

Teenage FBI
(pilot)

TEASER

INT. BACK OF BEN'S VAN - DAY

The van is parked across from a liquor store. Clair is sitting in front of a surveillance monitor looking at a view of the store. She is wearing a headset with a mic.

THE MAILMAN(NARRATING)

That's Clair O'Donnell, at her after-school job.

ANGLE ON MONITOR

We see a shady-looking character exit the liquor store with some beer. He starts to walk down the street.

ANGLE ON CLAIR

CLAIR

(into mic)

There he goes! Where are you? Get him! He's getting away!

Covers her eyes.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

I can't look!

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

Ken is waiting in the alley for the perp to go by. He puts a two-way radio close to his mouth.

KEN

(angry)

I told you before, I don't take orders from a kid! I'm doing this my way. Now shut up!

THE MAILMAN(NARRATING)

Oh, and that high-strung man is Detective Ken Sikes. I know it's hard to believe, but he works for Clair.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

The perp walks by the alley and Ken jumps out with gun and badge drawn.

KEN
Freeze! Federal Marshall.

PERP
Damn!

He drops the beer and raises his hands.

PERP (CONT'D)
Don't shoot, man.

INT. BACK OF BEN'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Clair breathes a sigh of relief as she watches Ken push the guy against the wall. She goes up to the front of the van where Ben is reading a comic book in the driver's seat.

THE MAILMAN (NARRATING)
And that is Clair's best friend
Ben. This is his van.

INT. FRONT OF BEN'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR
That's it, we got him. Let's roll.

BEN
Aye, aye, captain.

She plops herself down in the passenger seat.

THE MAILMAN(NARRATING)
The work might be a bit out of the
ordinary for a teenager, but then
Clair is no ordinary girl.

BLACK OUT

END TEASE

ACT I

EXT. CLAIR'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

It is a sunny afternoon and Clair is waiting on the stoop of her house as the Mailman approaches.

THE MAILMAN (NARRATING)

Okay, you may be wondering just how a fifteen-year old girl gets a job as an illegal bounty hunter. It all started one day with a letter.

THE MAILMAN (CONT'D)

Hi, Clair.

CLAIR

Hi, uh...mailman.

He just smiles at her, not offering his name. She hands him a bunch of outgoing mail and he sticks it into his pouch. She squints at his name tag.

ANGLE ON NAME TAG

It just reads "A. Mailman".

ANGLE ON CLAIR

He hands her a stack of mail and she frantically starts to go through it.

THE MAILMAN

One thing I like about this job is seeing how a single letter can change a person's life. Expecting something important?

She finishes looking and is disappointed.

CLAIR

No. I mean, it's my birthday and I thought that maybe, just maybe, my dad would send a card.

THE MAILMAN

Why, happy birthday, Clair.

CLAIR

Thanks. My dad hasn't sent a card in four years, so I don't know why I thought he might this time. I just had a feeling.

THE MAILMAN

Maybe you missed it. Look through
the stack again.

Clair looks through the letters again. She is too busy to
notice The Mailman has walked away.

CLAIR

No. Nothing, nada, zip.
(reading an envelope)
Hey, you gave me the wrong mail,
this isn't our...

She looks up and finally notices he's gone.

She rushes down the steps and looks up the street, but the
mailman has vanished.

INT. POST OFFICE - LATER

Clair is waiting in line with the letter. Her eleven-year-old
sister Tami is impatiently waiting with her.

TAMI

I have to be at soccer practice in,
like, five minutes.

CLAIR

(mad)
I know, Tami. But I can't be two
places at once!

Tami notices a very large woman in front of them.

TAMI

(a little too loud)
Wow, that woman's fat.

The woman gives them a dirty look.

CLAIR

Shhhh. Honestly, Tami do you have
to say everything that pops into
your head?

CLERK

Next!

Clair rushes up to the counter dragging Tami with her.

CLAIR

(talking fast)
This was delivered by accident.
(MORE)

CLAIR (CONT'D)

I would have walked it over to the person myself, but it's an address across town. I would have given it to the mailman tomorrow, but you can see it's a social security check and the person might need it today.

CLERK

Yeah, okay.

The clerk takes it and tosses it into a bin.

CLERK (CONT'D)

Next!

Clair grabs Tami's hand and they quickly move away from the counter.

They pass a bulletin board that has local want ads and Postal bulletins, including an "America's Most Wanted" poster.

Something catches Clair's eye and she stops.

TAMI

Come on, I'm late already!

CLAIR

Wait!

ANGLE ON BOARD

Clair grabs a "help wanted" notice that is right next to the Most Wanted poster that shows "Terry 'Mad Dog' Nelson" as "This week's most wanted."

CLAIR (CONT'D)

That guy looks familiar.

TAMI

Come on!

Tami drags her out before she can get a closer look at the poster.

EXT. SOCCER FEILD - LATER

Girls are already on the field and Tami rushes out to join them.

CLAIR

(yelling to Tami)

I'll be back at seven to walk you home.

TAMI
 (yelling back)
 I'll walk myself home, I'm not a
 baby.

INT. GROCERY STORE - LATER

Clair is pushing a cart with a wobbly wheel through the aisle, doing her best to read a shopping list.

She runs her cart into a man carrying a gallon of milk. It's 'Mad Dog' Nelson from the wanted poster.

MAD DOG
 Hey, watch it.

CLAIR
 Sorry.

She puts her head down and pushes on, then suddenly stops and looks up at the man again as he disappears down another isle.

INSET SHOT OF THE POST OFFICE BULLETIN

Clair remembers the face next to the want ad.

INT. GROCERY STORE - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR
 (sudden realization)
 Mad Dog Nelson?

EXT. GROCERY STORE - LATER

Mad Dog exits. Clair frantically follows, doing her best to follow with a full cart of groceries. Mad Dog crosses the parking lot to an adjacent sidewalk.

EXT. SIDEWALK - CONTINUOUS

Mad Dog continues his stroll toward home. At first he doesn't notice the girl pushing the grocery cart behind him. He then turns and Clair puts her head down as if to hide behind the cart.

ANGLE ON CLAIR

The cart gets stuck on a rock and she frantically tries to push it over the rock.

Suddenly a hairy hand appears at the front of the cart and lifts it over the rock for her. She looks up and sees Mad Dog grinning at her.

MAD DOG
Here, let me help you with that.

CLAIR
(trying to be cool)
Thanks.

MAD DOG
(leering)
My aren't you a pretty young thing.
You live around here?

CLAIR
No! I mean, a few block from here.
A lot of blocks actually.

MAD DOG
This is my apartment building.
(holds up beer)
You want to come in and party?

CLAIR
Uh, no thanks. I have to get my
ice cream home.

She pushes on past him, but then stops and turns.

CLAIR (CONT'D)
But maybe later. What apartment do
you live in?

MAD DOG
Fifteen. Ring the bell three times
so I know it's you.

CLAIR
Okay. See ya.

MAD DOG
I hope so, little girl.

She turns to hide her look of "creeped out" and presses on.

INT. CLAIR'S HOUSE - LATER

She is on the phone and trying to cook dinner at the same
time, when Tami enters. Tami looks at the stove in disgust.

TAMI
I'm tired of macaroni and cheese!

CLAIR

It's all we can afford right now.
Grandma's social security check is
late again.

Tami gets a box of cereal from the cupboard.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

Put that back, you're not eating
that junk again...

(into phone)

Yes, I'm here. That's right,
apartment fifteen. Oh, and he told
me to ring the bell three times.

Yes. What? Okay just a minute.

(to her sister)

Tami get me a pen and paper.

The macaroni is boiling over and she rushes to the stove and
pulls off the pot. Tami enters with a pen and paper. Clair
takes them and starts to write.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

Four, one, nine, seven, six, three,
B. What's this for? Informant
number? Wait, I get a reward for
this? ... Okay if he is captured
... how much do I get?

She looks stunned.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

Um, okay. Thanks.

TAMI

You get a reward, for what?

CLAIR

Turning in some guy I saw on a
wanted poster.

TAMI

How much is it?

CLAIR

Ten thousand dollars!

They both squeal with delight and dance around the kitchen.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

Get your coat we're going out for
pizza.

INT. PIZZA PALACE - LATER

The restaurant is a local teen hangout and is full. Tami and Clair are finishing their pizza.

TAMI

That social worker, Ms. Green called again today.

CLAIR

Dang, that's all we need.

TAMI

What's going to happen when they find out Grandma isn't coming home for awhile?

CLAIR

They won't find out.

TAMI

But what if they do, will they send us to a foster home or something? Maybe dad will come home.

CLAIR

He's not coming home.

TAMI

(irritated)
How do you know?

CLAIR

Eat your pizza.

Amanda and Ben enter and spot the girls at the table. Clair waves them over.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

Amanda, Ben, over here.

AMANDA

Oh, my god it's been ages since I've seen you here. How's your grandma?

CLAIR

Waiting for the new hip.

TAMI

(flirting)
Hi, Ben.

BEN
Hey, squirt.
(eyeing the pizza)
Are you going to finish that?

