly.

PETER ALEXIADES (CONT'D)

Your parents?

JOANNA

I don't have parents.

PETER ALEXIADES

Then I'd like to take your phone.

JOANNA

Yes. Yes take it. They died when I was fifteen.

(CONTINUED)

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2/2 CONTINUED: 2/2

Peter nods, he is experienced around people in shock. Joanna finds her phone in her bag and hands it to Peter. Alistair does the same with his phone.

PETER ALEXIADES
I'm going to ask you both to go
with Officer Woods here.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

PETER ALEXIADES (CONT'D)
He will wait with you until we can
take you down to the station.

Peter nods and Officer Woods is beside them.

JOANNA
Where?

Joanna feels like she can't hear properly, or understand what people are saying.

Joanna brushes her hair away from her face, forgetting she's holding a hot drink in a paper cup. She is splashed with the tea.

PETER ALEXIADES
Are you OK?

JOANNA
Sorry. I forgot.

They follow Officer Woods to a quieter part of the crime scene, away from the phone cameras and the press who have begun to arrive.

CUT TO:

Peter Alexiades is speaking to the camera.

PETER ALEXIADES
There has been a serious incident on Eloura Street, Wilde Bay this evening. I'm not able to comment any further at the moment. We will keep you informed as the investigation continues.

Alistair and Joanna watch the detective, clutching each other. Alistair sees Chloe, Alexandra and Elizabeth, who are behind the police tape that now rings the crime scene. Chloe is wide eyed with fear and confusion. Alexandra has her arms around her - he locks eyes with her.

2/3 INT. SOFT ROOM/POLICE STATION/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 14 23:00 2/3

Joanna and Alistair sit alone in a room at the Police Station. Joanna is expressing breast milk under her shirt. She looks nervous, ragged. They both do.

ALISTAIR
It's alright. Take your time.

Joanna nods.

JOANNA
What will they ask us?

(CONTINUED)

ALISTAIR

Details about what we've done since
we got off the plane. Today.

They look at each other for a long beat.

Alistair watches as Joanna finishes pumping milk and does up
her shirt. He writes a date on the bag of milk.

She holds his hand. He squeezes it. Gives her a smile of
encouragement.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)

I'll ask them to put this in the
fridge. We can take it to Mum's.

The milk.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)

Take your time. They'll wait.

Joanna nods. Alistair leaves with the milk and shuts the door
behind him. Joanna looks at the door for a long beat.

2/4 INT. POLICE STATION/INTERVIEW ROOM/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 14 2/4
23:10

Detective Peter Alexiades and Detective Lorna Jones sit with
Joanna. A camera is recording the interview.

JOANNA

We were going to Elizabeth's for
dinner.

LORNA JONES

You left the Cottage around 8.30?

JOANNA

I think so.

PETER ALEXIADES

You said you parked outside the
convenience store.

JOANNA

We parked the car and Alistair went
into the shop.

Joanna is distressed as she remembers.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

I only left him for a few
minutes... We were parked right out
the front...I

LORNA JONES

It's OK. Why did you get out of the
car?

JOANNA

I forgot I needed tampons.

(CONTINUED)

LORNA JONES
Are you breast-feeding Noah?

JOANNA
Yes.

Detective Jones makes a note in her book. Peter nods at Joanna to continue.

LORNA JONES
How long were you in the shop for?

JOANNA
Two minutes.
He was just there...He was sleeping
I didn't want to wake him...we were
right out the front...

PETER ALEXIADES
It's OK. I want you to think about
what you saw when you came out of
the shop. Was there anything
unusual? Doors open...

JOANNA
No.

PETER ALEXIADES
Anyone on the street? Any cars?

Joanna shakes her head.

JOANNA
I don't remember. Just us. Until
the the boy from the shop came out.

PETER ALEXIADES
Why did he come out?

JOANNA
Because Alistair was screaming.

INTERCUT WITH:

2/5 OMITTED 2/5

2/6 OMITTEDNOW PART OF 2/8 2/6

2/6A EXT ELOURA ST/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 14 21:05

2/6A

The back door of the car is open. Joanna watches Alistair. He runs towards her...

ALISTAIR

Joanna!...Where is he? Someone help us!

There is no baby in the capsule. As people start to gather around them.

2/7 INT. GUEST ROOM/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 2/7
10:45

Joanna is fast asleep in the bed by herself. Gurgling, cooing sounds of a baby bleed into distant sounds of adult voices outside the bedroom, as Joanna wakes up from a deep sleep. She is disoriented, groggy and even with her eyes now open, she is unsure where she is. She sees she is alone in bed, can hear voices outside. And reality hits her. She remembers where she is and that her baby is gone. Her pyjamas are wet with breast milk. She sinks her head in her hands. She has woken to a nightmare.

2/8 INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 10:50 2/8

Joanna walks through the house, a thin robe around her, she stops at the front windows. She sees the press contingent out the front. She walks into the kitchen. Some home made cakes and casserole dishes of food. Elizabeth is making tea. Joanna looks discombobulated. It's late morning.

ELIZABETH

Hello Jo.

JOANNA

I don't have a hairbrush.

ELIZABETH

I'll get you one.

Elizabeth leaves the kitchen to get the hairbrush.

Joanna takes in the newspapers on the table. Joanna feels sick looking at them - photos of Alistair and her plastered on the cover. Elizabeth returns with a hairbrush. She stacks the newspapers up and moves them out of Joanna's sight. Joanna brushes her hair, staring into space while Elizabeth makes tea.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

These all arrived from neighbours.
Alistair went down to The Cottage.
He didn't want to wake you. You
want some toast, or muesli?

(CONTINUED)

JOANNA

Where is Alistair? What is this?
Have they found him?

Elizabeth can see she is in shock. She gives her a glass of water.

ELIZABETH

Here. Alistair went to The Cottage.
He didn't want to wake you. They
haven't found him yet.

(CONTINUED)

JOANNA

Alistair gave me some sleeping
pills last night. I haven't slept
like that since...

She stops herself finish the sentence..."before my baby was
born".

Elizabeth understands. She puts some milk on the tea tray.
Joanna stands mutely by the fridge. Elizabeth is not sure how
to reach out to this girl she hardly knows. Joanna is
suddenly overwhelmed.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

He's not here.

Noah. Joanna struggles to hold back her emotions.

ELIZABETH

Dear girl.

JOANNA

What...what do I do?

Elizabeth hugs her. Blinking back her own tears.

ELIZABETH

OK. One step at a time. Let's have
a cup of tea. Have a shower. Then
we can take you to Alistair.

Joanna follows Elizabeth into the living room. A uniformed
officer and Lorna Jones are there. Elizabeth pours tea, hands
around cake. No-one wants to look at Joanna - but everyone
is.

LORNA JONES

We're here to support you in any
way we can Joanna. You can join
Alistair at the Cottage when you're
ready.

JOANNA

Have you found anything?

Obviously not.

LORNA JONES

We'll keep you informed of any
developments.

Lorna gets a little less officious.

LORNA JONES (CONT'D)

Jo, I wanted to ask you, how well
do you know Alexandra?

(CONTINUED)

Joanna stares at the cup of tea in front of her - like she hasn't heard a word. Elizabeth sits down next to Joanna on the sofa. Puts her hand on Joanna. She looks up.

JOANNA

What?

LORNA JONES

Alistair's ex-wife. Alexandra. How well do you know her?

JOANNA

Alex? I don't know her. Much.

LORNA JONES

When was the last time you spoke to her?

JOANNA

She called me a few weeks ago.

LORNA JONES

What did you discuss?

JOANNA

Um. She was upset with us over the Chloe custody thing. Do you think Alexandra had something to do with Noah?

LORNA

At this point we are trying to get a clear picture of Noah's circle of friends and family.

2/8A EXT. ELOURA STREET/WILDE BAY NIGHT - 14 21:45

2/8A

The crime scene outside the supermarket the night Noah went missing. Alexandra stands alone watching as Chloe is embraced by Alistair.

2/8B EXT. ALEXANDRA'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 11:10

2/8B

Lorna and Peter are at Alexandra's house. Lorna takes note of Alex's car - a red station wagon. Alexandra follows them inside.

PETER ALEXIADES

Can we go inside?

ALEXANDRA

Sure. Please.

Lorna goes in first. Alexandra takes Peter's arm.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

Is this really happening?

Peter nods. Alexandra goes into the house. Peter follows.

2/8C INT. KITCHEN/ALEXANDRA'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 11:12 2/8C

Peter sits at kitchen table taking notes.

LORNA JONES

Mind if I have a look around?

(CONTINUED)

Alexandra is unsure if this is appropriate.

ALEXANDRA

Sure. Sure you can. 'Scuse the mess.

