
Espial's Revenge

A Full Length play by Caetlyn McLean

© Caetlyn McLean 2022

Permission to perform any or all of this play for any reason **must** be obtained from the author. Please contact her via email to discuss your production request.

Contact:

contact@caetlynmclean.com

More works and Caetlyn's latest news:



www.caetlynmclean.com

•

PRODUCTION NOTES

Overall Objective: Mobility and simplicity are the keys for the overall performance of this play which means it is designed to be performed at any venue with minimal issues. Therefore, props and scenery are restricted to one or two items per scene. This also includes minimal costume changes for each actor, allowing them to concentrate on remembering their lines rather than hurrying to change costumes for every scene.

Cast numbers: As mentioned above, the key objective is simplicity. Therefore, the cast number for this production has deliberately been minimised for space on stage as well as efficiency of the overall performance.

Stage setting: Backdrop scenes should be avoided at all cost. This will give the play a sense of timelessness. If a backdrop needs to be used, black cloth is recommended. Other ideas for scenery should be negotiated with the play's author.

Costumes: Once again, simplicity is the key. The play is set in the near future and normal street clothes for the most part is can be worn.



© Caetlyn McLean

CAST

Caleb Bentley – Federal agent
Helen Mitchell – Former Detective
Ally Windsor – Head of the Espial
Templar – Detective
Angela McKenzie – Helen’s sister and antagonist
Skye Murphy – Espial Head Technical Officer
Charlotte Hassett – Detective
Janet Hatfield – Ally’s sister and Police Intelligence Officer
Frank Hammon – Detective
Erica Walters – Espial Undercover Officer
Fred O’Brien - Criminal
Sergei Milosevic – O’Brien’s Boss
Gareth Claymont – Corrupt Federal Agent
Ken Walker – Detective
Fiona Mitchell – Helen’s daughter
Dale Maxson – Criminal turned Espial agent
Simon Carter – Espial Military Liaison Officer
Mark – Angela’s henchman
Gaia Stanton – Teenage cyborg (about 17)
Steve Windsor – Ally’s husband
Jennifer Alford – Skye’s replacement

11m, 10f

Setting: Sometime in the near future.



•

ACT 1 – SCENE 1

CAFÉ/OFFICE

HELEN *is sitting at the table with a cup of coffee in front of her. CALEB enters sees her. Smiling, he makes his way towards her.*

CALEB

Good afternoon, Detective Mitchell.

HELEN *looks up at him and stands up.*

HELEN

Caleb! Did you have trouble finding the place?

CALEB *(light peck on cheek)*

Not at all. I come here all the time. Sorry I'm a tad late. I was held up at the office.

They both sit down at the table and CALEB orders himself a cappuccino.

HELEN

So, Commander Bentley, What's it you need so much help in? I thought the Feds never need any help.

CALEB *laughs merrily and takes a sip of his drink.*

CALEB

Yes, we're God's gift to law-enforcement. We actually need a bit of help finding a drug baron.

HELEN

So, you decided state police might give you a helping hand?

CALEB *smiles sheepishly.*

CALEB

Well, yeah. I was hoping if you could help us. He's been categorised as an international target and seems to have gone into hiding somewhere in the city.

HELEN

What happened?

CALEB

By the time GlobalPol informed us that he was coming, he had already entered the country. It was only by chance that some informant at the other end mentioned he was coming here.

HELEN *thinks for a moment then smiles slowly.*

HELEN

Well, our resources are stretched to the limit at the moment but there is someone I know who can help you. But she's not too interested in following instructions.

CALEB

But she can help us find our target?

HELEN

Oh, yeah. She can certainly do that. In fact, she used to be a police detective who worked with me. She's rather unpredictable but one hell of a law-enforcer.

CALEB

What rank was she?

HELEN

Sergeant. She's also a military cop with the Army Reserves. She's the type of person who traps her suspect and makes them suffer before turning them over to the cops.

CALEB (*grins*)

Sounds like just the person we need in the Feds. What's her name?

HELEN

She won't listen to orders. And you'll need to pay her for her assistance. Are you still interested?

CALEB

Definitely.

HELEN takes out a pen and scribbles on a napkin.

HELEN

Her name's Alison Windsor. She runs an investigative company called the Espial. She'll probably have my guts for gutters for giving you this but here's her home number. Give her a call.

She hands him the napkin. He looks at it and grins.

CALEB

I certainly will. I look forward to hearing more about her.

HELEN gets up and leaves.

Lights change.

Office sounds can be heard in the background. CALEB takes out a computer and sets it up in front of him. There is a knock on the door and ALLY enters. CALEB stands to greet her.

•

CALEB

Mrs Windsor! It's a great pleasure to meet you.

ALLY

Likewise. But please, call me Ally. Mrs Windsor makes me sound like an old hag. I haven't even turned 30 yet.

CALEB laughs and nods. He directs ALLY to a leather chair opposite his desk before sitting back down again.

CALEB

Very well. Perhaps we can stay informal. Ease the tension a bit. You can call me Caleb. *(pause)* I've heard a lot about you. Very ... unexpected. Like a scorpion, you could say.

ALLY

A scorpion?

CALEB

Please don't take offence. I meant it as a compliment. A scorpion traps its victim with its claws before disabling it with a final sting. I believe that's very much the way you work. Am I correct?

ALLY

Well, I ... I suppose so. I never really compared myself to an arachnid before.

CALEB

Helen also tells me you're a Army Reserve Military Police Officer and that you used to be in the police force. Reached the rank of Sergeant.

