

OZARK - Spec

Episode 401 - "Crosshairs"

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PREVIOUSLY ON

Financial advisor Marty Byrde witnesses his business partner's murder after a money laundering scheme for a Mexican drug cartel goes wrong. Marty avoids a similar fate by offering to set up a bigger laundering operation in the Ozarks. Marty relocates his wife Wendy, and kids Jonah and Charlotte, from Chicago to a remote community in Missouri, where they become ensnared with local criminals like the Langmore and Snell families, and later the Kansas City Mob. Their commitment to Omar Navarro and his drug cartel is tested at every turn, as is cartel lawyer Helen Pierce's tolerance of them.

The Byrdes' riverboat casino is now central in the FBI investigation and audit of Byrde Enterprises, putting the future of the Navarro cartel, and The Byrdes' lives, at risk.

Ben Davis' (Wendy's troubled brother) arrival adds tension to Marty and Wendy's conflict. He falls in love with Ruth Langmore, and later in a crazed outburst seals his fate when he outs Helen as a cartel lawyer in front of her daughter. Wendy proves her loyalty by handing her brother over to cartel hitman Nelson, who kills him. She saves her family, but loses Ruth, who cuts ties with The Byrdes. Ben's death also deeply wounds Jonah Bryde, his nephew.

Ruth Langmore, part of a family of local criminals, is integral to The Byrdes' operations. But her loyalties constantly shift. She kills her uncles, harming her relationship with her cousin Wyatt; and her father, Cade, is murdered on an order from Wendy. Ruth is later brutally beat by KC mobster Frank Cosgrove Jr. without any retribution from The Byrdes. And Ruth is now grieving Ben.

Agent Maya Miller, FBI agent and forensic accountant, is sent to take Marty Byrde down. Marty declines her offer to cooperate with the FBI, but Agent Miller continues to push him to take the deal, worried about his safety. She is near the end of her pregnancy.

Darlene Snell's heroin business is ruined when The Byrdes come to town. She is quick to kill anyone in her way, including her husband, and a pregnant woman whose baby she then takes. Darlene is in an intimate relationship with young Wyatt Langmore, and plans to revive her heroin business.

Helen Pierce, Navarro's Chicago based cartel lawyer, believes Wendy and Marty are a liability and makes a plan to kick them out. The Byrdes catch on and make a move to appease Navarro. The Byrdes win and Omar has Helen shot at his property in Mexico, her blood splattering Marty and Wendy who were standing next to her.

TEASER

EXT. RUTH'S TRAILER - DAY

BEN DAVIS, rugged yet handsome, stands at the grill outside Ruth's trailer. He exudes joy as he cooks hot dogs and burgers. Classic rock music plays from a radio. The sun is soft but bright.

RUTH LANGMORE exits her trailer carrying a couple of beers. Her cousins WYATT LANGMORE and THREE LANGMORE sit on the dingy couch in the yard playing cards and jokingly arguing.

WYATT

You cheated...

THREE

And you're sleeping with an old woman.

Ruth, amused, hands Wyatt and Three a beer each.

RUTH

Three's got a point.

Ruth glides over to Ben and hands him a beer. They share a kiss and a smile. Ben continues smiling at her...

RUTH (CONT'D)

...what?

BEN

Knock, knock?

RUTH

Fuck you.

BEN

That's not how these jokes work.  
Knock, knock?

RUTH

... who's there?

BEN

Leon.

RUTH

... Leon who?

BEN  
(singing earnestly)  
Leon meeee, when you're not  
stronggg, and I'll be your  
friend...

Ben cracks himself up, making Ruth laugh.

Ruth goes and sits by Wyatt and Three, and looks back at Ben. The two share a look of true happiness and contentment. Ruth closes her eyes, taking in the breeze, when a black SUV suddenly pulls into the drive way.

Dark clouds begin to roll in and start to block out the sun. Ruth and her cousins quickly stand, but Ruth freezes as she catches a glimpse of the driver through the windshield - it is NELSON, the familiar Omar Navarro drug cartel hitman.

Nelson gingerly steps out of his car. Despite all his dark deeds, he is still a mysterious man of very few words. He stands and calls out to Ben, beckoning him, like the angel of death.

Ben looks to Ruth, with the knowledge that he must go with Nelson. Ruth is paralyzed, some kind of force holding her to the ground. As Ben begins walking towards Nelson, Ruth bellows and calls to him.

RUTH  
BEN! FUCKING STOP! BEN! PLEASE!

Ben can't hear her. Ruth continues to scream.

As Ben reaches Nelson, Nelson withdraws his signature side arm, and as he pulls the trigger to shoot Ben in the head..

INT. RUTH'S TRAILER - MORNING

Ruth's eyes shoot open as she wildly sits up in her bed.

RUTH  
BEN!  
(Taking in her reality)  
Ben... Fuck.

The sun is just peaking through the curtains. Ruth looks next to her at the empty spot in her bed. She is in her trailer, all by herself. Ben is really dead.

Tears in her eyes, she slowly lays back down. She tries to slow her heaving breaths, and pulls the covers over her face.

END OF TEASER

## MAIN TITLES

ACT ONE

INT. THE MISSOURI BELLE CASINO - DAY

The bells and whistles of the casino are heard over mumbled conversations - the sounds of the Missouri Belle in full swing. Customers are playing black jack, roulette, slot machines, etc, while waitress's bring them drinks. It is bright and lively.

WENDY BYRDE politely but authoritatively makes her way through the masses, towards the back office. She wears her signature smile.

WENDY

(to a customer)

Hi, there.

(To a different customer)

So good to see you.

NEW CUSTOMER

Hi, Wendy!

WENDY

Oh, hi! Tell your mother hello for me.

INT. BIG MUDDY CASINO - DAY

The bells and whistles of the Big Muddy Casino are heard over one customer yelling at another at the black jack table. Customers are scattered, playing poker, roulette, slot machines, etc. It is bright and lively, very much like the atmosphere over at the Missouri Belle Casino, but not as crowded.

MARTY BYRDE is standing with a group of his newest employees, waiters and waitresses. He's in the middle of giving them instructions.

MARTY

Ok, great. Does anyone have any other questions before we get to work for the day?

WAITRESS

Do we get a lunch break?

MARTY

Yes, Lauren, you get a lunch break.  
Just don't spend it with Lance in  
the utility closet.

Collective laughter. Marty is ready to get back to work.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Ok, everybody. Let's go make some  
money.

Everyone disperses.

INTERCUT WENDY / MARTY

Wendy picks up an empty drink from another customer as she  
walks across the Missouri Belle floor.

WENDY

Can I get you another?

CUSTOMER

That'd be great, thank you.

Waiting on customers is not Wendy's usual routine, but she  
smiles through it, taking solace in the fact that she is in  
charge.

Marty stands and surveys the rest of Big Muddy Casino, his  
usual calm demeanor doing its best to mask an underlying  
sense of urgency.

MARTY

(To a customer)

Can I get you another?

CUSTOMER

Sure thing. Thanks.

Wendy continues through the Missouri Bell Casino. We only now  
notice that there are multiple FBI AGENTS in suits present,  
aiding in the ongoing audit of Byrde Enterprises.

Wendy is abruptly intercepted by a pair of FBI agents, AGENT  
RODENBURG and AGENT DANNER. They remind her of The Odd  
Couple, providing a fleeting moment of levity.

AGENT RODENBURG

Excuse me. Mrs. Byrde?

WENDY

Yep, that's me.

(Looking from one agent to  
the other)

(MORE)

WENDY (CONT'D)

Can I interest you boys in a game of blackjack?

AGENT RODENBURG

(Smiles, then back to business)

We're here to assist Agent Miller. If you could show me to the office...

WENDY

Of course... Right this way.

Wendy turns and escorts the Agent Rodenburg to the office.

Marty meanders through the Big Muddy Casino. Before Marty notices her, we catch a glimpse of FBI agent MAYA MILLER standing off to the side, scanning the activity in the casino. Now towards the end of her pregnancy, she eyes Marty as he makes his rounds, laser focused.

Marty finally notices her. He pauses, smiles and waves to her. There is a glimpse of their old "friendship". Agent Miller considers this for a beat, and then politely waves back, turns, and walks to the office.

Marty watches her uneasily as she goes...

INT. THE MISSOURI BELLE CASINO - DAY

Wendy is back on the floor of the Casino, now talking with Agent Danner.