Lorna wanders about, looking around the room and into the back garden. The kettle is on.

PETER ALEXIADES

We need to know your movements from about three o'clock yesterday.

ALEXANDRA

I'm sorry. Why?

PETER ALEXIADES

We are establishing a time line at the moment for everyone connected to Noah.

ALEXANDRA

Alright. Let's see, I did some shopping.

Lorna comes back into the kitchen. She notices Alexandra's hand shaking as she nervously tidies her hair.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

The supermarket. Um. The bottle shop. Um. Bought some flowers - those flowers.

In the vase on the table.

PETER ALEXIADES

Just at the local shops?

Alexandra nods. The kettle boils. Alexandra is about to get up.

LORNA JONES

Sit down. I'll make you a cup.

Lorna makes tea. She notices a cup beside the sink has the remains on red wine it.

ALEXANDRA

That's about it. Came home. I did a bit of gardening. I went for a run later. Before dinner.

Lorna smells the cup. Alexandra notices.

PETER ALEXIADES

Did you run alone?

ALEXANDRA
Yes. Alone.

She exchanges a small smile with Peter that hints at their history.

(CONTINUED)

Peter writes in his book.

PETER ALEXIADES

I'll need you to come down to the station to give a full statement.

ALEXANDRA

Now? Have you found something Peter?

PETER ALEXIADES

Later today. Thanks Alex.

He gets up.

2/9 INT/EXT. POLICE CAR/BEACH/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 11:45 2/9

Joanna and Elizabeth ride in the back of the police car. Outside the sun is shining as they drive along the beach front.

They stop at a light or a stop sign. Joanna sees a woman holding hands with a small boy on the pavement. She is on the phone laughing and the boy is eating an ice cream. Joanna is mesmerised by them.

A few people stop, and start to stare at the police car. Then seeing Joanna in the back, realising who she is, they start pointing. Someone points a phone at the car. Joanna sinks back. Elizabeth squeezes her hand. The light changes. The stares of people follow the car carrying the mother who lost her baby.

2/10 INT/EXT. THE COTTAGE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 11:50 2/10

The officer parks the car behind police cars and forensic vans parked outside The Cottage where Alistair and Joanna were meant to spend their first night. Joanna can see Detective Alexiades standing in the garden talking to Lorna. Detective Alexiades looks at the car, at her - his face is so grim. The car door opens - Joanna's bubble inside the car explodes with outside sound and glaring light.

Joanna gets out of the car and follows Elizabeth towards the house. They are allowed through the police-taped area. Joanna sees the contents of the rubbish bin tipped on large plastic sheets on the ground. Evidence is placed in paper bags by forensics in full blue protective wear, gloves and masks. Joanna's watches as two empty baby bottles and a packet of wet wipes are stowed in a bag.

2/11 INT. BEDROOM/WEST-END APARTMENT/GLASGOW - DAY 13 06:45 2/11

The same baby bottles and the packet of wipes are on the bed. Joanna packs them into her bag. Noah is lying on the bed. She reaches down and kisses his stomach.

JOANNA

You're going to behave for me on
this plane aren't you monkey?

She kisses his lovely chubby tummy again.

2/12 EXT. THE COTTAGE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 11:51 2/12

Joanna's reverie of the baby bottles is broken by Mrs Wilson, the owner of the property, who is talking to a policewoman. She reaches out and grabs Joanna.

MRS WILSON

Sweetheart. I know he'll be found.
I just know it.

Joanna looks around, blinded by the sunlight and the surreal scenario she is in - she puts her hands over her eyes - she sees Detective Alexiades watching her.

JOANNA

I forgot my sunglasses.

MRS WILSON

Take mine.

It's so odd. Mrs Wilson hands her a pair of old lady sunglasses. Elizabeth puts an arm around Joanna.

ELIZABETH

Junee. She's fine. Hers are in
here.

MRS WILSON

I don't mind. I have lots of them.

JOANNA

Thank you.

Joanna shares a sad look with Mrs Wilson then stumbles towards the open door. The sun beating down.

2/13 INT. COURTROOM/GLASGOW - DAY 38 11:10 2/13

A dark grey sky seen through the court room window. Joanna watches it. On the stand is Kirsty. The prosecution has asked her a question.

MORVEN DAVIS (PROSECUTOR)
Having seduced Alistair and
conducted an affair with him whilst
he was married to someone else,
would you say that Joanna Lyndsay
found lying...second nature?

KIRSTY
No I wouldn't.

The prosecutor bears down on Kirsty who is nervous and out of
her comfort zone.

MORVEN DAVIS (PROSECUTOR)
Isn't it true that the couple's
then ten year old daughter found
Joanna having sex with Alistair in
her parent's bed?

KIRSTY
Yes...but Joanna didn't know then
that Alistair was married.

MORVEN DAVIS (PROSECUTOR)
But she did continue the affair
after she "discovered" he was
married.

KIRSTY
Yes. But Alexandra left the country
almost straight away, she took Al's
child without telling him. She was
mad. She was always ringing them
up, badgering them for money, she
was mad.

MORVEN DAVIS (PROSECUTOR)
Did you speak to Joanna when she
was in Australia.

KIRSTY
Yes.

MORVEN DAVIS (PROSECUTOR)
Did her feeling towards Alexandra
change after the arrest?

KIRSTY
Of course. She felt so betrayed.

MORVEN DAVIS (PROSECUTOR)
And angry?

KIRSTY
Yes. But...

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2/13 CONTINUED: 2/13

MORVEN DAVIS (PROSECUTOR)
Thank you Kirsty.

Kirsty looks to Joanna who is looking down at her lap.

2/14 INT/EXT. THE COTTAGE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 12:00 2/14

Joanna stands inside looking out to the backyard as police forensics buzz around her. She watches Mrs Wilson talking to detectives in the backyard. They are standing around the BBQ talking but Joanna can't hear what they're saying.

Joanna, visibly distressed, is escorted into the bedroom. Alistair is there. She has a physical response to the room. She looks like she might faint, Alistair puts his arms around her. Elizabeth is hovering.

(CONTINUED)

ALISTAIR

Mum, why don't you wait in the car.
There's too many people in here.

Elizabeth nods and leaves. Joanna sees their clothes on the bed. Their bags on the floor - open and empty.

Peter is wearing plastic gloves. An officer is stationed in the room with them.

PETER ALEXIADES

They've finished in this room. You can take all this now.

ALISTAIR

Can we use the bags?

PETER ALEXIADES

Yes.

Joanna goes to a set of drawers. Opens one. It's empty.

JOANNA

I put some things. In here.

PETER ALEXIADES

It's all here.

JOANNA

There's some washing. In the dryer.

PETER ALEXIADES

Yes. Noah's clothes. We have those.

JOANNA

Can I get them back?

PETER ALEXIADES

I'll do my best. I know this is rough, but it is totally standard procedure. I'll let you pack.

Peter leaves the room. They are left alone with the policeman still in the room.

Forensics walks past the window. The officer in the room is silent but watching them.

JOANNA

Why are they doing this?

ALISTAIR

Just doing their job. Come on.
Let's pack this and get home.

He kisses her forehead and they seem to get some strength just from touching each other. Joanna nods.

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2/14 CONTINUED: 2/14

She picks up the baby bag. It's empty. She runs her hands inside and finds a safety pin.

2/15 OMITTED 2/15

2/16 INT. BEDROOM/THE COTTAGE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 12:02 2/16

Joanna opens the other sections of the bag, remembering when she packed them. She slides her hand in and touches something hidden under the hard lining sheet of the bag. With her back to the officer in the room she peeks at the corner of the bright yellow bib. Conscious of the officer in the room, she hides it and finishes stuffing their clothes into the bag. Peter joins them.

PETER ALEXIADES

I got your phones back. We will be monitoring your calls and Social media accounts from here on in. You never know who may try and contact you. I would advise no posting on social media or even looking at it. They're public forums and worse than tabloids. It can screw you up.

ALISTAIR

Sure. Thanks.

PETER ALEXIADES

We have a car that can take you home.

Joanna and Alistair take their phones. Joanna turns on her phone, a stream of MISSED CALLS from Kirsty.

PETER ALEXIADES (CONT'D)

If you need anything call me. You have my number.

ALISTAIR

There must be something I can do? I can't sit around waiting. Please...

PETER ALEXIADES

I know this is hard. But this is a very experienced team. You need to let us do our job.

JOANNA

All these missed calls.

ALISTAIR

Take your time. No-one will be upset if you don't call them back straight away.

(CONTINUED)

2/16 CONTINUED:

2/16

Joanna nods. Peter gestures for them to follow him out of the room. Joanna makes sure she is carrying the bag with the bib inside it.

