

Valkyrie

Cast of Characters

Hank Bierman, a cop, 30s and 50s
Joe Ellis, a cop, 30s and 50s.
Gene Hart, a cop, 40s and 60s*
Siri Karlsson, dispatch, Scandanavian born, 20s and 40s
Grace Smith, a librarian, 50s
Rosie Strand, 16 and 34, Derik's sister

Additional Appearances

Derik Strand, 10 year-old boy appears only in video sequences.
Mrs. Hancock is played by the same actor who plays Grace Smith.
Harriet is a voice-over character
Lost Boy is played by the same actor who plays Hart

Notes

Director and collaborators may choose to stage the video sequences live or pre-recorded. If the scenes are live, the cast of six would increase to a cast of seven.

Setting

Police station
Grace's house
Juvenile detention room

Timelines

December 1990-February 1991 and December 2008-May 2009

ACT 1

SCENE 1

PROJECTION: DECEMBER 18, 1990

The police station. An office, and a tree decorated for Christmas. Officers Hart and Bierman work at their desks. Officer Ellis enters. He wears reindeer antlers.

HART

Very cute.

ELLIS

Last year they gave me a stocking full of coal. This is progress!

HART

How'd it go?

ELLIS

These kids get smarter every year. Great questions. Bierman, you should try it.

BIERMAN

I've got two kids at home, that's enough.

HART

What did they want to know?

ELLIS

Oh, stuff like, how many criminals do we catch a year, what was the worst crime I ever investigated. They watch a lot of TV. One kid, back of the room, couldn't see him, wanted to know the penalty for murder. So I said, well, depends on whether it was premeditated and he said, aren't all murders premeditated, and I said, no, some are impulsive, sometimes things go wrong, accidents happen, or people have fights.

HART

You told the kids all that?

ELLIS

This day and age the kids are sophisticated. You can't shield them from harsh reality.

BIERMAN

Now who's been watching too much television!

ELLIS

They were cute.

HART

The six million dollar question. Did you bring us any cookies?

Ellis produces a small tin.

BIERMAN

Ta da!

ELLIS

Actually, it's fudge. The home ec class made fudge for us. Girls and boys together in home ec. Who'd have thunk it?

HART

Whoa.

Bierman and Ellis dig in.

HART (cont'd)

Save some for Siri.

(Hart presses intercom.)

Siri?

SIRI (V.O.)

Yah, boss.

HART

You want some fudge?

SIRI (V.O.)

You want some *brunscrackers*? Trade you.

BIERMAN

What's a *brunscracker*?

SIRI (V.O.)

Swedish cookie. They are like potato chips. Thin and delicate.

ELLIS

Like you, Siri.

SIRI (V.O.)

I beat you in arm wrestling last week.

HART

Have a nice Christmas if I don't see you.

SIRI (V.O.)

God jul.

BIERMAN

I hate it when she speaks Swedish.

ELLIS

Norwegian. And she's a Viking, anyway. And without the Vikings we wouldn't even have Christmas. Tell him, Siri.

SIRI (V.O.)

Vikings invented everything.

BIERMAN

That's what the Irish say.

SIRI (V.O.)

Well, the Irish. We kicked their butts.

HART

Forward the calls when you leave.

SIRI (V.O.)

Always do, boss.

HART

Who's on call?

SIRI (V.O.)

Ellis.

HART

Go home, Siri. It's starting to snow.

SIRI (V.O.)

Used to it, but ok-ya.

Hart takes out a folder and throws it at Ellis.

ELLIS

What?

HART

You read this?

ELLIS

You know I read it. We all read it.

HART

So, knock it off.

ELLIS

I was just kidding around, Gene.

HART

It's a new world order, Ellis. Called treating women with respect.

ELLIS

It's always been my world order. Siri knows I'm kidding. She's a Viking. She'll kick my ass.

HART

You don't mention a woman's body.

BIERMAN

Especially Siri's. I mean, what's to mention?

ELLIS

Hey!

HART

Next time I'll write you up.

(glares at Bierman)

Both of you.

ELLIS

Okay, okay. I'll apologize to her.

(Ellis pushes the intercom.)

Siri? You still there? Siri?

(hands Hart the fudge tin)

Have some.

BIERMAN

Gene doesn't like nuts, remember?

ELLIS

You don't like chocolate?

HART

I just don't like nuts. There's nuts in there.

ELLIS

So spit them out.

HART

They ruin it.

ELLIS

Mm.

HART

Glad you like them. She'd make a good detective.

ELLIS

Siri?

HART

Yeah.

BIERMAN

She's not American. She can't be a cop.

HART

She is American. Born here. Moved to Norway. Moved back. Citizen. Case closed. She can even run for president, Bierman. Father served in the army, was killed in Korea when she was three. Raised by a single mother. She's a good girl.

ELLIS

I'll call them and say, next year no nuts. You don't know what you're missing.

HART

Did you talk about shoplifting?

ELLIS

I always talk about shoplifting. By the fourth grade, everybody has shoplifted. I have probably single-handedly interfered with the development of an entire generation of juvenile delinquents over the past ten years.

(Ellis looks at the clock.)

Almost time. What are you doing tonight?

HART

Probably pick up a movie at Blockbuster.

ELLIS

I saw a good one. Michael J. Fox. Back to the Future.

HART

Oh yeah, I missed that when it came out.

ELLIS

It's got a funny joke in it.

HART

Okay.

ELLIS

Funniest joke I ever heard.

HART

What is it?

ELLIS

I don't want to ruin it for you.

HART

Just tell me. I never get the jokes.

ELLIS

Okay. Kid goes back in time and says he's from the future. But no one believes him. So they ask him, who's the president and you know what he says?

HART

What does he say?

ELLIS

Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan, do you get it?

HART

Yeah? What's funny about it?

ELLIS

Because the story is in the 1950s. Who'd have thought in the future Ronald Reagan would be president?

HART

So do they laugh?

ELLIS

Who?

HART

The people in the movie.

ELLIS

No, they don't laugh. I mean, they laugh because it's stupid. It's preposterous. And he can't convince them.

HART

I couldn't believe it when he was elected either.

ELLIS

Yeah, well. I didn't vote for him.

HART

So, what happens?

ELLIS

So, he goes back in time and helps his father not be a loser so...and when he goes back to the future, everything's different. Not a lot different. Just enough so his father's not a loser.

HART

Wish someone had done that for me.

SIRI (V.O.)

Like the dinosaur story.

HART

Are you still here?

SIRI (V.O.)

The dinosaur story where the guy goes back in time to hunt dinosaurs but is told he has to shoot it just at the moment when it would have died anyway and he - the hunter - steps on a blade of grass and when he comes back the world is in chaos.

ELLIS

That from the Viking Chronicles?

HART

Siri, are you going home?

SIRI (V.O.)

Sorry. We got three shoplifters at Sweetwater's Mall. Security has them detained.

HART

Shit. Okay.

SIRI (V.O.)

Teenaged girls.

HART

Natch. Okay.

SIRI (V.O.)

I'll fax over the log.

ELLIS

Sorry, Siri.

SIRI (V.O.)

For what?

ELLIS

Saying you're a brunscracker.

SIRI (V.O.)

I've been called worse.

A fax arrives. Bierman grabs it.

HART

Got it, Siri. Go home.

SIRI (V.O.)

I'm going, I'm going.

HART

You never go home!

SIRI (V.O.)

Justice never sleeps!

ELLIS

Merry Brunscraker!

SIRI (V.O.)

Merry Brunscracker to you. Oops. There's another one. I'm getting a sick sense about this.

HART

Just fax it over. Forward the calls. Go home!

BIERMAN

Sixth sense, Siri. It's called sixth sense.

SIRI (V.O.)

Huh?

BIERMAN

We've got five senses.

SIRI (V.O.)

What's he talking about?

HART

Never mind.

SIRI (V.O.)

I'm going home now.

BIERMAN

Great.

ELLIS

Overtime.

HART

Look at the bright side. If you don't get killed on the job, you're likely to die of a heart attack.

The fax comes in. Hart reads it.

HART (cont'd)

Prowler in South Barrington. Some kid called it in.

BIERMAN

I'll take the shoplifters.

ELLIS

I want the shoplifters. The prowler calls go on all night.

BIERMAN

Come on, Ellis. I promised Barbie I'd take her out for dinner.

HART

What's the occasion, is it her birthday?

BIERMAN

Nah. Birthday's in July. Just trying to get back in her good graces.

Hart takes out a coin and throws it up.

HART

Okay, Bierman. Call it.

BIERMAN

Heads!

Hart looks at it.

HART

Heads it is.

SIRI (V.O.)

Snow's really coming down out there.

HART

Go home!

ELLIS

Shit. I've got a sick sense about this.

Ellis and Bierman exit.

SIRI (V.O.)

Hey, Boss?

HART

What?

SIRI (V.O.)

You like fish?

HART

I guess.

SIRI (V.O.)

I've got some fresh pike. I'll bring some in for you.

HART

Fresh?

SIRI (V.O.)

Yah. Caught some last night in the lake.

HART

You ice fish?

SIRI (V.O.)

Obvious.

HART

Alone?

SIRI (V.O.)

Beer and gummy bears. Helps me to clear my mind. It's quiet. Except for the other fishermen. We look out for each other. You should try it sometime. Maybe we'll have a company picnic on the ice.

HART

Be careful.

SIRI (V.O.)

Good night, Boss.

SCENE 2

PROJECTION: DECEMBER 18, 2008

Two worlds: Grace Smith's home and the police station where Bierman is interviewed by Ellis, who takes notes. Grace dresses very conservatively, spinsterish.

BIERMAN

We got the call around five o'clock, end of shift. She lives in that development that time forgot- over in South Barrington. A half a mile from the interstate bypass road that never got built. Nice little neighborhood. But secluded, you know? Most of the families have lived there for twenty years. Like I said, the development that time forgot. After the flood, some of the roads were completely washed out the town had to rename all the streets. GPS was completely useless. Took me an hour just to find the damned place.

GRACE SMITH enters. The doorbell rings.
She goes to the door.

GRACE

Yes?

BIERMAN

I said, "Officer Bierman. You called 911?"

GRACE

Can I see your badge?

HART

She was cautious?

BIERMAN

I pointed to my cruiser.

GRACE

Of course. Come on in. He was there, in that window. Last night. This is the third time.

HART

And her exact name is-

BIERMAN

Mrs.-

GRACE

Smith. Grace Smith. No middle name.

BIERMAN

Mrs. Grace-

GRACE

Yes.

Light fades on Ellis but he remains a witness as Bierman continues the scene with Grace.

BIERMAN

When was the first time?

GRACE

About two weeks ago. I saw him walk across my yard. I didn't like it, but I figured he was just taking a short cut, although to where, I have no idea. It's just houses in a circle here.

THUNDER. Bierman staggers a little.

GRACE (cont'd)

Are you all right?

BIERMAN

I'm fine. I don't know what came over me.

GRACE

Here, sit down. It might be the low pressure system that's out there. I don't really know what a low pressure system is, but the weather man said it was a low pressure system.

BIERMAN

Seems like a low pressure system wouldn't have any effect at all.

GRACE

Ah. Maybe he said high pressure system.

BIERMAN

I'm all right now. Sorry.

The intercom light comes on. Grace freezes.

HARRIET (V.O.)

Siri there?

ELLIS

She's out on a call.

HARRIET (V.O.)

Got a message for her. I think.

ELLIS

You think?

HARRIET (V.O.)

The guy said it was for a Viking goddess so I figured he must mean Siri.