ALLY

Yes, I'm a Captain with the Army Reserve and I did use to work for the state police. I left about three months ago.

CALEB

Then you'd know the rules of the game. We have a rather delicate matter on our hands and I believe you would be an asset to the operation.

ALLY

Okay but before I agree to anything, I'd like to know how I will be rewarded when this is all finished.

CALEB

I'm assuming you're talking about financial benefits? Don't worry, Helen warned me about your methods. I've agreed to pay for your expenses in full.

ALLY

So what's the problem? Helen said it had something to do with catching the baron off-guard.

•

CALEB

Yes, there's been a slight problem on our side of things. He seems to know exactly when we'll strike. The problem is we can't do anything to him without him putting in a complaint of police harassment.

ALLY

Yeah, police harassment. He'll get up-tight if he knows you guys are going to be watching his very move. How complicated is your surveillance operation on her at the moment?

CALEB

We have two teams on the outlook for him every shift. Three rotations every day.

ALLY

Well, if you gave me photos of him, I'll take it from there. Oh, and it may help to take the team off him. It may be why he's acting so guarded. I'll take care of that.

CALEB

I hope you're not expecting to take over the operation.

ALLY

I wouldn't dream of it.

Lights down.



© Caetlyn McLean

•

ACT 1 – SCENE 2

TEMPLAR'S APARTMENT/JANET'S OFFICE

The stage is dark. TEMPLAR enters the stage as lights come up. ANGELA is sitting in an armchair waiting for him.

TEMPLAR (*surprised*)

Angela, what are you doing here?

ANGELA

I've come to receive my payment.

TEMPLAR (*annoyed*)

What payment?

ANGELA

Six years ago, you called me to dispose a certain Superintendent Alex Lynch. Do you remember?

TEMPLAR

Ah yes, but if I remember rightly, you wouldn't take payment from me. I even offered a lot of money too.

ANGELA (*laughs*)

Did you really think it was money I wanted?

TEMPLAR (*confused*)

Then, what do you want from me?

ANGELA takes out a gun with a silencer attachment. TEMPLAR looks at it in horror.

TEMPLAR

You can't be serious.

ANGELA

Oh, I'm deadly serious. You see, after I killed Alex, I had to find a way to framed Mitchell's daughter for the crime. It wasn't easy but I succeeded and she got six years for it. And now, I've come for my payment.

TEMPLAR

Come on, Angela. Surely, we can come to some sort of agreement.

ANGELA

And what pray tell could you ever do for me? (*pause*) You see, Templar. There's nothing else you can do for me because you, my friend, are the next phase in my plan.

She gets up from the chair.

•

TEMPLAR

What phase?

ANGELA

Eliminating any past witnesses. *(She aims the gun at his forehead.)* Goodbye, Templar.

TEMPLAR

Angela, wait –

ANGELA pulls the trigger. Templar's head flings back violently and he collapses onto the floor, dead.

ANGELA puts away her gun and steps over TEMPLAR to get to the side of the stage.

Lights go down on TEMPLAR but spotlight stays on ANGELA. She takes out a phone with a modifier attached and makes a call.

HELEN (VO)

Mitchell.

ANGELA *(in a heavily modified voice)*

I know your secret.

HELEN

Who is this?

ANGELA

Oh, come on, Helen. Did you really think that no one would find out? I can still keep it secret if you want but I'll need a small favour in return.

HELEN

I have no idea what you're talking about.

ANGELA

Surely you haven't forgotten the jailing of a certain someone over the murder of your ex-boss. I thought you'd be the last person to forget. You know what they say - the higher up the ladder you are, the harder you fall. You wouldn't want that now, would you?

HELEN

Are you trying to blackmail me? Because if you are, I'll-

ANGELA

You'll what? You'll arrest me? Do you have a death wish, Inspector? You don't really want me to tell everyone, do you?

HELEN

What do you want from me?

ANGELA

Oh, I don't know. I do need someone to deliver a package for me.

HELEN

Forget it.

ANGELA

Alternatively, I do have the number of a local journalist. I'm sure he'll be very interested in the story.

HELEN (*sighs*)

What sort of package are we talking about?

ANGELA

Now, now. Beggars can't be choosers, can they, Helen? I'll contact you with further details. It's been nice doing business with you, Detective Inspector Mitchell.

ANGELA exits. Lights down.

Spotlight on HELEN who soon enters. She isn't happy.

HELEN

Shit! (*Her phone purrs again which she answers.*) Mitchell.

CHARLOTTE (VO)

Templar's dead.

HELEN

Are you sure?

CHARLOTTE

It was reported on Police TV and I doubt they'd stuff that one up. I thought you'd be pleased after the crap he put you through six years ago.

HELEN

Pleased wouldn't begin to describe my feelings right now. Does anyone else know the story behind it?

CHARLOTTE

They're starting to suspect Fiona. You know she was released two days ago. They're saying it's a revenge killing.

HELEN (*angry*)

That's a load of bullshit, Charlotte, and you know it! She was never in the wrong to begin with!

CHARLOTTE

She's carrying a lot of hate right now, Helen. You can't really blame her.

HELEN

I just wish ... I could do something!

CHARLOTTE

Give it time. I'm sure she'll come round eventually.

HELEN

Time is something I don't have.

CHARLOTTE

Why? What's happened? (*hasty*) Helen, I've gotta go. I'll keep you posted.

Lights up. JANET is now sitting in front of the computer next to a printer, staring into space. HELEN moves towards her.