Wendy's signature smile is on, but her defenses are up. They are mid conversation.

WENDY

... I wish I had a good answer for you.

(Always the good hostess)

But if you want a barbecue recommendation, you could always head out over anddd...

Wendy's focus shifts from Agent Danner to the entrance of the casino behind him, as the doors swing open and Ruth enters.

Ruth immediately darts down the side of the floor among the slot machines, her head lowered.

WENDY (CONT'D)

...check out...the place...over by...

Wendy's attention snaps back to Agent Danner.

WENDY (CONT'D)

... Can you hold on for just one second? I'm so sorry. I need to speak with an employee.

AGENT DANNER

Sure. I'll be here.

Wendy briskly walks away mid-reply. As Ruth comes up the side of the casino floor, Wendy aims to cut her off.

Ruth eyes Wendy's approach through the gaps in the slot machines. Ruth had hoped to avoid this confrontation.

RUTH

(under her breath)

Goddammit.

Wendy rounds the row of slot machines and comes face to face with Ruth. Wendy greets her, wrapping her arms around Ruth in a big hug - an awkward, excessive gesture. Ruth doesn't return the sentiment.

WENDY

Ruth. It's so good to see you.

RUTH

Sure it is.

Ruth retreats.

WENDY

How've you been?

RUTH

Fine.

WENDY

We've been busy here. Unbelievably busy. You came back just in time -

RUTH

(interrupting)

Listen, I just came by to pick up my stuff.

Wendy isn't going to give up.

RUTH (CONT'D)

My last paycheck too.



WENDY

Of course. Whatever you need.

Wendy turns, and the two of them begin to walk towards the back of the casino.

WENDY (CONT'D)

(shifting tactics)

Like I said, it's been crazy around here and we've missed you... We really could use some help.

RUTH

... Then hire someone.

WENDY (CONT'D)

With two casinos now, it's too much for just Marty and me...

Listen, I totally understand that you needed some time away. But if you aren't tied up, we would love for you to come back.

RUTH (CONT'D)

I'm not interested, lady.

Wendy steps in front of Ruth and turns to face her.

WENDY

Ruth. You are a part of our team. Our family.

RUTH

Just gimme my shit so I can get the hell out of here.

Off of Wendy's silence, Ruth heads for the back office, leading the way now. She then stops and turns to face Wendy, the hint of a wicked smile on her face.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Anyways, I think I will be busy soon. Got an offer from Darlene.

Ruth turns and disappears into the back.

Wendy absorbs this slap in the face.

A CUSTOMER approaches her, talking, but Wendy doesn't hear her. Her mind races considering the danger posed by Darlene and Ruth joining forces.

INT. BIG MUDDY CASINO - OFFICE - DAY

Marty sits at his desk starring at a computer monitor with a live stream of security footage for the Big Muddy Casino. He enjoys this reprieve - some time alone.

Marty clicks through the camera channels when his office door abruptly opens. Marty looks up and freezes as Nelson enters the room, and softly shuts the door. Nelson is usually only ever around when he is going to kill someone.

NELSON

Marty.

Nelson reaches into his jacket. Marty, expecting it to be a pistol, jumps up to begin his usual bargaining.

MARTY

Hey look, c'mon, there are FBI all over this place, I really think --

Marty is interrupted as Nelson smiles, and pulls out a bottle of water. Nelson takes a sip as he surveys Marty's office.

NELSON

Nice office.

MARTY

Thanks...

Nelson saunters over to Agent Millers desk on the other side of the room and sits.

MARTY (CONT'D)

So, not that it's not a pleasure to see you...

(Uneasy pause)

But what are you doing here?

NELSON

Helen is gone. The mob now works for your competition. We think you need some help.

MARTY

Wait, what? My competition...

Darlene?

Nelson ignores this question.

NELSON

Two casinos now means more money in. More money cleaned.

Marty laughs, hoping this is a joke. Then regrets it.

MARTY

It's just not possible right now.  
We just opened this casino. It will  
take a few months to build a  
customer base and to start turning  
a profit.

Nelson sits unfazed.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(Direct)

There isn't enough money moving  
through this casino right now.

Nelson has orders.

NELSON

He says that you'll start right  
away.

MARTY

... I don't understand. We were  
just there. We were just in Mexico  
with him. He said nothing about  
this.

NELSON

It's been two months.

Marty hopes for more of an explanation, but isn't going to  
get one. He takes a deep breathe as he eyes Nelson.

INT. WENDY'S CAR - DAY

Wendys car engine roars - the speed dial is definitely over  
the limit. Needing a pick me up, she hits a few buttons on  
the car console screen, and the phone starts ringing.

EXT. THE BYRDE'S POWER BOAT - THE LAKE - DAY

CHARLOTTE BYRDE and JONAH BYRDE sit silently in their boat,  
engine off, just drifting. It's a beautiful day on the water.

Charlotte's phone rings. She and Jonah are both supposed to  
be at home.

INT. WENDY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

CHARLOTTE (V.O.)  
(on phone)  
Hi, mom.

WENDY  
Hey sweetie. How's your day going?

INTERCUT: WENDY AND CHARLOTTE PHONE CALL

CHARLOTTE  
It's fine... Just busy working.

Jonah snickers at this lie.

WENDY  
That's good... How are the ads for  
the Big Muddy coming along?

CHARLOTTE  
So far, so good. I should probably  
get back to them.

Wendy eases up on the gas.

WENDY  
Ok, honey.  
(beat)  
Hey, is Jonah around? Can you put  
him on the phone?

Wendy waits, full of hope, but also with a sense that she  
already knows he won't speak with her. Cars are now passing  
her.

Charlotte knows what the answer will be. But she looks at  
Jonah and motions to the phone. Jonah shakes his head "no".

CHARLOTTE  
He's busy. Sorry, mom.

Wendy is a bit teary-eyed, but forces a smile for herself.

WENDY  
That's okay. Tell him I love him.  
I'll see you guys later.

Wendy hangs up the phone. The car engine roars again as she  
puts more pressure on the gas, starring straight ahead.

EXT. THE BYRDE'S POWER BOAT - THE LAKE - CONTINUOUS

Charlotte hangs up the phone and stares at Jonah.

CHARLOTTE

You know you're going to have to  
forgive mom one of these days.

Jonah lets out an uncharacteristic chuckle. Charlotte is not amused.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

Seriously.

JONAH

I don't have to do anything.

CHARLOTTE

She tried to save Uncle Ben.

(pause)

He was sick, Jonah. And they would  
have killed our entire family.

Jonah won't look at her.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

So you're just going to be mad  
forever?

JONAH

They can't just keep doing whatever  
they want. Not worrying about who  
they hurt.

CHARLOTTE

Who?

JONAH

Mom. And Dad.

(pause)

They're bad people. We all are.

A punch to the gut, Charlotte looks out at the water.

INT. BIG MUDDY CASINO - OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Wendy abruptly opens Marty's office door and enters. Marty looks up from his desk, surprised to see her, and half expecting it to be Nelson again.

WENDY

Hey, you got a second?

MARTY

Uh, yup. Yeah. What's up?

Marty goes to peer out the office door, making sure they are clear of the FBI for the moment. He shuts the door, and turns to Wendy.

MARTY (CONT'D)

What's going on?

WENDY

I saw Ruth today. At The Missouri Belle.

MARTY

Oh... Well, that's nice.

(Pause)

You came all the way over here to tell me that in person?

WENDY

She came to pick up the last of her things... And I asked her to come back to work.

MARTY

Hm. How did that go?

WENDY

She's considering an offer from Darlene.

A rare moment of shock for Marty.

MARTY

Jesus Christ.

WENDY

That was my reaction.

MARTY

Well, good for her. Evidently Darlene's made a deal with our old pal Frank Cosgrove too.

Wendy adds this to their already long list of challenges.

WENDY

(Stays on course)

No, not good for her. And not good for us. We need her, Marty. She knows our entire operation, inside and out. And I'm treading water by myself over at the Missouri Belle.

Marty sits down, listening, but preoccupied.

WENDY (CONT'D)

So. How do you want to handle this?

Silence.

WENDY (CONT'D)

We can't outwit them, Marty - not if they're all together. And you know that... Darlene, the Mob, and Ruth -

MARTY

And Nelson... I had a visitor today.

