

#10 - 'Tessa'
Scene I

TEASER

EXT. BOSTON - INTERSTATE 90 - ESTABLISHING - DAY

As traffic snakes through the central artery of downtown Boston, FIND an old GRAY SEDAN zooming toward the I-90 connector tunnel...

TESSA (O.S.)

You ready for this?

GRADY (O.S.)

What's a pre-interview, anyway?

*REVISED
11/3/15*

And we PUSH INSIDE --

INT. GRAY SEDAN - DAY

In the passenger seat, TESSA ROSS, 27, bright, nurturing, smiles at GRADY ROSS, 31, solid, honest, a touch of cynicism.

TESSA

It's just her PR people reminding us not to say anything idiotic.

GRADY

They're not actually going to interview me, are they?

TESSA

Probably not. But you'll be in the photo, so your fake-smile game better be on point.

Grady flashes her a fake smile.

TESSA (CONT'D)

Wildly insincere.

GRADY

Well, yeah...

INT. I-90 CONNECTOR TUNNEL - DAY

Suspended CONCRETE CEILING PANELS line the roof. PUSH IN... closer, closer... until we get to an XCU of a GIANT BOLT, straining... pulling apart from its metal anchor...

INT. GRAY SEDAN/I-90 CONNECTOR TUNNEL - DAY

Back with our couple as they zoom into the tunnel...

APRIL WEBSTER CASTING

1/10

TESSA

You have to sell it. "I love this." "This is not a family of lunatics." Look.

She GRINS. It seems sincere.

GRADY

That's convincing. That's so convincing I'm kind of worried... Are you actually into me?

TESSA

Nope. Gotcha. Just married you for your sweet ride.

Above them, XCU OF THE BOLT... straining, straining... and GIVING WAY, slipping out of its mooring, causing a chain reaction as other bolts SNAP FREE... Oblivious commuters zoom by below as a three-ton CONCRETE PANEL DETACHES from the ceiling and FALLS to the roadway below...

... CRUSHING a GRAY SEDAN.

BRAKES SLAM, TIRES SQUEAL as drivers swerve to avoid the crushed, motionless car, and we're --

INT. GRAY SEDAN - DAY

Back with Grady and Tessa, now safely on the other side of the tunnel.

TESSA

Did you hear that?

GRADY

What?

TESSA

Ovulation app. Today's the day.

She pulls out her PHONE as it makes a DISTINCTIVE BEEP.

GRADY

I hear that sound, immediate erection.

TESSA

(laughs)

Should we do it at my parents' house? Just to see if we can get away with it?

Grady grins at her. That's nuts, but maybe...

R/10 - 'TESSA'

CAM

Wow. That's really detailed. I'm impressed...

Jack flips the page.

JACK

This one's a stabbing victim..

A sketch of a younger man, neck slashed open. And now Cam is little uneasy...

CAM

Wow, yeah.

Trying to switch Jack's focus -

CAM (CONT'D)

What if you drew one of a man who grew wings and could fly?

JACK

But people can't fly. That's not real.

CAM

Well, Roger's not real, but he's still fun to draw.

Jack stares at him a beat. Boring. He flips the page.

JACK

This one got disemboweled. That's where all the guts come out.

On Cam, unnerved...

SCENE II

INT./EXT. HAWTHORNE ESTATE - HALLWAY/TESSA'S OLD ROOM - NIGHT

Tessa turns out the bathroom light, heads into her room. She looks out the window -- there's a light on in the tool shed out back. She frowns. Weird.

INT. HAWTHORNE ESTATE - STORAGE SHED - NIGHT

It's dark and dusty; rarely used. But we FIND Cam rooting around, searching for something, when --

TESSA

Hey.

Cam startles.

CAM

Jesus, you scared me.

TESSA

What are you doing out here?

CAM

Just looking around...

TESSA

For what?

CAM

You know, old pictures and stuff...

She stares at him.

TESSA

You have a stash out here?

CAM

What? No.

But she sees right through him and he knows it.

CAM (CONT'D)

It's just weed.

TESSA

Don't lie to me.

CAM

It's not just weed.

Tessa looks at him, disappointed.

TESSA

Why would you -- you've made it a year --

CAM

Yeah, surprise, Tess, I'm a huge screwup! And the hilarious thing is, I'm the stable parent! No wonder Jack's so...

He shakes his head. Tessa sees he's upset with himself.

TESSA

Look. I'm not Alison. I'm not going to judge you, I'm not going to yell at you... I'm going to help you find the drugs, and we're going to throw them out.

Cam exhales. Fair enough.

CAM

Thanks.

(then)

One small point. I have no idea where I put them.

Tessa smiles. They start digging through shelves, opening boxes... Old photos, mementos, VHS tapes... But no drugs.

She moves to the back of the room... old shelving cluttered with Edward's stuff. As Cam notices...

CAM (CONT'D)

I don't think I would have put it with Dad's stuff...

TESSA

You never know.

Cam shrugs, goes over to help her look. Tessa pulls down a box, dusty and forgotten. She opens it, and... no luck. Just old issues of National Geographic.

CAM

Maybe I'm thinking of the tool shed at the house down the Cape...

TESSA

If you think I'm going to give up and go to bed so you can find the drugs and use them, dream on.

And as she shoves the box back toward the corner of the shelf, she feels resistance. The shelf goes back farther than she thought. There's one more box back there.

She pushes the other box aside, reaches for the one in the corner. An awkward angle. She slips, scraping her hand on the edge of the shelf.

