

The Good Wife
"Lawyers for America"

by

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TEASER

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

ALICIA sits amidst boxes of files. She sifts through paperwork. She drinks wine and doesn't look up when PETER enters. He drops a briefcase and drinks from her wineglass.

PETER

Ah, the good stuff. Must be a doozy of a case.

ALICIA

Death penalty appeals. I've been charged with determining which unlucky soul gets our next chunk of pro-bono hours.

She finishes off the wine and refills her glass. Peter takes another drink, he's in a good mood.

PETER

Thanks to our esteemed governor we no longer have a death penalty.

ALICIA

Fine. 'Life without parole' appeals. It doesn't make much of a difference when it comes to determining which case to take. They'll die one way or another in there.

PETER

The callous Alicia rears her ugly head.

ALICIA

No, just, just, tired and slightly tipsy Alicia. The kids had already eaten when I got home and I didn't feel like cooking for one.

Peter takes food out of the refrigerator and pantry.

PETER

The system's broken and I'm glad someone's trying to fix it.

Peter assembles.

ALICIA

But these people will still wait years, decades even, for appeals. There aren't enough lawyers-

PETER

Sure there are. Someone just has to make it worth their while to take on these cases. You guys do it because it's good PR but even that's not enough to take on more than what, one case a year? Eat your sandwich.

Peter sets a sandwich down in front of her.

ALICIA

Who do you propose that someone be? Almost all of these people are destitute, abandoned by any family and friends they once had-

She eats.

PETER

We'll try solving the world's problems again tomorrow.

ALICIA

This is the third death row case I've worked on since I started at Lockhart Gardner and I'm already jaded. Could you imagine working these cases full-time?

PETER

I think it would be different if you had the resources and know-how. Appeals are a matter very different from litigation.

Peter drinks more wine. He watches Alicia finish her food. He smiles.

ALICIA

What?

PETER

I'm just happy I get to come home to you. To this.

She drops her fork, finishes off the wine, closes her files. He stands and heads into the

BEDROOM

She follows. He pulls off his tie, slips off his shoes. She pulls her blouse out of her skirt. They lie on the bed, close to one another. Alicia kisses him.

ALICIA

I'm not sure they're not worthy of our time. Just the opposite. We need to clear them and worry about better prosecution for capital cases.

PETER

You mean better defense for capital cases.

ALICIA

We all could do better.

PETER

You do pretty well, counselor.

He kisses her and flicks on the television. She looks from him to the television, realizes this is what he's going to do, and lays back, closing her eyes.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - WILL'S OFFICE - DAY

Alicia sits on the couch. WILL enters, not acknowledging her. He goes to his desk and scribbles on a pad, looks at a calendar, calls out to his secretary.

WILL

Get me Judge Hatch's aide! And tell Diane I can't do two-thirty!

ALICIA

I can come back if it's not a good time.

WILL

Sorry, no, you're here to...

ALICIA

Present some choices for our next pro bono appeals case. I've spent some time going through the files and I think-

Will yells to his secretary again.

WILL

I need Kalinda, now!

Kalinda enters the office.

KALINDA
Right on time, boss.

WILL
I already found our guy. He's been waiting on a lawyer fifteen years. Seems right on target given the current climate.

ALICIA
You already found someone?

He pulls a file out of a pile on his desk and hands it to Kalinda. She nods, knowingly.

ALICIA
I don't understand, you asked me-

KALINDA
I'll explain.

Alicia looks at Will, who's already moved on to other things, and then at Kalinda. She takes her files and leaves.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Kalinda spreads the contents of the file across Alicia's desk. Alicia studies it.

KALINDA
Will picked up a new client last week, the owner of a meat packing plant who's acquiring a new company. The deal will net a big profit for the firm. Step one of his plan to garner new business.

ALICIA
And what does this have to do with my pro bono assignment?

KALINDA
You're killer here, he's the meat packer's cousin.

ALICIA
So we're doing the meat packer a favor.

KALINDA
Kind of.

Alicia looks at Kalinda.

KALINDA

The meat packer's cousin killed the meat packer's mother. Stabbed her eleven times. So, needless to say, the meat packer wants to see him fry.

ALICIA

We don't fry anyone anymore. Not that we have in years-

KALINDA

He wants to see justice served. The cousin's appealing and the meat packer wants us to ensure that the appeal fails, legally of course.

Alicia's not buying it.

ALICIA

Of course.

There's silence as they look over the case file.

ALICIA

So we have to make sure this guy spends the rest of his life in prison.

KALINDA

That's it.

ALICIA

Isn't that the prosecution's job?

KALINDA

Let's just say we're all on the same team here.

ALICIA

Rah-rah.

INT. CHEAP MEXICAN RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Alicia, Peter, and ELI eat. Alicia picks at refried beans.

ELI

This guy hires convicted felons, one of the only ones in the neighborhood who will.

(MORE)

ELI (CONT'D)

It's a real coup to get him on our side.

ALICIA

Yeah, that's great.

She leans into Peter. Eli greets a BUSBOY and a COOK.

ALICIA

When you asked if I wanted to have dinner I thought it might be something more...private.

ELI

Peter?

Peter stands next to Eli, shakes the hands of the busboy and cook.

PETER

Great food, guys. Love the place, really.

BUSBOY

We're voting for you, hombre, all of us. We're even getting the message to the inside.

Eli takes a cellphone from the busboy, Peter stands next to him and Eli takes a picture.

PETER

Thanks, guys.

ALICIA

Should you tell them people who are currently incarcerated can't vote?

Peter gives that great big politician's laugh and claps Eli on the back.

PETER

We need all the help we can get, right Eli?

Eli sits back down.

ELI

We should talk about tomorrow's schedule. You've got a breakfast at five-thirty and then the-

ALICIA
Why am I here?

Peter's on his cellphone, Eli shovels food in his mouth. Neither of them looks at Alicia.

PETER
Can we push my one o'clock back?
I've got the teachers' union at
noon and they're good about
running over.

ELI
You have debate prep at-

Alicia gets up from the table as a REPORTER and a CAMERAWOMAN approach. Peter stands next to Alicia, puts his arm around her, and smiles for the camera.

ELI
(to reporter)
Mr. and Mrs. Florrick love it
here! They usually bring the kids
but tonight's a school night. Can
we talk for a second about the
budget shortfalls the state's
attorney's office is facing?

Eli moves the reporter and camerawoman away from the table.

ALICIA
I have work to finish, Grace has a
biology test tomorrow that I
should help her review for. God
knows we can't let her think
creation is the only belief-

PETER
I'm sorry, the day got away from
me. I wanted to take you some
place quieter so we could-

Peter pulls a booklet out of his briefcase. He hands it to Alicia.