Wendy senses the floor might cave in and swallow her. She hasn't seen Nelson since they witnessed him kill Helen in Mexico.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(off her reaction)

Uh huh. And it seems like we'll be seeing more of him. He came with a message from Navarro, who wants more money cleaned now that we have both casinos. And on top of that, Agent Miller is still up my ass and over my shoulder. So I'd say I have a few more pressing things to worry about other than Ruth and who she may or may not be working for.

Silence.

WENDY

We need Ruth, Marty... Or ...

(She can't believe she's proposing this)

Or we need to ask Navarro for more help.

MARTY

Uh huh. Good one. Let's just kill ourselves while we're at it.

WENDY

I'm serious.

MARTY

I'm not sure how asking for more help will prove how valuable we are to the cartel.

(MORE)

MARTY (CONT'D)  
(looking at Wendy)  
Let's talk about Ruth tonight.

Wendy nods. As she turns to leave...

MARTY (CONT'D)  
Game face on, Wendy.

Marty and Wendy share an understanding look.

As Wendy goes to exit, there is a glint in her eye. She has a plan of her own.

END OF ACT ONE



ACT TWO

EXT. BUDDY'S MAUSOLEUM - AFTERNOON - LATER

Wendy carefully steps out of the mausoleum and into the sunlight, checking right and left to make sure no one is around. She spots an elderly couple and waves.

After a few beats, Wendy steps back inside and grabs a large black duffle bag. She steps out, locks the mausoleum, and starts back to her car, resolute.

INT. BIG MUDDY CASINO - HALLWAY

Marty strides down the hallway outside his office carrying a cup of coffee. He's finishing a casual conversation with an employee, JERRY, who is out of sight in the hall. They both laugh at an unheard joke.

MARTY

Sounds good, Jerry. And thanks for your help.

JERRY (O.S.)

No problem, Marty.

Marty walks into his office and shuts the door.

INT. BIG MUDDY CASINO - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Marty goes to sit at his desk, but stops suddenly when he spots a small unmarked box sitting on top.

Marty takes a sip of his coffee, puts the cup down, and slowly sits. He turns his attention to the box, and inspects it - lift it, smells it, gives it a small shake.

More confident, Marty cuts the tape on the box, and carefully opens it.

Leaping up out of his seat...

MARTY

Jesus, fuck!...

Marty is not sure what he saw. After composing himself, he steps back to the desk and peers into the box.

Inside, in a plastic bag, sits a pair of human lips. And next to them a note. Marty reaches in to grab the note quickly, as if the lips might jump out and bite him.

Marty opens the note, and reads -

ON THE NOTE

**I THOUGHT YOU COULD SUCCEED WITHOUT HELEN. MAYBE NOT.  
HOPEFULLY A PIECE OF HER WILL MOTIVATE YOU.**

ON MARTY

Suddenly feeling like he's being watched, Marty shoots a look out his office windows.

Marty turns to look at the monitor of security footage. There, sitting in the parking lot, sits the familiar back SUV. The box is a present from Nelson.

INT. OMAR NAVARRO'S HOME - MEXICO - SIMULTANEOUSLY

OMAR NAVARRO sits casually with his feet up on his desk, phone to his ear.

                          NAVARRO  
                  Everything in order?

INT. NELSON'S SVU - OUTSIDE BIG MUDDY CASINO - CONTINUOUS

Nelson is on the phone with Navarro. From the drivers seat, Nelson watches Marty frantically looking out the windows. Mission accomplished.

                          NELSON  
                  Yes.

                          NAVARRO (V.O.)  
                  Good.  
                  (pause)  
                  And the agent?

INT. OMAR NAVARRO'S HOME - MEXICO - CONTINUOUS

                          NELSON (V.O.)  
                  Tonight.

                          NAVARRO  
                  Remember, no blood. Not yet.

Navarro hangs up the phone, empowered.

INT. BIG MUDDY CASINO - OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Backing away from the window, Marty grabs the box and locks it in his desk drawer.

Marty sits down, and leans back in his chair. The room feels like it's spinning.

MARTY

Fuck!

He picks up his phone and dials Wendy's number.

INT. WENDY'S CAR - AFTERNOON

As Wendy drives, her phone rings. Seeing it's Marty, she considers answering but instead hits decline.

EXT. RUTH'S DRIVEWAY - CONTINUOUS

Wendy pulls her car into Ruth's driveway and parks.

Already projecting her plan's success, Wendy reaches to the passenger seat and grabs the duffle bag. She steps out, shuts her car door, and begins her victory march towards Ruth.

INT. RUTH'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Ruth spots Wendy from her front window, and begrudgingly comes outside.

EXT. RUTH'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

Ruth stands outside her door, put off by Wendy showing up unannounced.

As Wendy approaches...

RUTH

What is it now?

WENDY

I have a proposition.

RUTH

(spotting the duffle bag)  
Oh, you gonna fucking pay me to  
kill someone else for you?

Wendy pretends to be amused.

Reaching Ruth's porch, Wendy tosses the duffle bag to the bottom of the porch stairs.

WENDY

\$50,000.

RUTH

I don't want your fuckin' money.

WENDY

Ok then. What do you want?

RUTH

(gathers herself)

I want to know how Ben died.

WENDY

I've already told you.

Ruth comes down the porch stairs, and steps over the duffle bag to approach Wendy.

RUTH

And I still don't believe you're tellin' me everything.

This is not how Wendy expected this meeting to go.

WENDY

... Do you think you are the only one who misses him? He was my brother.

(willing herself to believe what she will say next)

And I did everything I could for him.

Ruth is fed up hearing the same story over and over again.

Wendy considers her words carefully. She needs to win.

WENDY (CONT'D)

I know that my brother loved you, and he would want you to be taken care of. He was my family...and so are you. Let us take care of you the way Ben would want.

Ruth doesn't know whether to be touched, or nauseous.

WENDY (CONT'D)

(referring to the duffle bag)

(MORE)

WENDY (CONT'D)

I'm offering you that, and more, to come back to work.

RUTH

... what's "more"?

WENDY

You've got to come back to find out.

Ruth is unmoved.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Just think about it.

Wendy knows she's making headway, and for affect, moves as though she is leaving. Then turns back to go in for the kill.

WENDY (CONT'D)

And one more thing. I know you are considering going to work for Darlene. And it's an attractive offer. Truly. But I think you should have all the information... You need to know that Darlene has also made a deal to work with Frank Cosgrove.

Wendy lets this bombshell settle. This is news to Ruth. And it was Frank Cosgrove's son who almost beat Ruth to death not long ago.

WENDY (CONT'D)

We miss you, Ruth.

Wendy smiles, and heads back to her car, leaving Ruth to collect herself after this final blow.

In shock, Ruth turns and walks back into her trailer. The duffle bag remains outside untouched.

INT. BIG MUDDY CASINO - OFFICE - AFTERNOON

The blinds of Marty's office are closed. The clicking of his key board can be heard, as well as the dull hum of the action taking place in the casino outside his door.

Marty hunches over his desk trying to give himself some semblance of privacy from Agent Miller, who sits quietly at the desk on the other side of the room.

Marty has multiple tabs open on his computer. He is researching high end security systems.

Agent Miller looks up from her work, and glances over at Marty.

Breaking the silence...

AGENT MILLER  
You okay over there?

MARTY  
(keeping his eyes on his  
computer)  
Yup.

Agent Miller wants to talk.

AGENT MILLER  
You know, I don't know what  
happened while you were in Mexico.  
But you've been real short on words  
since you've come back.

MARTY  
It was a nice vacation. But I don't  
think we should be talking.

AGENT MILLER  
I think talking is exactly what you  
need to be doing.

Marty is silent, still paying attention to his computer.

Agent Miller, with much effort, holding her pregnant belly, stands and walks to Marty.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)  
(sitting down in front of  
his desk)  
You know, Marty, we could have had  
a good thing. I offered you a great  
deal with the FBI, and you could  
have been knocking out some of your  
jail time by now.

MARTY  
Jail didn't sound so appealing to  
me.

They look at one another. Marty knows he pissed away his chance to make a deal with her.

AGENT MILLER

... You're too smart for your own good, Marty. I hope it doesn't get you killed.

Agent Miller slowly walks back to her desk. Before she gets there, she turns back to Marty.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

You know your friend, Sam Dermody? The one who gambled away all his money in here for you... Poor guy, he had no idea what he was helping you do.

MARTY

I have no idea what you're talking about. Sam clearly has a gambling problem.

AGENT MILLER

Well he's been very talkative. Whatever problem he has is going to be made a whole lot better when he makes a deal with me.

