

"I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings"

TEASER

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Five members of the Nortenos gang bring a large duffel bag into the room, drop it on the floor. One takes care to put a necklace on the handle. They are speaking in Spanish. No subtitles. It's chitchat. They aren't expecting confrontation.

Someone is watching them from the shadows. The face of our intrepid reporter, CINDY, eagerly after the story, though wisely scared, peeks out of the shadows.

She hears sounds behind her, and realizes that she can't go forward and can't go back. A moment of panic as she looks for somewhere to go.

A hand covers her mouth. Real panic now. She wants to scream into it. Then, a harsh voice stops her -

LINDSAY

Shut up. It's me.

LINDSAY pulls Cindy back between some old, unused metal drums. It's a small space. They fit, but are barely hidden.

They get out of sight in just enough time for the rival gang, the Surenos, to walk by in front of them.

Lindsay's vigilance and Cindy's fear stare out at the men as they walk past.

The Surenos see the Nortenos coming in at them. They don't pull weapons yet, but they are ready to at a moment's notice.

GANG MEMBER YELLING (O.S.)

You were going to leave something for us? Surprise. We came to meet the messenger.

Lindsay steps out of the hiding spot with Cindy and pushes Cindy back into it.

LINDSAY

Do NOT move.

The Gang members converge for what could become a violent skirmish if it escalates. They stand facing off.

GANG MEMBER

Well, now we get to see your smiling faces.

The main Norteno, ever watchful of his enemy, pulls the necklace from where he had wrapped it around the handle of the bag and tosses it at one of the men.

JACOBI catches up to Lindsay.

The kid who caught the necklace stares at it, stares at the bag. He's the first to draw his gun. Everyone quickly follows suit, but it's too late. The SFPD is right there.

JACOBI

SFPD.

LINDSAY

SFPD.

Enough cops yell it so that they know they are surrounded.

JACOBI

Down on the ground.

Some of the gang members think it's a good time to shoot. They should think again. Well-placed shots to the leg from Jacobi and Lindsay put a member from each gang on the ground and everyone else decides to cut their losses and get down as they were told.

The team swarms them and makes the arrests.

Jacobi goes to the bag.

JACOBI

Let's see what kind of exchange we were making.

He unzips the bag, pulls it open.

JACOBI (CONT.)

Damn.

Both he and Lindsay back away fast, survey the situation. Lindsay turns and looks back at Cindy, peeking out from the shadows.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Jacobi stands, watching gang members hauled in by officers.

JACOBI

Central booking. And keep an eye on them. We don't want the Jets and Sharks getting into a rumble in here.

Trailing behind the cop, gang member pairings comes Lindsay, dragging Cindy in by the arm. Jacobi just steps out of the way. Lindsay hauls Cindy to a holding cell, frisking her on the way and taking away her cell phone and her pen.

CINDY

My pen?

Lindsay unlocks the door and puts her inside.

LINDSAY

If they put someone crazy in with you, that pen becomes a weapon, and not the proverbial kind.

CINDY

How long do you think I'm going to be in here?

Lindsay looks at her and Cindy's humor fades instantly.

CINDY (CONT.)

Let me guess. Obstruction.

LINDSAY

And anything else I can tack on.

CINDY

Lindsay, come on. I called you and told you where they were going to be.

LINDSAY

Maybe we should do some reviewing. Part of calling me means waiting until I get there to go inside.

CINDY

If I'd waited, you wouldn't have let me go inside.

LINDSAY

You think this is funny? Five months ago you were shot doing your job on the courthouse steps. Now you have to actually go seek danger? Do you have a death wish?

That stuns Cindy into silence.

Lindsay goes to her desk. She puts Cindy's phone in the drawer. Tom walks up. He looks at Cindy in the cell.

TOM

I'm not going to ask.

LINDSAY

Good.

TOM

Give me the rundown.

LINDSAY

Another body. This one in pieces. That makes fourteen now. Fourteen. The press has been calling it what this office isn't allowed to call it since the fourth body. So when exactly will we be allowed to start calling it that?

Jacobi walks up.

JACOBI

First two are set up. You ready?

LINDSAY

Yeah.

She gets up.

TOM

What about Cindy?

LINDSAY

She's fine.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

NORTENO MEMBER 1 sits at the table, facing off with Lindsay and Jacobi.

JACOBI

Who was in the bag?

NORTENO MEMBER 1

I had no idea what was in there.  
I just get paid to deliver.