ELLIS

You get a number?

HARRIET (V.O.)

Got it on the caller I.D.

ELLIS

Make a note, will you?

HARRIET (V.O.)

Ten-four.

The intercom light goes out. Grace animates.

GRACE

I get a little dizzy sometimes. Do you want some coffee?

BIERMAN

No, thank you.

GRACE

It would only take a minute. I don't drink it myself, gives me heartburn. But I like to have it on hand for company.

I do love the smell, though. Aroma. Like in the coffee commercials. Mm mm good.

BIERMAN

I think that's for soup.

GRACE

Oh, you're right. Well, soup smells good, too. Except for split pea. Have you eaten-

BIERMAN

You live alone?

GRACE

Yes.

BIERMAN

No kids?

GRACE

No children. Just a niece and she's all grown up.

BIERMAN

I wondered because of the art work.

GRACE

Oh, yes. My nephew made it when he was little.

BIERMAN

You have a niece and a nephew?

GRACE

You have something on your chin. It's complicated. But, yes.

BIERMAN

What?

GRACE

On your chin.

BIERMAN

Oh. Oh, I had fudge earlier.

He takes out a handkerchief and wipes his chin.

GRACE

Sorry to mention it.

BIERMAN

Thank you, I'm glad you did.

GRACE

I hope it was good.

BIERMAN

We always make a presentation to the fourth grade class this time of year and they make us fudge. Some years it's cookies.

GRACE

Um.

BIERMAN

So this prowler- can you describe him?

GRACE

Kind of, I don't know, mid-twenties maybe. Dark hair. Sweatshirt. Dark color.

BIERMAN

His skin?

GRACE

No, no, his clothes. Medium build.

BIERMAN

Uh huh.

GRACE

I know it's not very descriptive.

BIERMAN

And where do you work?

GRACE

I'm a librarian at the high school. But it's not one of the kids. I know them all.

BIERMAN

There must be a thousand kids at that school.

GRACE

And I know them all.

BIERMAN

But it was dark.

GRACE

I know them all.

BIERMAN

I'm not sure what to recommend. Keep your doors locked. Windows.

GRACE

Should I buy a gun?

BIERMAN

Well, I wouldn't want to advise you on purchasing a gun. Have you talked to your neighbors? Perhaps they've seen someone.

GRACE

I don't know them very well.

BIERMAN

I'll knock on some doors. Ask a few questions. Kids do pranks. My father was a school teacher. Made a point to live in a different town.

GRACE

I guess it's possible except I already told you. I know every one of them.

BIERMAN

Right. You might keep a camera handy. You might be able to take his picture next time.

GRACE

I did take a picture of his footprints.

Siri enters. She walks by Ellis's desk to her own. She fusses with her paperwork but listens carefully, too.

BIERMAN

Really?

GRACE

It had snowed and when I felt it was... when I felt it was safe, I went outside and there were his footprints in the snow. So I took a picture of them. Was that smart?

BIERMAN

Very smart.

GRACE

I haven't got them developed yet. But I'd say his feet are about a size eleven.

BIERMAN

Eleven.

GRACE

Yes.

BIERMAN

Why don't you let me see the pictures when you get them developed.

GRACE

All right, I will.

BIERMAN

Anything else you can think of?

GRACE

He limps a little.

BIERMAN

He limps?

GRACE

The first time I saw him. When he was walking across my lawn. He limped a little. It might show in the pictures.

BIERMAN

That's a good detail. I should take a look around the house while I'm here.

GRACE

All right.

ELLIS

Then what?

BIERMAN

We went into the living room. There were sliding glass doors and beyond them a yard and woods behind that. I remember thinking it was a bad setup if you were concerned about prowlers. But I didn't say anything. She knew. The living room was neat. Too neat. And the strangest thing of all was that there were no books. No magazines. Nothing that you would expect a librarian to keep around.

GRACE

The bedroom is through there. And the guest room down the hall.

SIRI

Where does she live?

ELLIS

South Barrington.

SIRI

In that development?

ELLIS

Older neighborhood. Where the bypass never got built. Kind of secluded over there.

BIERMAN

Do you mind?

Bierman tries a door.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

This door is unlocked.

GRACE

Oh yes, I found a spider and put it outside. I must have forgotten. I just can't kill them, you know?

BIERMAN

You've got to be more careful. Is there a basement?

GRACE

Just a crawl space but I closed it off. I don't use it for anything. It had a furnace but I took it out and put in electric baseboard. Could someone break it in?

BIERMAN

I'll check it on my way out. How long have you lived here?

GRACE

Six months. Moved here from Ohio. This was my brother's house. After he died, I inherited it but it's been rented until recently, then after my husband died I, well, thought a change would be therapeutic.

BIERMAN

Uh huh.

GRACE

That's a lot of death in one sentence. (beat) I don't really feel I've moved in yet.

BIERMAN

Anything else?

GRACE

You'll check the crawl space?

BIERMAN

I'll check it.

(to Ellis)

And that was it. I checked the door. It was locked. I came back to the office. No, I went home.

SCENE 3

PROJECTION: DECEMBER 24, 1990

Morning. Ellis and Bierman work at their desks and typewriters.

BIERMAN

How'd you sleep?

ELLIS

Like the innocent.

(looks up)

Why?

BIERMAN

Had nightmares. Crazy shit.

ELLIS

What did you eat? For dinner?

BIERMAN

Don't think I ate, come to think of it.

ELLIS

That explains it.

(looks up)

Thought this was your day off?

BIERMAN

Kids are home. Might as well come into the office. How'd the prowler call go?

ELLIS

It's a good thing you didn't go.

BIERMAN

Why's that?

ELLIS

The kid said he was hoping you were going to show up. Said he had a message for you. Creepy!

SIRI (V.O.)

Boss around?

ELLIS

What's the matter?

BIERMAN

What message?

SIRI (V.O.)

Rosie Strand is here. She claims her father beat her up. What time is Hart coming in?

BIERMAN

I'll talk to her.

SIRI (V.O.)

It's one of the girls you picked up for shoplifting.

ELLIS

Wait, did you say Strand?

SIRI (V.O.)

Yeah.

ELLIS

What's her address?

SIRI (V.O.)

Um, 402 South Street Extension-

ELLIS

Jesus, that's the prowler address. She's got one weird brother.

SIRI (V.O.)

Joe, you want to talk to her?

BIERMAN

I'll talk to her.

SIRI (V.O.)

She expressly asked for someone else.

ELLIS

You're not too popular with the Strand clan, Hank.

BIERMAN

What message?

ELLIS

He didn't say. Just had this look in his eye. Remember the movie *The Other*?

BIERMAN

I didn't see it.

ELLIS

Probably good. I still have nightmares.

Siri disconnects. Bierman turns on a monitor. A TEENAGED GIRL (ROSIE) sits alone at a table with her head down. Bierman watches her.

BEGIN VIDEO SEQUENCE

Hart enters. Bierman turns it off.

END VIDEO SEQUENCE

HART

This is your day off.

BIERMAN

Kids are home.

HART

So?

BIERMAN

So, it's noisy.

HART

It's also Christmas vacation. How about taking them sledding?
Or shopping?

(beat)

Anything going on?

BIERMAN

Domestic abuse complaint. Ellis is handling it. How's
Chief? You hear anything?

HART

Saw him last night. He thinks he'll be back to work after the
first. I don't know. His color isn't good.

BIERMAN

He's what, fifty?

HART

Fifty-five. The job's killing him. He cares too much.

BIERMAN

Huh. I don't have that problem. I mean, I care, don't get me
wrong. But the people we deal with- we're not social workers.
We're cops.

HART

You make coffee?

BIERMAN

We're out of coffee. I told you yesterday.

HART

And you didn't pick any up?

BIERMAN

It's my day off!

HART

Right.

Hart exits. Bierman turns on the monitor.

BEGIN VIDEO SEQUENCE

Ellis talks to Rosie. She gestures wildly. He turns up the volume.

ROSIE

...he's a fucking maniac- I'm going to fucking kill him one day-

ELLIS

Don't say that-

ROSIE

Right, just let him knock me around every time he wants to- I'm not going back there-

ELLIS

Okay-

ROSIE

I want a lawyer-

ELLIS

You're not under arrest-

ROSIE

Then he'd better get a lawyer!

ELLIS

Okay. Do you want to see a doctor?

ROSIE

Yes! I want photographs. Look-

(opens her shirt)

See where he grabbed me?

ELLIS

I'm not sure if I can-

ROSIE

It's red there! And my eyes are bloodshot from getting slapped-

ELLIS

They are bloodshot-

ROSIE

I fucking hate him! I'm not going back there. You know what else? He burned me with a cigarette. Last year.

(shows him her arm)

Right there. See it? Are you writing that down?

ELLIS

I'm writing everything down. And your father- what was his motivation?

ROSIE

Motivation?

ELLIS

What happened?

ROSIE

Happened? Happened? I got born into a crazy family! My mother's dead- and I think my dad killed her.

ELLIS

What?

ROSIE

She fell down the stairs. Okay? How many people fall down the stairs and die?

ELLIS

Probably not too many.

ROSIE

Write that down. Write that down about my mother.

ELLIS

Like I said. I'm writing everything down. So do you want to tell me? What happened?

ROSIE

Chelsea and Elizabeth happened. They told their mothers they were spending the night at my house.

ELLIS

And they weren't?

ROSIE

I didn't even know. And my father went ballistic. Like I had anything to do with it.

ELLIS

And you weren't meeting up with them?

ROSIE

I was supposed to spend the night at Amanda's. For real.

ELLIS

And who is this Amanda?

ROSIE

Nobody! God! Are you even following this?

ELLIS

Okay, so you're spending the night with Amanda and Chelsea and Elizabeth are spending the night with you. So it was a rendezvous of some kind?

ROSIE

A what?

ELLIS

A meeting. You girls were meeting up.

ROSIE

They were meeting up. I was just living my life.

ELLIS

Office Bierman picked the three of you up for shoplifting.

ROSIE

Yeah, that perv. What's your point?

ELLIS

I beg your pardon?

ROSIE

He's creepy. I think he was into Elizabeth. I mean, he called her up.

Hart enters the office. Bierman turns off the monitor.

END VIDEO SEQUENCE

Hart holds up two tea bags.

HART

Can you believe it? This is all I could find in the frigging place.

(gives Bierman a hard look.)

You okay? You look like hell.

BIERMAN

Hate Christmas.

HART

You and me both. Just a few days until New Year's and everything can get back to normal.

The intercom lights up.

SIRI (V.O.)

Officer Hart?

HART

Hi, Siri.

SIRI (V.O.)

Got a parent on the line. Arlene Richardson. Her sixteen-year-old daughter didn't come home last night and apparently her friend didn't either. We're talking about the girls Hank picked up last week for shoplifting.

HART

Put her through.

SIRI (V.O.)

Ellis is interviewing the third girl right now. Unrelated matter.

HART

Wait, what?

SIRI (V.O.)

I'll tell you later.

Hart picks up the phone. Bierman turns on the monitor

BEGIN VIDEO SEQUENCE CONTINUOUS WITH LIVE ACTION

ROSIE

I didn't even take anything, I was just there. And that freak Bierman wouldn't listen to me-

Hart motions to Bierman to cut the sound. Bierman does- but watches the mute screen.

HART

This is Officer Hart... uh huh... yes... yes... and what time was that? Hold on a minute, Mrs. Richardson-

(he puts his hand over the receiver and speaks into the intercom.)

Siri, make sure the third girl-

SIRI (V.O.)