Agent Miller sits at her desk. She won this round.

Marty tries to hide his acute sense of alarm. If Sam is leaning towards helping the FBI build a case against The Byrdes, they're in deep shit.

EXT. RUTH'S TRAILER - AFTERNOON

Ruth sits on the dingy couch in her front yard, drinking a beer and lost in thought. The duffle bag still sits where Wendy dropped it.

A car is heard pulling up and takes her out of her reverie.

Ruth's cousin, Wyatt Langmore, steps out of the car and approaches her.

WYATT

Hey.

Ruth stands and smiles, then launches into a full-frontal attack.

RUTH

What in the fuck is Darlene doing makin' deals with Frank Cosgrove?

Wyatt is blindsided.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Whatever way I was leaning before about working with Darlene don't matter now, cause' I sure as shit want nothing to do with the fucks who tried to kill me --

WYATT

(cutting her off)

Whoa, whoa - okay, calm down... I can't even get a "hi" first?

Ruth regains her composure, and sits back down on the couch. Deep breaths.

WYATT (CONT'D)

Darlene was the one who went and got revenge for you. She shot that fucker in the dick, remember?

Ruth knows, and it meant a lot to her.

WYATT (CONT'D)

I know you, Ruth. If you really wanted someone dead, that person would be dead.

This cuts Ruth deeply, but she contains most of the feeling. As if to apologize again for killing Wyatts father...

RUTH

Wyatt, I --

WYATT

You won't ever have to see Frank Jr. Ever. Or his dad. I promise you.

Ruth wants to believe her cousin. And she owes him.

After a moment, Ruth hands Wyatt a beer as a peace offering.

RUTH

Beer?

Wyatt nods his head, grabs the beer and takes a sip. They both sit on the couch.

WYATT

Three around?



RUTH

Nope. Probably running around  
somewhere with his girlfriend.

WYATT

(amused)

I can't believe anyone would want  
to date him.

Ruth and Wyatt share a laugh. They're both at home, where they started. Ruth feels some joy for the first time in a while.

Wyatt notices the duffle bag.

WYATT (CONT'D)

Going somewhere?

RUTH

(evasive)

... Thinkin' about it.

Wyatt sits confused.

Ruth takes a swig of her beer.

INT. BIG MUDDY CASINO - OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Marty sits at his desk, an EMPLOYEE from a security company sitting across from him. They are in the middle of a conversation.

MARTY

I just need to add a few more  
cameras around the perimeter here.  
As well as over at the Missouri  
Belle.

SECURITY EMPLOYEE

We can definitely do that, Mr.  
Byrde. I'll just have you show me -

MARTY

(cutting him off)

I'm also curious about who else  
sees the feeds from these cameras?  
Do you have master feeds back at  
your office as well?

Out of habit, Marty glances at the computer screen displaying the live stream of security footage for the casino. He suddenly sees FRANK COSGROVE, head of the Kansas City mob, walking up to the entrance. Bad news.

SECURITY EMPLOYEE

Well yes, we --

MARTY

(cutting him off)

...uhhh, hold that thought for one minute. I'm sorry, I'll be right back.

He shuts his computer, and rushes out to meet Frank.

EXT. BIG MUDDY CASINO - CONTINUOUS

Marty rushes out the front of the Casino to catch Frank before he can get inside.

MARTY

Hi there, Frank. I wasn't expecting you.

Marty manages to lightly escort Frank off to the side of the main walkway.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(pointed)

What the hell are you doing here? We don't work together anymore. Or did you forget that your son tried to kill Ruth? The feds are everywhere. You need to leave. Now.

Marty's sense of authority amuses Frank.

FRANK COSGROVE

Marty, Marty, Marty. The way I see it, we're still in business if I say we're in business. And enough about Ruth. I lost guys too. We're even.

Now what he really came for.

FRANK COSGROVE (CONT'D)

I want in on both casinos. And before you say no, I'm sure by now you're aware of my new working relationship with Darlene Snell.

Marty isn't sure what he's getting at.

(MORE)

FRANK COSGROVE (CONT'D)

A cut from both casinos would probably help me keep Darlene off your back.

A customer passes Marty and says hello. Marty nods and ekes out a smile in acknowledgment.

Marty attempts to escort Frank back towards the parking lot, but Frank stands his ground.

MARTY

Look, we're done. I'm sorry if you can't accept that.

Marty notices Nelson's black SUV still parked out front in the parking lot. Before Frank can answer...

MARTY (CONT'D)

You do know who I work for, don't you? Or did you forget that too?

FRANK COSGROVE

(unmoved)

Just remember all the things I know about you Marty Byrde. You and your family.

Frank smiles as he reaches to shake Marty's hand.

FRANK COSGROVE (CONT'D)

I'll see you soon.

Marty shakes his hand. Frank saunters back to his car, while Marty stands like a deer in headlights.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

INT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Jonah is sitting quietly, cleaning his shot gun - the same shot gun he used to shoot out the front window of their house after learning that his Uncle Ben had been killed.

There is a small array of knives awaiting their turn to be cleaned. And in a small briefcase sitting open next to Jonah, there is a hand gun, and what appear to be 3 grenades. Remnants of the house's previous owner, Buddy.

Jonah is disheveled, his hair unkempt, and it looks as if he hasn't slept. He meticulously takes apart and cleans each piece of the shot gun - like a kind of therapy.

Steps are heard at the top of the staircase, and Wendy calls down to her son.

WENDY (O.S.)

Jonah... Jonah are you down there?

Jonah continues cleaning without pause and without words. Wendy cautiously descends the stairs and says his name again.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Jonah. I made dinner. Are you hungry?

Again, he doesn't acknowledge her. Jonah quickly closes the suitcase.

Wendy now stands at the bottom of the stairs and takes in the scene - her son, his state, the shot gun, the knives. The mess of the basement. She doesn't know whether to scream or cry.

Wendy slowly makes her way over to Jonah, and sits down a bit away from him. She gestures to the gun he's cleaning.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Wow. This looks really intricate. How'd you learn to do this?

No answer. Obviously Buddy taught him.

WENDY (CONT'D)

(hoping to break the ice)  
How was your day? I hope you got to spend some time outside, it was nice today.

No answer. Jonah continues cleaning.

WENDY (CONT'D)  
Are you hungry? Dinner is ready  
upstairs... I can bring it down  
here if you want.

Jonah keeps his attention on cleaning his gun.

Wendy is at her wit's end.

WENDY (CONT'D)  
JONAH!

Jonah slowly turns and looks at her with tired eyes. Jonah has not forgiven her. Grief has taken hold of him, and he doesn't know what to do with it.

WENDY (CONT'D)  
Jonah, I am sorry. I don't know how  
many more times you want me to say  
it.

Jonah turns away from her. Wendy quietly gets up, knowing she can't win, and leaves.

Jonah continues cleaning his gun, focused on the task at hand.

INT. DARLENE SNELL'S HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Ruth sits happily, but a bit uneasily, at Darlene's dinner table. Her plate is empty. Wyatt sits across from her, already eating.

DARLENE SNELL sits at the head of the table.

DARLENE  
(to Ruth)  
Well, go ahead, hun, help yourself.

Ruth can't remember the last time she sat down to such a nice dinner, much less ate dinner at an actual dinner table. It feels foreign. She fills her plate.

RUTH  
Thank you.

DARLENE  
Oh you don't need to thank me.  
You're Wyatt's family. That means  
you're my family.

Wyatt smiles across the table to Ruth, as Ruth begins to eat.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Wyatt was telling me you are having  
some reservations about joining us.

Ruth feels cornered.

RUTH

Oh... well I didn't realize you  
were also going to be working with  
the KC mob. And I can't promise you  
I won't kill Frank Jr. the next  
time I see him.

Darlene likes Ruth's fire. They share similar outlooks on  
revenge.

DARLENE

And I wouldn't blame you. But for  
now, while we're getting up and  
running again, we need them...  
They'll only be helpin' move  
product. Nothing more.

(proud)

Once we're fully operational, and  
business is good, we can talk about  
dispensing of their services.

This provides a bit of assurance for Ruth, but she still  
doesn't know if she can trust Darlene. They all eat in  
silence for a moment.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

(fishing for information)

How are things with The Byrde's?

Ruth isn't sure how much she should share, but what the hell.

RUTH

Wendy came by and tried to get me  
to come back to work... Gave me  
money.

