

Role: TANYA

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INT. CF&S LAW FIRM - CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

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**START →
#1**

Margaret sticks her head into the conference room to see TANYA (40s-50s, controlled with a hint of nervousness, frizzy hair with a STREAK OF GRAY) sitting at the head of the table.

MARGARET

Excuse me--

TANYA

I'm here about Jesse Flegel.

MARGARET

(perplexed) Oh! Really? That's great, do you have new evidence that can help us exonerate him? We're actually running out of time--

TANYA

No. Either you reverse everything you've done to help him - your appeals, the Governor, everything--

Tanya opens her coat: a bomb strapped around her waist.

TANYA (CONT'D)

Or everyone in this office dies.

Off Margaret, horrified.



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Margaret sits, fearful. Tanya closes her coat, controlled.

TANYA

So: your client Jesse Flegel must die today. At 6PM.

MARGARET

(carefully) Who are you? Why do you want Jesse dead? (off Tanya's silence) Listen, you may not know this, but Jesse is *innocent*. And I cannot advocate putting an innocent man to death. Tell me what you need, I will help you--

TANYA

(slightly unnerved) Listen, I'm in control here. You do as I say, or this bomb goes off. Okay?

Margaret, in shock, nods. Tanya continues, calmer; almost-rehearsed.

TANYA (CONT'D)

It will be 'business as usual' around the office. Keep the bomb a secret. If you tell anyone, the whole firm will explode. Got it?

MARGARET

You want me to... argue *for* the death penalty?

TANYA

Yes. Think of it as *saving* all the lives of the people in this office.

MARGARET

(horrified) You want me to trade one life, for forty?

TANYA

That's exactly right.

MARGARET

How do I even know that's a real bomb?

(CONTINUED)

Role: TANYA

TANYA

Trust me, it's real. Please stop stalling, Margaret.

MARGARET

I don't have any of my things...
I... I can't do anything from here.
I need my case files, my phone;
they're in my office--

TANYA

Fine, happy to go with you. (nods)
And then we'll come right back.

Tanya stands, walks to the door. Margaret slowly follows.

← **END**

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

Margaret is watching a screen behind Tanya, that Tanya cannot see.

ON SCREEN: Todd flips to the next card:

"OWEN IS LISTEN"

Margaret stares at it, trying to puzzle it out...

TANYA

(panicked) How do you know my name?

ON SCREEN: Francey's hand enters frame from below as she uses a MARKER to correct the sign and add "-ing" so now it reads:
"OWEN IS LISTEN-ING."

Tanya is close to meltdown, her shaking fingers touching the earpiece.

TANYA (CONT'D)

You're not supposed to know that.

Margaret grabs a pad and writes a note to her: "Owen killed Vivian?" A tear runs down Tanya's face, she covers her mouth with a hand... finally, Tanya nods. Margaret rolls the dice and writes: "You're not a killer. This isn't you."

Margaret looks back up at the screen where: Todd holds up a final card: **"MY NAME IS HANK"** and hurries out of frame.

Margaret writes: "We're going to figure this out. Trust me."

Todd enters pushing a VACUUM cleaner.

TODD

(thick Russian accent) So sorry Ms. Margaret. I forgot to vacuum earlier.

MARGARET

(fully on board) Hank! Can't you do this later? We're in a meeting.

TODD

Yes. Yes. Just a few minutes! Very fast. No need to move!

Todd flips on the vacuum cleaner. VRRRRRRRRRRRR!

Margaret turns to Tanya, points to her ear, and mouths "earpiece?" Tanya nods yes - Margaret motions for Tanya to give it to her. A beat as Tanya considers - her conscience battling her fear. Finally... She gives the earpiece to Margaret who places it on the table near the vacuum, to be drowned out by the sound.

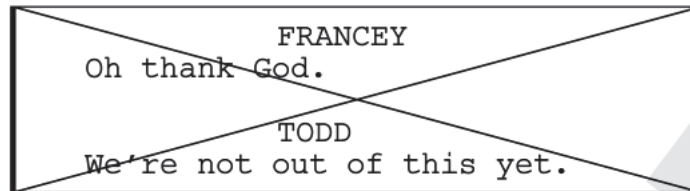
The vacuum still running, Margaret and Tanya follow Todd out--

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INT. CF&S LAW FIRM - KITCHEN - DAY

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Lyle and Francey are waiting as Margaret, Tanya and Todd hurry in.



START → Lyle peers at Tanya's detonator.

#2

TANYA
It's not real.

TANYA CLICKS the detonator to demonstrate: AH!! BUT - NOTHING HAPPENS. Lyle examines the bomb strapped to Tanya.

LYLE
(shocked) I'm sorry to tell you this; but *the bomb is real. It has a power source, wires, a lead, and an initiator; a pipe bomb.* (off Tanya's disbelief) You have a fake detonator, but there's still a real one out there. It must be with--

TANYA
(aghast) Owen. He... he put a *real bomb on me?!*

She stumbles back, appalled. Margaret steadies her.

MARGARET
He put you in danger. We can help.

TANYA
But he swore it was all fake!
(covers her mouth) All of the people here could've... I could've--

She can't go on; horrified. Margaret grabs her shoulders.

MARGARET
I know this is confusing, Tanya. But right now, while that vacuum cleaning noise is covering up your communication with Owen, I need you to focus: you have three minutes to tell me everything you know.



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INT. CF&S LAW FIRM - KITCHEN - DAY

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Margaret, Todd, Lyle and Francey look to Tanya expectantly, but she's clammed up. Margaret nods to Francey and Lyle.

~~FRANCEY~~

~~We'll check on the vacuum.~~

continue -->

TANYA

Wait. You can't take this off me?

LYLE

It's locked. I'm sorry.

Francey and Lyle exit. Tanya begins to hyperventilate.

TANYA

He told me it was fake. He... he told me it was fake--

MARGARET

It sounds like you and Owen were close; why would he do this to you?

Tanya wells up, the implication of Margaret's words hit her.

TANYA

We bonded over Hot Fries from the campus vending machine, and our mutual love of otters. Owen was my professor--

TODD

--at Portland City College. He taught Electrical Engineering.

MARGARET

Which is how he made the bomb.

TANYA

We got together when I graduated. He was like... that rare gentleman that doesn't exist anymore; he treated me like a queen. He's made me jasmine tea every morning since we met. I let him do everything. I never did anything for myself, because he always had the plan.

Her words land on Todd.

(CONTINUED)

TANYA (CONT'D)

He said we deserved a good life. He had wild ideas to get us rich. But all he did was get us into debt.

MARGARET

So Owen came up with a plan that involved his Aunt Vivian--

TODD

You went to her house, as repair persons, wearing masks and hats--

TANYA

Yes; Owen said we were just going to take some things. But then we *didn't*! Nothing. Owen told me to drive away in the van; but he stayed behind. When I found out Vivian had died, he denied that he did it; but one night he got drunk and made me promise I'd never leave him 'cause he killed Vivian *for me*.

MARGARET

(shakes head) And Owen thought he'd gotten away with killing his aunt until I filed the emergency motion--

~~TODD~~

~~He saw it on the news--~~

MARGARET

And knew Jesse's testimony about the scar would incriminate him.

TANYA

I'm so sorry I went along with it. He said he'd turn me in. I didn't know what to do. (remorseful) I had no idea about the bomb being real.

MARGARET

Tanya, will you testify? I can probably get you off on an accomplice charge. (off Tanya taking this in). He strapped a bomb to you, Tanya.

TANYA

Yes, I'll testify.

MARGARET

Good. Let's go.

Margaret, Todd and Tanya rush back to the conference room.