PETER
-talk about my idea, Lawyers for
America.

ALICIA
Your idea?

PETER

Lawyers for America, like Teach for America, you know, that program that takes college graduates, throws them in the classroom for a few years in our underserved school districts and pays back their loans in exchange for their service.

ALICIA

Okay. So what's this got to do with me?

PETER

I think a similar program would work, dealing with death row, or life without parole, appeals. I got some of the interns to work up some logistics, some background information, a proposal.

Alicia looks at the booklet, it's extensive.

ALICIA

You did all this today?

PETER

No, I had the idea today. Lots of people put it together. But I think it's a good idea. And not just because I'm running for office. Look it over, let me know what you think. And if it's good, like I know it is-

Peter flashes that smile that makes everyone, women, men and small children, melt.

PETER

-I was hoping you'd present it to the partners at your firm. They have pull in the legal community. If we can get them on board, who knows. It might not be just a half-baked idea I came up with in the shower.

Alicia's quiet. Peter kisses her cheek.

PETER

Go home, help Grace-

ALICIA

I don't know if I'm in a position to ask-

PETER

Look it over first. Then make up your mind. Either way, you were my inspiration.

Eli slips back into his seat.

ELI

Okay, so strategy for the teachers' union. I think you should-

Alicia walks away, looks back, Peter's engrossed in his conversation with Eli. She continues out of the restaurant.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Alicia sits with various other EMPLOYEES, including several partners: Will, DIANE, JULIUS CAIN, and DAVID LEE.

DIANE

Good, so we're all clear. Let's talk tomorrow, same time. Kalinda check in before we meet with the client.

Alicia works up the nerve to speak. Several people get up, push in their chairs, CHIT CHAT. Finally -

ALICIA

Can I talk to the partners for a minute?

Diane looks at Will, David plops back down in his chair. The others in the room file out.

DAVID

I've got a squash game in twenty minutes, Florrick.

WILL

A plate of squash ravioli maybe.

JULIUS

Junior associate taking herself to the principal's office. That's some chutzpah.

He gives Alicia a head nod and sits back down.

ALICIA
Peter asked me to present an idea.

JULIUS
I forget how very 'sleeping with
the enemy' this all is.

Alicia passes out copies of Peter's proposal.

ALICIA
He's looking to get some firms on
board so he has backup when he
presents the idea.

DAVID
Lawyers for America? Could it have
a more generic name?

DIANE
This is interesting-

JULIUS
We need due-diligence, on the
program and the candidate, no
offense Alicia.

ALICIA
No, I know, I know.

WILL
I'm not so sure, do we want to be
seen as getting into bed with the
state? Pro bono work's one thing
but-

DIANE
We've been talking about doing
more, which is hard to do with
less, we all realize this. But
Clinton and Bush both realized the
immense goodwill fostered by
Americorps. And you know the
statistics on how many people are
improperly convicted.

WILL
And what if we find out we're a
part of the problem?

ALICIA
This isn't about laying blame,
it's about fixing the system. It's
about helping.

(MORE)

ALICIA (CONT'D)

And it won't require you to do more than support a few extra junior associates who focus strictly on appeals.

WILL

We haven't even been able to keep the associates we hired ourselves.

ALICIA

It's just a proposal. If you'll take some time and think it over-

An ASSISTANT hands Will a message.

DIANE

Maybe we should-

WILL

The meat packer's cousin's hearing got pushed up.

DIANE

Must we continue to call him 'the meat packer'? I'm sure he has a name.

WILL

The court's going to rule on accepting a post-conviction challenge this afternoon. He's on the verge of missing another deadline.

Will thinks for a moment. Diane and the partners flip through the proposals.

WILL

Alicia, get Kalinda and be in my office in five. We can't let another motion fall through the cracks on this one.

He heads out of the boardroom. Everyone gets up to leave. Diane stops Alicia.

DIANE

We'll work on him, it's a good proposal. I'm impressed by your husband's goodwill toward others, even if it is election season.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Alicia sets down one stack of files and picks up another. Her cellphone RINGS, caller ID: Peter. She smiles, looks at her watch, and answers on speaker.

ALICIA
(into cellphone)
Peter, I only have a minute-

PETER (O.S.)
How'd it go?
(to someone else)
The blue jacket and the notes for
tonight. No, the blue-

The smile disappears. Kalinda enters, realizes Alicia is on her cellphone and starts to back out of the office. Alicia motions to her to stay.

ALICIA
(into cellphone)
Did you mean to call me? Alicia,
your wife?

PETER (O.S.)
Sorry, hon. Yeah, how'd they like
the proposal?

ALICIA
They said they'd take a look-

PETER (O.S.)
Can you get a decision by noon? I
really need them on board.

ALICIA
It's been a long day and it's only
nine-thirty.

PETER (O.S.)
Fine, if you can't, fine. Gotta
go.

Alicia looks at the cellphone in disgust.

KALINDA
Once a politician, always a
politician.

ALICIA
For better or worse.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - WILL'S OFFICE - DAY

Alicia and Kalinda stand in front of Will. He shuffles paperwork, the phone to his ear, a SECRETARY hands him more paperwork and leaves.

WILL

I need this guy to stay in prison. You've got to vet everything. Make sure the district attorney's office did their due diligence.

ALICIA

Isn't that a little backwards?

WILL

We're just making sure that our client is happy.

ALICIA

Which one is our client, the business man or the convicted felon?

WILL

The...both. Kalinda, start with the sister, she was the source of the original timeline.

Kalinda nods and leaves, with a glance back at Alicia, she shuts the door behind her.

WILL

Most death row, or life in prison, or whatever, cases don't win on appeal anyway. No one's asking you to be egregious in your practice. Just don't put your heart into it. Get the job done and move on.

ALICIA

I don't like the way this feels-

WILL

I don't like having to spell it out. We need this business, it's a big case.

ALICIA

At the expense of a man who's been sitting on death row for fifteen years waiting for a lawyer to get his day in court?

WILL

There aren't sides. It's not black and white.

ALICIA

I know that. But you can't have it both ways. It won't work.

WILL

It will if you try.

It's apparent they're no longer talking about the law.

ALICIA

We can't be all things to all people. We'll spread ourselves too thin and then who will we be?

WILL

We'll still be in the game, which for right now, is all I'm hoping for. Get us this and you'll get yours. A pilot program, whatever he wants, we'll sign on.

He looks her square in the eyes. She looks back, nods, and leaves.

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Peter reads in bed, Alicia drops her briefcase and jacket and goes into the bathroom.

ALICIA

The partners signed on.

PETER

That's great! What'd they think, any suggestions?