Rosie-

HART

Make sure Rosie doesn't leave.

(to Hank)

You should probably be interviewing her.

Bierman exits.

SIRI (V.O.)

Rosie doesn't want Hank.

HART

He's on his way.

(back to the phone)

Mrs. Richardson? I'm sorry to keep you waiting. We're talking to Rosie, um... thank you, Rosie Strand right now... that would be a good idea... and bring the list of phone numbers with you... we'll get in touch with Rosie's parents... oh, her father, then... ninety-nine times out of a hundred these things work out just fine, Mrs. Richardson... well, that's true but I have a good feeling here, school vacation, kids are a little more reckless than usual...

Bierman enters the interview room.
Rosie starts screaming at him.

HART (cont'd)

I won't go anywhere and you have our full attention... Hart, Officer Hart. I'm the Acting Chief.

SIRI (V.O.)

Boss? We've got a situation.

HART

Thank you.

(He disconnects. Looks at the monitor.)

Jesus!

Hart exits. On the monitor, Siri enters.

She goes to Rosie and puts her arms around her. Rosie clings to her. Ellis enters after a moment. Negotiation. Siri exits with Rosie.

END VIDEO SEQUENCE

PROJECTION: LATER

Hart and Bierman in the office.

BIERMAN

I didn't call her. I called her home. I expected to speak to Mrs. Richardson.

HART

And what did you talk about?

BIERMAN

I simply asked if her mother was there- she wasn't- and then I asked how she was. Elizabeth, that is. She was very upset the night of the arrest, naturally. I tried calling all three families. Frankly, Gene, I was really hard on the girls. I don't like admitting it. It was late, I was tired, I was supposed to take Barbie out that night and I think I took it out on them. What do you want me to say? We're encouraged to do outreach in the community and especially our youth. So when I do, I get accused of, what, flirting? Coming on to someone? If that's the case, I'll stick to the job I'm hired to do- protect and serve. And leave the public relations to you. If I was going to risk my job over a female, she's sure as hell be of age. That's the first thing. And the second thing is that it wouldn't happen. Not in a million years. Not in this lifetime or the next. I've got daughters. You think I would do anything to harm them?

HART

No one is accusing you of harming them or anyone. But since this came up, I have to refer it to Internal Affairs and in this police department, that's Chief and since he's out, that's me.

BIERMAN

Look, when the girls show up- and they will show up- you can ask them. You're going on the hysterical ranting of a girl who obviously hates me, hates her father, hates all men as far as I can tell.

HART

Her two best friends are missing.

(Hart looks at the clock.)

Eight o'clock tonight it will be an official missing persons case.

The intercom lights up.

SIRI (V.O.)

Boss, you there?

HART

(sharply) What?

SIRI (V.O.)

Oops. Sorry.

Intercom light does not go out.

BIERMAN

I didn't appreciate Siri in there today. She was egging this girl on. She's sixteen. An adult in some states. Acting like a child.

HART

Yeah, well in this state she is a child. Her mother is dead. She's been through a lot. I think a woman's touch might be what we need around here.

BIERMAN

Whoa. Watch what you say, Gene. Remember our training? We're supposed to imagine everybody has a penis.

HART

That's not funny.

BIERMAN

Sorry. Anything else?

HART

Yeah. Plenty. There's a six o'clock meeting at the high school. If the girls don't turn up tonight, we start searching tomorrow morning. I suggest you be there.

BIERMAN

Of course.

Bierman exits. Hart is world weary. He opens a drawer and takes a long pull on a bottle. He goes to hit the intercom button and sees that it is still lit up.

HART

Hi, Siri.

SIRI (V.O.)

Hi, Boss.

HART

You're nosy.

SIRI (V.O.)

I know.

HART

And I'm sorry.

SIRI (V.O.)

I know that, too.

HART

How is it you know everything?

SIRI (V.O.)

Dunno. Made that way.

HART

Can I ask you a question?

SIRI (V.O.)

Sure.

HART

Why are the Scandinavians so tall?

SIRI (V.O.)

Simple. We're Gods on earth, Boss.

HART

Why are you short, then?

SIRI (V.O.)

I'm an elf, Boss. Simple.

HART

They have elves in Norway?

SIRI (V.O.)

We're everywhere. You're not drinking, boss?

HART

Not much. Christmas. Bad time for bad times. What keeps you so happy, Siri?

SIRI (V.O.)

Valhalla. That's where my father is. After Viking warriors die, they go to Valhalla and wait for the big battle.

HART

That makes you happy?

SIRI (V.O.)

I like to think of my father there, keeping the faith, keeping strong. Waiting for me.

HART

And you think you'll wind up in Valhalla?

SIRI (V.O.)

I'm nosy, Boss. Of course, I'm going to wind up in Valhalla.

HART

What did you want? A few minutes ago?

SIRI (V.O.)

Oh. I was just going to tell you we have a message from Mrs. Hancock. She wants to talk about Edwin.

HART

Some people never go away.

SIRI (V.O.)

And I checked the phone logs. No calls to the Strands or the Whitlocks. Hank said he called all three families. There's only a log of him calling the Richardson's house. And one incoming call from the Richardson's at eleven-sixteen the same day.

HART

In the morning?

SIRI (V.O.)

At night.

HART

This girl called here at eleven-sixteen at night?

SIRI (V.O.)

Someone from the house did. When the answering service picked up, apparently they hung up. I checked all the caller IDs since the girls got arrested.

HART

Probably a prank call. Go home, Siri!

SIRI (V.O.)

You know caller ID was invented by a woman?

HART

Probably to keep track of what her husband was doing. Go home, Siri!

SIRI (V.O.)

Good night, Boss.

The intercom light goes off. Lights go down slowly on Hart.

SCENE 4

PROJECTION: DECEMBER 25, 2008

Bierman sits at his desk and types into a laptop. Siri enters, holding a briefcase. She wears a Santa hat and a Viking helmet. She stands in the doorway. Bierman senses a presence and turns.

A VASE OF FLOWERS are on Siri's desk.

BIERMAN

Jesus!

SIRI

I didn't think anyone would be here.

BIERMAN

What are you decked out for?

SIRI

I serve dinner at the homeless shelter. Couple times a month and every Christmas.

BIERMAN

You must scare the shit out of those poor bastards.

SIRI

They gave me the hats. Look, I... I have some bad news.

(beat)

Gene's wife called me.

BIERMAN

Shit.

SIRI

Early this morning.

BIERMAN

Shit.

SIRI

I know.

BIERMAN

It was a long haul.

(notices Siri's grief)

Hey, I'm sorry. I know how much you liked him. We all did.
You want me to call Joe and tell him?

SIRI

I already did.

(beat)

He was an *alskling*. A sweetheart. He was awake until...
until he suddenly wasn't.

Siri takes some files out of her case
and opens a drawer.

BIERMAN

What are those?

SIRI

Gene and I have been going over the cold case about the girls
from 1990. That one always bothered him.

BIERMAN

Bothered all of us. You two make any progress?

SIRI

Oh, well. Gene mostly would have me read aloud and then drift
off. I'd stop until he woke up and start at the beginning.
Had to be someone who had a lot of power, physical and
otherwise from the looks of that red coat. I did find the
third girl on Facebook.

BIERMAN

What third girl?

SIRI

The third friend. Rosemary Strand. She lives in Ohio. Moved away to live with her aunt right after the shooting incident. Her brother was Derik Strand. Remember him?

BIERMAN

How could I forget?

SIRI

Gene wanted me to watch the tapes again. Course, I'm going to have to dig them up somewhere. If we still even have them.

BIERMAN

So, did you talk to her? The sister?

SIRI

I sent her a message saying I want to talk to her about Chelsea and Elizabeth but I haven't heard back. Hey, Merry Christmas. I'm going to try and enjoy the rest of the day. I hope you do, too. Merry Christmas. Oh, and it looks like Ellis is getting the top job. For now, anyway. Gene told me last night. He put in a recommendation to the city. So.

This doesn't set well with Bierman, who controls himself.

BIERMAN

Let me be the first to congratulate him. Wait. You've already done that.

SIRI

Actually, I didn't mention it. Didn't seem like the time. He's pretty upset.

BIERMAN

We all are. You've got a package there.

Siri looks, picks it up.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

You going to open it?

SIRI

It's from Edwin Hancock.

BIERMAN

The flowers, too?

She looks at the card.

SIRI

It's my birthday tomorrow. How did he know that?

BIERMAN

You said he works for Apple. They probably have access to everything.

SIRI

1-800 FLOWERS.

(opens the package)

A new Apple iPhone. Second year he's sent me one. You want my old one?

BIERMAN

I'm still in the twentieth century.

SIRI

Hey. Merry Christmas.

Siri exits. Bierman waits. Goes to the filing cabinet. Takes out the files and thumbs through them.

SCENE 5

PROJECTION: FEBRUARY 1, 1990

The police station. Hart, Bierman and Ellis work at their desks.

ELLIS

I heard a good one.

HART

Nothing about women.

ELLIS

Nothing about women. Well, one of the people in the joke is a girl.

HART

Is it sexist?

BIERMAN

Can you cut out the sexist crap, Hart? God. Ever since we did that training you're like a dog chasing a bone.

ELLIS

That sounds sexist!

BIERMAN

What?

ELLIS

Bone. Code?

BIERMAN

Code?

ELLIS

Phallic.

HART

I don't want to hear a joke. It's Christmas Eve. I want to clock out and go home before anything else happens-

The intercom comes on.

SIRI (V.O.)

Hey, Boss?

HART

Dear God.

SIRI (V.O.)

Got Edwin Hancock's mother here. Wants to talk to you.

HART

I did talk to her. Twice lately. Now what does she want?

SIRI (V.O.)

Same thing. Wants to talk about her son's innocence.

HART

Siri-

SIRI (V.O.)

I know. I told her. She thinks she can get you to reopen the case.

HART

Tell her to hire a lawyer.

WOMAN (V.O.)

I'm not going anywhere until you talk to me!

HART

(carefully) Miss Karlsson...

SIRI (V.O.)

Yah, boss?

HART

Send her over.

SIRI (V.O.)

Okay, boss.

The intercom light goes out.

BIERMAN

That woman is a nutcase.

ELLIS

I felt sorry for poor Edwin.

BIERMAN

Sorry? He strangled Michelle and burned her body.

HART

Look, I have to meet my wife. Can someone else handle this?

ELLIS

I was going to ask you for a lift. My car is in the garage.

BIERMAN

I'll talk to her.

There is a knock on the door. Hart opens it. MRS. HANCOCK enters.

HART

Mrs. Hancock. Please come in. Officer Ellis and I were just leaving but Officer Bierman can take your statement.

She enters and sits down in a chair that Hart indicates. Hart and Ellis exit. Bierman takes Mrs. Hancock's hand.

BIERMAN

What can I do for you, Mrs. Hancock?

MRS. HANCOCK

I want you to get my Edwin out of prison.

BIERMAN

I see.

MRS. HANCOCK

I have some information.

BIERMAN

All right.

MRS. HANCOCK

He couldn't possibly have... done these things to Michelle. I've explained it to that nice woman you have in the front office.

BIERMAN

Miss Karlsson.

MRS. HANCOCK

Yes. She's very intelligent.

BIERMAN

We like her a lot.

MRS. HANCOCK

I have written down the information that's pertinent.

(She takes an envelope out of
her handbag and gives it to
Hart.)

I'd prefer you to read it when I'm not present. It's rather delicate.

BIERMAN

Mrs. Hancock, we can give you our opinion about- whatever this is- but ultimately, you'll need to hire an attorney.

