

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

17 ON THE PICTURE OF SALLY -- FROM THE FILE

17

...in Cynthia Keener's hands as she sits at HER DESK AT AMERITIPS...Allison stands on the other side of the office, still shaken by the events of her dream...

CYNTHIA

...Sally Greer. Comes from a nice family up in Cameron. Ran away nine months ago, right before she turned eighteen... history of alcohol and drug problems.

ALLISON

She was working as a prostitute.

...Cynthia nods, taking notes as Allison speaks...

CYNTHIA

On the street or a call service?

ALLISON

On the street. In the Maryvale area, maybe Van Buren street...I don't know that part of the city that well.

CYNTHIA

Thankfully, I know people who do. This is a good start, and I'm sure that...

(lifts a page from the file)

...Sally's parents -- Alan, a family doctor, and his wife, Jane, a stay-at-home mother -- who mortgaged their home to put our company on retainer, are going to be very happy to know we are following up on some new leads.

(a smile)

See, Allison? You and me.

...Allison nods, but her dream is fresh in her mind, and the joy of newfound partnership isn't putting her mind at ease...

ALLISON

Cynthia. In my dream...I can't imagine what I saw ending well. He was violent, and he had a dental chair in his house. It was creepy psychotic stuff.

(CONTINUED)

CYNTHIA

You are sure it was his house? Not an office or a medical practice.

ALLISON

Pretty sure.

CYNTHIA

And you think she's dead?
(off Allison's head shake)
So you didn't see him actually kill her.

ALLISON

No.

CYNTHIA

Then you understand how I'm not going to run to Alan and Jane with that, seeing as I have to lead with their daughter selling herself on the street.

(off Allison's nod)

But you can give us a make on the man's car? A full description of his face?

ALLISON

I think so. Yes.

CYNTHIA

I'll put you in with our composite artist, we'll update our website with the image, and we'll put men on the street with flyers, for both her and your...tooth maniac. Happy now?

ALLISON

I'll be happier if we find her alive. If he hasn't gotten to her yet.

CYNTHIA

I can only work so fast...but I am motivated. If we find this girl, we could commission over fifteen thousand dollars.

ALLISON

What if she's dead?

CYNTHIA

Closure is just as lucrative a result for us. You picked a good one.

ALLISON

I didn't pick anything.

(CONTINUED)

...Cynthia levels a stare at Allison, not liking her tone...

CYNTHIA
Ameritips isn't the P.D. We aren't in it
for the public weal. It is a business,
and I get paid whether you judge me or
not. So I'd prefer if you didn't.

...as Cynthia speaks, Allison's cellphone BUZZES...

CYNTHIA
Why don't you take that in the hallway?

...Allison nods, and as she steps out into...

18 THE HALLWAY OUTSIDE CYNTHIA'S OFFICE

18

...and puts cellphone to ear...

ALLISON
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

19 SCANLON -- AT THE POLICE STATION BULLPEN...

19

SCANLON
It's Lee Scanlon. I have a guy in for
questioning in that house fire case we
talked about.

ALLISON
A suspect?

SCANLON
Yeah. Turns out that the victim was in
the middle of a messy divorce -- and the
neighbors saw her soon-to-be ex coming
into the house right before the fire.
(then)
And get this -- he's already calling
defense attorneys -- but I think they can
smell the guilt on him, no one's bitten
yet.

ALLISON
That doesn't bode well for him.

SCANLON
I'd like you to take a look at him, see
if he matches up with what you saw -- any
chance you can come down to the station?

(CONTINUED)