HELEN

Nice graphics. What report are you typing? 'Flying the police emblem'?

JANET

Oh, very funny. What are you doing here?

HELEN

Well, good morning to you too, Janet. Nice to see you so hard at work.

She produces a small piece of paper and hands it to JANET.

HELEN

O'Brien. See what you can dig out on him for us. After Harvey's conviction, Frank's been gearing up to nail anyone else who might be potential replacements.

JANET

That's a bit of a long shot, isn't it? I mean, what evidence do you have to suggest he may be a potential suspect? And don't tell me you're going by Frank's gut instincts.

HELEN sits down beside JANET.

HELEN

I wouldn't go by his gut instincts even if he pay me to do it. Believe it or not, he used to work under Poulos.

JANET

Kip Poulos? Didn't he get convicted with Harvey for perverting the course of justice?

HELEN (*teasing*)

I'm glad you're still mentally focused. Yeah, his club is now under new management. We're just not sure how much O'Brien involved in the last case.

JANET

Oh, c'mon, Helen. You know I can't search someone on COPS just because you think they might be connected to a previous case. I need a legitimate reason to go into their criminal records. If I just went into COPS every time you asked me to, Reg'll have my head!

HELEN

Okay, how's this sound - the victim is connected to him?

JANET

And is he? *(pause)* Did Frank tell you to use your natural charm on me? *(pause)*
Helen! I can't believe you even thought about it! Tell Frank that if he –

FRANK enters. He is holding a thin pile of stapled papers in his left hand.

FRANK

Tell me what?

HELEN

I told you she wasn't going to fall for it.

FRANK

She won't need to. It's all in there. The autopsy confirmed that young Ms Sander had E in her body.

JANET

That still doesn't prove that O'Brien had anything to do with it.

FRANK

It does if she was last seen at the club he works at. We're going to have to question all the current employees. My bet is that O'Brien has a long history of dealing.

JANET

Please tell me you're kidding.

HELEN

When can we expect the criminal records printout?

JANET *(sighs)*

As soon as possible. By the way, the DPP called, Frank. They want to see you about your court appearance.

FRANK

Sure thing. Just as soon as I finish this case.

JANET

No, now Frank. You know how crabby the DPP can be when they're left waiting.

FRANK *grumbles and exits*. JANET *attacks the computer keyboard and prints out the information, handing it to HELEN*. HELEN *reads the printout. She gives an impressive whistle*.

HELEN

Wow! Frank must be incredibly psychic this morning!

JANET

Why do you say that?

HELEN

O'Brien has a dealing history that's longer than the Dewsbury Harbour Bridge.

JANET

He probably knew all about it already. I'm just glad he didn't put a price on that bet of his.

HELEN

Actually, it's Ken's PDO. How would you like to sit in on the case? I could do with an extra pair of ears.

Lights down.



© Caetlyn McLean

•

ACT 1 – SCENE 3

ESPIAL OFFICE/STREETS

Lights up on ALLY who is now sitting at the desk. SKYE enters.

SKYE

Ally, You'll be please to know that I've update the LRSD to five ks.

ALLY

The LRSD?

SKYE

Long Range Surveillance Device. The ring I made for you last month to track Harvey and Poulos down. It's not exactly long range yet, but I'm working on it.

ALLY shows her some photographs.

ALLY

Five ks is long range enough for the time being. Anyone you recognise?

SKYE

No, should I? Who is he?

ALLY

The name's Sergei Milosevic. Former Russian KGB officer. The Feds want me to find him and prove that he's an international drug baron.

SKYE

Do you think he is?

ALLY

How should I know? Apparently he arrived at the Addersfield International Airport about a week ago from Shanghai via Dewsbury.

SKYE

A well travelled baron then. Let me guess. You want me to place a tracer on him once you find him?

ALLY

Is it possible?

SKYE

Find him first and then I'll tell you. Oh, by the way, I reckon you should go with the Scorpion.

ALLY

How did you-?

•

SKYE

You forgot to turn off the LRSD. He's right, y'know. You do work like a scorpion and you are a Scorpio, after all. Maybe you can use it as a tradename or something.

ALLY

Well, thank you for the suggestion. I'll keep it in mind.

SKYE

Why not? Erica said they used to do it all the time in ASIO. Guess what her was? The Spider.

ALLY

The Spider?

SKYE

Not what you expect. It's got nothing to do with the arachnid.

ALLY

I hate to ask.

SKYE

Think of ice cream and soft drinks.

ALLY

Anything to do with cravings?

SKYE

Oh, yeah.

She exits.

ALLY (to herself)

Okay ...

She opens her computer and starts typing. Lights down.

Spotlight on ERICA as she enters the other end of stage and looks around.

ERICA

Still no sign of him.

O'BRIEN enters the corner of the stage. ERICA sees him.

ERICA

I've got him.

She moves towards he but he quickly exits. She moves to the edge of the stage and looks around. O'BRIEN re-enters, holding a gun to her head.

O'BRIEN

Who the fuck are you?

ERICA

Don't ya recognise me?

He grabs ERICA by the face and turns it slowly. He grins widely and lets her go.

O'BRIEN

Well, if it isn't the Spider! How the hell have you been keepin'?

ERICA

Not bad. How are ya, Fred?

O'BRIEN

Sorry, Spider. Didn't recognise ya. What you doing in this part of town?

ERICA

I ... um ... need a bit of help. You see, my client suddenly went cold turkey on me and I need a replacement.