ALICIA

I don't know. I was busy trying to lose my appeal.

She shuts the bathroom door and stares at herself in the mirror.

END TEASER

ACT ONE**INT. PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER - VISITING ROOM - DAY**

Alicia sits at a concrete table with NATHAN FRANKS (late 30s) who looks worse for the wear of prison. He's gaunt, his hair is thinning, and he stares at his hands. Alicia looks at a GUARD in the corner.

ALICIA

Can you leave us alone for a moment?

The guard moves outside of the room. Alicia talks softly, looking directly at Nathan.

ALICIA

Did you hear what I said before? I'm your lawyer, one of them anyway. I have some paperwork I'd like to discuss, dealing with your appeal.

NATHAN FRANKS

Who hired you?

ALICIA

Um, it's a pro bono case. That means we-

NATHAN FRANKS

I know what it means. But who told you to pick me?

ALICIA

You've been waiting for a lawyer a long time. It's not fair and I want to make sure that you get the representation the law assures-

NATHAN FRANKS

Did my last lawyer tell you that I'm innocent.

ALICIA

I haven't talked to any of your previous attorneys, why don't you explain.

He finally raises his head. He gives her a look that says, really, I have to explain this shit again, to someone else who won't care.

ALICIA

My firm also represents your cousin, Armev Molls. He sparked some interest in your case.

NATHAN FRANKS

I didn't kill Armev's mother, I don't care what he says. And the real killer is...out there. All these years. At least I'm safe, no one else is.

Prison's really gotten to him. Tears well up in his eyes.

ALICIA

If you didn't kill her then we'll be able to prove-

Nathan sobs quietly.

NATHAN FRANKS

Your family's supposed to love you. Want what's best for you. Mine never was like that. Mine was one of those family's that was more concerned with meat.

He wipes his eyes.

NATHAN FRANKS

Never about me, always about the meat. The company image. The money.

ALICIA

I'm going to help you, Nathan.

NATHAN FRANKS

You're not the first lawyer who's said that.

ALICIA

I MEAN IT. I PROMISE.

And she does. She means it as much as she's ever meant anything in her life. So much for not putting her heart into it.

EXT. PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER - PARKING LOT - DAY

Alicia heads toward her car as Eli approaches her.

ALICIA
We're two hours outside of the
city.

ELI
When I woke up this morning I
thought, it's a beautiful day for
a drive.

ALICIA
What do you want, Eli? I have to
get on the road.

Alicia unlocks her car and gets in. Eli slips into the
passenger's seat.

ELI
I've scheduled a press conference
for Peter to tout Lawyers for
America. And I want you there.

ALICIA
You don't need me. This is Peter's
idea, the cameras love him.

ELI
They love you too.

ALICIA
Flattery will get you nowhere,
fast.

ELI
Honestly?

ALICIA
Just this once.

ELI
I know we're going to win the
election. I know it.

ALICIA
But?

ELI
But if we don't, this thing could
be Peter's saving grace. We could
start a nonprofit and pull some
big name supporters.

ALICIA
I still don't know why you need
me.

ELI

I think if Peter were to lose, it might be seen as your fault.

Alicia stares Eli down in disbelief. What the fuck is he talking about?

ELI

Do you want Peter to win the election?

ALICIA

What kind of question is that?

ELI

An honest one. And I'd appreciate an honest response. Off the record. Do you want him to serve in public office again?

ALICIA

Of course, if that's what he wants.

ELI

Because I get the idea of not wanting that. The kids are getting older, they're completely aware of all that's happening and you live your lives, or at least a good portion of them, in the public eye. That can't be fun. Wouldn't it be easier if he joined a firm? Cushy senior partner gig with a nice salary and regular bonuses?

ALICIA

The thought has crossed my mind...

ELI

But?

ALICIA

If he gave up, without a fight, he wouldn't be Peter.

ELI

So you'll do the press conference?

There's a long moment. He's waiting for her to say no. He has his next argument all ready to go...

ALICIA

As long as my bosses are okay with it.

Eli lets out a breath and smiles.

INT. LONG TERM CARE FACILITY - RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Kalinda and Alicia wait. Alicia writes on a legal pad as Kalinda talks. Kalinda watches RESIDENTS perform physical therapy in a room behind glass walls.

KALINDA

He worked for an auto mechanic, doing runs, this and that. There's not even a W-2 for him.

ALICIA

He was young, I get that, just kind of floating along.

KALINDA

With three arrests in two years. All misdemeanors but still, there was a propensity.

ALICIA

So we've got no work history, no friends, none of his family wants to vouch for him because he killed their mother. Why did he do it?

KALINDA

The best I could suss out was domestic quarrel. He'd been staying with her and the sister, trying to get back on his feet after getting out of jail.

A woman, DEBORAH MOLLS (late 30s), walks toward them. Kalinda nods.

ALICIA

Ms. Molls? My name's Alicia-

DEBORAH MOLLS

I told the woman on the phone-

KALINDA

That was me-

DEBORAH MOLLS

I told you I didn't have nothin' more to tell. Nathan's been in prison a long time, we've all tried to forget.

ALICIA

We're just trying to make sure he gets a fair appeal. A few questions and we'll be on our way.

DEBORAH MOLLS

If he wants money, tell him there's none left. Armev ran the business into the ground after Pops died. They're barely makin' enough to produce hot dogs now.

ALICIA

He doesn't want money. He just wants his day in court.

DEBORAH MOLLS

He had it. And now the bastard won't even fry for what he did to Mom.

A woman, KATE MOLLS (early 30s), with Down syndrome, shuffles toward Deborah.

KATE

You forgot to bring the chocolates.

DEBORAH MOLLS

(to Kate)

I know, I know. Tomorrow, I'll come by after work. A little later probably.

Kate's agitated. She doesn't notice Kalinda and Alicia.

KATE

You promised! I. Want. My. Chocolates!

She swings at Deborah with both hands like she's a little kid throwing a tantrum.

DEBORAH MOLLS

I'm sorry, Katie. Tomorrow. I promise.

KATE

Don't call me that!

Deborah motions to an AIDE who approaches Kate. He takes Kate's hands and holds them gently for a moment. It calms her down.

AIDE

Wanna hitch a ride to the dining room, Kate?

Kate begrudgingly snakes her arm through the aide's and they head off together. Deborah closes her eyes, exhausted from years of this. Alicia's a bit thrown off.

ALICIA

Is that your sister?

DEBORAH MOLLS

You're not talking to her, you're not gonna upset her like those cops did back then.

Alicia shakes her head no, she wouldn't dream of it.

