

FRINGE

SC. 1 "SONIA"
FKA "KATHERINE"

Casting sides

SONIA CURTIS

SCENE #1:

EXT. MIDTOWN MANHATTAN - INTERSECTION - DAY

The aftermath of a violent car crash spills across the intersection. Unis and CSU techs work the scene.

SPECIAL AGENT SONIA CURTIS (27, bright, [REDACTED] confident) escorts P.I. Nate McAuley past the perimeter tape.

START
|



SONIA

Nate McAuley. Special Agent Sonia Curtis. This way...

NATE

Mind telling me what the big deal is? Owen and I don't usually get a full FBI motorcade for a fender-bender.

SONIA

I was told to get you here on the scene immediately. That you'd be able to shed some light.

(beat)

Where's your brother?

NATE

He'll be over in a minute.

Nate directs Sonia's attention to the street corner, where Owen McAuley can be seen feeding a kaiser roll to some pigeons. He seems to be in a lively conversation with the birds.

Nate twigs to her thinking --

NATE (CONT'D)

Yes, he's talking to the pigeons. Or he's answering their questions. Frankly it's hard to tell sometimes.

Sonia studies Owen for a beat, nonplussed.

SONIA

I imagine so.

Nate turns his attention to a deeply T-boned black SUV.

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[SONIA (CONT'D)

This SUV is one of ours. Take a look inside.

Nate glances at the interior. The airbag is still inflated.

NATE

The airbags deployed. Doesn't look like anybody hit them.

[SONIA

The car was found empty in the immediate aftermath of the collision. No driver. The doors were locked from the inside. Seatbelt still buckled. No blood or sign of injury.

NATE

Cool trick. Who did it?

[SONIA

There was a wallet on the passenger seat. Federal credentials inside.
(beat)
Agent Daniel Agger.

Nate reacts.

NATE

Agger... Where is he now?

[SONIA

You tell me, Mr. McAuley.

Sonia hands Nate several TRAFFIC-CAM PHOTOS. They show a frame-by-frame sequence of events -- Agger behind the wheel... Entering the intersection... The other car on a collision course... *Then the moment before impact, Agger appears to disappear from the vehicle...*

[SONIA (CONT'D)

Do you recognize the other driver?

NATE

(reeling)

No... Never seen him.

[SONIA

There are no skid marks from his vehicle. A witness says the car accelerated into the crash.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

[SONIA (CONT'D)

Now why would someone try to kill Agent Agger?

NATE
Get Dossena --

[SONIA
(firm)

This is my case. Answer the question --

NATE
I need to talk to Dossena now --

[SONIA

I already did, Mr. McAuley. And she said to talk to you --

NATE
(shouts)
Owen, get over here!

[SONIA
(continuing)

-- That you and Owen worked with Agent Agger on a recent case. She seemed confident that you and/or your brother would be able to provide a credible explanation for what happened here --

NATE
Owen!

[SONIA

which I would appreciate, because I am curious, confused, and I'll be honest, a little unsettled by what I'm seeing. *People don't just disappear into thin air.*

Owen approaches, catching the last of Sonia's rant.

OWEN
There are times, lady, when I wish that were true...

Nate shoots Sonia a look before moving to inspect the cars.

Off Sonia, unsettled...

END SCENE

← END 1

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"FRINGE"

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FKA "KATHERINE"

CONTINUED: (3)

SCENE #2:

INT. SPORTS BAR - NIGHT

Loud and cheesy. Sonia finds Nate at the bar nursing a beer.

START
2

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NATE

I was hoping you wouldn't be caught dead in a place like this.

SONIA

Your brother called me. Says he can't find his 'wuppies.' Which is why I've spent the last two hours scouting a dozen local bars, looking for you, in the hopes that you'd tell me what the hell 'wuppies' are.

NATE

Slippers. Shaped like big bear feet. They're... Furry.

SONIA

Furry slippers. Of course.

NATE

I can't speak to the linguistic origin of the word 'wuppie.' Just that Owen is bat-shit crazy. It all makes sense to him.

SONIA

First thing you've said that makes sense to me.

NATE

Young sweet Agent Curtis, be warned now. What you're about to enter is the dark pernicious armpit of the physical universe known as Division 99. Leave your lunch on the floor as you exit.