O'BRIEN

Yeah? What sort of business are we talking about?

ERICA brings them aside and unzips her waist bag.

ERICA

There's a hell of a lot where that came to and I need it of me fast. 'You know anyone who can help?

O'BRIEN

Shit yeah! I reckon he'll love ya for it too.

They both exit.

Lights up on ALLY who is talking on the phone to HELEN.

HELEN (VO)

Ally, it's Helen.

ALLY

Well, this is a surprise. What's the special occasion? (pause) Helen? You there?

HELEN (VO)

Ally, Janet's disappeared.

•

ALLY

What do you mean she's disappeared?

HELEN (VO)

I mean she's disappeared. She was supposed to give us a report yesterday and when Frank tried to call her this morning on her mobile to ask her where she'd put it, someone turned the phone off in his ear.

ALLY

You're kidding. Any idea where she might be?

HELEN (VO)

No. Crime scene found blood on the veranda and are taking it to the lab to have it analysed. We're doing everything we can to find her. I just thought you should know about it.

ALLY

Um, yeah. Thanks. Keep me posted, okay?

SKYE enters with a laptop.

SKYE

Ally, you gotta listen to this.

ALLY

This had better be good. My day's just taken a nosedive.

SKYE

Well, I think it's going to get even worse.

ALLY

What are you talking about?

SKYE presses a key on the computer.

O'BRIEN (VO)

You better be careful.

ERICA (VO)

Why?

O'BRIEN (VO)

The boss isn't too happy with the way things are turning out. We're on a very tight schedule. You gotta understand we can't help you out as much as we did in the past.

ERICA (VO)

Why not? Has something happened?

O'BRIEN (VO)

Lets just say we've caught a very big fish. Or depending on the way you look at it, a bait for very big fish.

ALLY

Skye, what has –

ERICA (VO)

A fish? Anyone I know?

O'BRIEN (VO)

Nah! Not unless you know a copper by the name of Janet Hatfield.

ALLY

The bastards! What the hell do they think they're doing?!

SKYE

I think the operative word for us here is 'why'.

ALLY touches her earpiece.

ALLY

Call Helen.

HELEN (VO)

Mitchell.

ALLY

O'Brien.

HELEN (VO)

What?

ALLY

Not what, who. Fred O'Brien's got Janet.

Beat.

HELEN (VO)

Bugger! I think I know why Janet was abducted. It may be connected to a case Frank, Ken and I are conducting.

ALLY

What case might that be?

HELEN (VO)

The death of a teenage girl in North Addersfield. O'Ded on E. O'Brien was the last person to see her alive. He's been a suspect for days but we haven't been able to pin him with anything. *(pause)* How did you know about O'Brien anyway?

ALLY

Well, they did kidnap my sister, you know.

HELEN (VO)

Sorry. Look, we'll go over there and nab them right now. Thanks, Ally.

ALLY

No!

HELEN (VO)

What?

ALLY

Don't nab them.

HELEN (VO)

What do you mean 'don't nab them'? This is Janet's life we're talking about here.

ALLY

Yeah, I know but ... it's slightly more complicated than that.

HELEN (VO)

Why? What's going on?

ALLY

O'Brien is just the icing on the cake. He's our only lead in the case I've taken on with Caleb and I've got one of my agents in a sting with them.

HELEN (VO)

You mean to tell me that this case is more important than your sister's life?

ALLY

No, of course not! But I'm not risking the life of my agent for Janet. I'd never be able to live with myself.

HELEN (VO)

Alright. Good point. What do you intend to do?

ALLY

Well, I need to find out from Erica where-

HELEN (VO)

Erica?

•

ALLY

My stinger. She's ex-ASIO. Met up with O'Brien in a previous mission apparently.

SKYE

Spider's in.

ALLY gives her the thumbs-up.

ALLY

Look, just lay low for a while. I'll try and find out where they're holding Janet.

HELEN (VO, *sighs*)

Okay, but if we don't hear anything from you in the next 24 hours, we're bringing them in.



© Caetlyn McLean

•

ACT 1 – SCENE 4

HOUSE/STREET/OFFICE

MILOSEVIC

Who's this?

O'BRIEN

The Spider. Don't worry, boss. She's good oil and has a shit load of goodies too. Show her, Spider.

ERICA takes out her bags of white powder from her waist bag and lays them down on the coffee table in front of them.

MILOSEVIC

I'm curious. What's your real name?

ERICA

Charlotte Webb. So you can understand why I prefer to use my nickname. *(pause)* I hear you're in the couriering business.

MILOSEVIC narrows his eyes considerably.

MILOSEVIC

And for what purpose do you want to know this?

ERICA

Well, lets just say that these are just samples. I've got about 50 kilos of the stuff holed up somewhere needing to be shipped. I need someone reliable.

MILOSEVIC

How much?

ERICA

20 grand for every kilo. I don't have it on me for security reasons, for course.

MILOSEVIC

It's a deal.

ERICA

So, who are those two?

CLAYMONT

That depends on who sent you.

ERICA

I did. Does it make a difference?

•

CLAYMONT

Gareth Claymont. Federal police.

Spotlight on ALLY as she picks up the landline phone.

CALEB (VO)

Bentley.

ALLY

Caleb, do you know anyone by the name of Gareth Claymont?

CALEB (VO)

Yeah, he's one of my investigators. Why?

ALLY

Cos he's also one of Milosevic's men.

Pause.

CALEB (VO)

Do you have any evidence to suggest that?

ALLY

Yes, one of my agents is in a sting with them as we speak.