KALINDA

We're just trying to nail down the timeline. If you could tell us when Nathan lived with your mother. And if you knew where he was working or what he was doing around that time. Any friends?

DEBORAH MOLLS

You want me to testify *again*?

ALICIA

Only if he's granted a retrial. Right now we're just gathering information.

DEBORAH MOLLS

'Cause I'll go to court and tell everyone how the son of a bitch sliced her with her very own Kershaw.

Kalinda takes the legal pad from Alicia and scribbles something on it.

ALICIA

The dates?

DEBORAH MOLLS

He lived with us that whole April. I remember because it snowed on the first, like three feet. Some joke.

(MORE)

DEBORAH MOLLS (CONT'D)
 And Mom was killed on the
 thirtieth.

KALINDA
 Okay, great. You've been a big
 help.

Alicia looks at Kalinda, what's she know? Kalinda smiles and
 heads out of the facility.

ALICIA
 We'll be in touch. Thank you, Ms.
 Molls.

INT. ALICIA'S CAR - DAY

Kalinda hands the legal pad to Alicia. The word she scribbled.
 Kershaw.

ALICIA
 The knife.

KALINDA
 There's nothing about the brand in
 any of the court reports or the
 statements. Never once did I run
 across the name Kershaw.

ALICIA
 Was Deborah home when the murder
 happened?

KALINDA
 Not according to the interview.
 She arrived after police had
 secured the scene, identified her
 mother at the morgue.

Alicia flips through her files.

ALICIA
 (reading from a file)
 According to police reports the
 murder weapon was never recovered.
 Forensic reports state that it was
 a large knife used most likely for
 carving but that's it.

KALINDA
 Maybe old Nathan's telling the
 truth.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - WILL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Alicia knocks on Will's door. He motions her inside and hangs up the phone.

ALICIA

There's something going on with my appeal.

WILL

No. There isn't. I need you to wrap it up, we've got depositions next week for the MacArthur case, all hands on deck.

ALICIA

The sister knew something she shouldn't have, couldn't have known. Kalinda's looking into it but I think we have reasonable grounds for-

He avoids eye contact with her.

WILL

Cement the verdict and move on. Can you do that?

Alicia is silent. Will picks up the phone and hits a button. Alicia leaves. Will sets the phone back down. He hates this. All of this.

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alicia comes out of the bedroom in a robe, hair wet from the shower. She watches Peter and Zach play a video game. Zach's cellphone BUZZES and he becomes engrossed in texting.

ALICIA

My client says he's innocent-

PETER

Don't they all?

ALICIA

But I believe him. I'm starting to think Kalinda does too. But I'm not sure if the partners will let me continue to investigate-

Zach's back in the game. Peter focuses all his attention on shooting bad guys.

PETER
On your six. No, your six.

ZACH
I don't know what that means, Dad.

PETER
I was behind you.

They laugh and continue on. Alicia tries again.

ALICIA
Gut feeling, do I go with it or do
I keep the status quo?

Peter and Zach don't even realize she's talking.

ALICIA
Good talk, thanks.

Alicia's cellphone BUZZES. She reads a text from Kalinda: "I might have something. Can I come over?" Alicia types a reply: "Please."

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Alicia, dressed in casual clothes, pours Kalinda and herself glasses of scotch. They toast and swig. Peter walks in, opens the refrigerator.

PETER
I've got cigars in the other room,
you're welcome to them, ladies.

He grins and leaves with a beer. The look on Alicia's face betrays her feelings toward Peter at the moment. Kalinda raises her eyebrows and slugs back the rest of her scotch.

ALICIA
It's nothing...marriage.

Kalinda smiles and pulls out a small notebook.

KALINDA
So get this, the sister wasn't in
court for the trial. So she
couldn't have known about the
brand of knife even if they had
mentioned it, which I can't find
any record of. And there was no
way to tell if a knife was missing
from the house.

ALICIA

Do you think she knows who really killed her mother? But why hide it for all these years.

KALINDA

Maybe it was her brother. Or a boyfriend? She seemed a little on the, uh, passionate side.

ALICIA

Was the brother, Arme y, in court for the trial?

KALINDA

Every day, the father too. Though he's been dead ten years now.

ALICIA

I suppose he could have heard mention of the knife and have passed it on to his sister.

KALINDA

I think the chances are better that he's getting some tonight.

She nods toward Peter, who's still involved in the video game although Zach's no where in sight. Alicia smiles and pours more scotch.

ALICIA

We need to interview Arme y tomorrow. And I need to talk to Nathan again.

KALINDA

Will's gonna love this.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Will, Diane, several ASSOCIATES, and ARMEY MOLLS (early 40s), sit around the table. They discuss his lawsuit.

DIANE

The deal will be complete in a matter of weeks. We'll meet with the other company's counsel and-

Alicia pops in, grabs a chair off to the side.

WILL

Alicia?

ALICIA

I just need a moment with Mr. Molls, when you're finished.

WILL

We're prepping for contract negotiations, tomorrow soon enough?

ALICIA

It'll just take a few minutes. I'm going back to Pontiac this afternoon and I need to verify some information before that.

WILL

Not gonna happen, I told you-

Diane realizes this could get ugly very quickly. She stands.

DIANE

I think we could all use a break. Alicia, take the room for ten.

The associates file out. Diane watches Will watch Alicia. He sits back, crosses his legs at the ankles. He's staying. Diane nods at Alicia and closes the door behind her.

ARMEY MOLLS

Thank you for making sure Nathan stays where he belongs.

ALICIA

Just doing my job.

She sits at the table next to Armeiy.

ALICIA

Can you tell me, what was Nathan's relationship like with your mother?

ARMEY MOLLS

She treated him like one of her own. That's what made it even harder. His mother died when he was little, he'd been in a foster home for a while.

ALICIA

Had you ever heard them argue before that night?

ARMEY MOLLS

I didn't live at home then, Deb
might be more of a help with that.
Pops always thought he was on
drugs.

Will looks at Alicia like he's a judge and she's about to be
held in contempt.

ALICIA

Was he?

ARMEY MOLLS

We didn't run in the same circles,
I was away at college, we smoked
some weed that Christmas but other
than that-

ALICIA

So you never knew the motive?

ARMEY MOLLS

Money maybe? Pops said Nathan's
dad was crazy, maybe it ran in the
family.

ALICIA

Do you remember what the murder
weapon was, Mr. Molls?

ARMEY MOLLS

A knife.

ALICIA

Any particular kind?

WILL

Come on-

ARMEY MOLLS

They might have given a size at
the trial but I don't remember.

Alicia gets up from the table.

ALICIA

Thank you.

She leaves the room without looking at Will.

