

CONTINUED (2)

Abigail

* Revised
9/25

TESSA

So I pass a few names upstairs and I'm back on my desk? Piece of cake.

BURT

My ass. There's a reason no one wants these cases. You can't beg, barter or blackmail your way into getting an assist. We're on our own down here.

TESSA

Come on, how hard can it be? How many UID's have you identified?

BURT

Three.

TESSA

See?

BURT

In seven years. This is the belly of the beast. The bastard step-child of the LAPD.

(a la Mr. Rourke on *Fantasy Island*)

Welcome to Lost & Found.

Like a sign from God, no sooner have the words left Burt's mouth than THE GROUND STARTS TO SHAKE. Actually, the whole room starts to shake. Tessa DIVES under a desk. Once the basement stops shifting, Tessa peeks out to find Burt hasn't budged an inch.

*
*
*

BURT (CONT'D)

We're under the parking garage.

*

Tessa's spunk fades.

*

START →

TESSA (PRE-LAP)

I need a drink.

*

CUT TO:

*

INT. ABIGAIL NEZHUKUMATATHIL-GRANT'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

TIGHT ON a neat row of juice boxes. Tessa shuts the fridge door. On it - forensic sketches hang next to kids' drawings of flowers and house pets.

*

ABIGAIL

If I have to wait, so do you.

1/8

LOST & FOUND

Dec 30, 2009 11:39 AM - Dec 30, 2009 11:39 AM

CONTINUED

ABIGAIL NEZHUKUMATATHIL-GRANT, 30ish, Indian, mother of three with another one on the way (she's 6 months pregnant). The Martha Stewart of Medical Examiners, and Tessa's best friend. She's the sister Tessa never wanted.

TESSA

This shrink thing's a colossal waste of time.

Abigail doesn't look up from the onions she's chopping. *

ABIGAIL *

You want your gun and your job back?

(yes)

Then find something to talk about. *

TESSA

What do you suggest?

Without a word, Tessa takes Abigail's knife from her hands, sharpens it on a steel and hands it back. *

ABIGAIL

I don't know. Your issues.

Abigail hits pulse on her Cuisinart... nothing. She starts shaking the machine. Tessa goes to the outlet. Hits reset. *

TESSA

GFI was tripped. What issues? *

Tessa nonchalantly picks up a baster and heads for the oven. *

ABIGAIL

Come on, Tessa. They threw you in the basement and put you on name-that-body duty. Just because you don't have a case to solve doesn't mean you have to solve my dinner. Now give me back my baster. *

Tessa does as she's told. Slumps into a chair. Far away. *

TESSA

I'm good at my job. *

ABIGAIL

Very good.

TESSA

So why keep me from doing it? It's like those bastards want me to fail.

ABIGAIL

Then don't.

2/8

CONTINUED (2)

TESSA

It's just, I'm used to working cases where there's a loved one, family, someone standing there weeping, looking to me for closure. For justice.

ABIGAIL

(reality check)

Someone out there is weeping over every one of these unnamed human beings, Tess. You just haven't met them yet.

Off Tessa --

/STOP

~~INT. BASEMENT - LOST & FOUND - NEXT DAY~~

TIGHT ON BURT'S FACE.

BURT

I passed a stone faster than it takes you to make up your (goddamned) mind!

*

REVEAL Burt in Bermuda shorts and a Hawaiian T hosting his weekly poker game. Around the table sit a motley crew: a Maintenance Guy (SAL), an Ex-con (CLIVE) and a Retired Homicide Detective who's legally blind (HIGHTOWER).

SAL

Someone's crashing on the couch again.

CLIVE

That explains his sunny disposition. I call your five and raise you five.

They're playing for peanuts. Literally.

*

HIGHTOWER

He's bluffing.

BURT

You can't see to wipe, how would you know?

Tessa sits at her desk spraying everything with Lysol. Drawers, computer keyboard. Picks up the phone receiver to give it a little lemon fresh love... no dial tone.

TESSA

What's with the phone?

*

BURT

Only gets incoming calls.

3/8

CONTINUED

TESSA (CONT'D)

I read in the High School alum rag that you became a psychiatrist. Enough about you -- I have a favor to ask...

EXT. FOXHEAD BAR - LATE DAY

Tessa pours out of the Foxhead and winces in the sunshine. Across the street - Burt talks to the Man from Ballona Creek. The one who was shouting. The one with the mullet. They don't see her before the Man takes off and Tessa makes her way over.

TESSA

Who was that guy?

BURT

Are you (shit) faced?

TESSA

Neither of those questions are going to get answered, are they?

Burt answers with his back as he climbs into the car.

INT. MORGUE - NEXT DAY

Abigail's home away from home. She's conducting an autopsy wearing a gingham apron. Tessa's perched on an empty gurney.

SCENE 2 **START →**

ABIGAIL

You drunk dialed a shrink?

TESSA

Not just a shrink, Max Burroughs. What's that smell?

Abigail runs her wrist under Tessa's nose.

ABIGAIL

Pleasures. You like? The Chanel wasn't cutting through the putrefaction and you're avoiding my question.

TESSA

From high school. Max was a sweet geek who had a raging crush on me. I figure one visit is all it will take to get him to sign my Get Out Of Jail Free card.

ABIGAIL

Again. You drunk dialed a shrink?