CLAIR
Knock yourself out.

He plops down in the booth next to Clair and digs in. Amanda sits down next to Tami.

TAMI
Clair won ten thousand dollars.

CLAIR
I didn't win it. I earned it.

BEN
(mouth full)
No kidding?

CLAIR
Yeah, I saw this guy on a wanted poster at the post office, then I saw him at the grocery store.

AMANDA
Wow, what are the odds?

CLAIR
One phone call later and I'm rich. That is if I can think of a way to get the money.

TAMI
(concerned)
What do you mean?

CLAIR
They wire you the money to Western Union and you use an account number to pick it up. That way you can stay anonymous.

BEN
So what's the problem?

CLAIR
They aren't going to let a kid just walk out with that kind of money. I'll need an adult to pick it up. One that won't ask questions.

BEN

I see your point.

CLAIR

It won't be for a few weeks, they have to catch the guy first.

AMANDA

To celebrate, we should so have a party at your house this weekend. You're lucky not have any parental supervision, you could have a party every weekend....

Ben gives her a 'shut up' look.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

Oh, I'm sorry, that was kind of insensitive of me, wasn't it?

BEN

Like the taste of sneaker in your mouth?

CLAIR

It would be nice to have a party, but I can't do anything that would attract attention or give our crabby neighbor something to complain about.

INT. MRS. CRABTREE'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Clair's next door neighbor, Mrs. Crabtree is having coffee with Ms. Green, Clair's social worker. Ms. Green is peeking out of her curtains at Clair's house next door.

MRS. CRABTREE

...And I haven't seen their grandmother in days. Clair says she's bed ridden, but I don't think she's even in the house. Those girls are alone.

MS. GREEN

Thank you for bringing it to our attention, we will look into it.

She come away from the window and sits down.

MRS. CRABTREE

Those poor girls. First their father runs off after embezzling money from his work.

(MORE)

MRS. CRABTREE (CONT'D)

Then their mother dies, now this.
Clair is too young to be taking
care of her sister by herself.
I've offered to help but she won't
have anything to do with me. She
is kind of a brat if you ask me.

MS. GREEN

I'll stop by when the girls get
home from school and check on them.

INT. PARKVIEW HIGH HALLWAY - MORNING

It's between classes and the hallway is full of students.
Ben is getting stuff out of his locker. Clair and Amanda are
standing next to him.

ANGLE ON END OF HALLWAY

Tony, a tall, muscular student comes down the stairs. He is
wearing a leather jacket, tee-shirt and blue jeans.

ANGLE ON BEN'S LOCKER

AMANDA

Hey, who's the new hunk?

CLAIR

Yeah, he's pretty cute.

Angry, Ben slams his locker and looks.

BEN

That's Tony Martelli. I hear he
got kicked out of his last school
for stabbing a guy.

CLAIR

So, he's a bad, bad boy.

Ben rolls his eyes.

BEN

What is he, thirty? He must be an
undercover cop or something.

AMANDA

He's something alright.

Ben storms off in the opposite direction. He spots a group of
football players and puts his head down hoping to go under
their radar.

BOBBY
Hey, Brainiac Ben! What's new.

BEN
(to self)
Man, this is all I need.

He tries to push past, but they knock the books out his hand as he goes by. The football players laugh.

BEN (CONT'D)
Wow, that never gets old does it?

He stoops down to pick them up.

BEN (CONT'D)
Maybe you should try reading a book instead of hitting them and making them go boom, boom. You big ape.

Bobby jerks Ben up and throws him against the locker.

BOBBY
I'm going to go ape all over you.

BEN
Could I distract you with a bright shiny object?

Ben closes his eyes, waiting for the punch, when a big arm comes into frame and grabs Bobby. The camera pulls back and we see Tony has intervened.

TONY
Be cool, dude.

BOBBY
Uh, yeah. I was just kiddin' around. Me and Ben are good friends.

Tony lets go and Bobby and his gang sulk away.

TONY
You okay?

BEN
(picking up books)
Yeah, thanks. You just made things worse, but thanks.

TONY
I made things worse?

BEN

That's right. Now they think I can't stick up for myself. I go through this every year, I take one beating and I'm spared the rest. It's best to get it over with quickly, like ripping off a band-aid.

TONY

Take it from a former bully, next time don't mouth off. The mighty oak breaks in a strong wind, the willow bends and absorbs.

BEN

So I'm just supposed to take it.

TONY

No. Shout him down with silence.

BEN

That makes no sense.

TONY

It will.

Amanda rushes up.

AMANDA

(to Ben)

Hey, Ben. Aren't you going to introduce me to your friend?

TONY

(smiling)

I'm Tony.

AMANDA

Amanda.

Clair is walking by, busy looking through her backpack for homework. Amanda grabs her and jerks her to a stop.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

This is Clair. Clair, this is Tony.

CLAIR

Hi.

TONY

How's it goin'?

AMANDA
So are you a senior?

TONY
No, I'm only sixteen.

AMANDA
Did you hear that, Ben? Sixteen.

Amanda locks her arm in Tony's.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
Would you walk me to my next class?

TONY
Sure.

They go off arm in arm as Ben watches, dejected.

CLAIR
Why don't you just tell her how you
feel?

BEN
Because she should know.

Kyle, a dream boat of a 16-year old, catches Clair's eye.
She is momentarily entranced.

BEN (CONT'D)
Besides, look who's talking

CLAIR
Huh?

BEN
Drooling over Kyle the king of cool
again.
(mocking)
Why don't you just tell him how you
feel?

CLAIR
Not the same thing at all. You've
know Amanda all your life, heck you
have even seen her naked.

BEN
We were four.

CLAIR
Kyle doesn't even know my name.

He walks by.

KYLE

Hi, Clair.

She tries to speak, but can't. All she can manage is frantic, wild waving.

BEN

See, hormones even fog your practical brain.

She mock beats her head against the locker.

END ACT I

ACT II

EXT. SIDEWALK IN FRONT OF CLAIR'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Amanda, Tami and Clair are walking toward the house. They spot Ms. Green waiting in her car.

CLAIR
(to Amanda)
Ms. Green alert.

AMANDA
Right, I'm on it.

Amanda cuts through a yard and heads for the back of Clair's house. Amanda and Tami continue on, as Ms Green gets out of her car.

CLAIR
Oh, hello Ms. Green. What brings you by?

MS. GREEN
Just in the neighborhood and thought I's stop by. Is your grandma home.

CLAIR
As far as I know.

MS. GREEN
I knocked and no one answered.

CLAIR
She broke her hip and is in bed upstairs. She probably didn't hear the doorbell.

MS. GREEN
Can we go in and talk to her?

CLAIR
Sure.

INT. CLAIR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Clair, Tami and Ms. Green enter.

CLAIR
(calling upstairs)
Grandma, Ms. Green is here to see you.

AMANDA (O.C.)
 (calling from upstairs in
 old-lady voice)
 What's that Clair? Who's here?

CLAIR
 Ms. Green, that nice social worker
 lady.

AMANDA (O.C.)
 I'm in the bathtub, can she wait a
 minute while I get dressed?

MS. GREEN
 (calling up)
 That's okay Mrs. O'Donnel, we can
 talk later.

AMANDA (O.C.)
 Are you sure? It's no trouble,
 Clair come up and help me out of
 the tub.

MS. GREEN
 No, don't bother. This isn't an
 official visit.

CLAIR
 You want some coffee or something?

MS. GREEN
 I'm fine. How are you? How long
 has your grandmother been laid up?

CLAIR
 A couple of weeks. But she has a
 home care worker that helps her and
 makes us dinner and stuff.

MS. GREEN
 Oh, that's good. But if you need
 anything, just give me a call.

CLAIR
 I will thanks.

Ms. Green leaves and Clair shuts the door and lets out a sigh
 of relief.

TAMI
 That was a close one. What if
 Amanda hadn't been here?

Amanda comes down the stairs.

AMANDA

One of my better performances, I think.

Clair gives her a hug.

CLAIR

You are the greatest, did anyone tell you that lately?

AMANDA

Well, Tony said I was a great kisser.

Breaks from the hug.

CLAIR

(quietly)

No make-out talk in front of the K-I-D. Honestly, Amanda you just met the guy.

TAMI

How am I supposed to learn anything? Especially with you as a sister.

(to Amanda)

Who's Tony?

AMANDA

(to Clair)

It's not like we're going steady or anything, just some smooching under the bleachers. You should try it sometime. Not with Tony, but you know, with somebody. Anybody.

CLAIR

I guess I'm just a bit more selective than you are.

AMANDA

If you call me a slut again, I won't be your grandmother anymore.

TAMI

So, who is Tony?

AMANDA

Think Josh Hartnett with muscles.

TAMI

Wow.

AMANDA

(to Clair)

Don't tell Ben I made out with him, okay? He gets all weird when I have a boyfriend.

CLAIR

Gee, I wonder why that is?

AMANDA

Yeah, I know. What is with him?

CLAIR

(thinking)

Does Tony have a car?

AMANDA

No...a motorcycle. My father is going to freak out!