JACOBI

You write receipts for that?

LINDSAY

Okay, let's pretend for just one minute that you are telling us something anywhere in the vicinity of the truth. Who were you delivering for?

NORTENO MEMBER 1

Some rich white guy.

JACOBI

Let me tell you my theory. A Sureno got killed on your turf, so you took the body and slaughtered it just to insult them and fuel the feud.

NORTENO MEMBER 1

No, that's not what happened. What else you got?

LINDSAY

We've got you on murder if you don't tell us where that body came from.

JACOBI

Frankly, we're just tired. It's been a hell of a summer. We're perfectly happy to put you away for all of it, guilty or not, so we can be done.

NORTENO MEMBER 1

You think putting me away will end this. This is bigger than me. This is bigger than you.

Lindsay and Jacobi step out.

INT. POLICE STATION - JUST OUTSIDE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Lindsay and Jacobi stand outside the two-way glass, looking in at the guy they just interviewed.

LINDSAY

If they're all so forthcoming, we might solve these murders by retirement.

JACOBI

Mine or yours?

CINDY (O.S.)

Jill!

Lindsay turns toward the voice.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Jill not quite dressed for work, walks up to Cindy in the holding cell.

JILL

I never get tired of seeing this.

CINDY

You have to get Lindsay to let me out.

JILL

What did you do?

Lindsay walks up.

LINDSAY

She isn't here for you.

She pulls Jill away from the holding cell. They stop out of hearing range.

JILL

Okay, so what am I here for?

LINDSAY

For her. How long can I keep her in there?

JILL

What are you charging her with?

LINDSAY

Obstruction. Interfering with a criminal investigation. I'll think of something.

JILL

The usual. Forty-eight hours before it gets sticky.

LINDSAY

Great.

Lindsay walks off. Jill looks in at Cindy and follows Lindsay out.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Lindsay and Jill walk to the elevator.

JILL

You're not seriously going to leave her in there forty-eight hours, are you?

LINDSAY

Yes I am. Which gives us forty-eight hours to solve these cases.

JILL

Linds, we've had two months to solve these cases and we haven't been able to yet.

LINDSAY

I work better under pressure.

INT. MORGUE - NIGHT

Claire is putting the body back together.

LINDSAY

I take it you don't have an ID on our vic yet.

CLAIRE

Prints aren't on file, and it's going to be a while before we can get any kind of visual ID.

JILL

How often do we come across a gang member whose prints aren't on file?

LINDSAY

Not often.

CLAIRE

I doubt he was a gang member.

LINDSAY

What makes you say that?

CLAIRE

They usually aren't quite this small.

JILL

It was a kid?

CLAIRE

Ten to twelve years old, I'd guess.

JILL

I've seen younger.

CLAIRE

Not this kid. Just a gut feeling.

LINDSAY

Then who the hell was he? How long do you think?

CLAIRE

I can't make any promises. This is a mess. Where's Cindy? I can't believe she's not all over this.

JILL

I'm sure she would be if she could. Linz arrested her.

LINDSAY

Better locked up upstairs than down here.

She goes. Claire and Jill exchange a look.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Lindsay walks past the holding cell.

Cindy jumps up.

CINDY

Linz. Lindsay.

Lindsay keeps walking.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Jacobi is with a NORTENO MEMBER 2.

JACOBI

If you didn't do anything, you're better off telling me what you know now.

NORTENO MEMBER 2

Man, you got no idea how it works.

Lindsay steps in.

LINDSAY

Hey.

She motions him out.

INT. POLICE STATION - JUST OUTSIDE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Lindsay and Jacobi stand outside room.

LINDSAY

It was a kid's body in that bag. Someone knows who that boy is.

JACOBI

Yeah, but who?

LINDSAY

Let's find out.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Lindsay and Jacobi with SURENO MEMBER 1.

JACOBI

We're piecing your boy back together. It looks like it could take a while.

GANG MEMBER

Is that right?

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Lindsay and Jacobi with SURENO MEMBER 2.

LINDSAY

You know, some people would see something disturbing in that duffel we brought in. I just see one more gang member off the streets.

The guy almost laughs.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Lindsay and Jacobi with SURENO MEMBER 3.

JACOBI

What happened? Did he get killed in a fight and you all left him behind to be returned to you... cubed?

GANG MEMBER

Yeah. Just like that.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Lindsay and Jacobi with THE BROTHER.