EXT. PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER - THE YARD - DAY

Alicia sits with Nathan Franks at a picnic table. Two GUARDS stand close by.

NATHAN FRANKS
Fresh air is real nice.

Alicia smiles. Nathan looks off into the distance.

ALICIA
Tell me about the day your aunt was killed. Did you talk to her that day?

NATHAN FRANKS
She made me a sack lunch before I went out on my community service. Trash duty on highway forty-one.

ALICIA
Did you fight about something?

NATHAN FRANKS
No. She was givin' me a place to stay. She was there for me when my mother died, as much as she could be. I told them too, I would never do this, I couldn't do what-

Tears in his eyes. Alicia looks away.

ALICIA
What time did you get done with your community service?

NATHAN FRANKS
Four-thirty. Always. It was day nineteen. I had a routine by then. I worked mornings at the car shop then afternoons I did four hours on the road. Judge said if I knocked out half my hours in a month he'd cut them.

ALICIA
Did anyone testify to where you'd been that day?

NATHAN FRANKS
They said it didn't matter, she was killed around eight. Apparently I could have picked up trash and still done it.

ALICIA

They found her around eight, she could have been killed hours earlier.

Alicia makes notes on a pad. Things are clicking into place.

NATHAN FRANKS

Deborah and her always had dinner before Deb hit the clubs. Her mom hated that she went to the clubs so Deb figured it was the least she could do.

ALICIA

What did Deborah do at the clubs that her mother hated so much?

NATHAN FRANKS

Hooked. It wasn't like she needed the money, they were rolling in it back then, still living off Grandpa Molls sausages. I remember her telling Armev and me that she did it for the thrill, she got off on it.

ALICIA

Did Deborah argue with her mother a lot?

NATHAN FRANKS

All the time. The day before-

He stops, watches a basketball game.

ALICIA

What? What happened the day before?

NATHAN FRANKS

No one'll believe it. I didn't believe it at first. Shit, I don't even know it's true. Just a suspicion-

ALICIA

What?

NATHAN FRANKS

Never mind, don't make a difference now. No one'll believe a convict. That's what they all say.

ALICIA
Who? What?

NATHAN FRANKS
You'll do no better than the rest
of them.

Alicia's sick of this. She's frustrated, she thinks her hands
are tied, she blows her top.

ALICIA
So that's it? You want me to roll
over too? Well you know what? I'm
sick of rolling over.

She stands up, grabs her thing.

ALICIA
If you don't want to help-
Nathan has a little more respect for her now.

NATHAN FRANKS
Want the truth?

ALICIA
God yes.

NATHAN FRANKS
If it's true she'll kill me-

ALICIA
So will this place.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO**INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA'S OFFICE - DAY**

Alicia paces as Kalinda works the laptop.

ALICIA

I think we have to get to the sister, well the police do, before we release Nathan. You can get Cary to help us?

KALINDA

He probably knows someone we can get the information to...yeah, I'll call Cary.

She's distracted. Alicia stops and waits.

ALICIA

What?

KALINDA

We have to have more than a jailhouse confession...

The adrenaline rushes out of Alicia's body. She falls on to the couch.

ALICIA

Evidence.

KALINDA

They'll need enough for a warrant, I don't think the name of a knife will cut it. Especially since the family's in the butchering business, they'll claim knives are a part of their culture and thus, their language.

ALICIA

And according to the corner's report the murder weapon could have been any one of a thousand different brands...

She has a thought.

ALICIA

What was time of death?

Kalinda works the laptop again.

KALINDA

Between three and seven p.m., what are you thinking?

ALICIA

If we can narrow time of death, and prove Nathan couldn't have been at the house...

KALINDA

That's what I'm talkin' about.

INT. PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

Eli approaches Alicia as she puts her briefcase into the backseat of her car.

ALICIA

I can't handle you stalking me tonight.

He adds some thick files to her pile of work in the backseat.

ELI

Just a little information on 'Lawyers for America'. In case you get asked anything during the press conference.

ALICIA

Why would I get asked...Eli? Smile and nod, that's all I do at these things.

ELI

You're an expert-

ALICIA

Hardly.

ELI

But you're on the front lines, fighting the good fight. One of the reasons this will go over so well. Just a few questions, not a big deal at all.

Eli smiles, shuts her car door for her, the files tucked safely inside.

ALICIA

Did Peter ask you to ask me?

ELI
I thought I'd run it by you first.

ALICIA
He doesn't need me.

ELI
Friday morning. One of Kya's
people will contact you about the
specifics.

Alicia gets into her car. Eli heads off. She puts her head back and closes her eyes, trying to erase the day before going home. There's a knock on her window.

ALICIA
(loudly)
Go away, Eli.

But it's not Eli standing there, it's Will. She rolls down the window, steeling herself for another talking to.

WILL
You okay?

ALICIA
Fine.

WILL
We okay?

ALICIA
Fine.

He nods, gives her that little Will smile she can't resist, and taps the top of her car.

WILL
Shake it off, go home, see your
kids.

She nods, not letting him break her.

WILL
Good night, Alicia.

ALICIA
Good night, Will.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

Kalinda and Cary sit at a table, as far apart from one another as possible. Silent. Cary checks his watch.

Kalinda relaxes as she sees Alicia walk through the door.

ALICIA

Traffic.

They nod. Alicia looks from Kalinda to Cary and back. Kalinda's look says don't go there. There meaning there's something going on that Alicia can't put her finger on.

CARY

So Kalinda's message said you have a case, an appeals case, you need a reference for.

ALICIA

My death row client-

CARY

The state of Illinois abolished the death penalty.

Alicia ignores Cary's smirk.

ALICIA

-is innocent.

CARY

Aren't they all.

KALINDA

Maybe.

ALICIA

Not the point. Mine has an alibi, and he knows who the real killer is.

CARY

The catch?

KALINDA

Why does there have to be a-

CARY

Come on, with you guys? There's always a catch.

ALICIA

My client believes the real killer will come after him if she's not arrested before his release. And we need to determine a more accurate time of death before she can be arrested.

CARY
You're sounding like a prosecutor,
Alicia.

ALICIA
You'll help us?

CARY
Depends on if I can get a
conviction out of it.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Kalinda and Alicia leave the coffee shop and walk.

KALINDA
Will won't be happy.

ALICIA
So what do I do with that? Ignore
the evidence to 'support the
firm'?

KALINDA
I'm not saying I agree with it,
I'm just saying losing this client
may make all of our lives a lot
harder. Including Peter's.

They walk in silence for a moment.

ALICIA
If I just filed the appeals and
did the cursory work, nothing
would change. Nathan would keep
his pessimistic world view,
another killer would continue to
live free and my husband could
make a couple hundred grand a year
for talking big and smiling for
the cameras.