CLAIR

Could you ask him do me a favor?

INT. WESTERN UNION OFFICE - DAY

TONY is nervously waiting at the counter, but plays it cool when the clerk comes up.

CLERK

May I help you?

TONY

How's it going'? Yeah.

He slides him a slip of paper and the clerk disappears in the back. The clerk appears with a check.

The man hands him a cashier's check.

CLERK

This cashier's check is good at any bank in the U.S.

TONY

Thanks.

He nonchalantly pockets it and exits.

INT. PIZZA PALACE - EVENING

Clair, Tami, Amanda and Ben are sitting at their usual table as Tony enters and approaches the table.

CLAIR
(anxious)
Well?

He whips out the check.

TONY
Got it.

TAMI
Yes! Let me see, let me see.

Clair looks at the check then hands it to Tami. She examines it, but quickly finds it to not be as exciting as she thought and hands it back.

CLAIR
Any trouble? Did they ask for an I.D. or anything?

TONY
No, I just gave him the number and he handed me the check.

BEN
(to Clair)
What are you going to do with all that money?

CLAIR
Something wacky. Pay bills. This barely covers grandma's nursing home. But it gives me an idea how to make more money. For all of us to make money.

BEN
Clair, you can't be serious.

TAMI
What?

CLAIR
Why not? I know the business, my dad used to work for a bail bondsman.

AMANDA
They aren't going to let a teenager be a bounty hunter!

CLAIR
It's not like we have to tackle anyone down.

(MORE)

CLAIR (CONT'D)

We just track them down, then phone the bail bondsman and tell them where they can find the bail jumper. Sit back, collect the reward.

TONY

I don't think it's that easy. I mean if it was everyone would be doing it.

CLAIR

I talked to my dad's former boss, Big Al. I told him I was doing a paper on bail bonding. He says most of these jumpers still hang out in their old neighborhoods, but the police don't have the man power to round them up. They wait for tips to come in.

BEN

I've got a bunch of surveillance equipment we could use.

The others give him a perplexed look.

BEN (CONT'D)

I mean video equipment. You know I'm in to making videos. I'm not a voyeur or anything.

TAMI

What's a voyeur.

AMANDA

It's French for a pervert with a video camera.

BEN

I'm not. Really.

CLAIR

We could so do this. Ben's geekiness, Amanda's dad's underworld connections.

AMANDA

(mad)

For the last time my dad is not involved with organized crime.

(to Tony)

He's a contractor.

CLAIR

Whatever. But we only need to catch a couple of guys a year to make some pretty good money. I checked, there's like three hundred bail jumpers in the L.A. area at any one time.

TONY

I'm in. If you need me.

BEN

Me too.

AMANDA

Well what am I going to do in the gang?

CLAIR

(thinking)

We might need disguises. Makeup, clothes.

AMANDA

(happy)

Okay I'm in.

She sticks her hand out and the others stack their hands on hers. Tami adds her hand to the pile

TAMI

Me too!

CLAIR

Okay I officially declare us...hey we need a name.

AMANDA

I know! The school thugs call themselves the Teenage Mafia. We could be...the Teenage FBI!

CLAIR

I like it. We are all officially sworn into the Teenage FBI, Sherman Oaks division.

END OF ACT II

ACT III

INT. AL'S BAIL BONDS - DAY

Clair enters the rundown office. It is strewn with posters and paperwork. A large, older man, Big Al, sits behind a desk.

AL
(happy to see her)
Clair!

CLAIR
Hey, Al. What's new?

AL
Nothing, kid. Glad to see you, but you shouldn't be coming down here there are all sorts of unsavory types that come in here.

CLAIR
I'm a big girl now, Al.

He gets up from behind the desk and clears off a chair for her.

AL
Sit, sit. So what can I do for you? You need more for that school paper?

CLAIR
Something like that.

AL
Oh, I could tell you stories that would curl your hair. Oh, but I probably shouldn't.

CLAIR
I'm really here about a job.

AL
Well, sure. I can always use somebody to answer phones.

CLAIR
I want to be a bounty hunter.

AL
Uh. Well maybe. I mean when you're twenty one.

(MORE)

AL (CONT'D)

I have some gals that do a pretty good job at it.

CLAIR

If I give you the location of a bail jumper will you give me the reward?

AL

Why? You know where one of them is? Clair, these guys can be dangerous, if you know you should tell someone.

CLAIR

I'm just saying, if I know, would you pay me?

AL

Sure, I guess so.

CLAIR

Okay. I'll find one for you.

AL

Clair, don't go putting yourself in danger, it's not worth it. If you need money...

CLAIR

You've already helped enough, Al. And I don't know why you would when my dad stole from you.

AL

Your dad was my best friend.
(guilty pause)
Okay, I'm going to tell you something I never told anyone else. And it doesn't go out of this office. I sort of lied to the insurance company. There was a hundred grand in the safe, but your dad only took ten.

CLAIR

So, he was a bad thief, so what?

AL

I'm just saying, you might not know the whole story. Maybe he had to go on the lamb.

CLAIR

I know enough. I know my sister and I are eating macaroni and cheese every night. So are you going to give me a name or what?

AL

(humoring her)

Okay, so you want to be a bounty hunter. Do me a favor.

He writes something down on a piece of paper.

AL (CONT'D)

If, by some stroke of luck, you do track down a fugitive, don't go trying to bring them in yourself. Here's the name of a cop I use. I owe him a favor or two, so when I get a tip, I call him and he gets the collar. We all win.

CLAIR

Okay. You got a list of jumpers? Preferably ones on my bus route.

He rolls his eyes and goes to his filing cabinet.

AL

Here's one you might actually be able to dig up some dirt on.

She looks at the file.

CLAIR

Hey, this guy went to my school. I remember him. Killed a guy in a liquor store robbery, huh?

AL

Who knows. He jumped bail before the trial. Ask around school, if someone knows where he is, pass the info to my friend and he'll do the rest.

INT. PARKVIEW HIGH - DAY

Clair approaches a shy, frumpy girl, Mary-Margret at her locker.

CLAIR

Hi, Mary-Margret, long-time-no-see.

MARY-MARGRET

Do I know you?

CLAIR

I was in your poetry class.

MARY-MARGRET

Oh, that's right. You wrote that dirty limerick.

CLAIR

That's me.

(awkward pause)

Say, I just heard about your brother Gary. Is everything okay with you?

MARY-MARGRET

We don't talk about him.

She slams her locker.

CLAIR

Maybe he's innocent.

MARY-MARGRET

No. I saw him do it.

CLAIR

Oh.

MARY-MARGRET

You've never talked to me before. Did that snob Lindsey put you up to this?

CLAIR

No. I'm really concerned, that's all. If you need someone to talk to.

MARY-MARGRET

Sorry. Thanks. You really discover who your real friends are when something like this happens.

Lindsey and Brittanys go by snickering. Lindsey pantomimes shooting a gun at Mary-Margret.

CLAIR

What a bitch.

MARY-MARGRET

And to think she used to be my best friend.

EXT. LADY OF HOPE HIGH SCHOOL - AFTERNOON

Clair, Ben and Amanda are in Ben's van watching the school through a window.

INT. BEN'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

BEN

Man, it would suck to be Catholic. They go to school to what, like seven o'clock at night?

AMANDA

Just one night a week, I think it's called cataclysm.

CLAIR

(looking through binoculars)

Catechism. I think it means Bible class.

AMANDA

This is a dead end. No goody-two-shoes Catholic school girl is going be dating one of the FBI's most-wanted.

CLAIR

He's not most wanted. He's just wanted. Mary-Margaret said his girlfriend goes to this school.

BEN

Why do girls like the bad boys? I mean just cause some guy robs a bunch of liquor stores why is that cool? I could do that.

AMANDA

Right. You couldn't even steal that pack of gum when we were eight.

ANGLE ON SCHOOL

A bunch of kids come out.

ANGLE ON VAN

CLAIR
Okay, I'd better go find her.

Clair looks at a picture in her hand.

BEN
How do you know what she looks
like?

CLAIR
Mary-Margaret gave me her picture.

She hands it to him.

BEN
She's cute. There is no way she's
dating this thug.

EXT. LADY OF HOPE HIGH SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

Clair spots Cathy in the crowd and approaches her. Cathy is shy and withdrawn and carrying a clarinet case. Clair waves to get her attention

CLAIR
Cathy!

She runs up to her.

CLAIR (CONT'D)
Hi.

Cathy looks at her with no recognition.

CLAIR (CONT'D)
It's me, Clair. From...
(looking at clarinet case)
...From band camp.

CATHY
Oh, uh hi.

CLAIR
Hey you want to get a Coke or
something?

CATHY
I, I can't. I have to go home.

She puts her head down and quickly walks away. Clair waits a moment and runs back to the van.

INT. BEN'S VAN - EVENING

The van is parked in an alley, they are watching a bedroom window in an apartment building.

AMANDA

When will they be here? It's been like an hour since you called.

CLAIR

I don't know. I hope Al's guy is reliable.