LINDSAY

We know that the body in that bag is a kid's. A boy. What was his role in all of this?

The Brother says nothing. He tenses though. He's not calm like the other guys. Lindsay and Jacobi know.

JACOBI

Banger apprentice?

THE BROTHER

He wasn't no banger.

LINDSAY

Who was he?

THE BROTHER

You're going to pretend, what, like you care now? You all don't come into my neighborhood when someone gets killed. No one pays unless you make them pay.

JACOBI

Are you planning to make someone pay?

THE BROTHER

Planning? Nah. Plan's already in motion.

LINDSAY

You can stop this, before anyone else dies.

THE BROTHER

Why would I want to do that? It's my turn now. This has been going all summer, from bad to worse, and you haven't bothered to stop it.

JACOBI

Because no one will talk.

THE BROTHER

Including me. I want a lawyer.

LINDSAY

If we end up with another kid on a slab downstairs, you're going down for this.

THE BROTHER

So be it.

Lindsay takes off, but Jacobi lingers in the room. He's the good cop now.

JACOBI

Whose body was in that bag?

THE BROTHER

My brother.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. TOM'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Tom plays a tape for Jacobi and Lindsay.

THE BROTHER

They got Kev. Let's return the favor.

Tom stops the tape.

TOM

The call was traced to a disposable cell, probably dumped by now.

JACOBI

We've got a hundred, two hundred gang members. Any or all of them could have kid brothers.

LINDSAY

Whoever they go after, they're not going to hang onto this boy for long. If they already have him, he's already dead. Killing him is their sole purpose in taking him.

TOM

We can't just send unis in to start asking around. The Nortenos are going to know we have this kid's body. If we start talking to the families, they're going to think we're trying to make an arrest. One of our own is going to get killed before the day is over.

LINDSAY

And that's all that matters, right?

JACOBI

Lindsay.

TOM

If these people want to kill each other, we can't stop them. You cannot protect people who don't make an effort to look after themselves.

LINDSAY

If we do nothing, the bodies are going to keep stacking up, like they have been all summer. This kid didn't do anything wrong. He's dead because of his brother. They've moved on. Maybe it didn't matter too much when it just a bunch of street thugs, but starting now, we're going to end up with all kinds of innocent victims.

TOM

You'd better not be saying that we haven't done everything that we could have to stop this from happening.

LINDSAY

Have we? We were told, straight out, by the people that you answer to, not to call it a gang war when we knew that's what it was.

TOM

Because they didn't want to scare the public.

LINDSAY

They didn't want to waste resources in a neighborhood they don't think people are worth saving in.

TOM

You are walking a line.

LINDSAY

Somebody has to.

Jacobi stands next to Lindsay.

JACOBI  
Okay. Cease fire.

They all stand in a tense standoff.

JACOBI (CONT.)  
I'm with her. With what we've learned today, I think we are pretty safe in saying that this crime wave has been a series of back and forth revenge killings. Between rival gangs, which does make it a gang war. They are not going to stop unless we make them stop, and eventually the people at the top are going to have to admit that.

TOM  
Well, we are still not going in blindly. There has to be a better way.

A thought occurs to Lindsay. She gets up and goes out.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Tom and Jacobi follow Lindsay down the stairs.

Lindsay goes up to Cindy in the cell.

LINDSAY  
I need the names of your Mission district contacts.

CINDY  
No problem. Let me out.

LINDSAY  
We can stop this Cindy, but I need your contacts.

CINDY  
You took my phone.

Lindsay goes to her desk, gets the phone and a pad and pen. Cindy writes the names down and gives Lindsay the pad. Lindsay holds her hand out.

LINDSAY

And your phone.

Cindy gives it back to her. Lindsay puts the phone back in her desk and takes the notes to Tom and Jacobi.

Cindy calls out to Tom.

CINDY

I'm going to sue the police department, the District Attorney's office, the city, and maybe the mayor just for good measure.

Lindsay walks up to Tom.

LINDSAY

I promise she won't sue anyone.

INT. MORGUE - NIGHT

Claire is still working away as Jill walks in.

JILL

Hey. Lindsay has an ID on the vic. Kevin Williams. We'll serve a warrant for his dental records first thing in the morning.

CLAIRE

That will help.

Claire takes off her gloves, washes her hands.

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Claire grabs a couple of beers from the refrigerator as they sit.

CLAIRE

Did she let Cindy out?