2/17 OMITTED

2/17

2/18 EXT. STREETS/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 14:10 2/18

Alexandra drives her car towards Elizabeth's house. Chloe is beside her, looking at her phone.

CHLOE

So many people are online already.
It's amazing.

ALEXANDRA

Who are these people?

CHLOE

Lots of people from round here.

ALEXANDRA

Gossips.

CHLOE

There's some idiots saying all sorts of horrible things, but someone might see something important. Someone in the world knows where he is Mum. They might be right here - online.

Alexandra pulls up outside Elizabeth's house. Alexandra is surprised to see a sizable press contingent out the front. She instinctively slows down. She is nervous and unsure what to do.

ALEXANDRA

Wow. Oh wow.

CHLOE

Mum. Just act normal. Just pretend they don't exist.

ALEXANDRA

Do you want me to come in with you?

CHLOE

Yes.

Alexandra and Chloe get out of the car. A journalist approaches Alexandra.

JOURNALIST

Alex, how are you feeling?

Chloe ignores the press and walks straight up the path to the door. Alexandra is surprised by the question.

ALEXANDRA

How do you know my name?

The journalist takes the opportunity to probe.

(CONTINUED)

JOURNALIST

Have you heard anything from the police today?

Alexandra hesitates for a moment and decides to lie.

ALEXANDRA

No. Have you?

Her phone rings. She silences it. A person carrying a camera is now behind the journalist.

JOURNALIST

You and Alistair were childhood sweethearts weren't you? Both grew up here? And this is Chloe? Your daughter?

Alexandra's completely thrown by the bizarreness and how much they already know about her.

JOURNALIST (CONT'D)

You stole Alistair's daughter four years ago...what else have you stolen?

Alexandra is shocked by the intrusion into her personal life. Her phone buzzes again in her hand. She looks at it - Chloe. She looks to the house - Chloe is waving her inside. Alexandra walks towards the front door. The camera still trained on her.

2/19 INT. BEDROOM/WEST-END APARTMENT/GLASGOW - DAY 6 09:00 2/19

Alexandra throws clothes and shoes into a bag open on the bare mattress of their bed. The sheets lie in a ball on the floor. Ten-year-old Chloe comes in carrying some of her clothes and toys.

CHLOE

Where's Dad?

ALEXANDRA

He's working. Pop them in there.
Only the things you love.

Alexandra wipes a tear from her cheek. Chloe sees it.

CHLOE

Don't cry.

ALEXANDRA

I'm not. I have an itchy eye.

CHLOE

Just ignore it. It'll go away.

(CONTINUED)

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ALEXANDRA

I will.

(CONTINUED)

CHLOE

Will we need my gloves?

ALEXANDRA

No. Quick sticks.

Chloe leaves the room and Alexandra opens a drawer and takes out three passports, she puts two in her bag and is about to put Alistair's Australian Passport back. Instead, she opens another cupboard and finds a small pair of scissors. She opens the passport at Alistair's photo page and cuts it in two.

2/20 INT. KITCHEN/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 14:12 2/20

Alexandra, feeling the full outsider, walks into the kitchen to see Chloe and Alistair hugging. She exchanges a look with Elizabeth.

Fresh piles of photocopied posters of Noah on the table. And still more food gifts. And the latest newspapers and magazines.

ALEXANDRA

Hi. Wow, they are ferocious out there.

CHLOE

(to Alistair)

Have you seen how many shares there have been? Over a million.

She takes out her phone. Alistair watches her.

ALEXANDRA

How long will they be there?

ELIZABETH

Till we find him I suppose.

CHLOE

(to Alistair)

Have you read this dad?

ALISTAIR

Some people have nothing better to do.

CHLOE

(to Alistair)

People are just trying to help.

ALISTAIR

I know. You're right.

ELIZABETH

I'm going to give you some of this
to take home.

The home cooked meals on the counter.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Just bring the dishes back.

ALEXANDRA

(to Alistair)

How's Joanna?

ALISTAIR

Not good. Anyone whose had a child
taken from them is in a very
particular kind of hell.

Alexandra is astounded at the obvious dig at her, given the circumstances - so is Elizabeth. Alexandra chooses to ignore it. She sees Chloe watching them like a hawk.

ALEXANDRA

Having those people out the front
is terrible. You're like prisoners.

ALISTAIR

The press is one of our best assets
right now. I consider them allies.

Alexandra holds Alistair's gaze - was it him that told the press the details of their family history?

Elizabeth is stacking some dishes of food for them to take home in a bag.

ALEXANDRA

I better get going. Is it alright
for Chloe to stay here for a while?

ALISTAIR

Yes.

ALEXANDRA

Call me if you hear anything?

ALISTAIR

Sure.

He can't wait for her to go.

ELIZABETH

The police, Peter, his whole team,
are doing a very, very good job.

CHLOE

Well, they haven't found him yet,
so.

(CONTINUED)

ELIZABETH

They will. Pop those ones in the
freezer will you?

Alexandra puts a couple of dishes in the freezer, she sees the line of small plastic bags of expressed milk stored there. It's upsetting. There should be a baby in the house and he's not here. Elizabeth sees her notice them. Alexandra closes the freezer and Elizabeth gives her a reassuring pat.

2/20A OMITTED 2/20A

2/20B INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/LIVING ROOM - DAY 15 14:13 2/20B

Alistair walks Alexandra to the front door.

The door to the guest room is open and Alexandra gets a glimpse of Joanna sitting on the bed. Alistair closes the door just as Joanna makes eye contact with Alexandra.

Alexandra takes a letter out of her bag.

ALEXANDRA

It's from your lawyer.

Chloe interrupts them, carrying the bag of food.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

Thanks. I'll call you later for a
pick up.

CHLOE

Sure.

Chloe can see they are waiting for her to leave. She walks back to the kitchen. Alexandra waits until she is out of ear shot. But she speaks low.

ALEXANDRA

I was supposed to respond to this
in fourteen days. I....but given
what has happened I wondered if you
wanted to park this for a while.

Alistair stares at her.

ALISTAIR

I can't think about this now. I
can't think about anything except
that my son is gone. Why are you
talking about this now?

ALEXANDRA

Alistair. I don't have enough money
to throw away on lawyers. It's a
fair question.

ALISTAIR

Um. Aren't you a lawyer?

Alexandra just looks at him. Hating him.

ALEXANDRA

No. No I'm not. You may remember I have a law degree but spent ten years raising a daughter and following my husband around the world while he built his career.

ALISTAIR

I don't have time for this Alex.

Alexandra decides to button her lip and walks out the door. On Alistair's face as he watches her go.

2/20C INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 14:15

2/20C

Joanna is about to walk into the kitchen when she hears Chloe talking to Elizabeth. She stops outside.

CHLOE

Why would people say such horrible things about Dad and Joanna, even Mum. They don't even know them?

ELIZABETH

Why don't you turn that thing off. Just ignore all that rubbish.

Joanna peels away and finds Alistair.

2/21 OMITTED

2/21

2/22 INT/EXT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 15 14:20

2/22

Alistair stands at the window and watches Alexandra move through the press towards her car. Still smarting, she reacts to something the journalist says to her. Alexandra loses her temper - in a flash she smacks the journalist's microphone out of her hand and shoves her by the shoulders. In fact doing to the stranger what she would like to do to Alistair.

Joanna is beside Alistair. Watching too.

JOANNA

The Police were asking me about Alexandra this morning.

Alistair absorbs this new information, surprised.

ALISTAIR

Did you get some sleep?

(CONTINUED)

JOANNA

Yes. There was a moment, just before I woke up, when I forgot what had happened. The world was as it should have been.

ALISTAIR

I going to try and see Peter. Away from all his protocols and pretending like he doesn't know me crap. Don't hover Mum.

Elizabeth caught out near the door, walks in.

ELIZABETH

Sorry. I didn't want to interrupt.

Alistair smiles at his mum.

2/22A INT. SOFT INTERVIEW ROOM/POLICE STATION/WILDE BAY DAY 15 2/22A
14:50

Alexandra is interviewed by Peter and Lorna. She is drawing on a map with a red pen - her running route. Lorna is looking through her file.

LORNA

Drink driving charge two months ago?

ALEXANDRA

Yes. Two glasses at lunch and a fine. Why is that relevant to my statement?

LORNA

And your car is a red SUV?

ALEXANDRA

Yep. There.

She hands them the map. Peter reads from his notes.

PETER ALEXIADES

Thanks. So you dropped Chloe at Elizabeth's then went and did some shopping and arrived home around 3.30.

ALEXANDRA

Yes.

PETER ALEXIADES

Do you know the holiday rental on the coast road called The Cottage?

