

Guilt - Pilot

"STAN"

30.

ACT FOUR

INT./EXT. HOTEL SUITE - LATER

Olivia pounds angrily on a hotel door until Stan answers.

START →

OLIVIA
Stan Gutterie?

Sc. 1

➤ STAN
Ah, you must be the half-sister.

Olivia bristles at the distinction.

OLIVIA
Didn't they tell you I was at the station? *Waiting?*

➤ STAN
Like I'd risk Grace saying something stupid to you in front of the cops.

OLIVIA
Where is Grace?

➤ STAN
Oh, she's zonked. I gave her some pretty strong sedatives.

OLIVIA
You're her *lawyer*, not her doctor.

➤ STAN
I'm whatever she needs me to be to keep her ass out of jail.

OLIVIA
OK. No. This isn't gonna work. You know what I did while I was waiting around for you? I found out why you're not practicing law in the U.S. anymore.

➤ STAN
So?

OLIVIA
So, I don't want someone who would do this, representing my sister.

Olivia thrusts her iPad in Stan's face.

1/8

CLOSE ON a video of Stan, completely wasted, in a fancy restaurant, taking a piss on another man's dinner.

7 STAN

(chuckling)

It was a white truffle risotto.

OLIVIA

Are you proud of that?

7 STAN

Well, I'm not not proud.

Olivia can't believe this ass, but Stan has her number.

7 STAN (CONT'D)

Don't pretend this is why you're all worked up. You're pissed your step-dad didn't ask your advice before he hired a lawyer. You went to Harvard Law School. You're smarter than him, damn it!

Olivia's shocked - Stan's not just out of line, he's right.

7 STAN (CONT'D)

And it's true - Mensa isn't beating down James's door. But he's got one thing you don't - the killer instinct. Which is why he hired me. You? You're a good little prosecutor. You put bad guys away and it makes you feel really good about yourself. But what if it turns out that your sister's the bad guy? Are you gonna have the stones to do what it takes to get her off? To break the rules?

OLIVIA

You don't have to break the rules when you have the truth on your side. My sister didn't do this.

7 STAN

Let me fill you in on some of the *truths* that are already flying in this shitstorm. Do you know what your sister's alibi is? That she was banging some French douchebag when her friend was being murdered. That she was so coked up she doesn't remember walking through Molly's blood to take a leak.

(MORE)

7 STAN (CONT'D)

That's why she needs me. Someone willing to sell his soul to get her off. Now if you want to add any value to this brouhaha, make sure your idiot sister keeps her pie hole shut, while I go spin her fleeing the country BS into gold.

Olivia's reeling. Things are so much worse than she feared.

INT. MORGUE - LATER

Gwendolyn stands at a discrete distance as Patrick takes in his sister's lifeless body.

PATRICK

I should've been there to protect you. I should've...

(anguish turning to rage)

I'm going to find the bastard who did this to you, Molly. And when I do, I'm going to bring his head home to Ireland on a stake.

INT. MORGUE/HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Gwendolyn and Patrick walk in silence. Finally...

GWENDOLYN

I know you want someone to pay for what happened to your sister. But doing something that gets you thrown in jail won't help Molly. You have to trust the system.

PATRICK

To get justice for a Northern Irish girl? No offense, lady, but my people have been getting bent over by your system for centuries.

GWENDOLYN

Maybe you don't trust the system. But I promise, you can trust me.

This isn't just a line. Gwendolyn wants justice for Molly almost as much as Patrick.

INT. DIAVOLO - LATER

The club is packed. Roz works the DJ booth, but her eyes scan the crowd, from one beautiful girl to the next. She finally stops on a SEXY REDHEAD. Roz stares intently until the girl turns, now dancing just for Roz. Yes. This is the one.

END.

3/8

INT. UNIVERSITY LECTURE HALL - NEXT DAY

Prof. Linley - the man who spoke to Grace after class - is writing on the board when Meera, that student reporter walks in. We might notice she's showing a tad more cleavage than before.

MEERA

Excuse me, Professor Linley?

He looks up, pleased to see such an attractive student.

PROF. LINLEY

Yes?

MEERA

My name's Meera Patel. I'm with the Uni Paper. I'd like to talk to you about two of your students, Molly Quinn and Grace Atwood.

Professor Linley no longer looks so pleased.

EXT. NEW SCOTLAND YARD - LATER

Outside New Scotland Yard, Stan speaks to a mob of PRESS.

START →

7 STAN

Grace Atwood is a young girl, far from home, who woke up to find her best friend savagely murdered. Yes, Grace got on a train to Paris last night. But not because she's guilty of this heinous crime, because she feared for her life. Can you imagine the horror of discovering your friend disemboweled in your living room? Grace was terrified that she'd be next. And she was right to be scared, because what the Keystone Cops in there don't want anyone to know is that there are 14 unsolved murders in London. 14 female victims who were stabbed to death. Just like Molly.

SC. 2

A murmur goes up among the reporters, but Stan's on a roll.

7 STAN (CONT'D)

Jack the Ripper didn't spill that much blood. The police need to stop wasting time harassing an innocent, terrified, young girl.

(MORE)

4/8

> STAN (CONT'D)

And get busy finding the sadistic
butcher who's slaughtering the
women of this great city.

END.

The media is whipped into a frenzy. Just like Stan intended.