CALEB (VO)

Alright. Thanks Ally. Leave him to me.

ALLY

Did you mention me to him by any chance?

CALEB (VO)

I mentioned you were assisting us with our investigation.

ALLY sits back into her chair.

ALLY

Look, don't say anything to Claymont otherwise he'll know I'm onto him. If he mentions anything about the sting, just tell him I'm busy looking for my sister.

CALEB (VO)

What's your sister got to do with all this?

ALLY

She was kidnapped by O'Brien yesterday. I want to confuse them a bit.

CALEB (VO)

I don't suppose you want to tell me what you're planning, do you?

•

ALLY

Obviously Helen hasn't briefed you fully on my methods. *(There is a knock on the door)* Come in!

HELEN *enters.*

ALLY

Well, speak of the devil! Look, leave it to me and don't tell Claymont about my sting!

She replaces the receiver.

HELEN

Who's Claymont?

ALLY *(sighs)*

One of Caleb's major investigators who also happens to be affiliating with our target.

HELEN

Well, you are in a bit of a pickle.

ALLY

Which is probably why O'Brien kidnapped Janet. What are you doing here anyway?

HELEN

I hadn't heard anything from you so I thought I'd check things out myself. *(frowns)*
How does Claymont link with O'Brien?

ALLY

Caleb mentioned to Claymont that I was assisting them in their investigation so I'm assuming that Claymont told B1 and B2.

HELEN

And they kidnapped Janet to get back at you. So it really had nothing to do with us.

ALLY

Unless it fitted in perfectly with their plans. *(HELEN looks at her curiously.)* Y'know, to kill to birds with one stone. *(HELEN nods.)* Erica just needs to be extra careful not to associate herself with me or we'll all be up shit creek without a paddle.

ALLY gets up and exits. CLAYMONT enters from the other side.

CLAYMONT

Are you Helen Mitchell? *(HELEN nods.)* I'm Detective Superintendent Gareth Claymont - Federal Police. I believe you're my courier. *(pause)* Hey, if you'd rather not, I can get onto your boss and ask for someone else to do it if your like.

HELEN

No, don't! Just tell me who I have to deliver it to.

•

CLAYMONT

My, my. You are keen. Now, now. Don't get all threatening on me. I know the consequences behind this visit. *(pause)* The address is written on there. If I hear from my receiver that you don't show, the boss will be hearing about this. You understand?

HELEN *(annoyed)*

Don't you think I'm enjoying this one bit. I'm only doing this because-

CLAYMONT

Because if you don't you'll be up shit-creek? Anyway, I gotta get going. I'm due back at the office. Remember, follow the address to the letter.

CLAYMONT exits. HELEN looks at the parcel and heads to the desk as the lights change. She is sitting at her desk, staring into space when FRANK and KEN enter.

KEN

We still don't know if it's the same car.

FRANK

Look, a black Subaru was seen driving along Fullarton Road at around midnight.

KEN

Oh, come on, Frank! There must be thousands of black Subarus driving around the city!

FRANK

At midnight? It's a bit of a coincidence, isn't it? I mean, one of the suburb it separates is Kingswood!

HELEN

So it either belongs to Fred O'Brien.

Both men look at her.

FRANK

How do you know?

HELEN

Ally knows for a fact that O'Brien have Janet. What she doesn't know at this point is where they're keeping her.

KEN

That's easy. We round them up, rope them in and torture the crap out of them.

HELEN

I'll pretend I didn't hear you say that. No, we can't just round them up and rope them in as Ken so delicately puts it. We have a more complicated case to deal with.

•

FRANK

What could be more complicated than the kidnapping of a state police intelligence officer?

HELEN

The life of an undercover Espial agent.

FRANK

Still, we need to take some form of action. I'll bet Reg will override everything Ally says to make sure we have Janet back in one piece.

HELEN

We'll bring them in but ... First, we find out which one of our two suspects actually owns a black Subaru and whoever draws the short straw is whoever we bring in.

Lights down.



© Caetlyn McLean

•

ACT 1 – SCENE 5

Spotlight on JANET who is sitting on the ground, left of stage, bound and blindfolded. She tries to struggle loose but in vain. We hear a car pull up offstage followed by the slamming of two doors. JANET freezes and MILOSEVIC and O'BRIEN enter.

MILOSEVIC

Time to have some fun.

O'BRIEN

Aw, look at the little one. Having fun there, sweetheart?

JANET

Where am I?

The two men laugh.

MILOSEVIC

You hear that, Fred? She wants to know where she is.

O'BRIEN

Why don't we show her?

They ripped the blindfold off JANET.

JANET (*vicious*)

You bastards!

O'BRIEN

Oooh! We've got a feisty one here, Boss!

MILOSEVIC

Yes, but how useful is she?

He pulls out a mobile phone.

MILOSEVIC

What's your sister's number?

JANET

Piss off!

MILOSEVIC laughs, grabs a handful of her hair and pulls her head back.

MILOSEVIC

How about being a little more co-operative?

O'BRIEN

She's not gonna talk.

•

MILOSEVIC

We'll just have to make her then, won't we?

He brings out a knife and points it at JANET's throat.

MILOSEVIC

This won't kill you if you don't want it to.

JANET glances at the knife in fear.

JANET

Alright! I'll give it to you. It's 82917650.

MILOSEVIC dials the number.

ALLY (VO)

Espial.

MILOSEVIC

You have 24 hours to find your sister before we kill her.

He hangs up before ALLY can say anything. Lights down.