Alexandra pauses. Knows she's been caught out.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXANDRA

Yes. I drove past the Cottage, if that's what you mean, which is on my way to where I was running.

LORNA JONES

Mrs Wilson, the landlady, says she found you inside the house. She knows you.

Alexandra tries to catch Peter's eye.

ALEXANDRA

I'm sure she knows everyone in this town, doesn't mean I know her.

LORNA

But you went into the house where Joanna and Alistair were going to be staying?

Alexandra decides to be frank. It's shameful. She looks at Peter.

ALEXANDRA

Because I wanted to see where they were staying. Alright. I wanted to have a sticky beak.

PETER ALEXIADES

So after you were at the Cottage you did some shopping and then?

ALEXANDRA

I went home. Did some gardening. Went for a run, got some dinner and then all hell broke loose.

Lorna and Peter confer on some notes between them, Alexandra tries to stay calm.

LORNA

You went for a run after 8 at night. You often run in the dark?

ALEXANDRA

Yes. I like it.

LORNA

Between 4pm and 9pm when you were at home, no-one can verify this?

ALEXANDRA

I was alone.

PETER ALEXIADES

You didn't go anywhere else on this night

Alexandra looks Peter in the eye and lies.

ALEXANDRA

No.

LORNA

Thanks Alex. Won't keep you much longer.

Lorna goes to get up.

2/22B EXT. THE COTTAGE/WILDE BAY/FLASHBACK - DUSK 14 18:45 2/22B

Alexandra is parked across the street from the cottage where Alistair and Joanna are staying. She sees their hire car parked in the driveway. There is a soft light in the front room. The front door opens and Alistair comes out. Alexandra hurriedly starts the car and drives away.

2/22C INT. SOFT INTERVIEW ROOM/POLICE STATION/WILDE BAY DAY 15 2/22C

Peter walks back into the Interview room with a printed copy of Alexandra's statement.

PETER ALEXIADES

Just read over that and sign it if you agree it's an accurate record of your statement.

Alexandra takes it. Reads it briefly and signs it. Looks up at them defiantly.

ALEXANDRA

May I go now, Detective Alexiades?

Peter nods. Alexandra gets up.

2/23 OMITTEDNOW 2/44A 2/23

2/24 OMITTEDNOW 2/44B 2/24

2/25 OMITTEDNOW 2/44C 2/25

2/25A OMITTED 2/25A

2/25B INT. CHURCH/WILDE BAY - DUSK 15 19:45 2/25B

Alistair finds Peter sitting in the church. It is empty.
Alistair sits beside him.

ALISTAIR
This is very covert.

Peter smiles.

PETER ALEXIADES
Sorry mate. We can't be seen
hanging out together in a public
place. Not until we find Noah. You
understand.

ALISTAIR
Of course. Can you be seen in
public with Alex?

Off Peter's look.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
I know you two went out for a
while. It's OK.

PETER ALEXIADES
That was a long time ago. And I
would rather the Melbourne team
don't know about it, given...

He's said too much. Alistair notices.

ALISTAIR
You dodged a bullet there. Jo and I
are worried about Chloe. We're
hoping to get her over to the UK.

PETER ALEXIADES
To live with you?

Alistair nods.

ALISTAIR
Alex won't talk about it. There's
no reasoning with her.

Peter won't be drawn.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
Pete. Where is he? Fuck, where is
he?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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2/25B CONTINUED: 2/25B

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)

Being in the dark is doing my head in. Are there any leads? Any news on the red car I saw?

PETER ALEXIADES

We're following it up. Just one of the avenues we're exploring.

ALISTAIR

Is there anything we can do?

(CONTINUED)

PETER ALEXIADES

You could join the volunteer searches, it will attract some publicity, keep the focus on the case. Did you speak to Jo about the press conference?

ALISTAIR

Yes. She hates the idea. She's so devastated, I worry she might come across as quite cold and detached.

PETER ALEXIADES

That's right, this is what you do for a living.

ALISTAIR

Not quite this. But I know public opinion can be won and lost very quickly.

PETER ALEXIADES

You should keep away from the online stuff. It'll only upset you.

ALISTAIR

Thanks, I will.

Peter watches him.

PETER ALEXIADES

Hang in there.

(Beat)

Can I show you something? You right?

Alistair nods. Peter takes a clear plastic sleeve out of his bag. It's a photo of Joanna, holding Noah, and Kirsty - outside their West-End apartment on the day they left.

PETER ALEXIADES (CONT'D)

...it was on your phone.

Alistair looks at it.

ALISTAIR

Yes. That's Joanna's friend Kirsty.

Peter points out something in the photo.

PETER ALEXIADES

The date says it was the day you left Glasgow. Now, we have the suit and the socks, but this yellow bib. We don't have it.

(CONTINUED)

ALISTAIR

He might've been wearing it...when
he was taken.

PETER ALEXIADES

You can't remember?

Alistair stares at the photo. He tears up.

ALISTAIR

I can't remember. I'm sorry Pete. I
can't fucking remember.

Peter shakes his head, pockets the photo and stands up.

PETER ALEXIADES

OK. Don't stress about it. I gotta
go, you want a lift?

ALISTAIR

I'm good. Hey thanks. For
everything.

Peter walks away. Alistair looks up at the altar.

2/25C INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/GUEST ROOM - DUSK 15 20:30 2/25C

Joanna is in her room. She puts clothes away in the drawers. She takes out the yellow bib she found hidden in the bottom of the bag. She puts it to her mouth, breathes it in, searching for any skerrick of her baby.

She opens a bottom drawer and finds it full of boxes and wrapping paper. She folds the bib carefully and hides it under some Christmas wrapping. Curious, she looks through the boxes - they're unused, unopened gifts - a travel hair dryer, a box of steak knives, a packet of bath soaps. A "re-gifting" drawer. She finds a new phone. Unopened. In its box. Joanna contemplates the phone for a beat, hatching a plan.

She takes the charger and plugs the new phone under the bed.

2/26 EXT. BACK GARDEN/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - EVENING/ 2/26
DUSK 15 20:31

Elizabeth, Alistair and Chloe are in the back garden. Chloe showing Alistair something on her phone. Joanna comes outside.

JOANNA

Can I borrow the car?

ALISTAIR

What?

JOANNA

I need to get out. I won't be long.

ALISTAIR

I don't think that's a good idea.
The press, what if someone sees
you?

JOANNA

I'll be fine. I need some air.

ELIZABETH

Well. Why don't you take Chloe,
she knows her way around?

Chloe doesn't look very impressed with the idea.

JOANNA

Seriously, I'll be fine.

Alistair changes his mind.

ALISTAIR

Why don't we all go. We can get an
ice cream.

They all stare at him. The sombre mood makes the suggestion
seem macabre. Alistair feels it but pushes on.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)

Chloe? You know what's open round
here?

CHLOE

Sure. We can go to the Servo.

2/26A INT/EXT. ELIZABETH'S CAR/STREETS/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 15 2/26A
20:40

Alistair drives, Joanna in the back, Chloe in the front -
through the streets of the small town. The windows are down
and warm air flows through the car. Chloe puts the radio on.
It's Elizabeth's radio station. She turns it off and picks up
her phone. Joanna looks out the window. Feeling like an
alien.

JOANNA

What's a servo?

CHLOE

A place where you get petrol.

ALISTAIR

Also, slang for service station. I
forgot how pretty this place is.

(CONTINUED)

CHLOE
Yeah, pretty boring.

ALISTAIR
Yes, I hated growing up here,
couldn't wait to get out.

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2/26A CONTINUED: 2/26A

Joanna wipes tears from her eyes as she listens to them from the back of the car.

2/26B INT/EXT. ELIZABETH'S CAR/SERVICE STATION/WILDE BAY - 2/26B
NIGHT 15 20:45

They arrive at the service station. Alistair stops.

ALISTAIR

I'm going to make a few calls.

Joanna looks at him, he nods - it's OK.

CHLOE

Do you actually want an ice cream?

ALISTAIR

You choose something for me.

Alistair watches Joanna and Chloe walk into the service station, a sad smile on his face, imagining if Chloe was with him and Joanna all the time. The nice thought registered, he pulls out his phone.

2/26C INT. SERVICE STATION/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 15 20:47 2/26C

Joanna stands with Chloe at the freezer, her eyes scanning the shop.

CHLOE

Does Dad like these?

JOANNA

Anything chocolate. I have to get some shampoo.

Chloe nods. She's not too old to take the choosing of an ice cream quite seriously. Joanna quickly grabs a bottle of shampoo and takes it to the counter. Moving fast, she grabs a stack of SIM cards from the display and shoves them in her bag, then seamlessly places the shampoo on the counter.