KALINDA
They call it the status quo for a
reason.

ALICIA
So, Will's unhappy. That's not my
problem.

KALINDA
Okay.

ALICIA

Okay.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Alicia sits at a table with Deborah Molls and studies a file.

DEBORAH MOLLS

I thought you said I wouldn't have
to go to court?

ALICIA

I thought you said you wouldn't
mind?

Silence.

ALICIA

Nathan seems to believe you had
something to do with your mother's
death.

Deborah stands and moves toward the door, away from Alicia.

ALICIA

What happened that night? Before
you went out to the club? Did you
and your mother fight?

Kalinda slips in the door behind Deborah and slides Alicia a
piece of paper that's labeled 'Cook County Coroner's Office'.

DEBORAH MOLLS

She called me a whore!

ALICIA

That wasn't the first time you
fought about that.

DEBORAH MOLLS

She said I needed to move out,
that Arney and Nathan were the
future of the family and that I
was nothin' but a drain on them.

Alicia reads from the paper.

ALICIA

This says your mother was killed
before Nathan could have made it
back from his community service.
If I can get someone to verify his
whereabouts-

DEBORAH MOLLS

I'll lie. I did it before, to the cops. There weren't no witnesses. I'll lie.

ALICIA

How will you explain knowing about the murder weapon?

DEBORAH MOLLS

We always had good knives at home. Pops was always tellin' me or Arney to get his Kershaw when he needed to carve.

Kalinda gives Alicia the look that says, we got her. Deborah sees the look.

DEBORAH MOLLS

There's no cops here, so you don't have nothin'. You tell Nathan to go to hell.

She storms out of the office, Diane watches from behind the glass-plated walls. She smiles at Alicia: keep it up.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Alicia looks over the coroner's report again.

ALICIA

That was fast, how'd you-

Kalinda hands her another piece of paper.

KALINDA

I'm good at making friends. But look at this.

ALICIA

A copy of Nathan's community service log, really? How'd you-

KALINDA

Really good.

ALICIA

This was signed at four-thirty, just like Nathan said. And if the coroner's report is right, he couldn't have gotten back to the house in time.

KALINDA
Forensic science has come a long
way in fifteen years.

ALICIA
So we find Mr. Carter Treme,
highway forty-one supervisor, and
pray he remembers signing this.

KALINDA
No problem.

Kalinda leaves. Alicia's cellphone RINGS, caller ID: Peter. She presses ignore.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

It's a crime scene. Kalinda stands in the hallway outside the police tape. She puts her cellphone to her ear.

KALINDA
(into cellphone)
Alicia? I found Mr. Treme.

Inside the apartment a MEDICAL EXAMINER zips a MAN into a body bag.

KALINDA
(into cellphone)
But we have a problem.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE**EXT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT**

Alicia, cellphone to her ear, puts her key in the lock.

ALICIA
 (into cellphone)
 Treme's dead? You don't think...do
 they have a suspect? See what you
 can find out.

She drops the cellphone in her purse and pushes through the door.

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Music pours out from the kids' rooms. Alicia drops her bags and files and shrugs off her coat. She notices a package on the counter. It's wrapped in white butcher paper and tied with a red bow. The card's addressed to the Florrick family.

ALICIA
 Anyone home? Zach? Grace? Where
 did this come from?

She opens the card, it reads: 'Thank you for paying special attention to this family matter. - The Molls Family'. Grace appears at Alicia's side.

GRACE
 A lady dropped it off about an
 hour ago. Said you were helping
 her family and she wanted to show
 her appreciation.

Alicia unties the package: a few pounds of sausages.

ALICIA
 Is that all she said?

GRACE
 Pretty much. She asked if you were
 home and I told her you were on
 your way. She didn't want to wait.

ALICIA
 Thanks, sweetie. Did you finish
 your math?

Grace SIGHS and heads back to her bedroom. Alicia checks the locks on the front door and picks up the phone.

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Eli sits alone on the couch. He holds a cup of coffee and looks awkwardly around the room. Alicia enters with the phone to her ear.

ALICIA
(into phone)
Yes, I know. Fine.

She hangs up and stands in front of Eli.

ALICIA
Peter's on his way.

ELI
O-kay.

He sits back, assuming they'll wait. But Alicia forges ahead and Eli snaps back to attention.

ALICIA
I need help. There's a woman, her cousin killed her mother, well it turns out he didn't but anyway.

ELI
Just tell me what you want, I don't need details.

ALICIA
Private security for the apartment, and the kids. Round the clock.

ELI
Is that all?

Alicia looks at him like, should there be more?

ALICIA
A murder suspect came to the house tonight, talked with Grace.

Eli's already on his cellphone. There's a CRASH in the hall, Peter's home.

PETER (O.S.)
Really?

Alicia and Eli join him in the

FRONT HALL

He's knocked over an umbrella stand and several umbrellas that were put in front of the door purposefully.

ALICIA

I was nervous. I thought the building was secure but this woman, she came up here, she talked to Grace, she left sausages.

Peter tries to hide a smile. He's unsuccessful.

PETER

God no, not sausages.

Eli sees what Peter doesn't, Alicia's freaked out and in no mood for jokes.

ELI

(to Alicia)

Done. Twenty minutes. Call me if you need anything else.

He heads through the front door.

ELI

Don't forget the Lambush breakfast tomorrow, Peter.

Peter ignores him and Eli leaves. Peter looks at Alicia.

PETER

Isn't this a bit much? I've dealt with hundreds of violent criminals in my career-

ALICIA

She was here. In our home. With Grace.

Peter heads for the kitchen.

PETER

Is there any pizza left from last night?

Alicia shuts the door, locks it, and follows him.

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Alicia nurses coffee as Peter eats the last of the pizza leftovers.

PETER

The cousin has priors, right?

ALICIA

All misdemeanors. Trespassing, shoplifting, no violence.

PETER

Doesn't matter, they'll still see him as a criminal. And probably pat themselves on the back for getting him before he did anything else. One dead mother is enough in their eyes.

ALICIA

The sister all but confessed.

PETER

What do you have to prove it?

Alicia goes to the bags she dropped when she came in earlier. She sets up her work at the counter.

PETER

You've got to have enough to arrest her, and since the state's not going after her right now, it falls to you. The state's not, right?

ALICIA

They're aware of her but they said there's not much they can do right now.

PETER

You have Cary in the loop, that's one thing.

Alicia nods. She's already engrossed in the files.

PETER

If you can prove it, great. But if you can't? Do yourself a favor and move on.