MRS. HANCOCK

I've already talked to an attorney. They said... well...

(She starts to cry.)

I didn't want to say anything at the trial. Edwin wouldn't have wanted me to. But now, five years later, and the attorney said this new DNA testing could prove...

(indicates the letter)

This...

BIERMAN

DNA?

MRS. HANCOCK

Have you heard of it?

BIERMAN

I have heard of it.

MRS. HANCOCK

He couldn't have raped Michelle. It's impossible.

BIERMAN

Why is that?

MRS. HANCOCK

It's in the letter. I know my son better than anyone. Even if he wasn't... he wouldn't ever.

BIERMAN

He did assault her. He was arrested before.

MRS. HANCOCK

That's in the letter, too. All of it. I don't care who knows. But I can't... speak of it... right now. And the other thing about the cigarette burns. Edwin didn't smoke. I don't know how they found him guilty when he doesn't even smoke. Michelle didn't smoke. How could he have murdered her when they didn't even smoke?

(She cries softly.)

I'm sorry.

BIERMAN

Is there anything else I can do for you?

MRS. HANCOCK

No. No, thank you.

(turns to go and stops)

I know you're just doing your job. But you talk like I'm a stranger. Like you didn't know Edwin and Michelle.

BIERMAN

It's nothing like that. I have to keep a professional, um, attitude.

MRS. HANCOCK

I still have that picture of the four of you at the senior prom. You and Michelle. Edwin and Barbie. And then you married Barbie and Edwin married Michelle.

BIERMAN

We broke up that night. Proms.

MRS. HANCOCK

(motherly) You don't smoke anymore, do you Hank?

BIERMAN

I quit years ago.

MRS. HANCOCK

Good. It's a nasty habit.

SIRI (V.O.)

Boss there?

BIERMAN

Gone home.

MRS. HANCOCK

Miss Karlsson, don't forget the vodka marinated sirloin recipe.

(to Bierman))

She's Norwegian, you know.

BIERMAN

I know.

SIRI (V.O.)

I'm making copies of a few others, too. I'll put them in the mail for you.

MRS. HANCOCK

Does it matter what kind of vodka?

SIRI (V.O.)

Akavit. Don't settle for less.

BIERMAN

Thank you, Siri.

The intercom light goes out.

MRS. HANCOCK

People like Miss Karlsson are like a little blue in a cloudy sky.

BIERMAN

It was nice to see you, Mrs. Hancock.

MRS. HANCOCK

I'll check back with you. Is it all right if I check back with you?

BIERMAN

Of course.

MRS. HANCOCK

Has there been any word on those poor missing girls?

BIERMAN

I can't really talk about other cases.

MRS. HANCOCK

I'm convinced that whoever killed Michelle is the same person responsible for whatever happened to them.

BIERMAN

Why do you say that?

MRS. HANCOCK

How many psychopaths can we have in one town?

BIERMAN

We don't know what happened to the girls.

MRS. HANCOCK

I do. Somebody murdered them.

BIERMAN

Do you have any information?

MRS. HANCOCK

Some things you just know. Good bye, Hank.

Mrs. Hancock exits. Bierman looks at the envelope and opens it and reads it. He presses the intercom and it lights up.

SIRI (V.O.)

Yah?

BIERMAN

Probably better if you don't get too chummy with Mrs. Hancock. She's desperate to get her son out of prison and the more we encourage her, the worse it's going to be. I've known her a long time.

SIRI (V.O.)

Yah, I didn't realize you and Edwin were friends.

BIERMAN

Sorry?

SIRI (V.O.)

Just something Mrs. Hancock said, so I assumed. I'll watch it there, don't worry.

SCENE 6

PROJECTION: JANUARY 30, 2009

Grace Smith sits with Ellis and Siri. She wears a low cut dress and lots of makeup. Christmas tree is bare of its ornaments and now leans against the wall.

GRACE

About four-thirty. In the window. This time I got a look at his face because it's still daylight. There's a scar on the left, no it would be the right, his right cheek. And kind of droopy brown eyes. Dark, anyway. Dark eyes. Must be brown.

ELLIS

Okay.

GRACE

Not much taller than me. I was looking straight into his eyes.

ELLIS

And you're about....

GRACE

Five-six exactly.

ELLIS

Five-six.

GRACE

I ran into the bedroom and locked the door. I don't know why I did that, it seems like the worst idea of all now, but I locked the door and called the police and then I saw, or rather, I heard him banging on the bedroom window. I'm sorry, I'm just so shaken up.

ELLIS

It's all right. Do you want some coffee? Siri, can you get her some coffee?

Reluctantly, Siri gets up and exits.

GRACE

God! I feel so helpless.

ELLIS

Well, now we have a description at least. Something to go on.

GRACE

Do you have any idea who it is?

ELLIS

Not, no.

GRACE

The scar is an identifying detail, isn't it?

ELLIS

We have a book, we can look through it.

ELLIS

Is there a friend you can stay with?

GRACE

Nobody, really. I don't mix much at work.

ELLIS

Could this guy be one of the students?

GRACE

No, I told Officer Bierman, I'd know. I know every one of them. Their faces.

Siri enters with a cup of coffee and gives it to Grace.

GRACE

Oh, thank you! What if he... oh, my God.

ELLIS

What?

GRACE

I volunteer sometimes at the shelter. Just once a month. Do you suppose it's someone from the shelter?

ELLIS

It's possible, I guess.

GRACE

I just show up at the community meals to help when I have the time. I feel sorry for those people.

ELLIS

Officer Karlsson volunteers there. Isn't that right?

GRACE

Well, I don't know. I don't know, maybe I do know him. They all tend to keep their heads down, you know? They're ashamed, most of them. You can understand that, can't you? One woman, you can tell she has seen better times, there's a sort of dignity about her. And this one gentleman, oh. Yes. He has that scar, I think. Now I'm really nervous.

ELLIS

Do you draw? Could you try and draw his face?

GRACE

I'm not much of an artist. Is there someone does that sort of thing? Do you think he could be from the homeless shelter? I'm sorry to be so much trouble. I suppose I should talk to my neighbors.

Bierman enters- surprised.

BIERMAN

Mrs. Smith?

GRACE

Oh, Officer Bierman. I left you a message about the prowler but I was just so nervous I came down to the station instead.

BIERMAN

I didn't get it.

GRACE

Didn't you? Oh, I must have called the wrong number. My address book gets mixed up. On my iPhone. I can't handle these new fangled phones, but my niece insisted I get one. Let's see...

ELLIS

Prowler returned. We're going to look through the book. See if anyone looks familiar.

GRACE

He looks a little like my brother which is another reason it is so disturbing. I was hoping perhaps someone might come and check out the property again...

She looks at Bierman.

SIRI

I'd be glad to come out, Mrs. Smith.

GRACE

But I think I'll just check into a hotel for the night. Seems easier.

SIRI

It's no trouble. I'm on call tonight.

GRACE

No, no. Now that I'm here... I feel a little foolish. I think, though, I will check into that motel. I always keep an overnight bag in the car. Since it's winter and the roads and everything. Accidents? I think I will go down to that homeless shelter tomorrow. Perhaps I'll recognize him. And then you know what? We can have a chat and this will all go away. I'm thinking the Doubletree Motel, have you stayed there? When I first moved here, I had the house painted and I stayed there for two weeks. Comfortable and across the street from a very good restaurant. I'm being foolish, but when you live alone... And I do want to thank and recommend Officer Bierman here very highly for coming out that time. Very prompt and thorough.

ELLIS

Is there anything else we can do for you, Mrs. Smith?

GRACE

No. Thank you again. I'm such a bother.

ELLIS

No bother.

GRACE

I'll get in touch after I've gone to the shelter.

SIRI

Why don't I come with you?

ELLIS

I think that would be wise.

GRACE

Yes. Yes, thank you. We'll make a date. Shall I call you?

SIRI

Here's my card.

GRACE

Thanks again. Good night.

ELLIS

Good night.

BIERMAN

Good night.

Grace exits.

SIRI

Some people are so alone.

BIERMAN

What time you heading out tomorrow?

ELLIS

Flight is at six. Two weeks in the sun! And I want you two to be nice to each other.

Siri types on her keyboard.

SIRI

Hello...

ELLIS

What?

SIRI

I've got a new friend on Facebook.

BIERMAN (TO ELLIS)

Can I use your cruiser while you're gone? I need the get the brakes fixed on mine.

Ellis takes out a set of keys.

ELLIS

Can you drop me at home?

BIERMAN

Sure.

ELLIS (TO SIRI)
I'll see you later.

(beat)
Siri?

SIRI (ENGROSSED)
Oh. Sorry, Boss.

ELLIS
Did you call me boss?

She gets up and gives him a long hug.
Bierman and Ellis exit. Siri sits at
her computer.

**PROJECTION: ROSIE STRAND'S FACEBOOK
PROFILE**

Siri clicks Rosie's "Friends". She
scrolls through picture after picture.
She pauses on GRACE SMITH'S FACE.

SCENE 7

PROJECTION: FEBRUARY 16, 1991

The police station. Ellis works at his
desk. Bierman enters.

ELLIS
Guess what.

BIERMAN
What?

ELLIS
You'll never guess.

BIERMAN
You're right about that.

ELLIS

Remember the prowler report around Christmas? Derik Strand, ten years old. His sister is Rosie Strand. The girl you picked up? Their father is dead. Shot dead. The boy killed him.

BIERMAN

You're shitting me.

ELLIS

Swear to God.

BIERMAN

He shot his father?

ELLIS

Right between the eyes with a pump-action.

BIERMAN

Ouch.

ELLIS

You won't believe it. I don't believe it. Says he's a time traveller.

BIERMAN

A what?

ELLIS

Says he died a week ago but instead of dying, like really dying, he came back in time to when he was ten.

BIERMAN

I'm not following.

ELLIS

Apparently he's twenty-seven-years old. Or was before he died. And instead of going to heaven or, more likely, to hell, he came back here. He's from the future. Don't laugh, it's not funny.

BIERMAN

So he shot his father's head off.

ELLIS

The old man is a bastard, according to him. Well, I met him.
He was a bastard.

(looks up at the ceiling)

Sorry, but you were!

BIERMAN

He's ten and he called his father a bastard?

ELLIS

Those were his words.

BIERMAN

Ten. Isn't that the class you gave a presentation to in
December?

ELLIS

I don't know. Maybe.

BIERMAN

Where's the mother?

ELLIS

She died a few years ago. Can you believe it? And now the
sister- her friends are missing- what the hell is going on?

BIERMAN

Hart talk to the sister?

ELLIS

All he got out of her is that she doesn't know where the kid
got the gun.

BIERMAN

Must have brought it back from the future. I'm going to bring
her in.

ELLIS

Look, I've got him on the monitor.

He turns it on.

BEGIN VIDEO SEQUENCE CONTINUOUS WITH LIVE ACTION

ELLIS (cont'd)

He's eating a cheeseburger.

BIERMAN

Is that Hart?

ELLIS

Yeah, he likes kids.

BIERMAN

He looks...

ELLIS

What?

BIERMAN

Normal. What's with his face?

ELLIS

Must have cut it when he was hiding in the crawl space. There's a trap door in the living room and he was down inside there, terrified. Course, he's probably a sociopath. When I was in New York-

BIERMAN

I don't like your New York stories.

ELLIS

Kids killing kids. Kids raping kids. Kids burning-

BIERMAN

Stop it. I've got two daughters.