JILL

Not yet.

CLAIRE

What happened?

JILL

No idea. Guess we'll find out  
when the dust settles.

They drink.

INT. POLICE STATION - PRE-DAWN

Cindy is asleep in the cell. Lindsay walks up.

LINDSAY

Hey. You need a bathroom break?

CINDY

Yes.

Lindsay unlocks the cell, lets her out.

INT. RESTROOM - DAY

Lindsay waits by the sinks. Cindy comes out of a stall,  
washes her hands.

CINDY

What's going on with the case?

LINDSAY

The body was a Sureno's little  
brother. Now the Surenos are  
looking to get even. We're  
meeting your contact, Duarte, in  
thirty minutes, so hurry up.

CINDY

At the soup kitchen?

LINDSAY

Yeah. Then, we're moving on down the list with your other contacts. Which one told you about the warehouse?

CINDY

Sonja Delgado.

LINDSAY

We haven't talked to her yet. Who is she?

CINDY

I don't know. She contacted me at the paper. Out of the blue. I'd never spoken to her before.

LINDSAY

How did she know about the drop?

CINDY

I don't ask. That's why my contacts continue to tell me things.

LINDSAY

I need you to call her before we leave.

INT. STATION - PRE-DAWN

Cindy is on the phone at Lindsay's desk.

SONJA (ON PHONE)

Leave me a message.

CINDY

(mouths)

Voice mail.

Lindsay pushes a pad of paper in front of Cindy and she looks at it.

CINDY

(into phone)

It's Cindy Thomas. I need to talk to you in person. If you get this, meet me at Jack's diner, twenty-second and Valencia at seven o'clock.

She hangs up.

LINDSAY

Does she have your cell number?

CINDY

Yeah. So, I'm coming with you?

Lindsay smiles and motions her up.

Cindy stands. Lindsay takes her by the arm, leading her back to the holding cell.

CINDY

Lindsay.

Jacobi just watches them go by.

Lindsay locks Cindy back in the holding cell.

CINDY (CONT.)

Let me out.

LINDSAY

I assure you, I'm within legal boundaries.

CINDY

Let me out, or I'm gonna sing.

Lindsay walks off, taps Jacobi on the shoulder.

LINDSAY

Let's hit it.

Lindsay stops at her desk, takes out Cindy's cell phone. Cindy watches Lindsay and Jacobi go.

CINDY

Who likes show tunes?

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - DAY

DUARTE is setting up the morning soup kitchen.

DUARTE

These kids have the same aspirations as everyone else, with a hundredth of the opportunity to make it happen. So they turn to what they can excel in, killing each other.

LINDSAY

Well, now they've killed a young boy. Kevin Williams.

DUARTE

Kevin? Kevin used to come here some days after school, help us serve the evening meal. He was one of the good ones. I guess he never really stood a chance of surviving these streets.

JACOBI

Kevin's brother, J.W., does he have a special grudge with anyone?

DUARTE

Not that I know of. As far as I can tell, they all hate each other pretty equally.

LINDSAY

Do you have any idea where we can find Sonja Delgado?

DUARTE

Sonja Delgado? No, but if you've got two names, she's not from the streets.

INT. CAR - DAY

Jacobi and Lindsay sit in the car, waiting.

LINDSAY

What time is it?

JACOBI

Twenty after. We may very well  
be too late already to save this  
next kid.

Cindy's cell phone rings. They look out the window, see a  
girl using her cell phone.

LINDSAY

There she is.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jacobi and Lindsay jump out of the car and head toward  
Sonja.

Still holding her phone to her ear, Sonja sees them coming  
at her, and takes off running.

LINDSAY

Dammit.

Lindsay takes off running after her. Jacobi runs back for  
the car.

Sonja turns down an alley. It's a dead-end. Lindsay grabs  
her and cuffs her as Jacobi pulls up at the end of the  
alley.

Lindsay walks Sonja back to the car, tosses her in the  
backseat, then she and Jacobi climb inside.

INT. CAR - DAY

As soon as Lindsay and Jacobi have the doors closed.

SONJA

I'll tell you anything you want  
to know. Just not here.

INT. STATION - DAY

Lindsay and Jacobi bring Sonja in. Lindsay does a double-  
take when she hears singing coming from the holding cell.  
Lindsay stops a passing officer.

LINDSAY

How long's she been doing that?

Tom steps out onto the landing outside his office and looks  
down at Lindsay.