© Caetlyn McLean

•

ACT 1 – SCENE 6

FIONA *is pacing the stage agitated. The doorbell rings. FIONA exits briefly.*

FIONA

What do you want?

ANGELA (OS)

Fiona Mitchell?

FIONA

Who wants to know? Actually, don't bother answering that 'cos I don't really care. I've got things to do.

ANGELA (OS)

I see you're still angry about your conviction.

FIONA

Who the hell are you?

ANGELA (OS)

Lets just say that we have a common interest.

ANGELA *enters.*

FIONA (*pushes ANGELA*)

No one said you could come in. Get out.

ANGELA

My, my, you are strong. Just the type of person we need.

FIONA

What the fuck are you talking about?

ANGELA

Okay, I'll cut to the chase. You may be interested to know that your mother is getting everything she deserves. And I mean everything ...

FIONA *narrows her eyes suspiciously and lets ANGELA go.*

FIONA

Why should I like believe anything you say?

ANGELA

Your mother is ... how would I put it? Well, she's up shit creek as we speak. We've been watching you and your mother for quite sometime now. Lets just say that you've gained our deepest sympathies.

•

FIONA

You trying to steal my glory? Mrs ...

ANGELA

Call me Angela. And no, of course not. I'm just here to tell you what we've accomplished so far. We figured you might like to be part of the operation, seeing as you know her better than anyone.

FIONA (*smiles*)

What do you want me to do?

© Caetlyn McLean

•

ACT 1 – SCENE 7

MILOSEVIC and ERICA are standing at a table, laid out with maps. They are discussing the shipment for that afternoon.

MILOSEVIC

Parafield Airport. From there, we send it interstate. Claymont says he has 20 kilos to ship out. We're going to ship them together.

ERICA

Why Parafield?

MILOSEVIC (*shrugs*)

Remoteness. It has less security than Addersfield Airport and so there's less chance of us being sprung.

ERICA

Is this all going to be done by air?

MILOSEVIC

No, the three-way would be the best strategy in this case.

ERICA

Three-way?

MILOSEVIC

Road and sea. We'll be booking a courier to help us ship the stuff. That way, the cops can't pin us down to just one mode of transport. Makes it harder for them to track the stuff down.

CLAYMONT *bares in.*

CLAYMONT

We have an impostor.

MILOSEVIC

What makes you say that?

CLAYMONT

I've just come from the office. Windsor knows everything about the shipment and there's only one way she could have known.

MILOSEVIC

Well, who is it?

CLAYMONT (*spitting*)

The Spider.

He brandishes his knife.

MILOSEVIC

No wait. She must be wired or Windsor wouldn't have known. I think we should search her.

CLAYMONT

My pleasure!

ERICA

I haven't got anything on me!

CLAYMONT

Then prove it.

He grabs ERICA by the collar. MILOSEVIC gives a silent order to start the search.

CLAYMONT does so without hesitation but fails to find anything. Disgruntled, he lets Erica go. MILOSEVIC is studying ERICA for signs of relief. His eyes fell upon her ring.

MILOSEVIC

Her ring. Check it out.

ERICA

No! It's a family heirloom.

CLAYMONT

Then you won't mind us checking it out.

He holds up the ring hand and fiddles with it.

CLAYMONT

It's a mike. What do you want us to do with her?

MILOSEVIC

Take off the ring and give it to me.

ERICA watches in horror as CLAYMONT hands the LRSD to her boss. MILOSEVIC studies it for a moment before putting it on the floor. He glances at CLAYMONT, then at the ring. CLAYMONT grinning and lifted his foot. ERICA cringes as CLAYMONT's foot came crashing down onto the ring, leaving it in a tangled metallic mess. Lights down.

Spotlight on SKYE and ALLY. SKYE suddenly rips off the headphones she's been wearing.

SKYE

Argh! Shit!

•

ALLY

What's the matter?

SKYE

Someone's just flatted the LRSD. Now, my ears are ringing.

There is a knock on the door.

ALLY

Come in!

SIMON *enters.*

SIMON

Jen said you wanted to see me urgently?

ALLY

Yeah. Erica's been sprung and the LRSD carked it.

SIMON

Shit, that means -

ALLY

That we need to find Erica before she joins the LRSD. Guys, I want you to bring Claymont down to the rendezvous. If there's anyone who knows what's going on, he'll be it.

SKYE

What about your sister?

ALLY

Never mind about that. I'm sure Claymont will be more than informative.

Lights down.

Spotlight on JANET who is still sitting on the ground, bounded. She continues to struggle.

She has a brainwave. Putting both hands on the ground, she lifts her bottom up and pushes herself forward so that her hands with beneath her hamstrings. She sits back down and untangles her legs. CLAYMONT enters. He stops and smirks.

CLAYMONT

Cocky little bitch, aren't you?

JANET

Who the hell are you?

•

CLAYMONT (*growls*)

Never you mind. You'll be glad to know we've found some more suitable accommodation.

JANET (*flat*)

Whoopee.

CLAYMONT *kneels down beside her, takes out his army knife and loosens the feet binds. He grabs JANET by the arm and yanks her up.*

JANET

Ouch! Watch it!

CLAYMONT *spins her around and points the knife at her throat.*

CLAYMONT

One more word out of you and you'll end up with second mouth!

JANET *looks at the knife. She nods as CLAYMONT drags her offstage. Light down.*



© Caetlyn McLean

•

ACT 1 – SCENE 8

O'BRIEN *sit at a table, waiting.* HELEN and FRANK *enter.*

HELEN
Mr O'Brien.