SONIA

I can handle it, McAuley.

NATE

Right. It's not like those credentials you flashed when we met didn't still have that "new car smell."

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SONIA

Before the Bureau, I did six years in the Detroit PD. I even made a couple arrests now and then.

NATE

I hear Detroit's lovely.

SONIA

We called it "the other armpit of the physical universe."

Touche. Nate's buzzed enough right now to be smitten.

NATE

How 'bout I buy you a drink?

SONIA

As long as it's not served in a shot glass and made of jello.

Nate orders her a beer with the bartender, then turns back.

NATE

Yeah, I spent some time in Detroit. Few years ago.

SONIA

Brokering stolen cars.

NATE

How'd you know that?

SONIA

I checked your file.

NATE

My file's sealed.

SONIA

Maybe I'm getting the hang of this FBI thing.

NATE

Don't believe everything you read.

SONIA

Here's what I don't get about you. Division 99. Babysitting Owen. What's in it for you?

NATE

What does that mean?

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED: (2)

SONIA

It means your whole life, at least what I can glean from your arrest record and financial history, you've played an angle. Every school, every job you worked, relationships you had, there was always an ulterior motive. Usually involving money --

NATE

Maybe I'm not playing an angle here.

SONIA

Because now you're a save-the-world kinda guy...

NATE

A fella can't grow a little?

SONIA

I'm just saying. Your brother's a sweet man --

NATE

Take a look at his file before you say something like that.

SONIA

He loves you and he needs you. And it breaks my heart to have to find you here, getting drunk in a sports bar, just so Owen can put on his slippers.

Sonia turns to leave. Nate calls out to her --

NATE

They're under the bed. Where he always leaves them...

Sonia turns back to Nate. They exchange a look, and maybe he just redeemed himself a little...

Off Sonia --

END SCENE

← END
2

(CONTINUED)

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"FRINGE"

CONTINUED: (3)

SC. 3 "SONIA"
7.
FKA "KATHERINE"

SCENE #3:

INT. DIVISION 99 - SOUTHGATE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Sonia stands across from Director Gareth Southgate. She's almost quaking with emotion, her eyes piercing and dark.

START
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[SONIA]
What did you do?

Southgate just looks at her. Doesn't give.

SOUTHGATE
I might ask you the same question.

Sonia stares at him for a beat - knowing now without a doubt that he's guilty of the murder. She works to maintain her composure. A losing battle.

[SONIA]
Why?

SOUTHGATE
Division 93 became aware of the breach and performed their function.

[SONIA]
Their... function?

Sonia goes numb... shaking...

SOUTHGATE
The codes of conduct apply to you too, Ms. Curtis.

She fights her tears, using every ounce of her being not to let the sonofabitch see her cry.

[SONIA]
You screwed up. Not me. I didn't risk anybody's life at this agency.

SOUTHGATE
Agent Curtis...

[SONIA]
... Owen wasn't... He wasn't a risk... he was just a man... A scientist, he...

(CONTINUED)

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Her words trail off. Southgate watches her for a beat, stern but without a trace of sympathy. Finally --

SOUTHGATE

I'm sorry. Sensitive information from our division must be treated like a virus.

SONIA

And your first response was containment?

SOUTHGATE

You put us in a compromised situation--

SONIA

The hell I did--

SOUTHGATE

It's an unfortunate countermeasure, but we had no--

SONIA

Stop saying "we." Stop talking about it like a goddamned bureaucrat.

(beat)

You killed the man I love.

She finally put the terrible truth into words. And her composure is finally cracking... But in the moment before the tears come --

SOUTHGATE

No, Agent Curtis. You did.

Sonia takes it like a punch to the gut. Breathing hard. A long beat as she struggles to hold on...

SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

I know this is difficult for you. This is difficult for me too.

Sonia looks up at him. Knows Southgate wasn't trying to be sympathetic.

SONIA

What does that mean?

SOUTHGATE

Division 93 needs to see you immediately.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Sonia reacts, a flood of emotion -- dismay, fear, disgust.

SOUTHGATE (CONT'D)

You're a risk now, too.

Off Sonia, stunned --

← END
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