TOM

Two hours. Let her out.

It's an order. Jacobi takes Sonja on into an interrogation  
room. Lindsay pulls out her phone and dials as she walks up  
to the holding cell and the singing Cindy.

LINDSAY

Stop singing.

Cindy does immediately.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Sonja being interviewed by Jacobi.

SONJA

I'm a documentary filmmaker.  
I've been living down in the  
Mission district for six months.

JACOBI

As a gang member?

SONJA

Yeah. I've gotten in tight with  
the Nortenos.

JACOBI

You went through the whole  
process?

SONJA

Yes, I took a beat down by ten  
girls to get in. I broke three  
ribs. It took me a month to heal.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Lindsay is sitting with Cindy watching through the two-way  
glass.

JACOBI

So, you've been getting all of  
your information straight from  
them?

SONJA

Yes.

JACOBI

Are you out of your mind?

SONJA

I guess I have to be a little,  
but what am I supposed to do,  
just pretend that none of this  
is happening?

JACOBI

What made you decide that you had  
to be the person to pursue it?

SONJA

Who else was going to? I'm not  
the only one out there. I'm not  
doing this alone.

Jill walks in behind them.

JILL

Hey.

Lindsay leaves Cindy with Jill.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Jacobi takes a deep breath.

JACOBI

Have you known every time the  
Nortenos were going to act?

SONJA

No. This is the first I knew  
ahead of time. The other times,  
I found out what had happened  
after.

Lindsay walks in while Sonja is talking.

LINDSAY

And you gave up part of your  
story to a reporter for *The  
Register*?

SONJA

I'm not in this for one summer. I got in for the long term, to document what it's like to have to live down there. This isn't my story yet. Someone needed to know what was happening right now.

JACOBI

Why didn't you call the police?

SONJA

I did call the police. Every time. And every time, I hit a brick wall. They would barely listen to me. They said they would call me back. They never did. I had seen that reporter, Cindy Thomas, at every crime scene. Nobody else was covering all of the murders down there. I figured she'd want to hear what I had to say.

LINDSAY

The boy's body that the Nortenos were dropping off, his name was Kevin Williams. He was the brother of James Williams, J.W.

SONJA

I know.

LINDSAY

If the Surenos were going to get even, who would they take in return?

SONJA

Phillipe really had it out for J.W.

JACOBI

Over what?

SONJA

I don't know. Something that happened when they were younger.

JACOBI

Does Phillipe have a younger brother or sister?

SONJA

No. But he has a son.

JACOBI

Do you know his last name?

SONJA

(shakes head)

I know the mother's name is Sharice, and the kid goes to Holy Cross Daycare.

LINDSAY

Stay here.

Lindsay and Jacobi rush out.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Tom yells down from the landing outside his office.

TOM

I'm calling SWAT to evacuate the daycare.

JACOBI

I'm calling the daycare.

Tom goes back in his office.

Jacobi goes to his computer, gets the number, dials.

Lindsay just waits at his shoulder.

Cindy and Jill come out of the observation room and wait behind her.

JACOBI (CONT.)

No answer.

Jacobi hangs up, dials again.

Lindsay glances up at Tom's office.

Jacobi slams down the phone.

LINDSAY

Do you have the address?

Jacobi hits print, gets up.

Lindsay looks at Jill.

LINDSAY

You're on duty.

Lindsay and Jacobi grab the address off the printer and go.

INT. TOM'S OFFICE - DAY

Tom sees Lindsay and Jacobi leaving.

TOM

I'll call you back on my cell.

He hangs up, runs out in time to see them already out the door. He rushes back into his office, grabs his gun.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. TOM'S CAR - DAY

Tom is speeding through the street.

TOM

How long before SWAT gets there?

DISPATCHER

Ten minutes.

Tom shakes his head, hangs up.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Lindsay and Jacobi pull up at the end of a side street, looking down at the DAYCARE CENTER on the adjacent street. They get out immediately and look around.

Jacobi notices two people approaching the daycare from one direction.

JACOBI

We've got company.

Lindsay notices two coming down the street the other way.

LINDSAY

This way too.

The gang members close in on each other and the daycare. Lindsay and Jacobi exchange a look. No one else is coming. They draw their guns.

As the four gang members are about to meet in the middle right in front of the daycare center's door, Jacobi and Lindsay rush forward as discreetly as they can. They are bound to be noticed. There is bound to be a shootout.