2/26D INT/EXT. ELIZABETH'S CAR/SERVICE STATION/WILDE BAY - 2/26D
NIGHT 15 20:50

Alistair is watching Chloe and Joanna chatting in the service station. On a call. Henry McCallum.

(CONTINUED)

ALISTAIR
(to phone)
Hi.

HENRY MCCALLUM
(to phone)
Thanks for calling me. I know you
must be in a terrible place. I'm so
sorry.

2/26E INT. LOFT APARTMENT/GLASGOW - DAY 15 09:50

2/26E

Henry McCallum is working at home, his laptop open.

ALISTAIR
(to phone)
Thank you.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)
(to phone)
I got your email. There's a lot of
press here. Some already from the
UK.

HENRY MCCALLUM
(to phone)
Apart from the fact that you owe me
a huge favour for the Fossery
story, you know that I can and will
tell your story. The way you want
it told.

ALISTAIR
We're going to find Noah and then
there won't be a story.

HENRY MCCALLUM
A story with a happy ending is
still a story.

Alistair thinks for a moment.

ALISTAIR
(to phone)
Put something in writing.

Alistair slides his phone off. He looks towards the service
station. Joanna and Chloe are walking towards him.

2/26F INT/EXT. ELIZABETH'S CAR/STREETS/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 15 2/26F
21:00

Joanna stares at her ice cream, dripping as it melts. She
can't eat it. Alistair tries to enjoy his. He shuts his eyes
and looks like he might cry. Chloe sees her dad's distress,
she kind of freezes, nor knowing what to do.

(CONTINUED)

Joanna's stares at Alistair in the rear-view mirror, her ice-cream, untouched dripping down her hands.

ALISTAIR

Sorry. This is not how I imagined us coming home.

Chloe puts her hand on her Dad's shoulder.

CHLOE

It's OK Dad.

Alistair takes her hand. Pulls himself together and starts the car. Joanna puts her ice cream out the window.

2/27 INT. BATHROOM/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 15 2/27
21:00

The bathroom door is closed. Joanna is trying to put the stolen SIM card into the phone she found in Elizabeth's re-gifting drawer. A deep purple bruise is very obvious on her upper arm. A knock on the door. Joanna quickly hides the phone and SIM card.

ELIZABETH

Just got you some towels. And
someone gave me this as a gift.

Elizabeth puts towels and some bath salts/bomb in the
bathroom for Joanna.

JOANNA

Thank you.

Elizabeth sees the dark bruise on Joanna's arm. She chooses
not to say anything about it.

Elizabeth leaves. Joanna looks at the bruise on her arm.

2/28 EXT. CROSSROADS/VICTORIA - DAY 14 15:39 2/28

Joanna runs down to the road. The wind whipping her hair and
clothes. The noise blurs and distorts her view of the road
and passing cars. Her trajectory is stopped by Alistair's
hand grabbing her upper arm and yanking her to a stop with
brutal force. Her vision snaps upwards to the sky.

2/29 INT. BATHROOM/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 15 2/29
21:31

Joanna watches the bath fill with a lurid blood-orange bath
bomb fizzing itself stupid in her bath. Looking at her arm.

She makes sure the bathroom door is locked and puts the SIM
card into the phone. Nervously, she waits for it to fire up.
It does. She goes to Facebook and creates a new profile. She
uses the name VIVIENNE JONES. A few keystrokes later and
she's in. She starts reading it all.

Suddenly sitting on the toilet opposite Joanna is a woman
smoking a vape on her phone. She is the embodiment of one of
the online threads Joanna is reading.

BEC DRAKE

Why haven't we heard about the red
car that was seen on Floura St? Why
haven't the police found it?

Another woman appears in the crowded bathroom. She also talks
to the air, while holding her phone.

SHAZZA MORPHETT

What about the mother? Joanna? Cold
eyes. There's something not right
about her.

(CONTINUED)

BEC DRAKE

Yes. She's just lost her baby. I can't imagine what she's going through. Whoever took him has to be a local. But that baby could be anywhere by now.

SHAZZA MORPHETT

The ex-wife is Alex. She's in my daughters book club. She said all she talks about is her effing ex. But steal his baby?

JOANNA/VIVIENNE JONES

Someone did.

Joanna slides her phone off and puts it down.

2/30 OMITTED 2/30

2/31 OMITTED 2/31

2/32 OMITTEDNOW 2/25B 2/32

2/32A OMITTEDNOW PART OF 2/29 2/32A

2/33 OMITTEDNOW 2/67D 2/33

2/34 OMITTEDNOW 2/67E 2/34

2/35 OMITTEDNOW 2/67F 2/35

2/36 OMITTEDNOW 2/67G 2/36

2/36A OMITTEDNOW 2/67H 2/36A

2/36B OMITTEDNOW 2/67I 2/36B

2/36C INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/GUEST ROOM/WILDE BAY DAWN 16 06:00 2/36C

Joanna wakes with breasts full of milk. She gets out of bed, clutching her tender breasts and leaves Alistair sleeping.

2/37 INT. KITCHEN/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAWN 16 06:15 2/37

Joanna sits alone in the pre-dawn light. She is expressing milk. She's crying. Silent tears that she can't seem to stop fall down her cheek. She wipes them with the back of her hand. She looks at her phone.

Another couple of missed calls and texts from Kirsty. She thinks about calling her but just can't. She puts the phone down.

She opens the Find Noah Facebook page on her secret phone. The online phantoms Maureen, Krishna and Coral are also in the room, ghost-faced and flicking through their screens, a silent society. She hears a sound. She looks towards the window. Then another sound - from the side of the house.

She looks out the window. The first light of dawn lights up the garden. She sees a figure moving past the front of house and hears a loud clanging sound.

2/38 EXT. BACK GARDEN/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - MOMENTS 2/38
LATER DAWN 16 06:16

Joanna looks around the back garden, wondering if she saw something or if imagined it. She stands outside the window, where he imagined someone was standing looking in at her. She scans the ground. Not knowing what she's looking for.

2/39 OMITTED 2/39

2/40 INT/EXT. ALEXANDRA'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 16 08:30 2/40

Alexandra and Chloe are getting ready for the day. Breakfast, finding shoes. Chloe is going to summer school classes. The sound of the doorbell. Chloe opens it. Detectives Peter Alexiades and Lorna Jones are at the door. Forensics and the other Melbourne plainclothes detectives are behind them unpacking the gear.

CHLOE
You found him?!

PETER ALEXIADES
Your mum home?

Alexandra has come to the door.

ALEXANDRA
Any news?

Peter shakes his head.

PETER ALEXIADES
Alexandra. I have here a warrant to search your house.

ALEXANDRA
Really? What on earth for?

Alexandra is shocked. Chloe looks confused.

Peter hands Alexandra the search warrant. Alexandra stands back and lets the detectives in. They are shaking out their plastic gloves as they enter.

CHLOE
Mum?

ALEXANDRA
Let's let them do their job.

CHLOE

Why Mum?

Alexandra shakes her head. Searches Peter's face for some sign of friendship or something. But she gets nothing from him. His sunglasses are on and staying there.

ALEXANDRA

Chloe has summer school to go to.
I'm taking her down there.

Chloe picks up her bag from near the door.

PETER ALEXIADES

Chloe, have you got a laptop?

CHLOE

Yes.

PETER ALEXIADES

I'll have to take it for a day or so, and your phone.

Chloe looks to her mum, Alexandra nods and Chloe takes her laptop and phone out of her bag and hands them over.

PETER ALEXIADES (CONT'D)

Are they your only running shoes?

ALEXANDRA

I have two pairs. The others are in my closet.

She nods and goes inside. Alexandra walks towards her daughter waiting at the front gate. She looks at her shoes. Looks back at the police entering her house. She plasters on a smile to cover her worry.

2/41 EXT. BEACH/WILDE BAY/FLASHBACK - NIGHT 14 21:25 2/41

Alexandra runs along the deserted shoreline. She wears a head lamp and has a back pack on and headphones. Her face is blank as she runs.

She arrives back at her car, gets in and drives away.

2/42 OMITTEDNOW 2/44D 2/42

2/43 OMITTED 2/43

2/44 OMITTED 2/44

2/44A EXT. SAND DUNES/WILDE BAY - DAY 16 09:00 2/44A

Joanna, Alistair and Elizabeth join the search in the dunes behind the beach. They move very slowly in a line of people. Some have sticks they poke in the sand, others have metal detectors and shovels.

2/44B INT. COURTROOM/GLASGOW - DAY 38 14:30 2/44B

Peter Alexiades is being questioned by the prosecution. Possibly by video-link.

PETER ALEXIADES
The disappearance of a child
presents very particular challenges
for the police.

Peter's testimony continues over...