WYATT

What?

RUTH

And she still won't tell me the  
fuckin' truth about what happened  
to Ben.

Darlene relishes this confession - knowing The Byrdes are grasping at straws. Wyatt is less pleased that Wendy won't leave Ruth alone.

WYATT

Why didn't you tell me when I saw you today? --

DARLENE

I like you, Ruth. You're loyal. And I respect loyalty. But you've been loyal to The Byrdes for a long time... and what has it gotten you?

Before Ruth has time to let this sink in, Wyatt stands up.

WYATT

Fuck it. I'm going over there. They need to leave you alone.

RUTH

Wyatt. No! Sit the fuck down. It's not important.  
(to Darlene)  
Sorry.

Wyatt looks from Ruth to Darlene. And back to Ruth.

RUTH (CONT'D)

Please. Sit down.

Wyatt sits back down begrudgingly.

Darlene uses the heat of the moment to her advantage.

DARLENE

Just think about how nice it would be to work with your own family. Your own blood.

Ruth is struck by the truth of this statement.

EXT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Marty stands in the backyard, holding his cell phone to his ear. We hear the line ringing, and then OMAR NAVARRO answers.

NAVARRO (V.O.)

Hello, Marty.

MARTY

We have a problem.

INT. OMAR NAVARRO'S HOME - MEXICO

Omar Navarro sits in his lavish living room, watching soccer on television.

INTERCUT: MARTY AND NAVARRO PHONE CALL

NAVARRO

You mean you have a problem. Speak.

MARTY

We had a friend helping us out with some cash flow issues at the Missouri Belle. We asked him to discreetly lose his money. But he wasn't discreet enough... The FBI have him now and I'm told he may be making a deal with them.

Navarro's eyes could kill.

NAVARRO

And what is your friend's name, Marty?

Marty pauses - this could mean death for Sam.

MARTY

Sam... Sam Dermody.

NAVARRO

I'll take care of it.

Marty knows what this means.

NAVARRO (CONT'D)

I'm glad you called Marty. I also have a problem. I understand one of your employees recently decided to go her own way.

Marty had wondered when this news would spread.

MARTY

Are we talking about Ruth?

Navarro stands, and begins pacing.

NAVARRO

Yes. Ruth, Marty. Let's just say she'd be much safer if she were to come back on board.



MARTY

... Safer?

NAVARRO

Lone wolves are dangerous, Marty.  
You see, wolves are pack animals.  
They are meant to stay together,  
taken care of by one alpha. So when  
a lone wolf strays, that wolf  
becomes a threat.

MARTY

I promise you she is not a problem.

NAVARRO

Save your promises. She is a  
liability. You either get her back  
on board, or I take care of her  
myself.

(Pause)

I know you won't let me down.

Navarro hangs up.

Marty stands stock still for a minute, as if he's had the  
wind knocked out of him. Then he dials Ruth's number. It  
rings, but goes to voicemail.

MARTY

Shit.

INT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

A scattered Marty walks into the bedroom, where Wendy is  
slowly getting dressed for bed. He shuts the door.

MARTY

I need to talk to you about Ruth. I  
just got off the phone with  
Navarro...

Wendy abruptly bursts into tears. She sits down on the bed.

Marty goes to Wendy, who lets out an incredulous laugh  
through her tears.

WENDY

Jonah hates me... I mean, he really  
hates me. He's never going to  
forgive me.

MARTY

Yes, yes he will. Its Jonah.

WENDY

Ben is dead, Marty. He's gone.  
Forever. And I should have done  
more to help him. He'd still be  
here. Ruth would still be working  
with us. And my son would still be  
talking to me.

Suddenly tired, and disgusted with herself.

Marty puts on a brave face. Wendy wipes her eyes and slowly  
stands up, continuing to undress.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Did you say Navarro called?

Marty considers how much he should tell her now.

MARTY

Yeah, yeah I did... But don't worry  
about it. It was just some business  
details.

Wendy doesn't have the energy to dig further, and takes him  
at his word for now.

WENDY

I went and visited Ruth today.

Marty continues talking, as Wendy goes into the bathroom for  
a moment to blow her nose. She comes back out carrying her  
robe.

MARTY

I thought we agreed we'd talk about  
Ruth tonight. Together.

Marty recalls the dark outcomes of Wendy's previous solo  
missions.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(about Ruth)

And?

Keeping secrets like usual, Wendy decides not to mention the  
money.

WENDY

I'll keep trying.

MARTY

Maybe you'll include me this time.

WENDY  
 (tired)  
 Oh fuck you, Marty!

Wendy puts on her robe, and leaves the room.

INT. RUTH'S TRAILER - NIGHT

Ruth aimlessly tidies up her trailer. Dishes are scattered and she piles them into the sink along with a few empty beer bottles. She's been drinking more than usual, and it's clear it's been awhile since she cleaned.

INT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Wendy savors a sip of wine while sitting at the dining room table alone. The house is quiet and dark, and she enjoys this time.

INTERCUT: RUTH / WENDY

Ruth picks up strewn about clothing to put in her laundry. She comes to a pile and after grabbing it all at once, see's there is a shirt that is not hers at the bottom. Her eyes widen with the knowledge that this shirt belonged to Ben.

A familiar pit in her stomach grows. Ruth buries her face in the shirt, taking in the smell. She begins to cry, but not for long before sadness turns to anger. Ruth holds onto Ben's shirt, throws the other clothes in the hamper, and picks up her phone. She dials.

Wendy's phone starts buzzing. Who would be calling her this late? Noticing its Ruth, Wendy is hopeful she's calling to tell her she wants to come back to work for them.

Wendy quickly answers the phone.

WENDY  
 Ruth. I'm so glad you called. Look,  
 I think --

RUTH  
 I'm fucking done. Do you hear me?  
 Done. Do not come visit me again.  
 Do not bring me money. It's over.

Ruth hangs up. The call ends as suddenly as it started.

Ruth throws her phone on the couch. She puts on Ben's shirt, and goes to the fridge to grab a beer.

INT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Wendy stares at her phone in her hand. This was not the answer she expected. She puts the phone down, and pours herself more wine. We hear footsteps and Charlotte appears.

Noticing her mothers state, Charlotte grabs a wine glass hoping to join her. She raises the glass to her mother as if to ask "May I?" as she isn't 21 yet. Wendy gives in, and nods "go ahead". Charlotte sits and pours herself some wine. There's something she needs to tell her mom.

CHARLOTTE

Mom, I ---

Just then there are more footsteps, and Jonah enters carrying a large bag.

Wendy's mood lifts seeing her son.

WENDY

Jonah... Jonah, honey... where are you going?

Jonah walks past them without a word. He opens the sliding glass door and walks out into the backyard.

Wendy turns to Charlotte for an explanation.

CHARLOTTE

He said he didn't want to live inside the house anymore...

Jonah begins assembling a tent outside.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)

I'm sure it's just a phase mom...  
He'll get over it.

Wendy and Charlotte look out at Jonah as he continues to build his tent.

EXT. AGENT MILLERS MOTEL - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Agent Miller pulls her car into a parking spot, and turns the car off.

INT. AGENT MILLERS CAR - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Agent Miller leans her head back in the drivers seat, and closes her eyes.

She places a hand on her pregnant belly, takes a deep breath, and as she lets it out it's as if she's sloughing off the dust of her day.

She grabs her bag, gets out of her car, and closes the door. In the same moment she hits the lock button on her keys, she suddenly feels Nelson's gun pressed to her lower back.

NELSON  
Agent Miller.

Dropping her bag, Agent Miller puts her hands up by her head. She wills herself to stay calm.

AGENT MILLER  
What do you want?

NELSON  
Turn around.

As Agent Miller turns around slowly, Nelson takes a step back, keeping his gun pointed at her.

NELSON (CONT'D)  
I'm here as a courtesy.

AGENT MILLER  
Look, I'm a federal agent... People will look for me.

NELSON  
They wouldn't find you.

Agent Miller cocks her head to the side, trying to place where she has seen this man's face before. He's familiar.

Suddenly, she is doubled over in agonizing pain.

AGENT MILLER  
Oww, owww...

She looks down and see's she is wet. Her water has broken. She continues to grunt in pain as she looks back up at Nelson, who has lowered his gun.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)  
... the baby...