Just when they should be noticed, a car speeds around the corner, coming from the other direction. It screeches to a stop and Tom jumps out, shielding himself behind the driver's side door.

TOM  
SFPD. Freeze.

They don't. All four gang members round on Tom and draw their guns, firing toward him.

Tom manages a shot to a gang members chest and he goes down.

With them distracted with Tom, Lindsay and Jacobi easily get the drop on the two gang members closest to them. They take them down from behind.

The one free gang member breaks away, backing toward the door of the daycare, firing the whole time.

He turns his fire on Lindsay and Jacobi as well and they are forced to duck over their detainees instead of returning fire.

INT. DAYCARE - DAY

The children are screaming. One teacher herds them into a corner. The other goes to lock the door. It busts open and the gang member backs inside, slamming the door closed and locking it behind him.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Tom comes out from behind his car door, kicks the gun out of the hand of the gang member he shot and feels for a pulse.

He shares a look with Lindsay and Jacobi, then they all look at the door of the daycare.

INT. CLAIRE'S OFFICE - DAY

Claire is filling out paperwork behind her desk when Jill and Cindy walk in.

CLAIRE  
Look who got bounced.

CINDY

Hardly.

JILL

Reassigned to us.

CLAIRE

Wow. What did you do?

CINDY

I was inside the warehouse last night when the police showed up.

JILL

And you knew that the Nortenos would be there?

CINDY

No. I knew that they were making a delivery of some sort. I thought that they would be gone. I certainly didn't intend to be in the middle of the Surenos and them.

CLAIRE

No wonder Lindsay locked you up. You could have gotten killed.

CINDY

Yeah, that point has been made clear to me.

JILL

What were you thinking?

CINDY

I wasn't. I guess I thought that I could get a look at whatever it was and get out.

CLAIRE

You really couldn't wait for the police to show up to get your story?

CINDY

I did wait. I waited for quite a while. I honestly didn't think that they were coming.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Jacobi puts the last of the two gang members in the car. The third still lies on the street, maybe dead, maybe not. Tom stares up at the daycare. Lindsay paces.

LINDSAY

There has to be a way in.

TOM

We're not going in. Not yet.

LINDSAY

What else are we supposed to do?

TOM

Wait for the rest of the team. They are headed this way. They'll be here soon.

LINDSAY

When?

JACOBI

This building should have already been evacuated. Now, there is a man inside that building with thirty kids, who knows he isn't going to be walking out of there a free man. He's got nothing to lose.

TOM

They're on their way.

JACOBI

They're already too late.

LINDSAY

He's going to do what he came here to do, even if he has to kill everyone in there to make sure he kills the right kid.

Tom shakes his head.

JACOBI

You know that's exactly what's going to happen. There is only one way now.

EXT. DAYCARE - DAY

Jacobi and Lindsay sneak around the back, looking for a way inside. They finally see a window about ten feet off the ground. It's small, a tight fit.

LINDSAY

Looks like I'm the one going in.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Tom stands out front, watching the front of the daycare and up and down the street, waiting for more police presence.

INT. DAYCARE RESTROOM - DAY

The glass breaks on the window. Lindsay's arm reaches in and undoes the lock. The window slides upward slowly. Lindsay hoists herself up.

EXT. DAYCARE - DAY

Jacobi is boosting Lindsay up, pushing her feet upward until she slides up and in.

INT. DAYCARE RESTROOM - DAY

Lindsay gets her bearings and listens for the noises from inside. The guy is yelling in Spanish.

INT. DAYCARE MAIN ROOM - DAY

Lindsay peeks out from around a corner.

The gang member is holding one of the teachers, his gun at her temple.

He is speaking to her quietly, but the meaning is clear. 'Tell me which kid is the one I'm looking for, or I start killing at the front of the line and don't stop until the end.'

Lindsay steps out of the doorway. Some of the kids see her. She holds her finger to her lips, telling them to quiet.

When she has a good shot, she kicks over a desk. The noise pulls the gang member's attention right to her and his gun leaves the teacher's temple.

Lindsay shoots him in the shoulder. He falls back, dropping his gun. She runs up and puts her foot on his wrist, pulls her cuffs, cuffs his wrist, flips him over, cuffs his other wrist.

She grabs the gun, goes to the door, unlocks it for Jacobi and Tom. They walk in, looking all around at the crying kids.

EXT. DAYCARE - DAY

A black SWAT van pulls up and parks right out front.