ANGLE ON WINDOW

Gary comes into the bedroom and turns on a light. He drags Mary-Margret roughly into the bedroom, she looks scared.

ANGLE ON VAN

Clair leaps up and opens the van door.

AMANDA

Where are you going!

CLAIR

I can't let him hurt her.

BEN

Get back here, you can't...

But it's too late, Clair has dashed around to the front of the building.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

Clair enters the building

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

She looks up and down the hall, unsure of what to do. Then she spots Ken with his gun drawn and his back up against the wall near the door. He holds out a badge to Clair.

KEN

(whispering)
Get out of here.

CLAIR

Careful, he has a girl in there with him.

KEN

Okay. Now get out, it's not safe.

She runs out.

EXT. BEN'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Clair sprints to the van, the door slides open and she jumps in.

INT. BEN'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR
Al's guy is here. At least I hope
it's Al's guy.

ANGLE ON WINDOW

We see Gary get up and go out of the room.

CLAIR (CONT'D)
He must hear the cop knocking.

Ben brings up a video camera and starts recording.

BEN
This is so cool! It's just like
that movie, "Rear Window."

We see Cathy get up and hide in the closet. Ken enters with Gary in handcuffs and throws him down on the bed.

ANGLE ON VAN

CLAIR
He got him!

AMANDA
Oh, thank god.

ANGLE ON WINDOW

We watch Ken search the room and he pulls a gym bag from under the bed. He opens it and takes out a bundle of money.

BEN
Looks like he found the robbery
money, this guy is going down.

We see Ken pocket some of the money and put some of it back in the bag.

ANGLE ON VAN

BEN (CONT'D)
Wow, looks like Al's friend has
sticky fingers.

AMANDA

What?

BEN

He just stole some of the money.

AMANDA

Are you sure?

BEN

Got it all on tape.

ANGLE ON WINDOW

Ken hears something and draws his gun.

ANGLE ON VAN

CLAIR

(very worried)

No!

ANGLE ON WINDOW

Ken flings open the closet door and drags Cathy out.

ANGLE ON VAN

CLAIR (CONT'D)

No!

(she turns away)

What's he doing?

BEN

He's putting handcuffs on her.

INT. POLICE STATION JUVENILE OFFICE - LATER

Clair goes up to the front desk.

CLAIR

Is detective Sikes here? He just brought a girl in.

SERGEANT

I'll tell him you're here, have a seat and wait.

Sikes comes out into the lobby.

SERGEANT (CONT'D)

There he is. Sikes, this kid wants to talk to you.

SIKES
(friendly)
Yes.

CLAIR
Can we talk somewhere? In private.

SIKES
Sure.

He leads her to a break room.

INT. BREAK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

SIKES
What is it?

CLAIR
It's about Cathy, the girl you just brought in. She didn't have anything to do with the robbery.

SIKES
She's an accessory after the fact. She knew where he was and said nothing.

CLAIR
Because she was scared of him.

SIKES
That's for the court to decide. Now, if there's nothing else I'm late for an appointment.

CLAIR
(gathering courage)
No. You have to let her go. Or...or I'll tell.

SIKES
(curious)
Tell what.

CLAIR
You know. That bulge in your pocket.

SIKES
(amused)
I see. But it really comes down to the word of an adult over a kid.

CLAIR
A kid who has you on video tape.

SIKES
(concerned)
You're bluffing.

Pulls out a tape and hands it to him.

CLAIR
Here's a copy. You can keep that.
Do we have deal?

SIKES
(reluctantly)
I'll see what I can do.

CLAIR
(not sure of what to do)
Okay then. I guess I'll go now.

SIKES
It's not what you think. I'm going
to pay it back. Ah, what am I
explaining myself to little girl
for?

CLAIR
I believe you. Big Al says you're
a good guy and I believe him.

SIKES
You're the one who tipped off Al?

She just smiles and walks away.

CLAIR
Who me? I'm just a little girl.

SIKES
But this is it. I do this and
we're square.

CLAIR
We'll see.

She exits.

EXT. SIKES' EX-WIFE'S HOUSE - EVENING

Sikes' car is pulled up next the mail box. He rolls down the
window and opens the box.

INT. SIKES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

He puts an envelop of money in the mailbox, closes it and drives away.

END ACT III

ACT IV

INT. PARKVIEW HIGH - DAY

Ben is walking past Bobby and his gang. Bobby sticks his foot out and trips Ben. Angry, Ben picks himself up. Down the hall he spots Tony, who upon seeing this, points to his own eye then points back to Ben. Tony disappears around the corner leaving Ben to fight on his own.

BOBBY

Where's you're bodyguard now, wuss?

Ben gets up, dusts himself off and walks up to Bobby. He just stands there staring at him with a complete look of disinterest.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

What? You got something to say to me, say it.

Ben just continues to stare him right in the eyes. Bobby becomes nervous, not sure of how to react. He finally gives Ben a shove. Ben takes a step back with the shove, then two steps forward and continues the stare.

BOBBY (CONT'D)

You're a freak. Just stay away from me, got it?

Ben continues the stare, until Bobby can't take it anymore and breaks away. His friends follow.

BEN

What do you know, it works.

INT. PARKVIEW HIGH SCIENCE LAB - LATER

The class is setting up chemistry experiments. Clair, Amanda and Mary-Margret are lab partners, Lindsey and the Brittanys are next to them at another table.

LINDSEY

(to the Brittanys)

I hear they caught a dangerous criminal yesterday.

She looks over at Mary-Margret.

LINDSEY (CONT'D)

Isn't that right, Mary-Margret?

The mean girls giggle. Mary-Margret is visibly upset but remains silent.

CLAIR
Shut up, you hyena!

LINDSEY
(laughs)
I'm glad they put all the girls
related to criminals at one table.
Makes the rest of us feel safer.

Amanda whispers something to Mary-Margret and she laughs. Amanda tosses a blue powder at Lindsey and smacks her in the face.

Lindsey screams. Mary-Margret takes out a camera and takes her picture.

LINDSEY (CONT'D)
You stupid cow!

AMANDA
Feeling a little blue, Lindsey?

MARY-MARGRET
That will make a great picture for
the year book.

LINDSEY
You'll pay for this....

AMANDA
So worth it.

Clair hands Lindsey a towel.

CLAIR
And if you don't want that to be
your only picture in the yearbook,
I suggest you be a little nicer to
Mary-Margret, she's the photo
editor this year.

The chemistry teacher approaches.

CHEMISTRY TEACER
What's going on here?

LINDSEY
(suppressing anger)
Nothing. Just a little accident.

INT. CLAIR'S BASEMENT - AFTERNOON

Ben and Tony are busy finishing up connecting equipment. There are two computers, a tape deck and some monitors. Clair comes down with a pizza and some pop. In the center of the room is a table & chairs and a ratty sofa.

CLAIR

This is great! It's like a real secret underground headquarters.

Clair puts the pizza on the table.

BEN

And you get free satellite TV.

CLAIR

Now, we just got to get some more jobs to pay for this stuff.

Tami and Amanda come downstairs with plates and cups.

TAMI

What's grandma going to say about all this when she comes back?

CLAIR

Grandma hasn't been down in the basement in fifteen years, I don't think she'll notice.

They all sit at the table. Clair raises her pop for a toast.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

Here's to our first successful bust.

GANG

Here, here!

CLAIR

You know, I was kind of scared about being the head of the household, but I think I'm getting the hang of it.

AMANDA

And we're here to help you with that too. I can baby sit.

TAMI

I don't need a baby sitter, I'm eleven.

BEN

That's right. I can take you to the grocery store. Tony here can move a couch or kill a spider.

CLAIR

Thanks, guys. Between us I don't think there's anything we can't handle.

BEN

That's right.
(to Tami)
Anything you need help with squirt?
Homework?

TAMI

Well, I got my first period today.

There is an awkward silence. Tami just takes another piece of pizza as though nothing has changed.

BEN

Well, we can't help you with everything.

CLAIR

(exhausted)
I wish my mommy were here.

EXT. DOWN THE STREET FROM CLAIR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

We see Clair's father parked in a car. He's watching the house through a pair of binoculars. Suddenly another man sneaks up from behind the car and shoves a gun in Clair's Father's face.

THUG

We've been looking for you, Mr. O'Donnell. I knew if I watched your house long enough you'd show up.

The thug opens the back door gets in the backseat. He slams the door puts the gun hard against Clair's father's head.

THUG (CONT'D)

Now drive.

FADE TO BLACK

TEENAGE FBI

(PILOT PART II)

TEASER

EXT. AFFLUENT NEIGHBORHOOD - DAY

The camera pans over the expensive houses and well manicured lawns.

THE MAILMAN (NARRATING)
 I'm a mailman and my day ends at
 the border of this neighborhood. My
 route is four miles long and in
 that short space I see just about
 every rung of the economic ladder.
 And I've learned not to judge
 people by what doors they live
 behind.

The camera stops in front of a nice house, where Ben's van is parked.

THE MAILMAN (NARRATING) (CONT'D)
 Don't let the facade of this house
 fool you. It hides two killers on
 the run. They don't know it yet,
 but the next time they open the
 door justice will be standing
 there. With Girl Scout cookies.