Agent Miller slowly crumbles to the ground and passes out.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - MORNING

Wyatt's car pulls into the Byrde's driveway. He parks uncaringly, shuts off the ignition, and slams the door as he gets out. He carries the duffle bag Wendy left at Ruth's.

Wyatt looks around and notices a tent in the yard. Odd. He makes his way to the front door.

INT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - SIMULTANEOUSLY

Wendy enjoys a cup of coffee in the kitchen.

INTERCUT: WYATT/WENDY & MARTY

Marty strides down the hallway and into the kitchen. He is dressed for work, carrying his briefcase.

MARTY

Morning.

Wyatt has reached the door and knocks.

Wendy and Marty both look to the door. Marty is already heading that way, and after grabbing a banana, he goes to the door. He's got shit to do.

Wendy is not fully dressed, but quickly closes and ties her robe. She arrives at the front door at the same time as Marty, who opens it amid Wyatt knocking again.

MARTY (CONT'D)

(unbothered)

Hey, Wyatt. How are you?

WYATT

Mr. Byrde.

Marty heads out the door and towards his car before Wyatt can say anything else. Marty glances over at Jonah's tent.

MARTY

Morning, Jonah!

Marty gets in his car and leaves while Wendy and Wyatt talk.

WENDY

Hi, Wyatt... This is a surprise.  
What can I do for you?

WYATT  
 (dropping the duffle bag)  
 ... You can leave Ruth alone. She's  
 done working for your family.

WENDY  
 (signature smile)  
 Wyatt, there must be some kind of  
 misunderstanding --

WYATT  
 No misunderstanding. You killed her  
 father. You killed Ben. Maybe not  
 with your own hands. But you let it  
 happen. She doesn't need you, or  
 your money.

WENDY  
 Wyatt...

WYATT  
 Don't make me come back here.

Wyatt turns and walks back to his car. He nods to Jonah who  
 is now standing outside preparing to fly his drone.

Wendy tends to Wyatt's verbal whiplash.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - MORNING

Agent Miller rests comfortably in her room in the maternity  
 ward. She cradles her new daughter.

Marty enters, carrying flowers. Agent Miller is surprised to  
 see him.

Marty slowly approaches her, puts the flowers down on the  
 nightstand, and sits in a chair next to the bed.

MARTY  
 She's beautiful.  
 (pause)  
 Congratulations.

AGENT MILLER  
 Thank you... How did you know I was  
 here?

MARTY  
 (cheekily)  
 Oh, you didn't know? It's all over  
 the news - FBI Agent Maya Miller  
 gave birth to a baby girl.

Agent Miller offers a small laugh.

AGENT MILLER

You know, I believe it was a friend  
of yours who called 911 when my  
water broke.

Marty has no idea who she is talking about.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

Tall, dark and mysterious, with a  
gun.

Marty attempts to push down any reaction that would give away  
his recognition of Nelson.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

Yeah, I thought you might know him.  
He was pointing his gun at me when  
my water broke.

Agent Miller gently places her daughter in the bassinet on  
the other side of her hospital bed, away from Marty.

Marty remains on auto-pilot.

MARTY

I know a lot of people. I can't  
exactly place this mystery man of  
yours, but whoever he is, I'm glad  
he got you here safely.

AGENT MILLER

Cut the bullshit, Marty. I know  
he's one of Navarro's guys. He  
didn't have to say anything.

(pause)

It was a strange coincidence - he  
shows up the night after the FBI  
receives reliable intel that Helen  
Pierce died while you all were in  
Mexico with her.

Although blindsided by this news, Marty is at the ready.

MARTY

Helen flew home to Chicago from  
Mexico. That was the last I saw  
her. At the airport.

AGENT MILLER

Stop, Marty. Just stop.



MARTY

What do you want from me?

Agent Miller remembers there are other people around.

AGENT MILLER

The truth, Marty!

They both sit in silence.

AGENT MILLER (CONT'D)

I know Helen was on that plane with you and Wendy to Mexico. And since you've come back, no one has seen her or heard from her... Now you can help yourself, and me, by telling me what happened to her.

Marty reels.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. OMAR NAVARRO'S HOME - MEXICO - TWO MONTHS AGO

Marty, Wendy, and HELEN PIERCE are greeting Omar upon their arrival to his home. Out of nowhere, Nelson shoots Helen in the head, and her blood sprays Wendy and Marty.

BACK TO PRESENT

MARTY

I have absolutely no idea what happened to her. The last I heard, Helen had returned to Chicago to be with her kids.

Agent Miller knows he is lying, but she just gave birth, and cannot push anymore.

Agent Miller and Marty stare at each other, each of them laid bare.

AGENT MILLER

... I really tried to help you, Marty.

It seems for a moment that Marty may give in. But the moment is fleeting, and he composes himself.

MARTY

Well, I've got to get back to work. Congratulations again.

Marty gets up and leaves. Agent Miller watches him as he goes.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Marty exits Agent Miller's room as his phone dings. He glances at the screen, opens the new text message, and reads

- "HOW'S OUR LONE WOLF?"

Shit. Marty rushes out of the hospital.

INT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

Wendy enters her bedroom from the hallway. She opens her closet door, revealing a small black box on the floor inside. Wendy picks it up.

WENDY

Hey, brother.

The box contains Ben's ashes.

WENDY (CONT'D)

I think it's time.

Wendy leaves her bedroom carrying the box

EXT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - BACKYARD - DAY

We watch as Wendy, shovel in hand, earnestly digs a hole in the ground.

The box with Ben's ashes sit on the ground nearby.

Jonah is slowly revealed off in the distance, out of sight from his mother as he watches her.

EXT. MARTY'S CAR - DAY

Marty meanders down an empty road, surrounded by tall forest on either side. It looks as if the road could go on forever.

INT. MARTY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Marty stares blankly out the front windshield. His hands grip the steering wheel tightly. Trees continue to tower over the road, with no other cars in sight. The only sounds are Marty's breathing, and the roar of the car engine.

He glances into his rearview mirror, and suddenly does a double take. There is a black SUV.

Is he being followed? He speeds up. So does the SUV. He slows down. So does the SUV. He pulls up Wendy's contact on his phone, and considers dialing. He has no cell service.

MARTY

Goddamnit!

Marty's eyes frantically search the road ahead of him for signs of other life, other people. Signs of help. As he rounds a turn in the road, he spots a clearing off to the side ahead, and uses it to quickly make a U-turn.

Marty begins driving in the opposite direction. As the SUV that was following him begins to round the turn, Marty watches as it is slowly followed by a trail of more black cars.

Marty slows down, pulls to the side of the road, and watches as a funeral procession 30 cars deep goes by him.

Marty lets out a breath, his eyes wide. His head falls onto his hands on the steering wheel. He begins to cry.

INT. MISSOURI BELLE CASINO - AFTERNOON

Wendy walks the casino floor, in a daze. The monotonous bells and whistles of the casino are heard, over mumbled conversations. Wendy makes her monotonous rounds. A customer leans over to ask her a question.

FEMALE CUSTOMER

Hey, can I get a refill?

Wendy doesn't hear her.

FEMALE CUSTOMER (CONT'D)

Hey!

Lost in thought, Wendy continues walking.

As she makes her way past the slot machines, she is bumped into by a customer but doesn't react. Then she is bumped into again by another customer, which snaps her out of her daze.

WENDY

(she snaps)

Hey! Back off!

Everyone nearby stops what they are doing to stare at Wendy, who suddenly feels naked.

WENDY (CONT'D)

... Oh gosh, I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I don't know where my head is. Let me get you a free drink.

MALE CUSTOMER

Yeah... okay. Thanks.

Wendy begins to make her way back to the kitchen when she spots Darlene Snell entering the casino. Fuck.

Darlene approaches Wendy, both of them fighting to keep their mutual distain for each other in check.

They meet in front of a poker table.

DARLENE

Well, hi there.

(taking in the casino)

It looks like you folks are doing mighty fine here.

(hushed)

And I figured since I own a third of this casinos shares, I'd drop by to check on business.

Wendy senses the lie right away.

WENDY

Of course. Well, you know you're welcome anytime, Darlene.

They stand smiling at each other - a game of chicken.

DARLENE

... Truth be told, I did have some more important business to discuss with you. I thought it only polite of me to let you know in person that I'm going to have my old business up and running again very shortly.

WENDY

(through gritted teeth)

Take a good look around this place, Darlene. Those suits you see, every single one of them is FBI. We are all on very thin ice here. You included.