ELLIS

Some people just like to kill. Born that way. But a ten year-old-kid kills his father. That's new.

BIERMAN

So is a time traveller.

ELLIS

You can clear this up pretty fast.

BIERMAN

How's that?

ELLIS

Ask him who's president. Then we investigate. See what the guy is like now. Must already be a politician.

BIERMAN

The kid's not from the future.

ELLIS

What could it hurt? One question. Who's the president.

(Ellis turns on the speaker.)

Officer Hart?

HART

Yes?

ELLIS

Just wondering who the president of the United States is. Could you ask the kid?

The Kid mumbles something.

HART

He says George Bush.

Ellis turns off the monitor.

END VIDEO SEQUENCE

ELLIS

Well, that's no delusion. What would you do if you could go back?

BIERMAN

What, to ten?

ELLIS

Yeah.

BIERMAN

How about I just go back to eighteen so I can get laid again.

A beat. Bierman turns on the monitor again. The Kid sits at a table with Officer Hart.

BEGIN VIDEO SEQUENCE CONTINUOUS WITH LIVE ACTION

DERIK

...I'm not sure, I don't know, but I believe I could have slipped into any time at all. It's just a feeling, I don't have any proof. You know the expression, "I saw my life flash before my eyes," but you only hear that from people who don't die. The reason for that, at least it's how it seems to me now, is that's when you can grab hold of any moment in your life. And jump.

HART

Why doesn't everybody do it?

DERIK

Who's to say they don't?

HART

And you chose this moment.

DERIK

I'd been thinking about this moment for most of my life. Great cheeseburger, by the way. Can I have another one?

HART

Sure.

(speaks into a device.)

Siri? Can you order another hamburger for us?

SIRI (V.O.)

One or two?

HART

Just one.

SIRI (V.O.)

How were the sweet potato fries?

DERIK

Awesome.

SIRI (V.O.)

I told you, right?

DERIK

There's a place in New York I go to sometimes. Makes sweet potato tater tots.

SIRI (V.O.)

Bet those are good. You need another root beer?

KID

That would be great. Thanks.

BIERMAN

Jesus, he kills his father
and she gives him root beer.

HART

Thank you, Siri.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

Nice work, Siri!

SIRI (V.O.)

You want a root beer, too,
Boss?

BIERMAN (cont'd)

Why don't you wipe his ass
while you're at it?

HART

I'm good.

BIERMAN

What's with his face?

DERIK

You're kidding, her name is Siri?

ELLIS

Probably recoil from the gun blast.

HART
Her parents are from Norway.

DERIK
Hilarious.

HART
When you were here the first time-

DERIK
So you do believe me.

HART
It's just easier this way.

DERIK
Go on.

HART
When you were here the first time, did you try to kill him?

DERIK
I was only ten.

ELLIS
This kid's a riot.

HART
You're still only ten.

DERIK
You don't get it, do you?

HART
I get that you think you're from the future. And that rules don't apply to you.

DERIK
The rules apply. I'm here, aren't I? Aren't I under arrest?

HART
You're under arrest.

DERIK
If you could stop something from happening, something really, really bad, wouldn't you do it?

HART

Is that what you think you did?

DERIK

I know I did.

HART

What was it? What was the really, really bad thing you stopped from happening.

DERIK

It doesn't matter now. It's not going to happen.

HART

All over the world, terrible things happen. And most of the terrible things that happen aren't hidden. They're right in front of you. And we don't kill to prevent them.

DERIK

Are you sure?

HART

Or you wind up in here.

DERIK

Justice prevails.

BIERMAN

Jesus Christ.

HART

Your sister thinks she's responsible.

DERIK

She- what?

HART

She said after your father hit her, maybe you got it in your head-

DERIK

This has nothing to do with my sister!

HART

Okay.

DERIK

It doesn't matter. The thing didn't happen. I stopped it.

Kid gets up and looks into the camera.

DERIK (cont'd)

You got an officer named Bierman?

BIERMAN

Shut up.

HART

Yes.

DERIK

Bierman. Right?

HART

What about him?

DERIK

He killed his wife two years ago.

HART

He what?

DERIK

Stood trial but was acquitted. They never found the weapon. Couldn't prove it. But I saw him interviewed on television. And I knew.

HART

How did you know?

DERIK

His eyes. He's got that look. I know that look. I've looked into my own eyes.

(beat)

They found her in a gully and she was wrapped in a bed sheet and a blanket. And her head was on a pillow. I think after he killed her he wrapped her up because it was cold outside. Something you might do for your wife.

BIERMAN

Turn it off.

DERIK

I can almost remember the date. It was her birthday...I think it was President's Day.

BIERMAN

I said turn it off!

Bierman unplugs the machine.

END VIDEO SEQUENCE

ELLIS

Jesus, Bierman.

BIERMAN

Someone murders my fucking wife and you think it's a joke?

ELLIS

It's not real, Bierman.

BIERMAN

Of course, it's not real-

ELLIS

Calm down. I'm sorry.

BIERMAN

What the fuck! That kid is sick. And Barbie's birthday is in July. Maybe he kills his wife in fifteen years.

ELLIS

In fifteen years I imagine he's going to be in jail or a mental hospital. Kids watch too much TV. Ray Bradbury books, whatever. He decides he doesn't like his old man, he kills him and makes this shit up. He's a psychopath. They're always smart. Hence, the vocabulary. Probably been planning this for a year. Gets off on it. The world is a sick place.

BIERMAN

You don't have to tell me.

The intercom light comes on.

SIRI (V.O.)

Boss there?

BIERMAN

What do you need, Siri?

SIRI (V.O.)

Just have a question for Gene.

BIERMAN

What about?

SIRI (V.O.)

It's personal.

BIERMAN

This is a workplace, Siri. Nothing's personal. Or didn't you get the memo.

SIRI (V.O.)

He's my boss. I can speak to him confidentially. Or didn't you get the memo.

BIERMAN

Fuck you, Siri.

Bierman exits.

ELLIS

Siri? You still there?

SIRI (V.O.)

I'd call him an asshole but that would be against department rules.

ELLIS

Anything I can do?

SIRI (V.O.)

I seem to be attracting some strange customers.

ELLIS

What do you mean?

SIRI (V.O.)

Well, you know I like to ice fish.

ELLIS

Uh huh.

SIRI (V.O.)

So, I'm out there. Minding my own business. And this guy shuffles over. Homeless looking. Wearing a girls's jacket. I mean, it's faux fur, pink and purple striped.

We see this. Lost boy enters.

SIRI (V.O.)

He looks familiar in that way- you know the way people look familiar that you've never seen before. Anyway, he calls me-

LOST BOY

Freya!

SIRI (V.O.)

-and I go along with it because, why not, and I've got a knife if I need it. Two knives, in fact, but he doesn't scare me, I know I've got the knives. And he calls me-

LOST BOY

Freya, kan du se meg-

ELLIS

I'm lost.

SIRI (V.O.)

And he looks like he's recently been drowned, completely soaked except not actually wet.

ELLIS

You're not making any sense.

SIRI (V.O.)

Right? So, I ask him if I can help him, is he hungry, I'm grilling some bluegill and he eats some, I say "*håper at det smaker*", then he drinks some coffee and has few shots of vodka, we're having a good time, he says-

LOST BOY

Å være midt i smørøyet-

ELLIS

Siri, you're speaking Norwegian.

SIRI (V.O.)

Oh. I am? Sorry.

ELLIS

Something about a *smoroyet*.

SIRI (V.O.)

Ah. "To be in the middle of the butter eye." You know when you make porridge, and you make a hollow for the butter? That sweet place? That's what he meant by that.

ELLIS

So he's Norwegian?

SIRI (V.O.)

Joe? I think this Nils is a *spøkelse*. Ghost. Freya? She's the goddess of the underworld.

ELLIS

So he's a Norwegian ghost?

SIRI (V.O.)

You don't believe me.

ELLIS

No, I don't believe you!

SIRI (V.O.)

Okay, then I won't tell you the important part.

The intercom light goes off. Ellis shuffles some papers. Turns on the intercom.

ELLIS

Okay, what's the important part?

SIRI (V.O.)

Remember I said he looked drowned? He did drown. He told me. He said he's looking for his sister. And could I take him to her.

ELLIS

Can't he just walk through a wall?

SIRI (V.O.)

When you're dead you have to be escorted.

ELLIS

You're making that up.

SIRI (V.O.)

Yeah, I am.

ELLIS

So what's the important thing?

SIRI (V.O.)

He thanked me for the cheeseburger.

ELLIS

I thought you gave him fish.

SIRI (V.O.)

I did. And there's something else... he had a scar on his face. Right cheek.

ELLIS

You're really losing me.

SIRI (V.O.)

I give this boy a cheeseburger today-

ELLIS

You gave him two-

SIRI (V.O.)

Two cheeseburgers. And last night a *spøkelse* thanks me for a cheeseburger. He's not only a ghost, he's a time traveling ghost. Wearing a faux fur jacket.

ELLIS

Yeah. The jacket's the only part I can follow.

SIRI (V.O.)

I'm speaking from the liver, Joe. There are owls in the bog.

ELLIS

You make more sense when you speak Norwegian!

Hart enters.

ELLIS (CONT'D) (cont'd)

Gene! Talk some sense into Siri. She thinks the kid has a doppleganger or something.

HART

Huh?

ELLIS

How'd the kid die? What does he say?

HART

Car accident. He says he went through a railing into the lake. And drowned. Why?

ELLIS

No reason.

Act 2

SCENE 1

PROJECTION: FEBRUARY 16, 2009

PRESIDENT'S DAY

Siri sits and works at her desk.

Siri rewinds a VCR tape. She finds the spot she wants and hits play.

BEGIN VIDEO SEQUENCE

DATE STAMP: FEBRUARY 18, 1991

The Kid draws a colorful picture.

HART

What are you working on?

DERIK

Something for my sister. She likes art.

HART

It's very good.

DERIK

What do you want from me?

HART

Actually, I wonder if you can help me with a case.

DERIK

Uh huh.

HART

How you doing?

DERIK

Pretty bad.

HART

You feeling pretty bad about being in here?

DERIK

I don't like it. I don't like the food and I don't like the staff. And I want to see my sister and they won't let me.

HART

Sorry to hear that.

DERIK

I knew what to expect. I did some research before I did it.

HART

I was, uh, curious about your life before you got here.

DERIK

What about it?

HART

Look, Derik, I don't know what's really going on. But let's just say it's real.

DERIK

It is real.

HART

Well, there are two girls missing.

DERIK

Who's dead?

HART

Nobody. Yet. So I wondered if you knew anything about it.

HART (cont'd)

Well, I'm not psychic. Get one of those dogs who track people down from the smell of their clothes. This just happen?

DERIK

Well, it didn't happen next year.

HART

Sorry. I get a little confused.

HART (cont'd)

Do you remember anything about it? Seventeen, eighteen years ago, in your world. Two weeks ago in my world. Two girls. High school students. One from North Barrington the other from Milton. Chelsea Whitlock and Elizabeth Richardson.

DERIK

Chelsea and... Elizabeth. Oh. Right. I do remember. It...

(ponders)

Jesus. It just happened.

HART

They're missing. They've been in some trouble. We've picked them up a couple of times in the last year. Drugs. Shoplifting.

(gently)

Your sister, too.

DERIK

Chelsea and Elizabeth. Yeah. A couple of losers. You could ask Rosie if she remembers anything- eergh. She's not from the future.

HART

Just thought you might have heard something.

DERIK

Kind of weird.

HART

What's weird?