O'BRIEN
Haven't got anything to say.

FRANK *shrugs and turns on the tape.*

FRANK
Interview with Fredrick Anthony O'Brien commencing at 1540, 20th March 2031. Officers present are Detective Inspector Helen Mitchell and Detective Sergeant Frank Hammon. Now tell us, where were you at around midnight this morning?

O'BRIEN *is silent. He stares at an invisible spot on the ceiling.*

HELEN
You know, keeping quiet could easily be seen by the DPP as withholding information.

Beat.

FRANK
For the benefit of the tape, Mr O'Brien is admiring the ceiling of the interview room.

O'BRIEN *just chuckles.*

HELEN
Mr O'Brien, your black Subaru was seen outside the house of Senior Sergeant Hatfield the night she disappeared.

O'BRIEN (*casual*)
You can't prove it was mine.

HELEN
Ah, finally! The silent beast speaks!

FRANK
Are you saying that it wasn't your Subaru?

O'BRIEN
I'm saying your can't prove it was mine.

KEN *enters and whispered something into HELEN's ear. She nods. KEN exits.*

HELEN

Interview suspended at 1547 pending further investigation. You're free to go, Mr O'Brien.

O'BRIEN

What?

HELEN

You're free to go - for the time being. I suggest you don't leave town.

O'BRIEN exits, passing KEN who re-enters.

FRANK

What was that all about?

KEN

Milosevic is summoning him. Ally's sting just got busted.

FRANK

What? So we let him go? Just like that?

HELEN

It's the only way of keeping Milosevic from changing his plans completely. We're trying to keep things as normal as possible under the circumstances.

KEN

We let him go for the time being. While it may seem slightly unorthodox, it would appear to be the best solution.

FRANK

Slightly? If you're agreeing with Ally's way of doing things, you can bet your boots that the bosses will see this as very unorthodox!

KEN

It's not as if you've never been unorthodox yourself.

HELEN

As yet, we have no idea where they're keeping Janet. There's always a method to Ally's madness. If I'm reading this correctly, Ally wants O'Brien to be released so Milosevic will think everything is still on track for the shipment. Given that Ally's sting's being sprung, I'm sure he will have another hiding place for Janet.

KEN

Yeah, and you know what Ally's like with interrogation. Truth is guaranteed to come out when she's in the driver's seat.

HELEN (*distracted*)

Er ..yeah. Look, I gotta to somewhere. I'll be back within the hour.

FRANK

Where are you going?

HELEN

Never you mind. I'll be back soon.

Lights change.

FRANK and KEN exit, passing DALE on the way out. HELEN turns to meet DALE. She is holding a package.

DALE

Gareth said I should expect you. Right on time too. You got it, haven't you?

HELEN gives DALE the package.

DALE

So, when are you doing to pick it up again?

HELEN

What? Oh, no! I only agreed to deliver this!

DALE

You know, I could always talk to Gareth. I thought you guys had that covered.

HELEN

Why do you need me to pick this up again anyway? You're supposed to know that you're doing!

DALE

Hey! I need someone who knows Dewsbury to deliver it to the Docks. Gareth said you know the city.

HELEN

Um, lets make it Monday.

She looks at her watch.

HELEN

Now, if that's all, I've go work to do.

•

ACT 1 – SCENE 9

JANET is lying, unconscious on the ground. ALLY and HELEN enter left. ALLY sees JANET and runs up to her, kneels down beside her and cradles her in her arms.

ALLY (*whispers desperately*)

Janet, come on. Wake up. (*relieved*) Thank god you're alive.

JANET *moans*.

JANET (*strangled*)

Ally?

ALLY

Yeah, it's me. Welcome back to the real world.

JANET *starts to drift again*.

ALLY

Jan, come on. Don't go to sleep on me now. It's too early to go to bed.

JANET (*sleepy*)

Mmm?

JANET *goes limp again as sirens can be heard in the background*.

HELEN

Come on. She'll be okay. I'll drive you home.

ALLY

Hang on. There's something I need to do first. (*She takes out her phone and dials a number.*) Caleb, it's Ally. I have a package for you. You'll find Claymont near the main road by the summit. You can't miss him. He's tied up like a Thanksgiving turkey. (*pause*) Just trust me.

 *She hangs up. Lights down on HELEN, JANET and ALLY.*

There is a brief moment of silence and the lights come back on again. The stage is now empty.

O'BRIEN (VO)

Get up, you stupid bitch!

MILOSEVIC, O'BRIEN and ERICA enter. ERICA has her hands bound behind her back.

MILOSEVIC

If you think this is bad, you should wait and see what we have in store for you.

•

O'BRIEN
Kneel!

They push ERICA down on the ground and begin circling her.

MILOSEVIC (*sarcastic*)

Well, well, well. If it isn't the Spider. What a pleasant surprise! (*pause*) We're going to give you ten seconds to give us a good reason why we shouldn't kill you here and now. And don't say we're your mates 'cos mates don't go behind your back.

O'BRIEN
One ... two ...

ERICA
I'm not who you think I am.

O'BRIEN (*laughs*)
Of course, you're not. Why do you think we're here?

ERICA
I mean I'm not spying on you deliberately. Windsor forced me to catch you. I was going to feed her with false information but you guys found the device before I could explain.

MILOSEVIC
Do you really think we're going to fall for that bullshit? You never intended on telling us about the ring. For that you die. Say your prayers!