(pause)

(MORE)

WENDY (CONT'D)

I imagine replanting your poppy fields at this point in time is not your smartest move. And I know you're a smart lady.

Wendy smiles but what she really wants to do is slap Darlene across the face.

None of this is new information for Darlene. In fact, she feels emboldened

DARLENE

Well, thank you for the word of advice. But now I think I'm going to give myself a little tour.

She turns to go, but comes back for the knockout punch.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Oh, and you know, I am really lookin' forward to working with Ruth. I know she's done so much for y'all.

The ground beneath Wendy's feet feels as if it's falling away.

WENDY

Get out.

DARLENE

Oh, come now. Let's keep things civil. I wouldn't want to have to sic the KC mob on you.

(proud of herself)

Smile for the cameras, why don't you?

Wendy fumes, feeling like a caged animal.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

Good luck with everything.

Darlene turns and leaves the casino.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. MARTY'S CAR - RUTH'S TRAILER - AFTERNOON

Marty pulls his car swiftly into Ruth's drive way. He parks and looks in his rearview mirror one more time, still rattled from the funeral procession.

EXT. MARTY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Marty gets out of the car and shuts the door as he sees Ruth exit her trailer. He approaches Ruth, who is making a beeline for her own car. Marty is relieved to find her unharmed.

EXT. RUTH'S TRAILER - CONTINUOUS

The last person in the world Ruth wants to see is Marty.

MARTY

Hi, Ruth. Thank you for letting me come by for a minute --

RUTH

That's all you've got. One minute.

Marty reminds himself that he always appreciated Ruth's candor.

MARTY

Ok. So, I know Wendy talked to you about coming back to work with us.

RUTH

Yeah, and gave me \$50,000.

MARTY

... \$50,000? ...

Ruth realizes he didn't know about the money, and she relishes the moment.

RUTH

Still keeping secrets from each other, huh?

Marty refocuses. This is about more than money. Navarro has implied he's willing to kill Ruth if Marty can't get her back.

MARTY

You know what, you're worth it  
Ruth. And the truth is, we need  
you.

RUTH

Yeah, you need me to be your errand  
girl, and be on call, and arrange  
money pick-ups, anything you can  
train a monkey to do.

MARTY

You don't get it, Ruth.

A beat. Marty proceeds with strange honesty.

MARTY (CONT'D)

The FBI are asking about Helen.  
They know she's dead. And they've  
got Sam in custody, who might be  
helping them build a case against  
us. I've got Navarro calling asking  
for more money to be cleaned now  
because we have the two casinos --

RUTH

(interrupting)

Marty Byrde. I never thought I'd  
see the day you told the truth.

MARTY

Look, I tell Navarro about Frank  
Jr., about what he did to you, and  
he's gone. You never have to worry  
about him again.

RUTH

Fuck you. Where was this gracious  
offer when I was lying in the  
hospital? When I asked you for  
help?

MARTY

I fucked up. I'll handle it now.

Ruth stands resolute, in her power. It seems she really is  
done working for The Byrdes.

RUTH

I think you should go Marty.

Marty looks as if he's about to launch into another plea for  
help, when they hear a car approaching. A black SUV with dark  
windows pulls slowly down the driveway.

This is the final straw for Ruth, who assumes it's Nelson. Victory turns to rage, as she thinks this must be part of Marty's ploy to get her back. A threat.

Marty turns to see what she is starring at.

RUTH (CONT'D)  
FUCK YOU, MARTY! FUCK YOU!

Ruth frantically reaches into the front seat of her car and pulls out a shot gun. She cocks it, aims it at the SUV, and fires a warning shot at the ground next to the drivers side.

Marty runs and ducks behind Ruth's car, terrified.

MARTY  
(to Ruth)  
ARE YOU FUCKING CRAZY!? STOP!

Ruth and Marty stare at the SUV, waiting to see who will get out. After a moment, the driver side window begins rolling down. An arm reaches out, and throws something towards Ruth's car.

Marty and Ruth hear the metal of the grenade hit the ground before they realize what it is. As it rolls underneath her car, they share a knowing look and begin running as fast as they can towards Ruth's trailer.

MARTY (CONT'D)  
RUN, RUN, GO! GO!

A few moments later, the grenade goes off, ripping a hole through Ruth's car, and blowing Ruth and Marty off of their feet. They are both thrown to the ground.

The drivers window rolls back up. The black SUV slowly backs out of the driveway, and disappears.

Marty and Ruth, both bloody, lay unconscious on the ground.

INT. BLACK SVU - A BACK ROAD - CONTINUOUS

Wendy bites her lip as her eyes dart between her rear view mirror and the road ahead of her.

Wendy pushes unseen buttons on the console, and we hear the phone start ringing.

NAVARRO (V.O.)  
(answering)  
Is it done?



Wendy might throw up.

WENDY  
Yes. It's done.

NAVARRO (V.O.)  
Good.

WENDY  
... I could have killed them.

NAVARRO (V.O.)  
Small chance. They both needed a  
warning. And so did you.

Navarro hangs up the phone.

The flood gates open for Wendy.

WENDY  
FUUUUUUCKKKK!

As Wendy continues to drive, the camera pulls back and reveals a small briefcase sitting open in the passenger seat. It is the same briefcase from Jonah's basement arsenal, still containing a hand gun, but only 2 grenades.

EXT. BLACK SUV - CONTINUOUS

Reveal of the black SUV with Wendy driving.

EXT. RUTH'S TRAILER - AFTERNOON

Ruth has regained consciousness, and is sitting up. She has a bloody nose, along with various cuts and bruises.

Ruth remembers Marty, who is still unconscious, and frantically crawls towards him to make sure he's still breathing. He is.

Ruth surveys the damage around them. She spots what's left of her car smoldering, and scans the rest of their surroundings.

In pain, Ruth takes her cell out of her back pocket and dials. Someone answers.

RUTH  
(with difficulty)  
Wyatt... I need you.

INT. OZARKS POLICE DEPARTMENT - SHERIFF'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Wendy struts into the sheriff's office unannounced, and closes the door behind her.

SHERIFF JOHN NIX sits with his feet up on his desk, but his relaxation quickly comes to an end.

Wendy takes a seat across from him, and proceeds without pleasantries.

WENDY

I'd like to help you, Sheriff.

SHERIFF NIX

Well, hello to you too Mrs. Byrde.

WENDY

You've been in the Snell's pocket for years. Maybe even decades. Helping them move their heroin. And I can only guess at the nature of the debt you owe to them.

Sheriff Nix freezes.

WENDY (CONT'D)

But whatever it is, I want to pay it. In full.

Wendy's offer hangs in the air.

Sheriff Nix isn't sure how much she knows, but isn't willing to play this game either way.

SHERIFF NIX

(clearing his throat)

Uh, look, Mrs. Byrde, I appreciate the kindness you're offering, but I don't know what you're talking about.

WENDY

Oh, come now... We both know what I do. And we both know what you do. I'm sure we can come to some sort of agreement.

A brief staring contest between the two.

WENDY (CONT'D)

I am offering you freedom. A clean slate.

SHERIFF NIX

I see... and say I bite, just out of curiosity. What do you want in return?

WENDY

Just a little dirt. That's all...  
(the honest truth)  
Just enough to put Darlene away for good.

Sheriff Nix smiles, and Wendy chuckles, as if they're two old friends gossiping.

SHERIFF NIX

And why this offer all of a sudden?

WENDY

(redirecting)  
Just promise me you'll take some time and think about it.

Sheriff Nix tries his best at nonchalance.

SHERIFF NIX

Well, why not? Sure. Thank you, Mrs. Byrde.

Sheriff Nix stands up, hands on his hips, reassuming his public position of authority.

SHERIFF NIX (CONT'D)

I will think about it.

WENDY

Good.

Wendy stands and walks to the door.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Enjoy the rest of your day, Sheriff.

Wendy exits. Sheriff John Nix sits back down, incredulous.

INT. DARLENE SNELL'S CAR - DUSK

Darlene drives, Wyatt next to her in the passenger seat. Ruth and Marty are sprawled out in the back, bloody and bruised. They are all mid-conversation.

DARLENE

Then I'll ask you again - who was  
it Marty?

Marty is still pretty out of it, and he's not sure how much  
to share with her.

MARTY

(in pain)  
... I have no idea...

DARLENE

(fed up)  
Now you listen to me!  
(shushing Wyatt)  
The only reason you're in  
this car is because Ruth  
insisted on it. If it were up  
to me I would have left you  
to rot.

