

CASTLE

"Papa Don't Preach"

Written by

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Sunlight comes through the elegant curtains. Romantic music PLAYS in the background.

ALEXIS sleeps on the large, elegant bed. She has traces of last night's make-up but not last night's clothes.

Her dress and man's clothing are spread through the room. Two half-empty champagne flutes sit on the dresser; the opened champagne bottle drips onto the carpet of the room.

A soft KNOCK on the door only startles her, but she doesn't wake up.

INT. HOTEL HALL - CONTINUOUS

ANNITA, a Hispanic hotel maid, checks her cart. She looks up at hall camera and waves. She softly knocks on the door and puts her ear against the door.

She puts her headphones on and uses the key card at her holster to open the door.

ANNITA
Housekeeping!

INT. HOTEL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Annita dances her way into the room. The cart gets a little stuck at the frame. Annita pulls with both hands, in her effort she falls and lands on her bottom.

Annita's hands land on the champagne wet carpet. It's obvious she's been in this gross position before.

She grabs a towel from her cart and stands up. She follows the clothes trail and SCREAMS.

Alexis rubs her eyes spreading blood on her face, she stares at the hysterical maid and looks behind her where SAMUEL MITCHELL lays, bloodied and dead.

Alexis stares at her bloodied hands and the dead man like a deer caught in headlights.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DAY

LANIE takes notes; she looks like she's been hit by bat in her gut.

ESPOSITO and RYAN rush into the lobby, they look like they might cry.

ESPOSITO
How bad is it?

LANIE
It ain't good.

RYAN
It happened down here? That's good, right? Easy case, there's witnesses. We'll be in and out of here.

He punches Esposito in victory.

LANIE
In the room. Just had to make sure it was just you two for now.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

The room is crawling with UNIFORMS and TECHS; they analyze every inch of the room.

Alexis sits in a corner wrapped in a hotel bathrobe. Her hands still covered in blood.

Esposito and Ryan stand by the door mumbling.

RYAN
Go. You're the big sergeant.

ESPOSITO
You have kids.

RYAN
She's not a kid.

Lanie stands behind them.

LANIE
She's family. Just talk to her.

Lanie pushes the boys aside and comes closer to Alexis.

Alexis doesn't look up; she stares at her hands without blinking.

LANIE (CONT'D)
Sweetie, ready to talk?

Alexis looks up but doesn't talk. She's clearly in shock.

Lanie puts on her gloves. One of the Techs places a kit by her feet.

LANIE (CONT'D)
I'm going examine under your nails.
You know the routine.

Lanie gives her a reassuring smile.

The young Tech comes over and whispers something into Lanie's ear. She's taken aback, can't be good news.

Lanie turns to the boys who are still by the door.

LANIE (CONT'D)
Espo, you gotta call Beckett.

The tech places a small handgun in an evidence bag.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, KITCHEN - DAY

Castle makes coffee for two. Toast pops up, and he sets beautifully on a tray.

He hums happily and writes a note that reads:
"Congratulations. Love, Dad."

He places the final touches and walks off with the tray.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, HALLWAY - DAY

Castle struggles to open the door to Alexis' room. He finally manages to open it but looks disappointed.

He sets the tray on the floor, grabs his phone from his pocket and dials.

INT. CASTLE'S P.I. OFFICE - SAME TIME

HAYLEY, in laser tag gear and gun, hides behind a couch.
MARTHA, also in laser tag gear, gun and heels, hides behind some furniture.

MARTHA

Darling, I've watched the kids play this little game far too long.

HAYLEY

Ah, come on, grams. Are you trying to intimidate me?

MARTHA

I'm not your grams. I'm just stating a fact.

Hayley moves swiftly out of her hiding place and inches closer to Martha.

HAYLEY

Fact: I've had more experience with a gun than you.

Hayley's phone goes off and gives her away to Martha.

Martha takes advantage of the distraction and attempts to shoot Hayley.

Hayley picks up the phone, without looking shoots Martha, and wins the round.

HAYLEY (CONT'D)

Castle? No. She's not here. Last time I saw her was yesterday at the shooting range.

Martha looks worried. She slams the laser tag gun on the ground.

MARTHA

Shooting range?

Martha snaps her fingers in front of Hayley's face.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

Let me talk to him.

Hayley hands her the phone.

MARTHA (CONT'D)

I don't think this is such a good idea. Shooting range! What's next?

