

ZOE
1

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. PRISON - VISITING ROOM - DAY

Megan and Bud sit across from Zoe. Bud runs her stats.

BUD

Zoe Reese. Serving four to seven for nearly beating your drug dealer to death. Well, Zoe, it looks like you decided to step things up --

START

Bud shows Zoe a PICTURE of the victim. Off Zoe's shock --

BUD (CONT'D)

We found her in a ditch about ten miles from here. Your blood was on her t-shirt.

ZOE

You think I did this?

BUD

What's her name?

Zoe looks around, nowhere to run. She pleads with Bud --

ZOE

Look, I'm out soon, I don't want any trouble.

MEGAN

Then at least give us her name so we can contact her family.

ZOE

Her name is Bryn Walker. She runs the horse therapy program me and a couple of other prisoners are in.

BUD

I love this case. First a monster, now horses, next we'll be hearing about gnomes or E.T.

ZOE

I'm telling you the truth. Bryn used horses to help us learn job skills and self-esteem stuff, how to be more sensitive with people.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MEGAN

Sounds like something for you,
Detective.

(off Bud)

What happened to your face?

ZOE

A horse kicked me yesterday and I
fell. Bryn helped me up. I guess
there was still blood on my hands.

Megan examines the cut on Zoe's head. As she does, Bud
clocks track marks on Zoe's arm.

MEGAN

(to Bud)

Could have come from a horse.

ZOE

It did. Bryn asked me to check on
the horse's sore leg. She was
teaching me skills so I could
become a veterinary assistant.

BUD

Lofty goal for someone doing three
to five.

ZOE

Like I said, I'm out soon. I've
got a little girl, I want to be
able to take care of her.

MEGAN

What's your little girl's name?

ZOE

None of your business.

BUD

This therapy is working for you,
Zoe. We'll be in touch.

A GUARD takes Zoe away. Peter enters, joins Bud and Megan.

BUD (CONT'D)

You got anything to back up this
cockamamy horse story of hers?

PETER

Bryn Walker spent two days a week
volunteering with a couple of low-
risk prisoners.

(CONTINUED)

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BUD (CONT'D)

Zoe was training to be a veterinary assistant.

MEGAN

To provide for her daughter. Not to kill Bryn.

Bud gestures to a UNI --

BUD

Send some guys out to the stable. If there's a veterinary kit there, print it.

MEGAN

Detective, Bryn was helping Zoe --

BUD

I get it. You've got a soft spot for this suspect. She's got a kid, you've got a kid --

MEGAN

(interrupting)

I have a soft spot for the girl who was left for dead.

BUD

Then look at your own damn evidence. The drug, the blood on Bryn's shirt, access to the saddle. All roads lead to Zoe. The sooner you accept that, the sooner we put away Bryn's killer.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. PRISON - VISITING ROOM - DAY

Bud slides a BOX of succinylcholine across the table to Zoe.

BUD

Succinylcholine. There's a vial missing.

ZOE

So?

BUD

It's what killed Bryn. Your prints were on the box which we found in the stable office.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bud shows Zoe a printout -- phone records. *

BUD (CONT'D)

Someone's been using the phone
there to call your family. A
guard saw you arguing with Bryn
outside the office a couple hours
before she was found dead. *

(off Zoe) *

She caught you using the phone,
didn't she? She told you to stop
and you snapped. *

ZOE *

I didn't kill Bryn. *

(then) *

We were arguing because I wanted
her to stop calling my mom. *

BUD *

Bryn made those calls? *

ZOE *

(a nod... then) *

She was trying to convince my mom
to let my kid see me. *

BUD *

Why did that make you angry? *

ZOE *

Because you can't convince people
you've changed if they don't want
to believe it. *

Bud studies Zoe a beat. Still, there's the evidence. *

BUD *

Why were your prints on the box? *

ZOE *

Bryn asked me to put that box back
in the cabinet. She had just
stopped someone from putting a
horse down. She kept saying that
the horse was proof. *

BUD *

What did the horse look like? *

ZOE *

It was a white one. *

(CONTINUED)

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BUD

Funny how all your alibis can't talk. First Bryn, now a horse. You better not be lying to me.

STOP.

INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - DAY

Bud at his desk. OFFICER JASON GALL, 20's, hands him a report.

JASON

Detective? I ran Paisley for you. There were no restraining orders or complaints filed by Bryn Walker.

BUD

Thanks.

Jason moves off. As Bud reads over the report --

EVELYN (O.S.)

Detective Morris?

Bud looks up to see EVELYN REESE, 50's, and her granddaughter, LAILA REESE, five years old, adorable.

EVELYN (CONT'D)

I'm Zoe's mother. This is Laila.

LAILA

Hi.

EVELYN

I understand you have some questions about my daughter?

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - MEGAN'S OFFICE - DAY

Megan types something into her computer. ANGLE ON MONITOR: a Google entry for "The Four Horses" -- pages of results pop up. Megan leans back, sighs. Peter enters.

PETER

That was a big sigh.

MEGAN

Trying to figure out what Bryn's tattoo meant.

PETER

There's always Ethan's Apocalypse theory.

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MEGAN (CONT'D)

I think this reminded Bryn that people needed a push, a kick... something, someone to help them believe they could be something better than they were.

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PETER

Bryn's brother didn't have anyone to do that for him. So, Bryn did it for everyone else.

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*
*

Megan nods, looks down at her hands.

*

MEGAN

The car accident was my whip. It broke me and it brought me back to Lacey. What if I mess up again?

*

PETER

You won't.

TRANSITION TO:

INT. PRISON - VISITING ROOM - DAY

It's family visiting hours. Bud enters to find Zoe waiting for him at a table.

BUD

We caught Bryn's killer.

Zoe simply nods. Bryn being gone is still a loss for her. Bud studies her a beat, then... let the healing begin --

BUD (CONT'D)

Corrections wants to keep Bryn's therapy program going. There will be a job for you there once you're out.

*
*

ZOE

I appreciate that.

BUD

Oh, there's something else --

Bud nods to a GUARD, who opens the door to reveal Zoe's mother Evelyn and daughter Laila. They walk over to Zoe.

ZOE

Oh, my gosh... hi baby.

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN

Laila, you remember your mom?

LAILA

Mommy?

ZOE

You're so beautiful.

Zoe holds out her arms and Laila steps into them, giving Zoe a big, wide-armed hug. Bud and Evelyn trade a look.

INT. MEGAN'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (NIGHT 3)

Megan and Todd sit with Lacey.

TODD

Your mother and I talked it over and we were wondering if you would like to stay with her more often.

MEGAN

No pressure... if you don't want to, that's okay.

LACEY

No, I... I would like to.

MEGAN

Okay.

TODD

We can come up with a schedule. Something you can count on, maybe every other weekend to start.

LACEY

Does that mean I can stay with Mom this weekend?

TODD

Sure.

LACEY

And I can go to the party?

Todd and Megan trade a look. Let the real parenting begin.

INT. TODD'S CAR - NIGHT

Todd gets in. Kate is in the passenger seat.

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