DERIK

(beat) Not sure...the memories are like, kind of like clipped together. Like a box of photos. Not in order. So I don't know when I know. Does this have something to do with Officer Bierman?

HART

What?

DERIK

I keep thinking about that guy. During the trial. Some women came forward. Seems he's a perv, too.

HART

What's a perv?

DERIK

Pervert. You know. Peeping Tom. That kind of perv. They didn't let the women testify but they gave interviews with the press. And then Rosie... oh, my head hurts.

HART

You're supposed to be ten. Just doing what a ten-year-old does.

DERIK

What's that?

HART

Cartoons. Little league. Ice cream.

DERIK

Some people never even make it that far.

HART

You might make it out of this.

DERIK

I'm not talking about me. I guess I come from one of those families.

HART

What kind is that?

DERIK

Bad shit happens to. But Rosie will be all right now. Chelsea and Elizabeth. You can't save everybody.

HART

Is that what you thought you were doing? Saving Rosie?

DERIK

Like I said. I come from one of those families.

(rubs his head.)

There's something hovering... I'm getting these flashes. Like a flashback but it might be a flash forward. I can't tell.

(with the saddest eyes ever)

I made this for her. Can you give it to her?

HART

I can try.

DERIK

Please?

HART

I think, I mean, I heard that she's with some of your relatives. Out of town.

DERIK

Do you know who?

HART

I don't.

DERIK

Can you find out?

HART

I'll do what I can. I'll- want me to send them to her? I'll see if I can find an address.

DERIK

They're alive. At least Elizabeth is. Last time I visited Rosie she mentioned her. Married. Kids.

HART

That's good.

(Hart wipes his eyes a little)

That's good to hear. I hope you're right.

The Kid gets emotional.

HART (cont'd)

What... what is it?

DERIK

Did I help you?

HART

Sure you did, kid. Thank you.

DERIK

Have you seen anyone around?

HART

Like who?

DERIK

The lost boy. He's out there and he doesn't know what to do. I try and talk to him. He doesn't listen.

HART

I'm not following.

DERIK

I'm here but I'm not here. I'm somewhere else. Looking in.

(beat)

She was going to kill him. My father. That is, she did kill him. And she just turned sixteen so she got sentenced as an adult. I'll be out by the time I'm eighteen. Oh, you asked about the president. So funny. I get the past mixed up with the, uh, future? Course it's not George Bush.

HART

What are you talking about?

DERIK

George W. Bush. Son of the current *el presidente*. He ran against Al Gore eight years ago and lost. All came down to Florida. Talk about dodging a bullet.

END VIDEO SEQUENCE

Siri stares at the screen. Her eyes fill up with tears. She wipes them away and types on her keyboard.

PROJECTION FROM SIRI'S SCREEN: DERIK IS THE DINOSAUR HUNTER.

She turns off the computer; the projection screen goes dark. A few moments and Hart's face appears.

BEGIN VIDEO SEQUENCE

SIRI

(softly) Hey, Boss.

HART

You're working late.

SIRI

Oh, you know me. Brain doesn't shut off.

HART

Or your mouth. It's part of your charm.

(beat)

You staying out of trouble?

SIRI

Trying. How's the fishing?

HART

You were right. Thank you. I never would have found this place without you.

SIRI

I do what I can.

HART

Sometimes I miss it all, you know? But this life- it isn't half bad.

(He takes a swig of beer and holds up a candy bag.)

Gummy bear?

Siri holds up her own bag. They both eat some.

HART (cont'd)

Det gode liv!

SIRI

Det gode liv!

The image blurs and fades to black.

SIRI (cont'd)

See you, Boss.

Siri turns on a lamp. Ellis stands there.

SIRI (cont'd)

God jul! You scared the shit out of me!

ELLIS

What were you doing sitting in the dark?

Siri gets up and hugs Ellis.

ELLIS (cont'd)

Are those tears? Do Vikings actually cry?

SIRI

Just glad to see you. How was the vacation?

ELLIS

Just got back. Got a present for you.

(he takes out a six pack of
beer.)

I went all the way to the Virgin Islands and came back with
this! What? It's Norwegian! Read the label.

SIRI

"Hopping frog- sipping into darkness."

ELLIS

What's it mean?

SIRI

I don't know. But it can't be bad.

The intercom light comes on.

HARRIET (V.O.)

Hey, anybody still here?

SIRI

Hi, Harriet.

HARRIET

Got a call from a Rosie Compton. Her aunt is missing.

SIRI

Say what?

HARRIET (V.O.)

Rosie Compton?

SIRI

I know who she is.

HARRIET (V.O.)

I guess her aunt hasn't answered her phone in several days.
Grace Smith? The prowler lady?

ELLIS

Hi, Harriet.

HARRIET (V.O.)

Oh, hi Boss. How was vacation?

ELLIS

Good. Say, Harriet, you want to radio Bierman? Have him take a drive over there.

SIRI

I'll go.

ELLIS

I'll go.

SIRI

Your wife will kill you. I'll meet Hank at the house-

HARRIET (V.O.)

You need the address, Siri?

SIRI

No. I've got it.

(to Ellis)

You go home!

ELLIS

Okay. But I'm waiting up. I've got a sick sense about this.

SIRI

And don't drink my beer.

Thunder. A Viking Ship goes across the stage.

Two worlds: Grace Smith's home and the police station. Bierman is interviewed by Ellis, who takes notes. Bierman and Ellis are both wrecks.

BIERMAN

I didn't know. How could I know?

(beat)

He still alive?

ELLIS

Last I checked. Here.

(hands Bierman a water bottle)

Drink this. Take it easy. Take it easy on yourself.

Bierman drinks. Ellis waits. Bierman
takes a big breath.

BIERMAN

I wish she hadn't come.

ELLIS

I almost came. Jesus Christ, I'll never...

BIERMAN

Forgive yourself? How do you think I feel?

(sees the beer)

Can I have one of those instead?

ELLIS

Come on, Hank, we've got to get through this. Just tell me
what happened. We're on tape.

Siri enters Grace Smith's house and
inspects the windows.

SIRI

You said she nailed the windows shut?

ELLIS

When did she do that?

BIERMAN

I think it was the second time I was there. I'll have to
check my notes.

ELLIS

Strange thing for anyone to do.

BIERMAN

She was worried about prowlers.

Light fades on Ellis but he remains a witness.

Bierman breaks the window with his foot and they enter.

SIRI

Hello? Ms. Strand?

BIERMAN

I'll check the bedroom.

SIRI

She sure is neat.

BIERMAN

I wonder-

SIRI

What?

BIERMAN

I don't know. Just wonder if there's a suitcase.

SIRI

Why?

BIERMAN

Because if there isn't one, maybe she packed and went somewhere.

SIRI

Well, her car is here.

BIERMAN

Maybe she took a cab.

SIRI

Maybe she did.

BIERMAN

Check the hall closet and the spare bedroom. She was pretty erratic.

SIRI

How's that?

BIERMAN

I think she had a drinking problem.

SIRI

What, was she drunk?

BIERMAN

She drank when I was here. Tried to get me to drink.

SIRI

Strange.

BIERMAN

I don't know, sometimes I think people call because they're lonely. She had this story about a prowler but I actually don't think there was one.

SIRI

Check out the spare bedroom.

BIERMAN

I thought you did.

SIRI

Just tell me if you notice anything.

They go into the spare bedroom.

BIERMAN

What?

SIRI

The bed.

BIERMAN

What about it?

SIRI

Well, look at the house. Neat as a pin. The bed in the spare bedroom looks like you made it.

BIERMAN

I actually know how to make a bed.

(beat)

Maybe she was in a hurry.

SIRI

Maybe. But I don't think she would have made her bed like that.

Siri takes out her phone and takes pictures just as Bierman pulls down the covers.

SIRI (cont'd)

What are you doing?

BIERMAN

Looking for blood stains.

SIRI

Now you've wrecked the bed.

BIERMAN

Oh. Sorry. Well, we both saw it.

SIRI

Don't touch anything.

(Siri snaps more pictures.)

Stand back.

ELLIS

Yeah, I saw them.

BIERMAN

Pardon?

ELLIS

Photos of the sheets. We recovered Siri's phone at the scene.

Bierman considers this. He returns to his story.

BIERMAN

The sheets look fine.

SIRI

Something's off.

(Siri goes into a linen closet.)

There's only one set.

Siri takes pictures throughout the scene.

BIERMAN

One set of what?

SIRI

Sheets. On the bed. None in the closet.

BIERMAN

Maybe she keeps them someplace else.

SIRI

Maybe. I've never known anyone to only have one set of sheets.

BIERMAN

Counting the second bedroom, that's two sets.

SIRI

That doesn't count. She doesn't strip that bed when her sheets are dirty.

(she looks at the painting.)

Nice. She an artist?

BIERMAN

Some student or something.

SIRI

Psychedelic.

BIERMAN

What?

SIRI

The painting. This person has talent. It's not a print. Looks familiar.

BIERMAN

What do you know about it?

SIRI

Does she have any kids?

BIERMAN

A niece that she never sees. She told me. Man...

SIRI

What?

BIERMAN

This prowler. I should have come back out here, should have insisted she move out for a while.

SIRI

We'd better knock on some doors. Get in touch with her niece.

BIERMAN

She's flying out here.

SIRI

There a boyfriend?

BIERMAN

She never mentioned one. I rather doubt it from the way she acted.

SIRI

She seem suicidal?

BIERMAN

Who knows. If it was that easy to tell, maybe no one would kill themselves. We'd see it. Intervene. But no, I wouldn't say she was suicidal. Lonely, depressed.

SIRI

Lonely and depressed people kill themselves. Better check hotels in the area. I had a cousin. Second cousin. Checked into a hotel and left a note at the front desk for the morning clerk. It said something like, "I'm in room such and such and I've slit my wrists in the bathtub. Sorry for the inconvenience, I just didn't want to shock anyone. Sincerely, Thor."

BIERMAN

Wow.

SIRI

He was a nice guy. I wouldn't have expected any less.

BIERMAN

Sometimes I think you Swedes are made of ice.

SIRI

I'm Norwegian.

BIERMAN

Close enough. Vikings, right?

SIRI

Let's check the basement.

BIERMAN

No basement, just a crawl space. I checked it when I was here the first time. It's got a padlock on it. Now what are you doing?

(upset, he turns to Ellis)

I'll never forgive myself for this.

ELLIS

It's okay. I know.

Bierman turns back to Siri- repeating himself.

BIERMAN

Now what are you doing?

SIRI

Checking her drawers.

BIERMAN

For what?

SIRI

I don't know, travel plans to the Bahamas. A treasure map. Are we investigating a disappearance, or what?

Siri exits.

BIERMAN

Now where are you going?

Bierman walks to the middle of the living room. He moves the area rug with his foot a little bit.

SIRI (OFF STAGE)

There must be a laundry-

Bierman waits. Siri enters.

SIRI (cont'd)

Nope. Nothing.

ELLIS

And then what happened?

SIRI

Why don't we knock on some doors?

BIERMAN

And then I said-

(to Siri)

I'll knock on some doors. Why don't you call it a night?

(to Ellis)

But she didn't. Obviously. I was gone about hour and a half. Talked to three neighbors and a bunch of kids- it's in the report, their names and statements. Most of the homes in that neighborhood are for sale. Or chopped up into apartments- students. Nobody saw anything. I walked back to the house and could see Siri's cruiser still there. I know she was still poking around but after all this time-

(gets upset, pulls himself
together)

-all this time, I couldn't imagine why she was still in there.