TESSA

Have I told you lately that you're a --

4/8

CONTINUED

ABIGAIL
 (holding up a file)
 Your Vic's original autopsy report.

TESSA
 -- phenomenal friend. Talk to me.

ABIGAIL
 Tox report came back negative so there were no drugs in his system. Dental work was good - no crunk teeth - meaning he had money. But because he spent time in the water there was serious bloat and --

TESSA
 -- no decent prints. What else?

ABIGAIL
 Scar on his upper right thigh - judging by tissue patterns he got it when he was a kid. No signs of a struggle. No skin, hair or fibers under his nails.
 (knowingly)
 Men. It's not always about what's under the nails... Take a look at this.

TIGHT ON a picture of Marathon Man's hand from the file.

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)
 Your victim just had a manicure.

TESSA
 So he's definitely not homeless. ~~Not a gang banger.~~ If it weren't for the fact that no one's come looking for him, I'd say we're dealing with your average, run of the mill tax payer. Wrong place, wrong time. It could have been me.

ABIGAIL
 Told you so.

TESSA
 Told me what?

ABIGAIL
 That you'd get sucked in like you always do. Just promise me you won't dangle off any balconies this time, OK? You know I love you, but you've got a bolt missing.

Abigail holds up a manila envelope.

5/8

CONTINUED (2)

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

And don't go getting used to this kind of most-favored-nations status. If my boss knew I was wasting time on a Lost & Found case...

/STOP

She pulls out a FORENSIC SKETCH of the victim. Tessa finally has a face to attach to the name. Didn't expect it to but it does -- takes her breath away.

TESSA'S VO

Hello there, Marathon Man.

CUT FROM the sketch in Tessa's hands to --

INT. CROWN VIC - SEASIDE CAR WASH - DAY

-- the sketch in Burt's hands. PULL BACK to find Burt and Tessa riding the Crown Vic THROUGH A CAR WASH.

BURT

Who'd you say did this for you?

TESSA

I didn't.

(impatient)

Come on, Macey. Why am I here?

BURT

The body was found three months ago, right? He had been in the water a few days. I checked reports of shots fired anywhere in the Ballona Creek corridor during that time frame.

(peering at windshield)

This bird (shit's) not coming off!

TESSA

Keep talking.

BURT

Of the five reports, one was firecrackers, one was an unrelated murder, another was a domestic dispute leaving us with two unresolved.

Burt leans over Tessa, she pulls away from his 'advance'.

BURT (CONT'D)

Dream on.

He pops the glove compartment, pulls out the Thomas Guide, flips to a section of Culver City and points to two spots by the creek:

6/8

CONTINUED (2)

BURT

Just calling it like I see it.

TESSA

I'm sorry, did you talk to someone who actually knew him? He had ticklish feet and a thing for self help books. He left great tips. He was a decent guy.

*
*
*

BURT

So was Ted Bundy according to some. You're only seeing what you want to see.

ANTHONY

(trying to help)

Could be he was mixed up with drugs. Fits the neighborhood. And the tracksuit.

Burt busts up laughing. Can't help himself. Tessa's stung.

TESSA

That's just terrific. Can't find a name that fits but we can sure as hell find a stereotype. I've got better ways to waste my time.

*
*
*

Tessa gets up and walks away.

*

INT. ABIGAIL NEZHUKUMATATHIL-GRANT'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAYS LATER

The old forensic sketch of Marathon Man is stuck to the fridge with a garlic clove magnet. Tessa sits at the table looking at the new sketch. Abigail makes tea.

*

**START →
scene 3**

ABIGAIL

I gave him his fro back. And considering he had enough back hair to wax - I aged him a bit.

*

(gets nothing)

You're right, I don't have the time. But for you? Anything.

TESSA

Sorry.

ABIGAIL

For what? Locking yourself up in your apartment for almost a week? Or for not telling me why?

*
*

TESSA

(spews)

I thought Burt was a sick, pathetic slob who lied about having a sex life.

(MORE)

7/8

CONTINUED

TESSA (CONT'D)

Then I meet his robo hot girlfriend and
assume she's the cleaning lady.

Tessa stares into her tea, watching steam rise. Lost. *

TESSA (CONT'D)

Maybe Burt's right. Maybe Marathon Man
was a perv. ~~I mean, he was hanging out
at an elementary school.~~ *

ABIGAIL

Burt's all surfaces. If it were up to
him, Marathon Man would've been written
off as a gangbanger and forgotten. Even
I'm all about the outside of things.
All I do is draw the exterior. Your
gift is getting under people's skin. *

TESSA

Gift or a curse? *

ABIGAIL

This - you doubting yourself? It's not
the friend I know and love. Whatever it
takes to get the old Tessa back? Do it. *

Abigail slides the sketch of Marathon Man across the table. *

ABIGAIL (CONT'D)

He's counting on you. *

Tessa stares at the sketch. Prepubescent SHOUTS from upstairs, *

Abigail stands to go deal with her daughters. *

TESSA

Thanks for the advice, Mom.

ABIGAIL (O.S.)

I'm two weeks older than you, bitch! /STOP

A beat. Tessa picks up her cell and dials. Into phone:

TESSA

I think I found a way to make this work.

EXT. TRACK - NEXT DAY

Tessa, Max and Dog run the red clay track.

MAX

This is highly unusual.

8/8