WYATT

You mother fucker!...

Silence.

RUTH

(plainly)  
Obviously Nelson. Navarro.

Marty had assumed this as well. But no.

MARTY

Navarro, probably. But Nelson..  
(grimaces in pain, then  
matter of fact)  
Not Nelson. Nelson doesn't throw  
grenades. He just shoots you in the  
head.

Darlene's car hits a bump in the road. Marty moans in pain.

MARTY (CONT'D)

Really great driving.

Darlene is pleased by his pain.

Marty considers his next words carefully.

MARTY (CONT'D)

You know, this town is your home.  
These are your people, Darlene. And  
you should be running the  
businesses...

Marty has been pondering this idea for awhile now.

MARTY (CONT'D)  
I want out. I'm done.

Darlene isn't sure what he's getting at, but she's listening.

MARTY (CONT'D)  
(breathlessly)  
I'm offering you Byrde Enterprises.  
Both casinos... The money  
laundering operation. Everything.

Ruth assumes he hit his head a little too hard.

RUTH  
Marty.

DARLENE  
What's the catch?

MARTY  
No catch. I'd just like to not be  
blown up. I'm not cut out for  
this... And neither is my family.  
(pause)  
It's time for us to leave. You know  
it, and I know it.

Darlene is silent - never in a million years could she have  
imagined Marty Byrde asking her for help.

Darlene and Wyatt share a look.

DARLENE  
Well, it's a very generous offer  
Marty. I'll need a little time to  
think about it.

Marty is not amused by Darlene playing hard-to-get.

MARTY  
Of course you do.

Off Ruth, feeling conflicted...

INT. THE BYRDES YARD - JONAH'S TENT - DUSK

Charlotte and Jonah are huddled in the tent Jonah built. They  
are drinking beer, and laughing. Their laughter subsides.

CHARLOTTE  
So when are you going to move back  
inside?

Jonah doesn't answer.

CHARLOTTE (CONT'D)  
 Seriously, Jonah, you've made your point. You can't stay out here forever.

JONAH  
 I know. You're right. But you know I've got money... and I've been thinking about going away.

This news unsettles Charlotte.

CHARLOTTE  
 Going where? Where would you go?

JONAH  
 Knoxville.

CHARLOTTE  
 Knoxville? ... Why Knoxville?

JONAH  
 (shrugs)  
 Uncle Ben knew people there. That's where he wanted to go. I figure I can go find those people.

Charlotte is surprised by how much thought Jonah has apparently given this.

CHARLOTTE  
 But we're your family. We love you.

Jonah turns, reaches under a blanket behind him, and picks something up. When he turns back towards Charlotte, he is holding the box containing Ben's ashes, still covered in dirt after digging it up.

JONAH  
 Ben was our family too. And look what they did to him.

This hits Charlotte in the gut.

EXT. DARLENE SNELLS CAR - THE BYRDE'S HOME - NIGHT

Darlene parks in the Byrde's driveway.

Jonah and Charlotte hear the car pull up and peek out of the tent.

Ruth, Wyatt, Darlene and Marty all exit the car, Marty and Ruth struggling. Ruth and Wyatt remain behind, while Darlene and Marty head for the house. The shock from earlier has worn off, and Marty is in more pain. Darlene has some pep in her step.

Charlotte and Jonah now stand outside the tent, and Charlotte notices her dad is injured. She makes a move towards him.

CHARLOTTE

Dad...

Marty tries gently to signal for her to stay back.

MARTY

I'm ok, Charlotte. Really... We'll talk later.

DARLENE

(Cheerfully to Charlotte and Jonah)

Having fun camping, kids?

EXT. THE BYRDES HOME - CONTINUOUS

Wendy exits the house and hastily makes her way over to Darlene. Wendy's mama bear instincts kick in.

WENDY

Jonah! Charlotte! Go inside the house, please.

Charlotte and Jonah look from Darlene to their mother, and back again. They don't move.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Go inside! NOW.

Charlotte and Jonah slowly make their way back inside the house. Wendy turns her attention to Darlene. There is no fathomable reason Marty and Darlene would be in the same car.

WENDY (CONT'D)

What the hell is going on?

Wendy now notices the damage she inflicted on Marty. But she plays the game.

WENDY (CONT'D)

(to Darlene)

What did you do to him?

DARLENE

Me? Nothing, unfortunately. But Marty sure did have an exciting day today.

Wendy goes to Marty to support him.

MARTY

(surprisingly forceful)  
I'm fine. I don't need your help.

Marty continues heading towards the house by himself, ignoring Wendy's protestations.

WENDY

Marty, you should be at the hospital...

Wendy's guilt threatens to expose her.

WENDY (CONT'D)

Marty! MARTY!

Wendy turns to follow Marty in, but doesn't get far before -

DARLENE

Take good care of him. I'll need him healthy if we're going to talk more about the offer he made me.

WENDY

The offer he made you?

DARLENE

Yes. To take over Byrde Enterprises.

Wendy starts laughing uncontrollably.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

So he didn't tell you, huh? Interesting... What must go on in your house.

WENDY

Marty would never make you that kind of offer. Never to you.

DARLENE

Well honey, he did. And it's a great offer too.

Just then, Darlene's phone starts ringing. She answers.



DARLENE (CONT'D)

Hello? ... Hi there, Sheriff Nix.

Wendy freezes. We hear mumbling on the other end of the phone. Darlene looks at Wendy.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

I see... Isn't that interesting...  
uh huh... Well I appreciate your  
call Sheriff. You have a good  
night, now.... Bye, bye.

She hangs up the phone, and drills a hole into Wendy with her eyes.

DARLENE (CONT'D)

I think maybe it's time you get  
your house in order. Rather than  
spending time trying to make deals  
with the Sheriff about debts you  
know nothing about.

Wendy tries to contain the onslaught this evening has thrown her way.

WENDY

We are not for sale, and we are not  
going anywhere.

DARLENE

We'll see.

Darlene smiles, turns, and walks back to her car.

Wendy runs back into the house.

INT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Wendy rushes down the hallway back to the bedroom. She finds Marty in the bathroom, cleaning his wounds.

WENDY

You offered Darlene our company?!  
OUR company? Did you think it might  
be important to talk to me about  
that first? I'm tired of you  
sabotaging everything we've built.

MARTY

Wendy! Look at me! I'm done!

Wendy finally takes in the sight of her battered husband. She could have killed him, and she can't keep herself from crying now.

WENDY

... Tell me what happened.

MARTY

I almost got blown up today is what happened. Me and Ruth... I'm assuming one of Navarro's guys.

(beat)

We need to get the hell out of here, Wendy. I have been trying to find a way out for us for awhile, for all of us... Darlene is our way out.

His words hover between them, as they realize both Jonah and Charlotte are standing at the door watching them. Wendy collects herself.

WENDY

Kids, please go to bed. Everything is alright...

After a moment, the kids slowly head back down the hallway. Wendy softly closes their bedroom door, and goes to Marty who sits on the edge of the bed. He is battered emotionally and physically.

MARTY

(after a beat, he looks up)

I'm done, Wendy. I am... And if we're going to make this deal with Darlene, we both need to be on the same fucking page, okay? If Navarro catches a whiff of any of this, we're dead. If the FBI catches us in a mistake, we're dead. Nelson is everywhere, and if I so much as look at him wrong, we're dead. Just like Helen.

This sinks in.

MARTY (CONT'D)

We are all we've got. You. Me. And the kids. That's it.

Wendy is about to sit down next to Marty, when the doorbell rings. Marty and Wendy look at each other, not sure whether to be frightened.

The doorbell rings again.

INT. THE BYRDE'S HOME - FOYER - CONTINUOUS

Wendy and Marty head down the hallway, their kids standing outside their rooms. Wendy and Marty approach the door together, nervous about who could be visiting this late at night.

Marty opens the door and sees GENE PIERCE, Helen's husband, standing before him.

GENE PIERCE

Hi... Marty Byrde?

Marty looks past Gene to see if anyone else is around.

MARTY

Uh, yes. That's me. And you are?

GENE PIERCE

I apologize for bothering you and your family so late. But I just landed today and I didn't know where else to go... My name is Gene, Gene Pierce. My wife is Helen Pierce. I'm trying to find her. And last I heard from her, she was with you all...

Wendy and Marty look at each other, and look back at Gene.

**END OF EPISODE**