She winces, puts the cut to her mouth. Then steadies herself and reaches for the hidden box again.

And as she pulls it out... there's a little JINGLE. Odd. It gets Cam's attention. He comes over as she opens the box to find...

It's full of little SILVER HAND BELLS...

... and YELLOWED NEWS ARTICLES documenting the crimes of the Silver Bells Killer.

As Tessa takes it in, stunned, horrified --

TESSA (CONT'D)

Oh my God...

And as a sick confusion washes over her...

END OF ACT I



CONTINUE
ON NEXT PAGE

ACT II

INT. HAWTHORNE ESTATE - STORAGE SHED - NIGHT

Tessa and Cam stare at the box of bells.

CONTINUE →

TESSA

This can't be... what it looks like.

CAM

No. Of course not.

An overwhelmed, strangled laugh from Tessa.

TESSA

Of course not.

(then)

So what -- what's the explanation?

Cam shakes his head. Trying to think. And then, an idea...

CAM

The box looks old; it could have been here before we even moved in --

TESSA

So, what -- we bought the house from the Silver Bells Killer?

It's a horrifying thought. And yet it's better than the other horrifying thought.

TESSA (CONT'D)

I should tell Grady -- he's on the case. They should be investigating the previous owner --

As Cam sifts through the NEWSPAPER ARTICLES about Silver Bells... dating back to 1998... Cam flips one of them over.

CAM

Wait. Oh my God.

On the back side of one of the news articles... the COMICS. And sketched there, per Cam's old habit, a hand-drawn "Roger That" cartoon.

CAM (CONT'D)

This was our newspaper. I drew this.

Tessa freezes. Then looks. He's right.

7/10

TESSA

Why... why would Dad cut these out...?

Cam shakes his head, grasping...

CAM

Okay, look. The Silver Bells case was everywhere. All over the news, right? Some people got fixated on it, became amateur sleuths and tried to crack the case... It was like Serial before Serial.

Tessa nods. Wants to believe this...

TESSA

So maybe that explains the news articles. But the bells?

A beat. Cam exhales.

CAM

I don't know, Tess. Maybe it was just some misguided dark joke, who knows. We'll talk to Mom tomorrow morning, Dad if he's up to it. Okay?

Tessa rubs her face. Nods. Cam, trying to lighten the mood:

CAM (CONT'D)

Now I really want those drugs.

TESSA

You and me both.

~~INT. HAWTHORNE ESTATE - CAM'S OLD ROOM - NIGHT~~

~~A peaceful Jack sleeps next to his father... but we see Cam's eyes are wide open; he's much more uneasy than he let on...~~

~~INT. HAWTHORNE ESTATE - TESSA'S OLD ROOM - NIGHT~~

~~Find Grady, getting into bed carefully, trying not to wake Tessa, whose back is to him.~~

~~But we see she's wide awake as well... though she doesn't let on. Just stares at the wall...~~

~~DAVIS (PRE-LAP)~~

~~So what do you think Conley has on her?~~

8/10

TESSA

Alison nods, satisfied.

ALISON

Okay. Let's get out of here.
(under her breath)
It's creepy as hell.

She walks out, followed by Tessa, and then Cam...

... But a moment later, Cam pops back in and goes to that cigar box he'd been eyeing. He opens it. The long-lost stash -- a baggie of heroin. And he sticks it in his pocket...

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INT. HAWTHORNE ESTATE - TESSA'S OLD ROOM - DAY

58

Tessa closes the door, dials Grady...

SCENE III

59

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - GRADY'S OFFICE - DAY - INTERCUT

59

Grady, on the phone at his desk.

GRADY

Everything okay?

TESSA

Um... I don't know.

GRADY

(concerned)

What's going on?

TESSA

Can I just talk to you as my husband? Not as a cop?

GRADY

Talk to me about what?

TESSA

Like if I knew something about a case, maybe. And I told you...

GRADY

(thrown)

What are you talking about?
Something about a case under investigation?

Tessa hesitates.

TESSA

Yeah.

(repeating)

(MORE)

APRIL WEBSTER EASTMAN

2/10

TESSA (CONT'D)

Could I just talk to you about it
as my husband?

Grady hesitates. The honest answer --

GRADY

No, not really...

Tessa exhales.

GRADY (CONT'D)

If you know something, and you tell
me... I'm obligated to report it.
It becomes evidence.

Tessa takes this in, overwhelmed, conflicted... Then:

TESSA

Okay. Then... pretend we never had
this conversation.

Grady's totally thrown by all this.

GRADY

Tessa... what in the world...?

TESSA

You just said we can't have this
conversation. So... we aren't. We
didn't.

(trying for casual)

So, I'm gonna go grab a bite. See
you tonight.

She hangs up. Off Grady, unnerved...

~~60~~

~~INT. HAWTHORNE ESTATE BATHROOM - DAY~~

~~60~~

~~A hand shuts the door. Locks it. REVEAL Cam, taking the
baggie from the shed out of his pocket.~~

~~He puts it on the counter. Stares at it. Torturing himself.
And then...~~

~~A HIGH-PITCHED SHRIEK from the basement... Jack?~~

~~Cam pockets the baggie and sprints out of the bathroom...~~

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~~INT. HAWTHORNE ESTATE - BASEMENT - DAY~~

61

~~Cam rushes into the basement to find... Jack, holding a two-
inch long PIECE of a CAT'S TAIL. Caramel-colored.~~

10/10