INT. FRONT OF BEN'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Ben and Tami are sitting in the front. Clair is in back changing into a Girl Scout uniform.

BEN
 (looking out)
 So you think our perp is hiding out
 in this rich neighborhood?

ANGLE ON CLAIR IN BACK

Clair turns her back to Ben as she takes off her shirt.

CLAIR
 Not all criminals are poor.

ANGLE ON BEN IN FRONT

She turns her head and sees Ben is looking at her.

CLAIR (CONT'D)
 Eyes front.

Embarrassed he quickly turns and stairs out the front window again. His eyes glance up to the rearview mirror.

ANGLE ON MIRROR

Ben catches a glimpse of her shirtless back.

ANGLE ON BEN

He quickly diverts his eyes back to the street.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

Tony is checking out his mother's house. This is where his Aunt lives. It's a long shot he's here, but worth checking out.

Tami is examining a box of Girl Scout cookies.

TAMI

Can I have a cookie?

CLAIR (O.C.)

No, it will spoil your dinner. Okay, you can turn around. What do you think?

ANGLE ON CLAIR

Ben and Tami turn to look at her.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

I can't believe it still fits.

The uniform doesn't fit well, she has obviously grown since the last time she wore it, especially across the chest. Ben stares at her chest like it's the first time he noticed she was a girl. Clair doesn't like the stare and quickly pulls the vest shut.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

(angry)

Stop looking at my chest, perv.

BEN

I wasn't!

CLAIR

We've got a criminal to catch.

BEN

I know!

CLAIR

Okay, then.

BEN
I was looking at your...badges.

CLAIR
I'll never understand why boys are
so obsessed with badges.

She scoops up boxes of cookies and gets out of the van.

TAMI
When I get a chest, I'll let you
stare at it.

BEN
(sighs)
Shut up and have cookie.

TAMI
She only left me the icky diet
ones.

He watches clair go up to the house.

EXT. NICE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Clair skips up to the house in character and rings the door
bell.

INT. NICE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

A large man, John, cautiously approaches the door and looks
out the peep hole.

ANGLE OUT PEEP HOLE

We see Clair looking up smiling.

ANGLE ON JOHN

KURT
(quietly, to John)
Who is it?

JOHN
Girl Scout selling cookies.

Kurt goes the window and carefully peeks out the curtain.

KURT
Don't answer and she'll go away.

JOHN
But I want some cookies.

KURT
What if it's a trap?

JOHN
It's a girl scout, she's like
twelve.

KURT
Could be a midget cop. They have
those you know.

Kurt jumps back.

KURT (CONT'D)
Damn it! I think she saw me.

She rings the bell again.

JOHN
She knows we're here. We'd better
answer it.

INT. BACK OF BEN'S VAN - MOMENTS LATER

Clair enters and slides the door shut.

CLAIR
He's in there.

BEN
(excited)
No way!

CLAIR
And I made eight bucks off him.
With the reward that's two-thousand
and eight dollars.

She picks up a stack of wanted posters and leafs through
them.

CLAIR (CONT'D)
There was another guy in there too,
and he looked familiar.

TAMI
(upset)
You sold all the cookies?

Clair pulls out a sheet.

CLAIR

This guy, Kurt Wachosky! He's in there with him! And he's a big-time bank robber!

Ben takes the poster and examines it.

BEN

You sure?

CLAIR

Pretty sure. Wow, a double-header.

She takes out a mobile phone and hits a button.

CLAIR (CONT'D)

We'd better get Sikes on this A.S.A.P.

BEN

You know he might be on another case. He can't be at your beck and call all the time.

CLAIR

Yeah, right. How much you want to bet he's at the bar?

INT. SIKES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

The cell phone is ringing on the seat next to him. Next to the phone is an empty whiskey bottle and an open photo album showing his ex-wife, son and daughter.

EXT. SIKES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

We see he is parked in a wooded area.

INT. SIKES' CAR - CONTINUOUS

The phone continues to ring. Sikes takes out his gun and puts up against his head.

INT. BACK OF BEN'S VAN - CONTINUOUS

Clair is waiting impatiently on the phone.

CLAIR

Where the hell is he? Come on Sikes, pick up the phone.

END TEASE

ACT I

EXT. SIKES' CAR - DAY

Sikes has a gun to his head and trying to work up the courage to pull the trigger.

THE MAILMAN (NARRATING)

A wise men once said it's a shame
it takes an entire lifetime to
learn how to live your life right.
And it only takes a moment to throw
it away.

SIKES

(to self)

If you go this way, Sikes, the wife
and kids won't get the pension or
insurance. If you had the guts
you'd go down in the line of duty.

THE MAILMAN (NARRATING)

But sometimes, if you're lucky, all
it takes to turn things around is a
phone call.

Sikes gets irritated by the ringing phone. He puts down the gun and answers the phone.

SIKES

What!

He listens a moment.

SIKES

I'm not going to be able to help
you anymore Clair. I'm...getting
transferred.

He listens again.

SIKES (CONT'D)

Really? Two of them, huh?

He picks up his gun and examines it. He holsters his gun and takes out a pen.

SIKES (CONT'D)

Okay, one last score. Give me the
address. I'll call you when it's
over.

He hangs up and starts the car.

SIKES (CONT'D)
(to self)
Ask and you shall receive.

EXT. NICE HOUSE - LATER

Sikes pulls up and gets out of his car. He nonchalantly walks up to the door, pulls out his gun and kicks the door in.

INT. NICE HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

He strolls in briskly and Kurt comes out of the kitchen with a gun drawn. Sikes stands firm pointing his gun at him. Kurt fires and misses, Sikes doesn't flinch. Kurt fires again and misses again.

SIKES
(calmly)
For crying out loud, how rotten a
shot are you?

Kurt drops the gun and puts his hands up.

KURT
Don't shoot man!

John comes up from behind and puts a gun to Sikes's head.

JOHN
Drop it!

SIKES
(calmly)
No.

JOHN
I'm not kidding, man! I'll shoot!

SIKES
Then shoot.

John just stands there not knowing what to do.

KURT
Shoot, him!

SIKES
Yeah, I dare ya.

John drops his gun and puts his hands up. Sikes just starts to laugh.

SIKES (CONT'D)
I guess this isn't my lucky day.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

Sikes brings Kurt and John in handcuffs into a room of cheering cops. Sikes is playing it cool, but seems to be liking the attention.

DETECTIVE MANELLI
Bloodhound Sikes does it again!

SIKES
(down playing it)
All in a days work, ladies and gentlemen, just doing my job.

Captain Ross comes out of his office.

CAPTIAN ROSS
Sikes, let Manelli book them, I need to see you in my office.

INT. CAPTAIN ROSS' OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

A man in a suit is waiting in the office and stands to greet Sikes.

MARSHALL KENT
Hello, Detective Sikes, I'm Federal Marshall Kent.
(Shakes Sikes hand)
Good job on bringing in Wachosky and his cousin.

SIKES
I just got a lucky tip, that's all.

MARSHALL KENT
You seem to get a lot of lucky tips. This is what, your third bust in a month ?

CAPTIAN ROSS
(proud)
We lose count.

MARSHALL KENT
You must have some informant network. Who's your source?

SIKES
You wouldn't believe me if I told you.

MARSHALL KENT

How would you like to work for us?

SIKES

The FBI?

MARSHALL KENT

It's part of a pilot program, under the Department of Homeland Security, to foster greater cooperation between federal and local law enforcement. You would be part of task force to round up outstanding warrants, bail jumpers and the like.

CAPTIAN ROSS

Comes with a big pay raise.

MARSHALL KENT

So, are you interested?

SIKES

(happy)

Uh, yeah. That would be great.

MARSHALL KENT

Welcome to the team.

(shakes his hand)

Captain Ross will fill you in on the next step and get the paperwork squared away.

He exits.

CAPTIAN ROSS

So are you sure about this?

SIKES

Aren't you?

CAPTIAN ROSS

I have to admit you've been doing a great job lately, but I'd hate to see you fall into your old ways.

SIKES

I won't. I promise. If you give me another chance, I'll show you what I can do.

CAPTIAN ROSS

Okay then. Get back out there and make me proud.

Sikes exits.

INT. SQUAD ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sikes pulls out his cell phone and dials.

SKIES
(into phone)
Hello, Clair? It's me, Sikes. Say,
you got anymore names for me?

EXT. WESTERN UNION OFFICE - MORNING

Tony and Ben come out of the Western Union and are walking toward Ben's van.

BEN
(excited)
So? How much is it?

TONY
Four thousand.

BEN
But we got two of them! We should
get double.

TONY
Cheer up our cut is still a five-
hundred bucks each.

BEN
I wanted to buy a new Macintosh
with that...

They round a corner where a gang of five teenagers are harassing an old man.

TONY
(to gang)
Hey, knock it off!

HEAD GANG MEMBER
What's it to you? Take a hike.

The other four gang members stand tall as if they are ready for a fight.