(looks at Ellis)

It's my fault. She asked about the crawl space. It never occurred to me that there was access from inside the house. But there-

Siri moves a rug in the center of the room.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

-underneath the rug was a trap door. From the look of it- I don't know, I had a sixth sense all at once- a sick sense that it had happened moments after I left. The guy was waiting for me to leave.

The trap door opens and A RAGGED
LOOKING MAN emerges.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

Siri's strong. And quick. I don't know how he could have overpowered her. She must have been in another room- not sure if the trap door opens quietly?

Siri and Lost Boy try this. It's noisy.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

Seems she would have had time to draw her gun.

Siri does this. She's fast.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

I'm guessing he must have faked her out. Like- gotten close to her and maybe hit her in the head, knocked her off balance-

Lost Boy and Siri try this a couple of times.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

-and then got his hands around her throat.

Now they do this.

ELLIS

Do you think he strangled her?

BIERMAN

I just supposed. There was no weapon.

ELLIS

Maybe the blow to the head?

BIERMAN

Like I said, there was no weapon.

ELLIS

The medical examiner will sort it out.

Ellis gets up- walks into another room. Leaves Bierman alone. Returns. Sits down.

ELLIS (cont'd)

Okay.

Ellis breaks down sobbing.

BIERMAN

I'm sorry.

(several beats)

I'm sorry.

(several beats)

I'm sorry.

Ellis pulls himself together.

ELLIS

And when you entered-

Siri is dead on the floor. Lost Boy exits the room.

BIERMAN

I saw... I saw her... and the trap door... and then I heard a howl. An ungodly, unearthly-

Lost Boy howls and hurls himself toward Bierman. Bierman crosses into the scene. Takes out his gun and shoots Lost Boy.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

And then I called you.

SCENE 2

PROJECTION: FEBRUARY 19, 1991

Hart and Ellis work at their desks. The Calendar reads, February 19. President's Day.

ELLIS

So the Terminator, the same one that was here in the first movie-

HART

Arnold Schwarzenegger-

ELLIS

Yeah, he comes back from the future to save Sarah Connor whereas in the first one, he comes back from the future to kill her.

HART

Why would he do that?

ELLIS

He's been reprogrammed. He has the memories but his intent is different.

HART

I didn't follow the first movie. I'm not going to this one. Sarah Connor gets knocked up by a guy who knows her son in the future and he's coming back to warn her but somehow he doesn't know he's John Connor's father because... because... because it doesn't make any sense.

ELLIS

Look, you have to understand something. In the Terminator franchise, parallel lives are simultaneous. So the same rules don't apply in the three dimensions.

HART

Oh, Christ.

ELLIS

Once you cross over, the actions you took before can follow you. Ask Carl Sagan.

HART

Who?

ELLIS

Have you been living under a rock? We're on the cusp of the twenty-first century.

HART

Give me John Wayne any day of the week.

Bierman busts in. He attacks Ellis.

HART (cont'd)

Hey!

ELLIS

What the fuck is the matter with you?

Hart attempt to separate them.

BIERMAN

You, you son of a bitch! That your idea of a joke?

ELLIS

What are you talking about?

BIERMAN

My wife-

(to Hart)

He sends Barbie roses and says- you've got fifteen years to live! With my name in the card!

ELLIS

Whoa.

HART

Ellis?

ELLIS

Me? I'd never do a thing like that. Why would I do a thing like that?

BIERMAN

The Kid. Remember? You thought it was funny.

ELLIS

Funny? A kid says you're going to... Jesus, Bierman. That's sick.

HART

Did you do it?

ELLIS

No! Maybe you did it.

HART

I sure as hell didn't do it. Could the Kid have done it?

BIERMAN

I want to know. I want to know who is responsible.

ELLIS

Call the flower shop. There must be a receipt of some kind.

Bierman sits down but he is fuming.

ELLIS (cont'd)

I'll call the flower shop. Where did they come from?

BIERMAN

I-800 FLOWERS.

ELLIS

Oh. Shit.

HART

Hey look, it's a prank. A nasty prank. I don't know. Something's off.

(Hart hits the intercom.)

Siri?

SIRI (V.O.)

Yah, boss?

HART

We've got a situation here. Breach in... confidentiality. Somebody sent a threatening note to Hank's wife.

SIRI (V.O.)
Barbie?

HART
Log that in.

SIRI (V.O.)
Yah, boss. I'm on it.

HART
See if you can get someone on the phone from one-eight hundred-FLOWERS.

SIRI (V.O.)
Will do. What's the phone number?

HART
(to Bierman) What's the phone number?

BIERMAN
One-eight-hundred-FLOWERS!!!

ELLIS
It's toll free.

BIERMAN
Jesus. Some things take brains.

HART
Find out who sent flowers to Barbara Bierman. Probably ordered them yesterday.

(Hart tears off the daily
calendar sheet.)
President's Day.

The intercom light goes off.

BIERMAN
Sorry, Joe.

ELLIS
It's okay. God. I'm sure it's somehow connected to the kid.

HART
He's got a name. Derik Strand.

Hart hits the intercom button.

HART (cont'd)
Siri?

(beat)
Siri?

SIRI (V.O.)
On the line. We've got something, Boss.

HART
What is it?

SIRI (V.O.)
Hang on.

(Long beats.)
Guy on the phone. He was walking his dog down by the old
power plant. Hold on a minute...

There is a long silence.

HART
Siri?

SIRI (V.O.)
Hold on, Boss...

There is a long silence.

SIRI (V.O.)
Just a minute more...

BIERMAN
Jesus Christ, what the hell is going on??

HART
Siri, are you still on the phone?

BIERMAN

I'm going down there.

HART

Down where?

Bierman exits.

SIRI (V.O.)

You still there, Boss?

HART

Yes, Siri.

SIRI (V.O.)

Oh. Well, this guy is down at the old power station walking his dog. And he sees something.

HART

Okay.

SIRI (V.O.)

At first he thinks it's an arm.

HART

Jesus, Siri, what did he find?

SIRI (V.O.)

A red coat. He finds a red coat. Girl's coat. Do you know the origin of the word berserk? Well, it on old Norse word, means someone who fights with uncontrolled ferocity. And whoever owns that red coat, it looks like they fought with uncontrolled ferocity. Because it's got blood and it's shredded and torn. She put up a fight. I've got the guy with the dog on hold. Somebody want to go down there?

ELLIS

Bierman just left.

SCENE 3

PROJECTION: MAY 15, 2009

A HUGE PROJECTION SCREEN is on the back wall. Ellis watches the film.

TIME STAMP: APRIL 1, 2009

BEGIN VIDEO SEQUENCE CONTINUOUS WITH LIVE ACTION

We see the feet and legs of a POLICE OFFICER. We hear a door open and Ellis and Bierman enter. Bierman sits in the hot seat. Ellis sits down.

ELLIS

You want anything? Water? Coffee?

BIERMAN

How about a lawyer?

ELLIS

That, too.

BIERMAN

I'm good. Just kidding. I think.

ELLIS

You change your mind-

BIERMAN

Like I said. I'm good.

ELLIS

It's just that there are a few loose ends and I'd like to do this by the book. Get you off the list.

BIERMAN

Jesus, Joe.

ELLIS

I know. I know. And strange, strange things. Strange things.

BIERMAN

What strange things?

ELLIS

We ID'd the prowler. His fingerprints are in the system. You won't believe it. I don't believe it. He's Derik Compton. The time traveler. Except the time traveler is in a hospital in Albany. Mental institution. Been there since he was twenty-one. Totally bonkers. And this guy, our prowler, he's the same person. Same finger prints, anyway. What are the odds of that?

BIERMAN

Must be a mistake.

ELLIS

Must be a mistake. There's two of them. Two people on planet earth with the same fingerprints.

BIERMAN

Computer error?

ELLIS

You tell me! God, I wish Siri was here. I mean, God, she'd love this.

BIERMAN

I can't believe she's gone.

ELLIS

So I have some questions about the events.

BIERMAN

What exactly am I being accused of?

ELLIS

Nothing. But the events as you described them don't completely make sense.

BIERMAN

It's not every day one of your partners gets murdered. In front of you.

ELLIS

In front of you?

BIERMAN

Practically.

ELLIS

So you were there?

BIERMAN

No. No! Come on. You know what I mean.

ELLIS

I'm just- this is recorded. I want to be clear so that we're all clear. Tell me again what happened that night.

BIERMAN

From where?

ELLIS

Um, how about the sheets?

BIERMAN

What sheets?

ELLIS

Just that part of the story where Siri said something about the sheets.

BIERMAN

She noticed that there were only two sets of sheets in the house. And being a woman she thought that was odd. Before I got married? I had one set. Come to think of it, only a bottom sheet.

ELLIS

Uh huh. And Siri checked the laundry?

BIERMAN

She did. She came out of the laundry room and said-

Siri enters.

SIRI

Nope. Nothing.

ELLIS

And then what happened?

BIERMAN

I think that's when we decided that I'd knock on some doors.

ELLIS

And the time was?

BIERMAN

I think it was about eight o'clock.

ELLIS

You sure?

BIERMAN

Maybe later.

ELLIS

You went out there at six thirty?

BIERMAN

Had to be later. I went to a domestic over on Elm Street at six. Siri met me at the house.

ELLIS

Who got there first?

BIERMAN

I think, yes, I got there and then Siri pulled up a few minutes later.

ELLIS

Right. So that would be about six thirty. Siri always records the time of her arrivals and departures with her iPhone.

BIERMAN

Oh. Well. That clears it up then.

ELLIS

We do know who killed Siri.

BIERMAN

You...what?

ELLIS

We ran prints. Damned if it isn't the kid. The time traveler. Do you remember? Winter of 1991.

BIERMAN

You've got to be kidding.

ELLIS

After the flood in the late nineties, the streets in that neighborhood- a few of them- were renamed. That's why I didn't put it together.

BIERMAN

So Grace Smith-

ELLIS

Was his aunt. Is his aunt.

BIERMAN

Jesus, he probably killed her, too.

ELLIS

Probably he didn't. How is he going to kill her and hide the body? Because if someone did kill her, he was very thorough. So there is something we found.

BIERMAN

Uh huh.

ELLIS

The sheets. The aforementioned sheets. Remember you used my squad car while I was gone? I found a set of sheets inside the trunk.

BIERMAN

Okay.

ELLIS

So, I sent them to the lab for DNA testing. Were they your sheets?

BIERMAN

No. I have no idea.

ELLIS

Grace Smith's DNA is on them. And an unidentified male. Do you think there's any chance that you are the unidentified male?

BIERMAN

Okay. They are my sheets. Grace Smith and I slept together on them. Made love on them and somehow I ripped them. At my house. And afterwards, I stripped the bed and planned... planned to throw them away and forgot about it.

ELLIS

Grace Smith came to your house?

BIERMAN

I know. Bad idea.

ELLIS

Why didn't you just stay at her house? I mean, that's what I would have done if I had done such a stupid thing.

BIERMAN

Creepy. The house was creepy. Now I know why it felt so creepy. Anyway, we met at a bar. Sinatra's over on Hyde Street. Barbie was at her folks for the weekend, I stopped in for a beer and-

Grace Smith enters.

GRACE

Is this seat taken?

BIERMAN

She was kind of sexy. Older but-

GRACE

Do you know what's funny? I've seen you in here before.

BIERMAN

And that's when I started to wonder if the whole prowler thing was made up just to get me to come to her house.

ELLIS

On the off chance you'd be on duty when she called-

GRACE

I was feeling a little, I don't know, exposed tonight. It's a full moon and so light out it's almost feels like daytime.