INT. ALICIA'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - DAY

Alicia pours another cup of coffee. Grace and Zach hurry around and head out the front door.

ALICIA
 Don't forget, Grandma's making
 dinner tonight. Set the table, do
 the dishes, be good children.

Grace GROANS as Zach opens the front door. Two very large
 SECURITY GUARDS stand on either side of the door.

ZACH
 Mom?

Alicia hurries to the hall. It's clear she met the guards
 earlier.

ALICIA
 Good morning. Grace, Javier will
 be escorting you today. And Zach,
 you're with Bruce.

The kids look at her like she's lost her mind.

ZACH
 Like the secret service?

ALICIA
 Sure, like the secret service.

GRACE
 He's not following me around all
 day!

ALICIA
 It's either him or grandma.

Grace GRUNTS and stomps off, Javier follows her. Alicia kisses
 Zach on the cheek. He heads off, Bruce follows him.

ALICIA
 I love you.

GRACE
 We know.

ZACH
 We know.

Alicia watches them disappear into the elevator and then shuts
 the door, beyond exhausted.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - HALL OUTSIDE ALICIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Diane catches up with Alicia as she heads to her office.

DIANE
 How's the appeal?

ALICIA

Um, fine. I've got several strategies I'm working up. I filed a motion for an evidentiary hearing this morning. We should hear back within a day or two-

DIANE

He's trying his best, you know.

ALICIA

Who?

DIANE

He's determined to bring in as much or more business as Bond did. Some sort of measuring contest I suppose.

Alicia turns to face Diane.

ALICIA

Are you telling me to do something specific with my case?

DIANE

No, heavens no. I was just, checking in. This case is important. For various reasons. Keep up the good work, Alicia.

She leaves. Alicia watches her, even more confused.

INT. COOK COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING - WAITING ROOM - DAY

Alicia and Kalinda sit in old orange chairs amidst PAROLEES and VISITORS.

ALICIA

The coroner will testify?

KALINDA

Time of death had to have been before five. That means Nathan's alibi is air tight...

ALICIA

Was. Do they have any leads on who shot Carter Treme?

WOMAN (O.S.)

They've been through my records already this morning.

(MORE)

WOMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
Made a damn mess out of them too.
Good thing I run a tight ship.

The WOMAN (50s) hands Alicia a photocopy of Nathan's community service log. A line at the bottom is highlighted.

WOMAN
I remember the kid, he was a sweetie-pie. When he went up for the murder I told Carter he didn't do it. Lost ten bucks on that one.

KALINDA
So you two talked about Nathan's alibi?

WOMAN
Nah, nothin' like that. We run hundreds of guys like him through here a week. More than a few make names for themselves and we chat, that's all.

ALICIA
Where's this place they were working that day?

WOMAN
Forty miles or more from here. Even without traffic, it'd take an hour. Longer if Carter was drivin'. He took his sweet time at the end of a shift. Got 'em all talkin' in the van, no one ever minded.

ALICIA
Would you testify under oath that this is Carter's signature.

WOMAN
Of course. Sometimes I signed them but I always added a little shake to the last e. He didn't. This one's his for sure.

Alicia tests the waters, the trial lawyer in her rearing her head.

ALICIA
I can't believe you were able to find this so quickly, it was a long time ago.

WOMAN

Paid to. I told those boys from the city this morning if they left even one paper out of place their asses were mind. I deal with shit pieces all day, I can handle myself.

She glances around at the parolees.

WOMAN

No offense, folks.

The parolees nod, they know. Kalinda and Alicia nod. They know too.

EXT. COOK COUNTY SERVICES BUILDING - DAY

Alicia and Kalinda walk toward the parking lot when Eli approaches, camera CREW right behind him.

ELI

(to crew)

Shots of the building, focus in on Mrs. Florrick.

(to Alicia)

Can you give us a minute and do the walk again? It'd be a great transitional piece.

The CAMERA OPERATOR films. Alicia looks at Kalinda who shrugs her shoulders and heads off. She wants no part of this.

KALINDA

I'll call you after I've talked to Cary.

ALICIA

Eli? A moment?

Eli smiles for the camera as Alicia takes his arm and turns them both toward the building.

ALICIA

What is this?

ELI

The 'sizzle reel'. I assumed when you called last night, for the favor, you were doing so as payback for this. Peter said you'd be fine with it.

He gets it.

ELI
But you don't even know what this
is. Great.

He closes his eyes, musters his composure, turns to the crew.

ELI
Take ten!

He turns back to Alicia.

ELI
It's for the proposal. The media
gurus we consulted with think a
'sizzle reel', basically a short
film about the project, will help
sell it to investors, the public,
etcetera.

ALICIA
And you thought this was a good
idea? I'm working for a client.
Who I assume hasn't signed any
releases. You can't film me, or
this, or-

ELI
A misunderstanding. It happens. A
lot lately.

He smiles.

ELI
It's a really good program.

ALICIA
I know it is. And it'll work.
Without all of this.

Eli nods and heads off. The others trail him. Alicia's
cellphone RINGS, caller ID: Kalinda.

ALICIA
(into cellphone)
That was quick.

KALINDA (O.S.)
I'm in your car.

ALICIA
(into cellphone)
Right.

She walks to her car. Kalinda gets out and tosses Alicia the
keys. Alicia's flummoxed, she searches her coat pockets.

KALINDA

I'm good with pockets too. So Cary says we present him with the paperwork and he can issue an arrest warrant on Deborah. I'll tag along just to make sure it's all kosher.

ALICIA

I'm sure the police will appreciate that. Hey, do you know anything about sizzle reels?

Kalinda's eyes sparkle.

KALINDA

Well well, Mrs. Florrick. Are you talking about porn?

A smile creeps onto Alicia's face.

ALICIA

Never mind.

INT. STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - CARY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Alicia and Kalinda stand across from Cary. The outer offices are dark. Alicia shakes her head, she can't believe it.

CARY

The fact that Deborah Molls had motive to commit the crime is circumstantial evidence, at best.

ALICIA

(to Kalinda)

You said he said there was enough.

Kalinda gives Cary a look that says he did say that. Cary gives her a look like he's enjoying this.

ALICIA

So what do we do?

CARY

My hands are tied. There's a man in prison for the crime. He'll have his appeal but the state seems pretty satisfied that they've got a killer behind bars.

KALINDA

I can try and find something else,
there has to be-

ALICIA

This is why Peter wants to do his
program. Cases like this get too
far, too long gone-

Alicia walks out of the office. Kalinda looks at Cary.

CARY

Hey, don't shoot the messenger.

KALINDA

The messenger's an ass.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR**INT. PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER - VISITING ROOM - DAY**

Alicia sits across from Nathan Franks in the visiting room. He signs papers.