TONY
You're a real tough guy picking on
someone's grandpa.

He lets the old man go and he continues on his way.

OLD MAN
(to Tony)
Thanks, son.

The head gang member pulls out a knife.

HEAD GANG MEMBER
This is my neighborhood and I'll do
what I want.

TONY
Fine. Just let us be on our way.

Tony and Ben try to walk away, but find themselves surrounded
by the gang.

HEAD GANG MEMBER
And what I want to do now is cut
you.

He takes a swipe at Tony, but takes a step back and all the
leader cuts is air. Tony reaches up and gently grabs the
assailant's wrist mid air, Tony bends his wrist back making
him drop the knife, then shoves him away.

HEAD GANG MEMBER (CONT'D)
Don't just stand there, get him!

A second gang member goes down for the knife and grabs it,
but Tony steps on his hand until he lets go, then steps off
to let the kid pull his hand away, then kicks the knife into
the street.

A third kid lunges at Tony, but he steps aside and grabs the
kid shirts and tosses him into the wall. The kid picks
himself up and runs away.

Tony steps back and takes a kung-fu pose and the fourth gang
member runs away out of fear.

The gang leader throws a punch, but Tony knocks it away. The
second gang member tries to come up from behind, but Tony
back-kicks him in the stomach and knocks the wind out of him.

The gang leader grabs Ben and holds his arms behind his back.

HEAD GANG MEMBER (CONT'D)
Stop it or I'll break his arms.

Ben winces in pain as his struggles.

TONY
Ben. Go limp.

Ben becomes like a rag doll and slides out of the gang member's arms to the ground, leaving the leader exposed. Tony goes to punch the kid but then opens his hand and slaps him hard instead.

TONY (CONT'D)

Go home.

The gang member sulks away rubbing his face.

Ben and Tony continue on to the van.

BEN

That was brilliant!

TONY

Fighting is never brilliant.

BEN

What is it? Karate?

TONY

Judo mostly.

BEN

You have to teach me to do that!

TONY

No.

BEN

What do you mean, no?

TONY

You're too angry.

BEN

(angry)

I am not!

TONY

See.

BEN

It's not fair, you could beat those guys up without Judo. A little guy like me needs an advantage.

TONY

I use Judo so I don't have to "beat up" anybody. I can't teach you anything until you unlearn.

BEN
I can unlearn. Really I can.
(thinks)
Unlearn? What do you mean,
unlearn?

Tony just smiles. He shoves Ben hard, almost making him trip.

BEN (CONT'D)
Hey!

Ben stands his ground and Tony shoves him harder this time knocking him down.

BEN (CONT'D)
Cut it out!

Ben gets to his feet and marches up to Tony. Tony knocks him down again.

BEN (CONT'D)
I said stop it! What is wrong with
you?

Ben gets up again storms up to Tony, but then stops and takes a step back just in time to avoid another shove.

TONY
(smiles)
Lesson one. The best way to win a
fight is to avoid it.

Tony continues walking.

BEN
(excited)
So does this mean you're teaching
me?

TONY
I don't know, does it?

END ACT I

ACT II

INT. POLICE STATION INTERROGATION ROOM - MORNING

Sikes and Manelli are sitting across from Kurt.

SIKES

Just tell us were the bank money is
and it will go a lot easier on you.

KURT

Yeah, right. I'm not saying
anything until my lawyer is here.
Let's see if we can cut some sort
of deal.

SIKES

We have you on camera robbing the
bank, there isn't going to be any
deal.

An officer enters with a gym bag. Kurt looks upset when he
sees the bag.

OFFICER

We found it stuffed in the laundry
hamper.

SIKES

(smiling)

Well, this looks like the bag on
the bank surveillance tape, the one
you made the teller fill with
money.

KURT

Crap.

Sike unzips and dumps it on the table. All it contains is
gym clothes and running shoes.

KURT (CONT'D)

(laughing)

Well, looks like neither one of has
anything to bargain with.

INT. SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

Clair is nervously sitting in front of Ms. Canton, the school
guidance counselor as she reviews Clair's file.

CLAIR

So, what happen to the old
counselor, Mr. Roundtree?

MS. CANTON

He suddenly decided to become a missionary in Africa.

CLAIR

I guess this wasn't a big enough jungle for him.

MS. CANTON

(reading)

This is a very impressive record, Clair. You've managed to keep a four-point average even with all your...stress.

CLAIR

School has always been easy for me.

MS. CANTON

I see you're on the accelerated graduation program.

CLAIR

Yes, I'd like to graduate when I'm sixteen.

MS. CANTON

What's the hurry?

CLAIR

My grandmother isn't getting any younger and I need to take care of myself and my sister.

MS. CANTON

(concerned)

That's a lot of responsibility to take on for someone so young. I see here you used to be on the yearbook and in the student council, in school plays. What sort of activities are you thinking about this year?

CLAIR

I don't really have time, I have an after school job and all my extra classes.

MS. CANTON

I'd like you to add some fun class to your schedule. Colleges like a well-rounded person.

(MORE)

MS. CANTON (CONT'D)
And I'm going to recommend you take
on a normal course load this
semester. I think you should drop
your extra classes.

CLAIR
I can't do that.

MS. CANTON
Just for a semester. You can still
graduate at sixteen if you reenter
the program next semester.

CLAIR
(upset)
I won't graduate at sixteen, I'll
graduate at sixteen-and-a-half.
That's not part of the plan!

MS. CANTON
This isn't a punishment, Clair. I
think you need some time to
decompress.

CLAIR
(yelling)
You can't make me do this!

MS. CANTON
(calm)
Yes. Yes I can.

CLAIR
It's not fair! I'm old enough to
make my own decisions. Why does
everybody try and tell me
what...what...

She suddenly starts to hyperventilate.

CLAIR (CONT'D)
I...can't...breath!

Ms. Canton rushes around the desk and takes out her lunch bag
and pours out the contents. She fits it over Clair's mouth.

MS. CANTON
Take deep breaths.

Clair breathes in and out few times and relaxes.

MS. CANTON (CONT'D)
Just for a semester, try and be a
kid.

Clair nods her head yes.

MS. CANTON (CONT'D)
 Would you like to come in and talk
 with me once a week? I can be a
 good listener. And whatever you
 tell me is confidential.

Clair nods her head yes again. She takes the bag away from
 her face.

CLAIR
 (takes a deep breath)
 I've got to stop drinking coffee.

INT. SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - LATER

Amanda is meeting with Ms. Canton. Amanda is wandering
 around the room looking at things and touching them. She
 avoids eye contact with Ms. Canton.

AMANDA
 So, does being a counselor pay
 well? I mean more than teachers?

MS. CANTON
 There's more to a career than
 money. I like what I do. Have you
 thought about what you'd like to do
 when you graduate?

AMANDA
 No, not really.

MS. CANTON
 Wasn't there something you wanted
 to be when you were little?

AMANDA
 Yeah, a pony. But that's not a
 very attainable goal.

MS. CANTON
 How about working with horses? You
 could be a trainer or a
 veterinarian.

AMANDA
 Ewww. I don't want any career that
 involves horse manure or blood. Do
 I have to decide on a career path
 today?

MS. CANTON
No. But keep it in mind.

Amanda finally turns and looks at her.

AMANDA
You're pretty. Do you have a
boyfriend?

MS. CANTON
Yes. Do you have a boyfriend?

AMANDA
No. But...

Goes quiet.

MS. CANTON
But what?

AMANDA
Sometimes I feel that I like boys
too much. I think about them all
the time.

MS. CANTON
That's normal at your age. I'll
let you in on secret, the boys are
going through the same thing. But
thinking and doing are two
different things. Are you just
thinking about boys?

AMANDA
Yeah. I know everyone thinks I am
slut, but I'm not.

MS. CANTON
Why do you feel everyone thinks
that about you?

She shrugs.

AMANDA
I don't know. Boys like me. I
can't help that. I have a lot of
guy friends and some girls think
there's more to it than there is.

MS. CANTON
Do you have any female friends?

AMANDA

Sure there's Clair O'Donnell
and...uh...hmmm. Well, anyway
there's Clair.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - NOON

Clair, Ben, Amanda and Tony are sitting at a table finishing
their lunches.

BEN

Man, I hate guidance counselor's
appointments. I don't like anyone
messing with my future.

AMANDA

This new one's okay. Tries a
little too hard to get in your
head, but she's nice.

CLAIR

(to Ben)

Yeah, pretty good as far as shrinks
go. I don't think this one will
make you cry.

BEN

That happened once! Geez. This is
why I don't open up to you guys.

TONY

I'm not ashamed to cry. I cried
looking at a sunset once.

AMANDA

(hugging him)

Oh, that is so adorable.

BEN

So he cries and it's adorable, and
when I cry I'm a sissy boy.

AMANDA

Tearing up at a sunset is sweet;
uncontrollable sobbing because they
took away your Star Wars doll
isn't.

BEN

It was an action figure. A very
valuable collector's item.

CLAIR

Well, I'm a girl and I never cry.
What good does it do?