(to bartender)

I'll have a scotch.

BIERMAN

I had one, too. More than one. I haven't mentioned it to you, Joe, but Barbie and I have been having some problems.

ELLIS

Anyone see you there? Did you talk to anyone?

BIERMAN

We sat in a booth in the back. You know that place. It's dark.

ELLIS

It is dark.

BIERMAN

Then I had the feeling that maybe she was stalking me.

ELLIS

But you had sex with her anyway.

BIERMAN

Well, I didn't really put that together until later. I mean, after we... you know. You see the movie Fatal Attraction? Sorry. Bad analogy. But she was crazy like that. A little.

ELLIS

Uh huh.

GRACE

It's been a long time since I- oh.

A few beats while Grace simulates being embraced and kissed.

BIERMAN

So the next morning I stripped the bed and put the sheets in the trunk and, frankly Joe, I forgot all about them.

ELLIS

Seems like a funny thing to forget.

BIERMAN

Just wanted to get them out of the house before Barbie came back.

ELLIS

Understood. It does cast a cloud, though, over Grace Smith's disappearance.

BIERMAN

I know. I know. But please. Search my house. Do whatever you need to do. I'll... explain it to Barbie.

ELLIS

I just needed to get from you that those were your sheets.

BIERMAN

Guilty.

(hangs his head)

I know this is problematic. At best. I suppose I'm on suspension.

ELLIS

Well, I think we're looking into exactly where this leaves the department.

(takes out an iPhone)

You know Siri and these iPhones. Edwin Hancock works for Apple now. Can you believe it? Once he was spending the rest of his life behind bars and now he's a big shot at Apple. Only in America. She always sent him a check for the phone. Siri would never have accepted a gift.

BIERMAN

Yeah, I'm still using my flip phone. Guess it's time I entered the 21st century.

ELLIS

That's what I'm saying. Siri is the one who pushed for DNA testing in the Hancock case. And it cleared him. The judge ruled that whoever raped her, killed her. It was pretty clear from the evidence.

BIERMAN

I was happy for Edwin. We went to high school together.

ELLIS

I remember hearing that. I called him after Siri was killed. I knew he'd want to hear it from us. He's out now. Married to a guy. Was, of course, devastated about Siri. I never imagined that anything like this could happen. Siri was like a sister to me. But a strong sister, you know what I'm saying? A sister who didn't need her brother to take care of her. I don't think I'll ever forgive myself.

BIERMAN

So what's next? What happens next?

ELLIS

(leans in) I'd like to know exactly what happened at Grace Smith's house on February 6th.

BIERMAN

I don't like your tone, Joe.

ELLIS

Siri took pictures of the sheets on Grace Smith's bed. They match the sheets I found in the trunk. That have Grace Smith's DNA on them. And the DNA of an unidentified male. But we got a match on the DNA.

Whoever raped Michelle Hancock had sex with Grace Smith.
Probably killed Grace Smith, too, but that will have to wait.
You want to give us a sample, Hank?

BIERMAN

Fuck you.

ELLIS

You are under the arrest for the murder of Michelle Hancock.
You have the right to remain silent...

BIERMAN

Fuck you.

ELLIS

If you give up that right...

(Ellis starts to cuff Bierman.)

Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court
of law.

Ellis turns off the projector.

END VIDEO SEQUENCE

The lights come up and we see that
ROSIE STRAND is there, too. She is
dressed in black.

ROSIE

Thank you. It's not the same as seeing him in court but it's
something.

ELLIS

His plea was closure for the Hancock family.

ROSIE

Thank you for coming to the funeral. I think my brother's
life was a huge ordeal. In some ways, I'm glad it's over.

ROSIE (cont'd)

But what about Officer Karlsson? My brother would never have
killed her. Oh, I know that sounds- ironic.

But he was only ten when he shot our father. I don't think he really understood that death is permanent. And my father was... I don't like to speak ill of the dead.

ELLIS

That was part of the plea. He can't be charged with Siri's death.

ROSIE

I'm grateful I at least had the chance to thank Officer Karlsson for her kindness back then. I wasn't very gracious at the time.

ELLIS

You talked to her?

ROSIE

She sent me her phone number on Facebook and I called. I mean, I only left a message and then she called back and left me a message. It was hard to hear, a bad connection, but-

ELLIS

Can I hear it? Would it be okay? I'd like to hear her voice.

ROSIE

Sure.

BEGIN AUDIO SEQUENCE

SIRI

(static static) got your message...(static) just want you to know...(static static) ...with your brother...(static static) and everything is okay...

END AUDIO SEQUENCE

ROSIE

I called her on the 19th. I was home that day from work. A holiday, you know? And then the next day I noticed she left me a message.

ELLIS

Siri was killed on the 19th.

ROSIE

Huh?

(looks at her phone)

Says the 20th on my phone.

ELLIS

If anyone could call you from the other side, it would be Siri. Sometimes messages are delayed. I wish, wow, I really wish you'd talked to her. One little thing you might have said, who knows, and things might be different.

ROSIE

What do you think happened? I mean, actually happened that night?

Siri and Bierman enter.

SIRI

Nope. Nothing. Why don't we knock on some doors?

BIERMAN

Sounds good.

SIRI

I'm going to finish up in here-

BIERMAN

Finish what up?

SIRI

I don't know. I like to take a lot of pictures. Why don't you check out the multi-family next door and I'll meet you?

BIERMAN

Okay. Sounds good.

Bierman exits. Siri goes into Grace's bedroom and strips the sheets. She finds a trash bag and stuffs them inside.

There is a thumping noise. Siri tracks it to the middle of the living room. She pulls back the area rug. She takes out her gun and opens the trap door. Lost Boy crawls out. Siri holds a gun on him. He is terrified.

SIRI

Sir... I want you to put your hands up... it's okay... nothing is going to happen...

LOST BOY

Freya...

SIRI

Kjære Gud, vi møtte den dagen på isen...

Bierman bursts in, gun drawn.

SIRI (cont'd)

It's okay! He was hiding in the crawl space. Derik, can you kneel down? Put your hands on your head and kneel down?

(to Hank, carefully)

Hank, call for backup.

BIERMAN

You know this guy?

SIRI

He's... yes... he's Grace Smith's nephew. I told Joe... I sent him text... so he knows we're here...

BIERMAN

Let me see your phone.

Siri doesn't move.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

I thought so. What's that? In that bag?

Siri takes out the sheets.

BIERMAN (cont'd)

He tried to kill you.

He shoots Lost Boy.

SIRI

What are you doing? Are you crazy?

Siri rushes to Lost Boy and kneels down next to him. She looks at Bierman.

SIRI (cont'd)

Come on, Hank... come on...

Bierman puts his gun away and comes toward Siri.

SIRI (cont'd)

You don't want to do this-

Siri gets up but Bierman has the advantage- he hits her hard on the head and she goes down. He puts his hands around her neck and squeezes a long time.

After a moment, Siri, Bierman and Lost Boy exit.

ROSIE

You said he'll never get out of prison?

ELLIS

Never.

A RUMBLING SOUND. Ellis looks out the window.

ELLIS (cont'd)

That's funny. Sky's clear.

An earthquake.

SCENE 4

PROJECTION: DECEMBER 18, 1990

The police station. Hart and Bierman work at their desks. Ellis enters wearing reindeer antlers.

HART

Very cute.

ELLIS

Last year they gave me a stocking full of coal. This is progress!

HART

How'd it go?

ELLIS

These kids get smarter every year. Great questions. Bierman, you should try it.

BIERMAN

I've got two kids at home, that's enough.

BIERMAN

Okay, the six million dollar question. Did you bring us any cookies?

He produces a small tin.

ELLIS

Ta da! The home ec class made chocolate chip for us. Girls and boys together in home ec. Who'd have thunk it?

HART

Whoa.

Bierman and Ellis dig in.

HART (cont'd)

Save some for Harriet..

Hart presses intercom.

Harriet?

HARRIET (V.O.)

What's up?

HART

You want some fudge?

HARRIET (V.O.)

What kind?

HART

What kind is it?

ELLIS

Chocolate.

HARRIET (V.O.)

Any nuts?

HART

Have a nice Christmas if I don't see you.

HARRIET (V.O.)

I'm Jewish.

BIERMAN

Oh.

HARRIET (V.O.)

Nah. Just kidding. Merry Christmas.

HART

Forward the calls when you leave.

HARRIET (V.O.)

Always do, boss.

HART

Who's on call?

HARRIET (V.O.)

Ellis.

HART

Go home, Harriet. It's starting to snow.

HARRIET (V.O.)

Used to it, but ok.

Ellis passes the tin to Hart.

ELLIS

Have some.

HART

Have they got nuts?

ELLIS

No nuts. One of the kids has a nut allergy so... no nuts.

HART

Did you talk about shoplifting?

ELLIS

I always talk about shoplifting. By the fourth grade, everybody has shoplifted. I have probably single-handedly interfered with the development of an entire generation of juvenile delinquents over the past ten years.

HART

Hey, speaking of shoplifting, those girls you picked up Friday night?

ELLIS

What about them?

HART

Their parents called to thank you. Whatever you said to them seemed to sink in. They've turned over a new leaf. Cleaned their rooms, took out the trash. Told their parents you talked sense into them. What did you say?

ELLIS

Nothing. Just talked to them like adults.

(looks at the clock)

Almost time. What are you doing tonight?

HART

Probably pick up a movie at Blockbuster for the kids.

ELLIS

I saw a good one. Michael J. Fox. Back to the Future.

HART

They already saw it.

ELLIS

I know, Beetlejuice. About this couple that get killed in a car accident except they don't know they're dead and they haunt their own house.

HART

Sounds like a riot.

ELLIS

It's got Michael Keaton in it. You know, Batman.

HART

Batman's in the movie, too?

ELLIS

No, Michael Keaton plays Batman in "Batman" and the devil in Beetlejuice.

HART

You want my kids to see a movie about the devil?

ELLIS

It's a comedy!

HART

You're the comedy, Ellis.

(phone rings.)

Hart picks it up.)

Hart... yeah... what's the address...okay...someone will check it out.

(Hart hangs up.)

Prowler report in South Barrington.

ELLIS

End of shift. I took a call on Tuesday.

BIERMAN

I went last Friday.

HART

Yeah, and covered the weekend.

BIERMAN

Okay, okay, we'll flip a coin.

HART

Coin only has two sides.

ELLIS

I've got a date.

HART

Does he have a sister?

ELLIS

Very funny.

HART

It's you next time, Ellis.

Ellis goes out the door. Hart takes a coin out of his pocket. He flips it.

Call it.

BIERMAN

Heads.

Hart looks at it.

HART

Tails.

BIERMAN

I promised Michelle I'd take her out to dinner tonight.

HART

What's the occasion, is it her birthday?

BIERMAN

Nah. Birthday's in February. Just trying to get back in her good graces.

ELLIS (TO BIERMAN)

Hold on a minute.

Ellis walks up to Bierman. Slowly, he takes out a handkerchief and wipes Bierman's face.

ELLIS (cont'd)

Chocolate. Can't have you go out looking like that, can we?

Transition. Police station fades away. Bierman enters a doorway. The world is different now, a different color, even the sound is different. Disturbed. He stands in front of a door.

BIERMAN

Barrington police, you reported a prowler?

Siri opens the door. She is in full Viking regalia. A HORDE OF VIKINGS are behind her.

The sword comes down. Black out. Then there is the light of a thousand, perhaps two thousand lights. The end.