INT. NEW SCOTLAND YARD/DCI'S OFFICE - LATER

CLOSE ON a TV showing Stan's press conference. PULL OUT to
find Bruno, Pike and their boss, DCI THOMPSON, watching.
Thompson - a hardened vet - angrily switches it off.

DCI THOMPSON

How did Gutterie get those stats?

BRUNO

They're crap, sir. None of those
cases are remotely connected.

DCI THOMPSON

I don't want excuses! I want this
case solved before we become a
bloody laughing stock. Hell, I'm
still dealing with the fallout from
your kidnapping.

PIKE

Hey, we got the girl back, we got
the guy...

DCI THOMPSON

Well, you didn't get him to cough
that ransom back up, did you? We
can't afford another public fiasco.
We need to make an arrest before
this city goes into a full blown
Jack the Ripper panic.

BRUNO

Who do you want us to arrest? Luc?
The labs haven't come back on his
DNA yet - we don't even know if
he's the father of Molly's baby. Or
did you want me to bring in Grace?
'Cuz once Gutterie finds out about
the pregnancy, he's gonna have
every bloke Molly ever snogged in
line behind Jack the Ripper as an
alternative suspect. Talk about a
fiasco.

The DCI rolls his eyes, but Bruno has made his point.

5/8

ROZ (CONT'D)

Now you're perfect. Are you ready?

Kaley nods nervously. Roz dons her own mask, opens a door...

INT. UNDERGROUND CLUB - CONTINUOUS

And they enter a party straight out of EYES WIDE SHUT. The guests are dressed lavishly - or not at all - but they all wear masks. Naked girls swim in a giant aquarium. Aerial artists perform an erotic show above the guests' heads.

Roz makes eye contact with Nigel. He gives her a signal and Roz steers Kaley to a MASKED MAN and sends them off.

A FAT MAN approaches Roz.

FAT MAN

Where's your Irish friend?

ROZ

She...won't be coming back.

What strange, sordid world had Molly gotten herself into?

INT. STAN'S FLAT - LATER

Stan enters his flat, pours himself a stiff one, and heads for his terrace. He makes a clicking noise, calling that squirrel, but stops when he sees...

Its corpse, right outside his door. Stan squats, studying it. Even though Stan is a son of a bitch, we're sad for him.

But Stan isn't. He smiles.

He grabs the tongs from his grill. He's carrying the squirrel to the trash when there's a knock at the door. It's Olivia.

START →

OLIVIA

Where the hell have you been?

Stan waves that dead squirrel around hospitably.

→ STAN

Please, come in. Help yourself to whatever. Just don't eat the nuts.

He nods to a bowl. Clearly the squirrel's downfall.

OLIVIA

O-K. Well, while you've been killing squirrels, the press has been eating Grace alive.

Sc. 3

6/8

> STAN

Oh, Olivia. You see somebody taking a big dump in your Chardonnay, and I see somebody handing me a 20 year old single malt.

OLIVIA

Are you ever not a complete ass?

> STAN

I'm just suggesting you look for silver linings - The Source just handed us an alternative suspect.

OLIVIA

You think Linley killed Molly?

> STAN

Who knows. But I'm sure I can make it look like he did. I dug into him today and guess what - Grace isn't the only star of CCTV. I've got footage of Linley leaving his house at 1:16 the night Molly was killed and not returning until after 5:00. Where was he all night, while his poor wife lay in traction?

OLIVIA

How'd you get this footage?

> STAN

I have my sources.

OLIVIA

I'm sure. Look Stan, you were right the other day. I can't stand James. And I don't trust him. And since he's paying your outrageous fee, I don't trust you either. So I'm staying in London until this case is over. And I'm going to make sure that at least one of us is actually defending Grace.

Stan dumps that squirrel in the trash - tongs and all.

> STAN

So you're going to put your life on hold. Abandon your fiance and your hot shot career. To slug it out in a foreign legal system alongside a colleague you don't trust.

(MORE)

7/8

STAN (CONT'D)

For a sister whose behavior you so obviously disapprove of?

OLIVIA

Grace's innocent. And I'm going to prove it.

7 STAN

You still think your sister is innocent? That's touching. But if you really want to help Grace, you need to stop caring whether she's innocent, and start caring about who else looks guilty. Luckily, in a case this dirty, there's plenty of guilt to go around. We just have to sniff it out. Coax it out. But don't worry, we will. Even if they didn't slit that girl's throat, there's more than one person out there with Molly's blood on their hands.

END.

As Stan speaks we see QUICK CUTS of our potential suspects:

- Luc - a rubber tie taut across his arm, needle in hand.
- James nurses a Scotch on a terrace with the twinkling lights of a foreign city spread before him.
- Prince Robert emerges from a steamy shower - raw, red claw marks mar his chest.
- Roz stands on the outskirts of that erotic party. Watching.
- Prof. Linley fights his way through a mob of press outside his house. He finally slams the door on them, only to find...Patrick. Waiting inside for him.
- A PAKISTANI TEENAGER stares out his bedroom window at Molly's flat across the street. As he watches, he holds her stuffed monkey to his nose and inhales deeply.
- Grace, in her bra and underwear, paints her toenails and laughs as she watches an episode of South Park.

We GO CLOSE on her face, until we're TIGHT ON HER EYES. Beautiful. Enigmatic. Are these the eyes of a killer?

END OF PILOT

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8/8