2/44C EXT. SAND DUNES/WILDE BAY - DAY 16 09:00 2/44C

Joanna and Alistair continue the slow search line.

MORVEN DAVIS (PROSECUTOR) (V.O.) *
In this case the focus shifted to
Noah Robertson's family. In your
observations of Joanna Lyndsay
would you say she was someone was
capable of lying?

PETER ALEXIADES (V.O.)
Anyone, under the right
circumstances, is capable of lying.

Joanna and Alistair are watched, filmed and photographed by the press and the police as they hand out drinks to the volunteers. The press are held at a polite distance by the local police. Joanna and Alistair are starting to feel like performers.

2/44D INT/EXT. ALEXANDRA'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 16 08:20 2/44D

Alexandra walks in the open door of her house, past Chloe's room where a police officer is going through her drawers and wardrobe. She walks into the kitchen and sees some evidence bags - one with her running shoes in it. She peers at it. Lorna comes in from the garden.

Lorna doesn't make eye contact with Alexandra. She takes the bags and walks out of the room. Alexandra feels invaded on all fronts.

(CONTINUED)

2/45 EXT. BACK GARDEN/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 16 2/45
15:00

Joanna sits by herself under a tree in the garden on her phone. A moment of peace. She looks up at the sun shining through the cypress tree above her.

Alistair arrives with his laptop and palm cards.

ALISTAIR

I told the police you thought you heard someone in the garden.

JOANNA

Al. I think I was half asleep...

ALISTAIR

Doesn't matter. Every detail is important. I want to show you something. Are you alright?

Joanna doesn't answer him.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)

The tide can turn against us in an instant Jo.

Alistair opens his lap top.

ALISTAIR (CONT'D)

I've cut together all the news footage of us. Watch yourself.

JOANNA

I don't want to.

They stare at each other for a long time. Unspoken tension and history flies between them.

ALISTAIR

What else exactly have we got to do right now except do everything in our power to find Noah? Bring our Noah home.

He holds out the palm cards which are printed with large type.

JOANNA

Al. Please. You need to calm down.

ALISTAIR

Jo. We are the couple whose baby has disappeared off the face of the earth. Gone. No witnesses. No ransom. No body. We need the public to help us, to be looking for Noah.

Joanna takes the cards. Looks at them.

JOANNA

Why is it so big?

ALISTAIR

So you can still read in case you cry.

JOANNA

I hate this.

The press conference weighs heavily on Joanna.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Can't the police just do their job?

ALISTAIR

Jo. Jo, you are the mother. You need to speak. The world needs to see your pain. They want to see a good mother crushed not a bad mother hiding.

JOANNA

Good mother crushed. I am the victim.

Joanna takes a deep breath.

2/46 INT. DR WALLACE'S OFFICE/GLASGOW - DAY 37 10:40

2/46

Joanna sits in the offices of the Crown-appointed psychiatrist. She is holding her hands up to make a triangle with her fingers.

DR WALLACE

Victim, Rescuer, Persecutor. The Karpman Triangle. Yes I am aware of it.

JOANNA

So, it's a triangle and Al and I slid from one corner to the next.

Dr Wallace writes notes. Joanna fidgets.

DR WALLACE

When you were in Australia - where were you on the triangle?

JOANNA

I was the victim. And Alistair was both rescuer and persecutor.

DR WALLACE

Did you talk about it with Alistair?

JOANNA

We were in no state to get off it then.

DR WALLACE

How did you get off it as you say?

(CONTINUED)

JOANNA

That took a while, but...I had forgotten that I once used to be strong. I learned the hard way, the only way to stop being a victim was to rescue myself and become the persecutor.

2/47 EXT. BACK GARDEN/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 16 2/47
15:01

Joanna stands in front of Alistair. Reading the palm cards.

ALISTAIR

Take your time. From the beginning.

JOANNA

Our baby Noah was only four-months old. He was wearing a blue gro-suit like this one. Hold up gro-suit.

Joanna stops.

ALISTAIR

Go on. Please don't read out the instructions - that's why they're in capitals.

Joanna reads.

JOANNA

Whoever has him please give him back to us. You can leave him anonymously at any hospital or fire station, anywhere that is safe.

Alistair nods with encouragement.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

We miss him so much. We need him home safe. Please help us find him.

ALISTAIR

Good. Those pauses are there to help you. If you feel like crying just cry...you can stop and pause for as long as you want. Listen.
"We miss him so much".

(He pauses)

"We need him home safe". Take a deep breath but don't censor your feelings.

Joanna nods. Takes a deep breath.

2/48 EXT. POLICE STATION/WILDE BAY - DAY 16 16:30 2/48

Joanna stands in front of the press in front of the police station. Alistair, holding the baby blanket, is beside her - with his arm around her waist. Detective Alexiades and Detective Lorna Jones stand behind them. A police officer is holding up a blue gro-suit.

Joanna inserts the pauses where Alistair instructed her to do so.

JOANNA

We miss him so much.
We need him home safe.

She takes a deep breath. Alistair squeezes her tight, supporting her. Joanna goes to speak but her voice cracks as she starts to cry.

JOANNA (CONT'D)

Sorry. Please. Help us. Help us...

She almost gets through it before collapsing into Alistair and stepping away from the mic.

2/48aA OMITTEDNOW 2/67J 2/48aA2/48A EXT. ALEXANDRA'S HOUSE - DAY 16 17:30 2/48A

Alexandra follows Peter and Lorna out of her house and into the back of their police car. Alexandra looks back at the house - a forensics team are taking samples from her car.

2/49 OMITTED 2/492/50 OMITTED 2/50

2/51 INT. LIVING ROOM/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 16 2/51
18:30

Alistair opens the door to Chloe. They hug. Go inside. Elizabeth is setting the table for dinner, they are about to eat.

ELIZABETH

Hello sweetie. What are you doing here?

CHLOE

Mum texted me to come. She's with Peter, at the police station.

ELIZABETH

OK. I'll get another plate.

She goes to the kitchen. Chloe sits down at the table with Alistair. Elizabeth returns and gives Chloe a plate.

CHLOE

Do you know why mum's at the police station?

ALISTAIR

No, I don't know.

CHLOE

They searched our house, the car, they took out the carpet. From the car.

ALISTAIR

Chloe. Sweetheart. The police have all sorts of methods and routines they have to follow in cases like this. Please don't worry.

CHLOE

Is Mum in trouble?

ALISTAIR

I'm sure she's just helping the police.

ELIZABETH

Come on. Let's have some dinner. Peter will explain everything to us. He knows your mum.

ALISTAIR

That's right.

Joanna comes out of the room. Chloe looks daggers at her.

2/52 OMITTEDNOW SCENE 2/20A

2/52

2/53	<u>OMITTED</u>	2/53
2/54	<u>OMITTED</u> <u>NOW SCENE 2/26A</u>	2/54
2/55	<u>INT. INTERVIEW ROOM/POLICE STATION/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 16</u> <u>20:55</u>	2/55

Peter and Lorna interview Alexandra. She looks pale.

LORNA JONES

So, you left Scotland, with your daughter without telling Alistair after you found him in bed with Joanna Lyndsay?

Alexandra is surprised how personal the line of questions is getting.

ALEXANDRA

Yes Detective.
Why are you asking me such personal questions?

PETER ALEXIADES

Thinking back to the day Noah disappeared. The owner of the Fish and Chip shop said in his statement he saw dirt under your fingernails.

ALEXANDRA

Who? He said what?

Alexandra frowns. Looks at her fingernails.

2/56	<u>EXT. GARDEN/ALEXANDRA'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY/FLASHBACK -</u>	2/56
	<u>DAY 14 15:35</u>	

Alexandra gets out of her car parked in the driveway. She opens the back of her car - potting mix and shovels. Her phone rings. She answers it. Chloe. Who is at Elizabeth's house.

ALEXANDRA

Hey.

CHLOE

(on phone)

They've landed. Their coming over
to Nan's after they've had a nap.
They won't be here till nine. Can I
please stay the night? Nanna said
yes.

ALEXANDRA

Sure. I'll see you tomorrow.

She buttons off. She looks at the heavy bags in the back and
shuts the car door. She goes inside to change into her
jogging gear.

2/57 INT. INTERVIEW ROOM/POLICE STATION/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 16 2/57
21:45

Alexandra and Peter in the interview room.

PETER ALEXIADES

When were you in your garden?

ALEXANDRA

Most of the day.

PETER ALEXIADES

And before you went to the fish
shop you went for a jog?

Alexandra nods.

ALEXANDRA

I don't jog I run. But, yes.

Peter hands her a map with route marked on it.

PETER ALEXIADES

Do you agree that the path marked
on this map is the route you ran
that night?

Alexandra looks at the map on the desk between them. She
nods.