BEN

I hope this counselor is a Jungian
and not a Freudian. Mr. Roundtree
was always fixated on my mother.

Clair's cell phone rings and she answers it.

CLAIR

Yello.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Sikes is at his desk on the phone to Clair.

SIKES

(quietly)

Yeah, Clair. It's me, Sikes.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR

How come you always refer to
yourself by your last name?

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

SIKES

I don't know, it's a cop thing.
Anyway, when you were in Wachosky's
hideout, you didn't happen to
notice a gym bag?

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR

No, why?

(she listens)

I see? How much money are we
talking about?

The others lean in interested.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

SIKES

(quietly)

About a hundred grand.

He looks around to make sure no one is listening

SIKES (CONT'D)

And there's a ten-percent reward if you can help me out here.

(listens)

What? I suppose I could get you a copy of the surveillance tape, why? It's not going to tell you anything that the feds don't already know.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR

The money disappeared somewhere between the bank and his aunt's house. We start at the beginning and try to retrace their steps.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

SIKES

Okay, I'll bring the tape to your house tonight.

INT. SCHOOL CAFETERIA - CONTINUOUS

She hangs up.

CLAIR

(to the others, excited)

Looks like we've got a real mystery to solve.

BEN

Great! I'm sick of just sitting in the van, I'm ready to do some leg work.

The bell rings and they all get up to leave.

CLAIR

Let's meet at my house after school and I'll fill you in.

INT. SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Ben is slumped down in the a chair and Ms. Canton is behind her desk looking at his file.

BEN

That's my permanent record, isn't it?

MS. CANTON
 Nothing is permanent.
 (reads more)
 You seem to get into a lot of
 fights.

BEN
 What can I say, I'm a target for
 bullies.

MS. CANTON
 Says here you started most of them.

BEN
 (angry)
 That's a lie! If you knew what I go
 through in those halls out there.
 (worried)
 I have to get those fights off my
 record, it could hurt me getting
 into a good school!

She pulls out a page, crumples it up and throws it into the
 trash.

MS. CANTON
 Done. You now have a clean slate.

BEN
 You can do that? Won't you get in
 trouble?

MS. CANTON
 I won't tell if you don't.

BEN
 Cool. I like your style.

MS. CANTON
 So, why do you get into so many
 fights?

BEN
 (more agitated)
 Oh, here we go with the head games.
 I suppose you're going to say I
 have low self-esteem and that I'm
 really fighting myself. Or that I
 have a Napoleon-complex, or that I
 wasn't breast fed as a baby...Sorry
 I didn't mean to say breast. No
 offence, but I don't believe in
 psychobabble!

MS. CANTON

Ben, who are you mad at?

BEN

(shouting)

I'm not mad...I'm...scared! I'm
scared all the time. Of bullies,
of getting bad grades, of girls!

(calms down, smiles)

Oh, you're good.

MS. CANTON

(checking her calendar)

I have an opening on Tuesdays
during your study hall, if you'd
like to talk more.

BEN

Pencil me in.

END ACT II

ACT III

INT. CLAIR'S BASEMENT - LATER

Ben, Amanda and Tami are in the basement as Clair leads Sikes down into their headquarters. Sikes looks around the room at all the video equipment and wanted posters.

SIKES

Geez, what is this, the Batcave?

CLAIR

This is our operations center.

SIKES

We don't have this much stuff back at the station.

TAMI

(pointing to large dog kennel)

We even have a jail for the bad guys.

SIKES

And what do your parents think about your...hobby?

TAMI

Well, Mom is dead and dad...

Clair quickly covers Tami's mouth and muffles her.

CLAIR

You got the tape?

He hands it to her and she puts it in a VCR.

ANGLE ON VIDEO MONITOR

We see a shot of the bank with tellers waiting on customers. Bank robber Kurt is impatiently waiting next in line with one hand in his jacket pocket and the other clutching a gym bag. He steps up to a young, male teller and hands him a note.

SIKES

Here's where he hand's the teller a note.

The frightened teller looks up from the note and Kurt shoves the gym bag into his hand. The teller takes the bag behind the counter and begins filling it with money.

SIKES (CONT'D)

The teller tripped the silent alarm.

We see the teller hand Kurt the bag. Kurt rushes out.

Clair stops the tape.

SIKES (CONT'D)

Then they got in their getaway car and claim they drove straight to his Aunt's house where we picked them up--she's on vacation and they knew the house was empty. I'm thinking his partner double crossed him and somehow switched the bag in the car.

CLAIR

What did he say about it?

SIKES

He didn't do it, what else is he going to say?

CLAIR

And there was nothing in the bag but gym clothes and shoes?

SIKES

Yeah.

BEN

I know! It's a magician's bag and there was a secret compartment...

SIKES

We X-rayed it. Nothin'.

BEN

Ah, but you see it had a false bottom and when he set it down in the car it disappeared through a spring-triggered trap door into an open manhole cover.

CLAIR

Hey, I like that one. Retrace the getaway car's route and see if there are any manhole covers.

BEN

I'm on it.

He rushes up the stairs.

SIKES

You don't really believe that do you?

CLAIR

No, but it will keep him busy while I go talk to the bank people.

SIKES

You can't just go in there and start asking questions. You're just a kid.

CLAIR

People will tell things to a kid they won't tell to the cops.

SIKES

Fine, knock yourself out. We already talked to everyone and it went down like we saw on the tape.

CLAIR

(to Amanda)
Can you baby sit?

AMANDA

Sure.

TAMI

I want to come with you.

CLAIR

No, you have homework.
(to Sikes)
Can you give me a ride to the bank?

SIKES

Yeah, okay.

INT. CLAIR'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Clair and Sikes come up from the basement.

SIKES

Oh, I forgot the tape, I'll meet you in the car.

He heads back downstairs.

INT. CLAIR'S BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Amanda is busy talking on her cell phone, Tami is watching TV.

SIKES

(to Tami)

Hi. We weren't introduced before,
I'm Ken.

TAMI

Tami. I'm Clair's sister.

Sikes grabs the tape out of the VCR and nods at Amanda, who nods back and continues listening on the phone.

SIKES

Sorry to hear about your mom. So
where's your dad?

TAMI

He doesn't live here. We live with
our grandma.

SIKES

And where is she?

TAMI

I'm not supposed to...uh she's out
of town...today...but she'll be
back...soon.

Sike looks suspicious as he exits.

INT. BANK - LATER

The bank is almost empty and the tellers are counting out their drawers and getting ready to close. Clair approaches the teller that was robbed, Ted Johnson. She is carrying a pen and notebook.

CLAIR

Hi.

TELLER

Hello.

CLAIR

I go to school down the street and
we have a journalism assignment to
interview someone. I heard about
the robbery. Do you mind if I ask
you a few questions?

TELLER

(smiles)

Sure.

(to teller next to him)

Could you watch my drawer?

She nods her head yes. The teller leads Clair to a desk away from the counter. Clair glances down at his shoes.

ANGLE ON SHOES

We see he's wearing expensive running shoes.

He takes a seat behind the desk.

TELLER (CONT'D)

Have a seat and ask away.

CLAIR

So I hear you were the one to go face-to-face with the robber.

TELLER

That's right.

She takes notes.

TELLER (CONT'D)

That's Ted Johnson. J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

CLAIR

I can't believe you came back to work, you must be really brave.

TELLER

(flattered)

Well, we're trained to keep our cool for these sort of things. Panic could lead to the customers getting hurt.

CLAIR

So what happened? I mean, did he hand you the note and a paper bag for the money?

TELLER

A note. It read, "I have a gun. This is a stickup, put the money in the bag." He gave me a gym bag and I did what I was told. Of course, I also tripped the silent alarm. But by the time the police arrived he was long gone.

CLAIR

Did they catch the bank robbers?

TELLER

Yes, I'm told they did, a couple of weeks later. What school did you say you go to?

CLAIR

Sherman Oaks High.

TELLER

I went to Sherman Oaks! Class of 2000.

CLAIR

Wow, small world.

TELLER

That's hardly down the street.

CLAIR

What?

TELLER

You said you from a school down the street.

CLAIR

Did I? I meant my dad works down the street. He told me about the robbery. So, you went to my school?

TELLER

Yeah. I set the cross-country record in '99. You've probably seen the trophy in the hallway.

CLAIR

Oh, that Ted Johnson. I noticed you wear track shoes to work. They looked really cool. You know I run track too.

TELLER

What sport?

CLAIR

Uh, the one where you...jump over those things.

He looks at her funny.

CLAIR (CONT'D)
 (changing subject)
 So what kind shoe are those?

TELLER
 Nike Astrospheres.

He puts his foot up on the desk.

INSET BOTTOM OF SHOE

Clair notices a number "12" is on the sole of the shoe. She writes down the number.

CLAIR
 Wow, those are expensive.

TELLER
 Seven hundred bucks. But they are so worth it. I still run everyday after work. I'm training for the L.A. Marathon. I would have chased down the bank robber, but it's against the rules.

CLAIR
 I'll put that in the article.

INT. SCHOOL GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

It is Tony's turn to talk the counselor. Ms. Canton glances at his file.

