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 --

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)
MEGAN
Sounds like something for you,
Detective.
(off Bud)
What happened to your face?

ZOE
A horse kicked me yesterday and I
tell. 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
cockamamie horse story of hers?

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

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

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

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


PETER
That was a big sigh.

MEGAN
Trying to figure out what Bryn's tattoo meant.

PETER
There's always Ethan's Apocalypse theory.
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.

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

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.
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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.

(Continued)