ALEXANDRA

Yes. I was the one who drew this
for you. So yes. That was my route.

PETER ALEXIADES

You drove your car out to here. And
started your run out along here.

On the map. Alexandra nods.

LORNA JONES

Why did you drive out there? It
would've been getting pretty dark?

ALEXANDRA

I suppose I like running there.

2/57A OMITTED

2/57A

2/57aaA EXT. BEACH/WILDE BAY/FLASHBACK - NIGHT 14 21:08 2/57aaA

Alexandra's ready for her run. She is wearing a back pack. She opens the rear of the car. The potting mix, the spade are there. She grabs a bottle of water from the back and swigs it.

2/57baA INT. INTERVIEW ROOM/POLICE STATION/WILDE BAY - 2/57baA
NIGHT 16 20:55

PETER ALEXIADES

And in the time since Noah has
disappeared you have continued to
run?

ALEXANDRA

That's right.

LORNA JONES

Early mornings?

ALEXANDRA

Sometimes. Sometimes after work,
after dinner.

LORNA JONES

Have you run past Elizabeth's
house?

ALEXANDRA

It's a small town. I run all over
the place.

LORNA JONES

Having a sticky beak.

Alexandra doesn't respond. Alexandra and Peter know each other and the history of the marriage.

PETER ALEXIADES

Alex. Do you know what happened to
Noah? Do you know where he is?

ALEXANDRA

What? No.

Alexandra is suddenly very, very still and unable to speak.

2/57aA EXT. ALEXANDRA'S CAR/ELOURA STREET/WILDE BAY

2/57aA

NIGHT 20:57

Alexandra drives down Eloura Street, her mind a million miles away, staring stony faced straight ahead.

2/57A OMITTED

2/57A

2/57B INT. INTERVIEW ROOM/POLICE STATION/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 16 2/57B
22:05

Alexandra is looking at printed pages of some Facebook screen shots. She takes a deep breath. Peter, Lorna and Alexandra all have half empty cups of tea. A long session.

LORNA JONES

Let's talk about Daniel Falcon.

ALEXANDRA

Who?

Peter hands Alexandra another screen shot. Alexandra looks at it. The penny drops.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)
Oh yes. Daniel Falcon. That's me.
Facebook. The name is fake. I made
it up.

PETER ALEXIADES
Daniel Falcon only has one Facebook
friend and that is Joanna Lyndsay.

ALEXANDRA
Yes, Daniel is not very popular.

Alexandra's black joke falls on deaf ears.

LORNA JONES
So you have been stalking Joanna
Lyndsay on Facebook for three
years?

ALEXANDRA
I wasn't stalking her. Being
curious is not a crime. Is it
against the law to want to look at
the woman who took your husband,
your apartment, your bloody
curtains...and made them her own?

PETER ALEXIADES
Alexandra. Joanna claims she saw
someone in the back garden at
Elizabeth Robertson's house this
morning at approximately 6am. Was
that you?

ALEXANDRA
What? No I wasn't. Six in the
morning? I was not.

LORNA JONES
That's more than curious. More like
stalking.

ALEXANDRA
I was not there.

Alexandra looks at Peter but he doesn't meet her eyes.

2/57C INT. COURTROOM/GLASGOW - DAY 38 11:19

2/57C

Kirsty is on the stand. The defence questioning her.

DEFENCE LAWYER

So, still thinking about the lunch you had with Joanna Lyndsay on the 12th. Can you tell the court what Joanna said about the phone call she received from Alexandra Grenville?

KIRSTY

She said Alexandra was really angry about the custody case over her daughter Chloe.

DEFENCE LAWYER

Go on.

KIRSTY

Joanna told me she said that now she was a mother how would she feel if her child was taken away from her.

DEFENCE LAWYER

Did Joanna see this as a threat?

KIRSTY

I think it just added to her stress around her relationship with Alistair. There was a lot of pressure for her to want this.

2/58 OMITTEDNOW SCENE 2/26B

2/58

2/59 OMITTEDNOW SCENE 2/26C

2/59

2/60 OMITTEDNOW SCENE 2/26D

2/60

2/61 OMITTEDNOW SCENE 2/26E

2/61

2/62 OMITTED

2/62

2/63 OMITTEDNOW SCENE 2/26F

2/63

2/64 OMITTEDNOW SCENE 2/57B

2/64

2/65 OMITTED

2/65

2/66 OMITTEDNOW SCENE 2/32A

2/66

2/67 OMITTED

2/67

2/67A INT. POLICE STATION/WILDE BAY - NIGHT 16 22:45

2/67A

Peter and Lorna with Alexandra. She is exhausted. The interview continues.

PETER ALEXIADES

Are these the clothes you bought as gifts for Noah?

Peter has photos of them.

ALEXANDRA

Yes, that's right.

PETER ALEXIADES

The lab tests show these clothes had traces of washing powder on them.

Alexandra looks confused.

LORNA JONES

So they weren't new.

ALEXANDRA

They were new. And then I washed them.

LORNA JONES

Why would you wash new things?

Alexandra looks like she might either cry or hit someone.

PETER ALEXIADES

Alexandra - if there's something you want to tell us.

ALEXANDRA

Yes, I have something to tell you.

Peter and Lorna wait.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

I washed them because I used to wash Chloe's baby clothes before I put them on her, I wash them with soaps flakes...it's just....it removes chemicals. OK?

Lorna and Peter look at each other. An officer enters the room and indicates he has something for them. Peter and Lorna leave the room.

(CONTINUED)

Alexandra sits alone wondering what is going on. Peter and Lorna re-enter the room. Peter looks at Alexandra in a harder way than he ever has. She feels it in her gut. Peter takes a colour photo of a baby's bootie from a file he's carried in with him and places it in front of Alexandra.

PETER ALEXIADES

That is a bootie found in Chloe's bedroom. This report from the lab has just confirmed it contains DNA that matches Noah Robertson's.

ALEXANDRA

What? Where did you get that?

LORNA JONES

Why don't you tell us the truth Alex?

PETER ALEXIADES

Alex. There was unexplained dirt under your fingernails on the night Noah went missing, you were sighted outside both The Cottage and Elizabeth Robertson's house, you have admitted to stalking Joanna Lyndsay on social media, you were no more than two streets away from the car where Noah was taken. And now baby clothes with Noah Robertson's DNA have been found in your house.

Alex is terrified.

LORNA JONES

Alexandra Grenville, you are under arrest for the kidnapping of Noah Robertson. You don't have to say or do anything, but anything you say or do may be used in evidence. Do you understand this?

ALEXANDRA

What! Are you joking!

Obviously not. Alexandra's anger turns to cold fear.

ALEXANDRA (CONT'D)

OK I want a lawyer.

PETER ALEXIADES

Of course. You will stay here at the police station until the results of a further search are completed.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXANDRA
When will that be?

PETER ALEXIADES
Tomorrow.

Alexandra can't speak - Peter and Lorna gather their files and papers.

(CONTINUED)

Alexandra can only stare into space as the weight of it all settles on her.

2/67B OMITTED 2/67B

2/67C INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - NIGHT 16 23:00 2/67C

Elizabeth hangs up the phone. She can hardly speak.

ELIZABETH
Alex has been arrested.

Joanna and Alistair are shocked by the news. Elizabeth cries.

JOANNA
Chloe.

ALISTAIR
She's asleep. Leave her.

ELIZABETH
I can't understand this.

Alistair just stares at his mother, his mind racing, he offers no comfort. Joanna goes and sits beside her.

2/67D EXT. BUSH FIRE FIELD/DREAM - DAY 14

2/67D

A hazy grey wall of smoke. Leaves crunching underneath as we move through it, occasional ghostly limbs of trees cut through the dark grey smoke. A woman's ragged, deep breaths.

Starting low and getting louder is the sound of a baby crying. The heavy breathing woman - Joanna - gets closer as the sound of the crying is getting louder. The smoke clears a little - enough to see a bright blue bundle up ahead. Joanna moves towards it. The ground around her is charred black, spot fires smoke and fuel the heat all around her, she never gets closer to the blue bundle on the ground.

2/67E INT. GUEST ROOM/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY -
NIGHT 16 03:00

2/67E

Joanna lies in bed. Her eyes are wide open. Alistair asleep beside her. She reaches under the pillow - retrieves the yellow bib. Her mind ticking. She hears Alistair start to snore softly.

JOANNA
(softly)
Al. 'You asleep?

Alistair doesn't stir. She gets out of bed gently and quietly.

2/67F INT. KITCHEN/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY -
NIGHT 16 03:02

2/67F

Joanna goes to the kitchen. She doesn't turn on any lights. She goes straight to where the phones are charging. The phone's screen is full of missed calls and texts messages. She ignores them and dials Kirsty's number. It picks up almost instantly.