MS. CANTON
 Your parole officer says he is impressed with the way you've turned you life around.

TONY
 I wish I had done it earlier.

MS. CANTON
 One mistake shouldn't ruin your life. You've been given a second chance and you aren't squandering it. That's a good thing.

TONY
 I know. But it will never make up for what I did.

MS. CANTON

Guilt as a reminder is a useful tool. As a punishment it comes too late.

TONY

(smiles)

I've never heard that one, who wrote that?

MS. CANTON

I don't know. I think I read it on a box of herbal tea. Anyway let's concentrate on moving forward, shall we? How are you getting along at this new school?

TONY

Good. I met some very interesting souls here. I am ready to learn.

MS. CANTON

That's always nice to hear, with this being a school and all. Have you given any thought as to what you'd like to do after high school?

TONY

No. I'm just going to see where the stream takes me.

MS. CANTON

That's fine for enlightenment, but Buddha never had to get into a good college.

Looking at his file.

MS. CANTON (CONT'D)

We have to get your G.P.A up.

TONY

(sighs)

I was afraid you we're going to say that.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

Sikes is at his desk on the phone.

SIKES

Yeah, could you run a name for me? David O'Donnell. 2222 Riverside in Sherman Oaks.

(MORE)

SIKES (CONT'D)
Oh, and run a name through juvenile
too, Clair O'Donnell.
(listens)
Thanks.

He hangs up and the phone immediately rings.

SIKES (CONT'D)
Detective Sikes...yeah, Clair what
is it? You got a lead for me?

INT. CLAIR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR
More than that, I think I know
where the money is. I just need to
know one thing about the bank
robber.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

SIKES
What? His shoe size? What the
hell does that have to do with
anything?
(listens)
Okay.

He opens a file on his desk and looks up the information.

SIKES (CONT'D)
A size fourteen.

INT. CLAIR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR
And what were the size shoes in the
bag.
(listens)
That's what I thought. Yep, I know
who has the money.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

SIKES
Let me guess, Cinderella?

INT. CLAIR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR
No, but you are on the right track.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

SIKES

(quieter)

Listen, Kid. I was thinking,
that's a lot of money. The guy who
took is going to jail anyway and
what with the bank being insured
and all...

INT. CLAIR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR

You think we should just keep it.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

SIKES

I mean, who would it hurt really?

INT. CLAIR'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

CLAIR

You got a good point. In fact,
maybe I should just keep it all for
myself.

She hangs up the phone.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

SIKES

Clair? Clair?

He hangs up frustrated and sits back and thinks for a moment.

SIKES (CONT'D)

(an epiphany)

Of course, shoes. How could I be
so stupid!

He jumps up and grabs his jacket.

END ACT III

ACT IV

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING HALLWAY - LATER

Sikes draws his gun and knocks on the door of the apartment.

Ted the teller rounds the corner of the hallway carrying a bag of groceries. When he sees Sikes he drops his bag and turns to run.

SIKES
(calmly)
Freeze.

Ted complies and puts his hands up.

INT. TED'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

The door flies open, Sikes pushes Ted into the room and slams the door shut.

SIKES
Where is it?

TELLER
I'm so sorry...I don't know why I took it! I've never done anything like this before.

SIKES
Is it here?

TELLER
Yes. It's hidden in the sleeper sofa.

Sikes throws the coffee table out of the way and takes off the cushions.

TELLER (CONT'D)
I had my gym bag at my feet and when the robber handed me the exact same bag, well it all happened so fast, I don't even remember thinking about making the switch...

Sikes pulls open the sofa and pulls out the gym bag. Smiling he pulls it out.

TELLER (CONT'D)
It was like fate had stepped in to make me rich.

SIKES

(happy)

Yeah, I know the feeling.

TELLER

It's all there...I mean most of it. I spent seven hundred on a pair of shoes. Am I going to jail?

SIKES

Tell you what, since this was your first offense--this was your first offense, right?

TELLER

Yes, of course. I don't have so much as a parking ticket.

SIKES

Okay. I'm just going to take the bag back to the station and we'll pretend this never happened.

TELLER

Oh, thank you! Thank you so much!

SIKES

Don't tell anyone I did this for you, I could get in trouble for letting a criminal go.

TELLER

My lips are sealed.

He starts to exit, then stops and thinks a moment. He sets the bag down and unzips it. He reached in and pulls out a bundle of newspaper.

SIKES

Nice try.

TELLER

No! It was in there, I swear! I left it in that bag!

He looks around the room a moment.

SIKES

How long were you out getting groceries?

TELLER

An hour or so. I won a gift-certificate and it said I had to use it today by five.

SIKES

Let me guess, it was taped to your door when you got home.

TELLER

Yes, how did you know.

LANDLADY (O.C.)

(yelling through door)

Mr. Johnson, are these your groceries out here?

Ted opens the door.

TELLER

Yes, don't worry, I'll get them.

SIKES

(to landlady)

You didn't happen to see a girl hanging around, fifteen or so?

LANDLADY

No.

(Thinks)

Wait yes. There was a Girl Scout selling cookies.

Sikes throws down the bag in anger.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER

Sikes storms in. He whips his coat off and sits down. Detective Manelli is sitting at the desk across from him.

DETECTIVE MANELLI

What's up, Sikes? You seem more agitated than usual.

SIKES

Nothing an arrest warrant won't fix. Is it wrong to arrest a girl scout?

DETECTIVE MANELLI

What?

SIKES

Nothing.

DETECTIVE MANELLI

Well, this ought to cheer you up.
The missing money has been turned
in.

SIKES

Really?

DETECTIVE MANELLI

Well, missing ten-percent. You
wouldn't know anything about that,
would you?

SIKES

(smiles)

So the good samaritan took the
reward money off the top? It saves
everyone time.

The phone rings.

SIKES (CONT'D)

Detective Sikes.

(listens)

And the girl?

(listens again)

So who's her legal guardian now?

Her paternal grandmother,

(writing it down)

Annabel O'Donnell. Thanks.

He hangs up.

SIKES (CONT'D)

(to self)

And where's grandma now, Clair?

EXT. PARK ACIDENT SCENE - LATER

A car is parked off the road in the bushes. Forensic people
and cops are swarming over the scene as Sikes pulls up in his
car. He gets out and goes over to the Detective in charge.

SIKES

(shows badge)

Detective Sikes.

DETECTIVE HOWARD

Howard, homicide. So you were the
one inquiring on David O'Donnell?

SIKES

Was he killed?

DETECTIVE HOWARD

No.

(he flips through his
notes)

Frank Foster. He's an enforcer for the mob. Looks like he took a guy here to whack him and the mark got the better of him. By the looks of it the killing happened a couple of weeks ago.

SIKES

But this is O'Donnell's car?

DETECTIVE HOWARD

Yeah. It has stolen plates on it, and it's been painted, but the vin number is registered to him.

SIKES

Why didn't he dump the body and drive off?

DETECTIVE HOWARD

A bullet went into the engine and through a battery cable. He had to hoof it. What's your interest in O'Donnell?

SIKES

Robbery case. He stole a hundred grand from a bail bondsman he worked for.

DETECTIVE HOWARD

Well he really got around. The feds were here earlier. Seems O'Donnell was also a hitman for the Rourke family.

OFFICER

(to Howard)

Lieutenant, phone call.

DETECTIVE HOWARD

Excuse me.

He takes the call and Sikes heads back to his car.

SIKES

(to self)

And I thought I was a bad father.

INT. PIZZA PALACE - EVENING

Clair, Tami, Amanda, Ben and Tony are eating pizza at their usual table.

AMANDA

I can't believe you gave all that money back.

CLAIR

I have to admit it I was tempted to keep it.

TONY

What made you decide not to?

CLAIR

I found that doing stuff on impulse rarely pays off.

BEN

So you were chicken, then?

CLAIR

Mostly. But I also thought, how can I justify fighting crime and then become a criminal.

TAMI

You didn't want to be like dad.

Clair looks shocked that she knows.

TAMI (CONT'D)

I'm not stupid. I know you tried to hide it from me, but kids at school talk. I looked up the newspaper article about the robbery at the library.

BEN

Looks like detecting runs in the family.

TAMI

(to Clair)

You should have told me. I thought he left because he didn't love us, that's way worse than thinking he's a crook.

CLAIR
You're right, I'm sorry.
(changing subject)
Okay, lets pick our next target.

She pulls out a spiral notebook filled with wanted posters and starts to leaf through it.

Ms. Canton approaches the table carrying a take-out pizza.

BEN
(overly loud)
Hi, Ms Canton.

Clair slams the book shut.

CLAIR
(to group)
...And that's why you always reduce fractions.

MS. CANTON
Hi. Studying hard I see.

CLAIR
Math club.

MS. CANTON
Well, don't let me interrupt your...fun. I'll see you all Monday in school.

Clair waits until she's out of earshot then opens the notebook again.

CLAIR
(reading poster)
Hank Muldoon, wanted for a series of gas station robberies. He used to be a janitor at Oak High...

END