ALICIA

We'll get a court date within the month. I'll be back to prep you for that and we'll see what happens next.

NATHAN FRANKS

I told you she'd figure out a way to mess with me. Always did. Cold-hearted-

ALICIA

You told me Deborah was involved, and we know she was. But unless we have evidence it's all hearsay, Nathan.

NATHAN FRANKS

I wasn't there. But they were. And someone should pay for what they did.

ALICIA

They?

NATHAN FRANKS

Deb and Kate. Kate was so young. Sweet thing. Unless you got her mad.

Alicia latches onto an idea.

ALICIA

Kate lived at the house then?

NATHAN FRANKS

Sure. She was barely a teenager.

Alicia scoops up the paperwork and heads out of the room.

ALICIA

I'll be back. Soon.

INT. LONG TERM CARE FACILITY - DINING ROOM - DAY

Alicia and Diane sit across from Kate. PEOPLE serve and eat. Diane nods to Alicia, go on, you have to ask.

ALICIA

Kate, do you remember your mom?

KATE

She made banana bread. My favorite.

DIANE

Mine too.

ALICIA

Do you remember what happened to her?

KATE

Deborah says she's with the angels, and Daddy.

Diane continues to nonverbally encourage Alicia.

ALICIA

The day your mom went to live with the angels, do you remember that day? Was your mom hurting?

KATE

She bled a lot. Blood was everywhere. The floor was red.

Diane gives just the faintest hint of a smile. That's it. They've got it.

ALICIA

And do you remember what...made the blood? What happened right before that?

KATE

Mom was yelling at Deborah. Lots of yelling. And I was hungry.

Alicia watches Kate eat her meal.

ALICIA

So what did you do?

KATE

Mom wouldn't give me dinner, said she had to 'deal' with Deborah. I was hungry.

DIANE

Did you see what Deborah did?

KATE

She screamed and then she started crying.

Alicia senses this isn't going in the direction she thought it would.

ALICIA

Was she crying about the yelling?

Kate shakes her head no.

ALICIA

Was she crying about the blood?

Kate shakes her head yes.

ALICIA

Did you cause the blood?

Kate eats faster. Alicia puts a hand on Kate's arm. She drops the fork.

ALICIA

Did you hurt your mommy?

KATE

I was hungry. She was yelling, Deborah was yelling. I made them stop yelling.

Alicia and Diane look at one another.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA'S OFFICE - DAY

Kalinda looks up from Alicia's computer. Alicia stands in the doorway.

KALINDA

Checking email.

Alicia nods, not quite sure she believes her.

KALINDA

They're issuing a warrant but they won't serve it. A judge will assign a guardian ad litem for Kate before they hold a hearing to determine if she's mentally competent.

ALICIA
She has no grasp...

Kalinda nods. She knows.

EXT. PONTIAC CORRECTIONAL CENTER - THE YARD - DAY

Alicia walks the interior perimeter with Nathan.

ALICIA
A few days and they'll have the
paperwork sorted out.

She nods at the fence.

ALICIA
You'll be on the other side by the
weekend.

Nathan looks like he can't really believe it.

NATHAN FRANKS
It'll sure be different. Probably
not what I've been dreaming of.

ALICIA
Probably not.
(beat)
Why did you think Deborah had
killed her mother?

NATHAN FRANKS
She was always mean, said bad
things. But it makes sense. She
was always so protective of Kate.
Even when she was a baby. And Kate
has the Molls family temper too.

Alicia nods. They walk on.

NATHAN FRANKS
What'll happen to them?

ALICIA
Deborah is being questioned in
Carter Treme's death. She was
trying to protect Kate I assume.
And the state'll decide whether or
not to try Kate. She'll probably
go to a state facility, much like
the one she's in now.

NATHAN FRANKS
A prison's a prison's a prison.

INT. 28TH FLOOR - RECEPTION AREA - DAY

Alicia gets off the elevator and sees Will and Diane in the conference room. They argue, Will looks like he's about to explode. Alicia's cellphone RINGS, caller ID: Peter.

ALICIA
(into cellphone)
Peter, I-

PETER (O.S.)
Forget the sizzle whatever, forget
the ideas from the partners. I
just need you, next to me,
tomorrow.

Alicia watches Will and Diane go at it.

PETER (O.S.)
Alicia?

ALICIA
I can't. I've got a hearing for
Nathan and a lot of paperwork and
I might just lose my job-

PETER (O.S.)
You *can* but you *won't*. There's a
difference.

ALICIA
You don't need me.

PETER (O.S.)
Maybe you're right.

ALICIA
We'll talk more tonight.

PETER (O.S.)
Tonight.

Alicia drops the cellphone in her purse. Will storms out of the conference room past Alicia.

WILL
(over his shoulder)
Good work. We lost the meat packer
and his multi-million dollar
merger.

Diane leaves the conference room.

DIANE

Mr. Molls has decided to focus on his sisters' defenses for the moment and no longer requires our services.

They look at each other.

DIANE

You did your job. Don't ever apologize for that.

INT. CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Eli shrugs into his overcoat. Peter, tie pulled loose, shuffles through paperwork.

PETER

You think you can convince her?

ELI

I convinced my ex-wife to marry me.

PETER

People might actually benefit from Lawyers for America. I feel like this might be the first thing I've done that makes an actual difference.

Eli stops. Peter means it. Eli heads out the door.

ELI

She'll be there, she believes in you. You and I both know that.

Peter nods. Eli tries hard to believe it himself.

INT. 27TH FLOOR - ALICIA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Alicia lays on the couch in the dark, shoes kicked off. Will stands in the doorway, watches her. Finally he speaks.

WILL

It's not personal.

ALICIA

It's hard to tell the difference.

WILL

Every time I get my head above water some guy with a shiny new boat knocks me back under with one of his oars.

ALICIA

At least it's not a propeller.

WILL

You did good today. Nathan Franks was a lucky man to have you on his side.

ALICIA

You call being in prison for fifteen years lucky?

Will grabs a pillow from the other end of the couch and lays down on the floor parallel to Alicia.

WILL

I don't have the slightest idea of what's luck and what's not.

ALICIA

I don't like the way things have been lately.

WILL

We've all been on edge. Things'll even out sooner or later.

ALICIA

Not just here at work. I don't want to go home.

They lay there for a moment. Alicia's arm drops off the side of the couch. Her fingers stretch. Will's hand finds hers.

ALICIA

It has to get easier.

WILL

Or harder. The law of averages.

A silent, intimate moment. Eli approaches Alicia's office. He sees Alicia and Will. Their hands. Fuck.

END OF ACT FOUR