JOANNA
Kirsty.

It's late afternoon in Glasgow and Kirsty is at work in the salon.

INTERCUT WITH:

2/67G INT. HAIR SALON/GLASGOW - DAY 16 16:02

2/67G

The salon is noisy and busy. Kirsty is putting a set of foils on a customer - watched and assisted by a JUNIOR. Kirsty looks at her phone. A newspaper with headline about the Noah Robertson case is in the salon.

(CONTINUED)

KIRSTY

Excuse me. I need to take this call.

(to junior)

You take over. Left side.

The junior nods and takes over. Kirsty walks out to the back of the salon to avoid the noise.

KIRSTY (CONT'D)

(to phone)

Jo. I've been sick with worry. I was about to jump on a plane....

JOANNA

(to phone)

I wanted to call so many times...I'm so sorry...Kirsty.

She chokes up, hardly able to speak.

KIRSTY

(to phone)

Jo. Is there any news? What are the Police saying?

JOANNA

(to phone)

Kirsty you know me. Tell me...was I a bad mother? Just tell me the truth.

KIRSTY

(to phone)

What? Jo? What? You have done nothing wrong. I wish I was there...

Joanna holds back her emotions.

KIRSTY (CONT'D)

(to phone)

Did Alistair say you were a bad mother?

(CONTINUED)

JOANNA
(to phone)
No. No... Now...now they've
arrested Alexandra.

KIRSTY
(to phone)
What!

Joanna is overcome with another wave of guilt and grief. She has the yellow bib in her hand.

JOANNA
(to phone)
I left him...I didn't look after
him properly...you know that.

KIRSTY
(to phone)
That's rubbish. Stop it. You were a
lovely mum.
My God Jo.

Joanna turns around and sees Alistair standing behind her.

JOANNA
(to phone)
I have to go.

KIRSTY
(to phone)
Lord, yes it's the middle of the
night there. Go to bed Jo. Get some
sleep. Call me tomorrow.

JOANNA
(to phone)
OK.

Joanna buttons off. She scrunches the bib up into a ball and hides it.

Alistair goes to the fridge. Gets out some milk. Puts the kettle on.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
You gave me a fright.

ALISTAIR
Why would you ask her if you're a
bad mother?

JOANNA
I don't know.

Alistair contemplates her in the dawn light.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
Are you OK?

ALISTAIR
The police have a photo of Noah
wearing a yellow bib. But they
can't find it.

Alistair Joanna eye to eye.

JOANNA
Does it matter?

ALISTAIR
I don't know.

Joanna keeps her hand holding the yellow bib behind her back.

2/67H EXT/INT. GLASGOW STREET/KIRSTY SALON - DAY 12 11:00 2/67H

Joanna sits in Kirsty's busy salon. Baby Noah in the pram
beside her. Kirsty comes over. They kiss.

KIRSTY
So good to see you. You right?

Joanna nods, smiles.

KIRSTY (CONT'D)
I was just going to get a cup of
tea. You want one?

JOANNA
Sure.

Kirsty goes to make the tea. Joanna checks Noah is asleep.
Looks around her - invisible and ignored in the busy work
place and she leaves.

Joanna walks down the street, her face is grim, she wipes a
tear from her eye. She is on her phone, she texts Kirsty.

(CONTINUED)

Kirsty reads the text as she wheels the pram out of the way.

Joanna wipes tears from her face as she walks, free of the baby and the stroller but overwhelmed by sadness and self-loathing.

2/67I INT. GUEST ROOM/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - 2/67I
DAY 17 07:30

Joanna is asleep in bed. Alistair pads back from the bathroom and kneels down beside her. He pulls the sheet up and touches her cheek. Joanna doesn't stir. He sees a corner of the yellow bib poking out under the pillow. He pulls it out. He is astounded that Joanna would have it and have kept it from him and the police. He is furious and is about to wake her but then he looks at the bib. It too reminds him of Noah, he folds it carefully. His face softens, he understands why she has it. He places it back under Joanna's pillow and kisses her.

2/67J EXT. FISHING SHACKS -DAY 17 07:00 2/67J

Forensics and plain clothes Detectives converge on the isolated area where Alexandra was jogging. Police tape is strung up to secure the area. Detective Alexiades watches as they begin to search the area.

2/68 INT. LIVING ROOM/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - 2/68
DAY 17 08:00

Chloe is crying. The remains of breakfast are on the table. Alistair has just told her Alexandra has been arrested. Elizabeth gets a box of tissues. Joanna watches Chloe.

CHLOE
Why?

ALISTAIR
We don't know yet.

ELIZABETH
It's probably just a
misunderstanding.

CHLOE
But Mum didn't do anything.

Chloe tries to control her emotions.

Chloe lets go, a huge sob. Joanna witnessing Chloe's raw distress. Embarrassed about crying and distraught, Chloe gets up to leave the room. Alistair hugs her and she lets him console her as she cries.

CHLOE (CONT'D)
Can I see her?

ALISTAIR
I'll take you down as soon as we
can.

Joanna watches all this with growing horror.

2/68A	<u>OMITTED</u>	2/68A
2/68B	<u>OMITTED</u>	2/68B
2/68C	<u>OMITTED</u>	2/68C
2/69	<u>OMITTED</u>	2/69
2/70	<u>OMITTED</u>	2/70
2/71	<u>OMITTED NOW SCENE 2/67A</u>	2/71
2/72	<u>OMITTED</u>	2/72
2/73	<u>OMITTED</u>	2/73
2/74	<u>OMITTED</u>	2/74
2/75	<u>INT. GUEST ROOM/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 17 08:10</u>	2/75

Joanna sits on the floor beside the bed. Her face pressed to the phone. One hand absently stroking the yellow bib. Coral sits next to her, Declan sits on the edge of the bed, both on their phones. Susie, Krishna and the Trucker are also in the room.

VIVIENNE/JOANNA
Why have they charged her?

CORAL
No idea. If she did take Noah,
where is he?

DECLAN
The police were down near the
fishing shacks. They had dogs and
the whole shebang.

CORAL
A baby that young.

DECLAN
Imagine her poor little girl.
Mother in jail.

TRUCKER
I gave my statement to the police.

SUSIE
What did you see?

TRUCKER

I saw a grey car parked on the road
the day the kid went missing.

KRISHNA

Did you see the baby?

TRUCKER

No. But. It was strange. You don't
see people out of their cars on
that road and that couple were at
it hammer and tongs. Something
about them wasn't right.

Joanna buttons off and puts down the phone. The bloggers are gone and she is alone in the room. She shuts her eyes. Breathes.

Alistair walks in. At first he can't see her in the dark room, then he goes over to her. She opens her eyes.

JOANNA

We need new rules.

Alistair's demeanour changes - his face dark. He puts his finger over his lips. Shhhhh. He gives Joanna his hand and pulls her to her feet.

2/76 OMITTEDNOW 2/67C 2/76

2/77 OMITTED 2/77

2/78 OMITTEDNOW PART OF 2/75 2/78

2/79 EXT. GARDEN/ELIZABETH'S HOUSE/WILDE BAY - DAY 17 08:15 2/79

Alistair and Joanna walk out into the back garden, past Chloe and Elizabeth in the kitchen. Joanna follows Alistair to the far end of the garden where a bench sits obscured behind a large bush. They sit down. They are both exhausted.

Joanna opens her hand, revealing the yellow bib. Alistair nods.

ALISTAIR

I know. I found it under you
pillow.

JOANNA

I'm sorry. I needed something.

They sit quietly for a moment.

JOANNA (CONT'D)
If we could go back. Could we have
done something differently?

ALISTAIR
We have done the right thing. The
only thing that makes sense.

JOANNA
I can't keep this up. It's wrong.
Chloe and Alexandra don't deserve
any of this.

He puts his arm around her. Alistair looks at her. The bib in
her hand.

ALISTAIR
We just have to let this play out.
And they can't ever find this.

JOANNA
I know.

The bib. They both touch it reverentially.

ALISTAIR
These cops are smart. But we're
smarter.

Joanna is distraught, astounded at Alistair.

2/80 INT/EXT. HIRE CAR/ELOURA STREET/WILDE BAY - NIGHT/ DUSK 2/80
14 20:59

The night Noah went missing. Alistair and Joanna drive down
the main street in their hire car.

Alistair stops the car.

JOANNA
Al...

ALISTAIR
Two minutes.

Alistair holds Joanna's hand until she nods. Alistair gets
out of the car. Joanna sets a timer on her phone. Shuts her
eyes and waits.

Pulling away from Joanna to the back seat of the car - the
baby capsule is there but it is EMPTY. Noah is not there.

THE END