INT. DAYCARE MAIN ROOM - DAY

Tom is just watching for them. He goes out to meet them.

EXT. DAYCARE - DAY

Tom steps outside and waits as the main SWAT guy walks up. Tom gives him the most sincere 'go to hell' look and steps past him.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. MORGUE - DAY

Claire sits across a table from Cindy, teeth laid between them, lined up in order. As morbid as it is, it's a good source of distraction for Cindy.

CLAIRE

This is most of Kevin's smile.  
If we compare filling to  
filling, flaw to flaw...

CINDY

It's a match.

CLAIRE

It's a match.

They turn at the sound of Lindsay and Jill walking in. Lindsay leans against the wall.

CINDY

What happened?

LINDSAY

Long story.

CLAIRE

Maybe it should wait until you  
get some rest.

LINDSAY

It should. I should sleep. But  
I'd rather eat eggs.

INT. DINER - DAY

The 'club' has gathered around that aforementioned meal.

CINDY

When you are hoping for a hero  
exclusive, it's good to know the  
hero.

LINDSAY

I'm sure that the future therapists of the kids who witnessed me shoot a guy would disagree with your angle.

CLAIRE

I'm going to have to go with Cindy on this one. I'm positive my kids would force me to see the action movie.

LINDSAY

Thank you, you guys, but it's my job and, even then, it wasn't smart. Speaking of which...

She looks at Cindy.

CINDY

Seriously, not even this could make you forget you owe me a verbal spanking?

LINDSAY

I get why you did it. I do. And I know that I can't stop you from doing what you think is right, but, if you are going to insist on doing it, could I please get you to at least take the self defense course being offered by the department later this month? I don't know how much good it would have done you in that warehouse, but it might someday.

JILL

Is there a cute instructor?

LINDSAY

Yeah. Me.

JILL

Then count me in.

CLAIRE

Me too.

CINDY

That's a good idea.

INT. TOM'S OFFICE - DAY

Tom sits at his desk, lost in thought. Jacobi knocks on the door.

JACOBI

Aren't you going home? Get some rest for the next round?

TOM

Because that's what it will be, won't it?

Jacobi walks in, closes the door, takes a seat in front of Tom's desk.

TOM (CONT.)

To be able to do this job, I have to believe that the law sees everyone as equal across the board.

JACOBI

Some days can make that difficult.

TOM

Yeah. Things could have went really badly out there.

JACOBI

They could have.

TOM

And they could go really badly tomorrow when they pick another kid, and we get another call, maybe too late. We can't just keep going in and cleaning up the mess.

JACOBI

You said it yourself. We can't stop them if they want to kill each other.

TOM

No. We can't. Do you think you would be interested in a special assignment?

JACOBI

I'm not green. I don't agree to anything until I know what I'm getting myself into.

TOM

Fair enough.

INT. LINDSAY'S CAR - NIGHT

Lindsay is driving with Jacobi riding shotgun.

JACOBI

Do you know if your reporter got the word out?

LINDSAY

I don't have a deed of ownership, Jacobi. And, yes, if Cindy said that she'd spread the word, the word's been spread, I assure you.

JACOBI

Man, I hope someone shows up.

They turn the corner and both stare at the line of people stretching down the block next to the SOUP KITCHEN.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Lindsay pulls her SUV right up in the no parking zone in front of the soup kitchen. She and Jacobi get out of the car and walk inside.

INT. SOUP KITCHEN - NIGHT

Lindsay and Jacobi walk in.

The place is jam-packed with people, hence the long line waiting to get in.

Cindy, Jill and Claire stand together off to one side. Lindsay sees them and heads over to them. Jacobi follows.

LINDSAY

What are all of these people doing here?

JILL

Fine selection of entrées?

CINDY

What do you think?

Tom walks in. He's as shocked as they were. Jacobi walks over to meet him. They talk for a moment. Then Tom gets a chair and steps up on it.

TOM

If I could have everyone's attention. I'm Lieutenant Tom Hogan, San Francisco Police Department. If you're here, I assume you are interested in joining a citizens' patrol of your neighborhood, which is good because we really need your help. If for some reason you are in the wrong place and you want to go now, I think there are a few alternates waiting to get in.

People laugh, but no one leaves.

TOM (CONT.)

If you are all willing to do what you can to help us out, I promise you, the SFPD is going to do whatever we can to help you.

FADE TO BLACK