They both aim their guns at her.

We hear two gunshots as ERICA's body jerks violently twice on the impact of both bullets before she crashes forward onto the stage, dead.

SIMON and SKYE suddenly enter from behind and tackle them to O'BRIEN and Milosevic to the ground. A shuffle breaks out. SIMON punches O'BRIEN in the face and knocks him out while SKYE ends up with MILOSEVIC's gun. She smacks him over the head with the gun and knocks him out too. She then lowers her arms and gives a sigh of relief.

SIMON and SKYE both get up and rush towards ERICA. SKYE feels for a pulse but can't find one.

SYKE
Shit! (*She touches her earpiece.*) Call Ally. (*pause*) Ally? It's Skye. I've got bad news. We didn't get to her in time. (*deep breath*) Erica's dead.

Lights down.

•

ACT 2 – SCENE 1

CARPARK/CHARLOTTE'S APARTMENT

Spotlight on HELEN who is standing by the side of the stage, waiting for something. DALE soon enters and heads towards her.

HELEN (*not impressed*)

You're late. I could have you reported.

DALE (*snorts*)

Picky, picky. I'm not the one who has the boss to deal with. I hear part of your contingent has already been nabbed by the Feds.

HELEN narrows her eyes suspiciously. DALE gives the package back to her.

HELEN

What are you suggesting?

DALE

I do have your name, you know. It's quite easy for me to tell the cops where I last saw you and, correct me if I'm wrong, but there's absolutely nothing to prove that we've even met. Now, if you don't mind, I've got a package which I need to get rid of. It was a real pleasure doing business with you, Detective Inspector Helen Mitchell. You make a brilliant criminal. Now, don't do anything silly. I have a very important meeting with one of your bosses and I'd hate to be late. (*He goes to leaves then turns around briefly.*) Be good, won't you? We'll be in touch.

DALE gives her a quick salute and exits. HELEN touches her earpiece.

HELEN

Call Janet. (*pause*) Janet can you do a registration check for me please?

JANET (VO)

Helen? Where are you?

HELEN

I'm in Dewsbury. I'm okay. I'm just ... following up a few inquiries ...

JANET (VO)

Well, you might have to try and convince Ally of that. She headed over there this morning.

HELEN

She's doing what?!? Bloody hell! I don't need her here! I have enough problems to deal with without-

JANET (VO)

Problems? What sort of problems? Helen, what the hell is going on?

HELEN

Look, just ... just tell her I've got things under control. She probably won't believe me but I'm fine.

JANET (VO)

You still haven't answered my question. If you're following up a few inquiries, I'm assuming it's to do with one of your cases which I should be informed about. What's going on?

HELEN

Look, forget I even asked. I gotta go.

She exits the stage briefly. Lights down for a few moments.

Doorbell chimes.

CHARLOTTE (O/S)

Who is it?

HELEN (O/S)

It's Helen.

CHARLOTTE (O/S)

Helen! What are you doing here?

HELEN (O/S)

I need your help. Can I come in?

CHARLOTTE(O/S)

Er, ... yeah, of course.

CHARLOTTE *and* HELEN *enter*.

HELEN

I've got a problem and I can't get out of it.

CHARLOTTE

Is it to do with the Feds? I got sent a message on my Com about you trafficking drugs. Is it true? *(pause)* Helen, I can't believe you could be so stupid!' she intoned. 'Do you have any idea what this could do to your career? You'll be dismissed and convicted in a federal court!

HELEN

You think I don't know that?! I didn't a choice in the matter!

CHARLOTTE *(in fury)*

There are always choices! Give me one reason why I shouldn't call the Feds right now!

HELEN *stares at her in bewilderment.*

HELEN

Charlotte, please, you don't understand. You can't call the Feds.

CHARLOTTE *appraises HELEN, sceptically.*

CHARLOTTE

Then make me understand.

HELEN *paces the room nervously.*

HELEN

They've threatened to go to the media about Alex's death.

CHARLOTTE

It's been six years, Helen. And who are they?

HELEN

I don't know. They rang me when I was in Addersfield saying that if I didn't do what they said, they'd go to the media with the 'truth'.

CHARLOTTE

Do you still have the drugs on you?

HELEN

They're in the car in the driveway. I know what you're going to say but I didn't know what else to do. The delivery is tomorrow at the Docks and I *need* to do this or ...

CHARLOTTE

Did you courier it all the way here from Addersfield?

HELEN

No. Some guy did and don't bother asking his name 'cos I have no idea. I doubt he would have given it to me anyway.

CHARLOTTE

Surely you remember his rego number. You could've checked it out with your colleagues in Addersfield.

HELEN

I tried that but she wanted to know why I was requesting the check.

CHARLOTTE

Were you just receiving it from him?

HELEN

This whole mess began in Addersfield. They wanted me to deliver it to him from Claymont.

She is now pacing the floor.

CHARLOTTE

So, where did you meet this guy to give it to him?

HELEN

His place. Look, how does all this help me anyway? All he has to do is tell you guys he saw me here and I'm in the shit.

CHARLOTTE

Well, not if you can prove that you know where he lives and what his name is. I'm sure once you know his address, you can find out his name through the ownership papers.

HELEN stops her pacing and just looks at her.

HELEN

I can't ... Look, I've already been given the third-degree from our intelligence officer. There's no way I'm going to try her again.

CHARLOTTE

I'll see what I can do and pull a few strings. For now, I think you need to get some rest. You'll need it tomorrow.



© Caetlyn McLean