Hayley stands and walks over to the desk. She picks up a post-it note.

HAYLEY

(To Martha)

She's on an assignment. Stop worrying. She's a big girl, she's fine.

Martha looks back at Hayley like a lioness about to jump on it's prey.

MARTHA

Excuses, son. We were in the middle of something.

She throws the phone to the side and picks up the laser tag gun.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, CASTLE'S KITCHEN - DAY

Castle eats the breakfast alone, he looks a little blue. There's a KNOCK at the door.

Castle opens the door. BECKETT stands there like she's about to give a eulogy.

Castle's attitude changes and the Don Juan is back and ready.

CASTLE

Hey. Breakfast is ready, come in.

Beckett struggles not to smile.

BECKETT

Castle, we need to talk.

CASTLE

Yes, talks over coffee are great.

Beckett stares with sad puppy eyes.

CASTLE (CONT'D)

What's going on, Beckett?

BECKETT

It's about Alexis.

Castle loses the smile. He straightens, this means business.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY

Beckett and Castle enter holding hands to see Ryan and Esposito staring into Beckett's office like they are watching a panda at the zoo.

Castle runs towards Beckett's office like a madman. Ryan and Esposito stand in his way.

ESPOSITO

Whoa, whoa. Not like that.

Beckett comes up behind Castle and tenderly rubs his back.

BECKETT

Pull it together. You can't push her.

Beckett shoots Ryan and Esposito a look and they move away from the door.

Castle pulls himself together and enters the room.

INT. PRECINCT, BECKETT'S OFFICE - SAME TIME

Alexis sits staring at Beckett's desk dressed in baggy NYPD sweats. She's still in obvious shock.

Castle stands in front of her for a minute, unsure of what to do next.

He bends down and kisses her forehead and Alexis finally makes eye contact.

Alexis finally looks alive; she cries and is like she's a kid again.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS

Beckett, Ryan and Esposito watch as Castle inspects Alexis and hugs her tenderly and repeatedly.

RYAN

What now?

BECKETT

We play this one by the book.

A phone vibrates.

ESPOSITO

Castle's kid? How are we going to play this by the book? It's not even in the book.

They look around as a phone continues to vibrate.

RYAN
I'm with him. This one is too
messy.

BECKETT
Then we have to be even more
careful.

Ryan looks at his phone. Esposito notices a slight change in
his demeanor.

ESPOSITO
You good?

Ryan looks startled.

RYAN
Yeah. Yeah.

Beckett tries to shake it all off.

BECKETT
What do we know?

Esposito rummages his desk and finds his notes.

ESPOSITO
Samuel Mitchell. P.S. 207 school
counselor. Married.

Beckett waits for more. Ryan and Esposito just stare back.

BECKETT
Is that it?

Ryan looks down at his notes.

RYAN
The hotel bartender places Alexis
and the vic together around 10 P.M.

ESPOSITO
But he can't remember if they left
together.

RYAN
We are waiting for the alcohol and
tox screen results on the vic and
Alexis.

Hayley enters the bullpen along with Martha.

Martha looks like she just ran a marathon. Martha looks
around at the group and runs inside the office.

HAYLEY

How is she?

BECKETT

She hasn't talked.

Hayley watches Alexis and rubs her neck like there's a hairball stuck in her throat. She turns her back to the office and stares directly at Beckett.

HAYLEY

She was following the guy. She was on the job. Wife hired her to prove he was a womanizer. She called me from the bar when she spotted him.

The team hangs to her every word. Beckett pulls her aside.

BECKETT

What are you saying?

HAYLEY

I don't know. I taught her how to shoot. She got her license, and she was carrying for sure last night.

Hayley looks like she might cry.

BECKETT

Stop. Just facts. What do you know?

Hayley looks confused.

HAYLEY

Just that. She was there; I know she was. She's carries. I know how it all looks but she wouldn't shoot without a reason.

BECKETT

We're not there yet.

Hayley pulls herself together.

HAYLEY

I'm in. I will see what more I can find out.

Beckett looks like she might protest.

BECKETT

Okay. Just find out as much as you can and keep us on the loop.

Hayley walks away.

Beckett looks into the office. Martha stands by the wall, they exchange a look.

A phone vibrates loudly again. The interruption brings Beckett back. She shakes it all off and turns to the boys.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

First, we need to know as much about...

RYAN

...Samuel Mitchell

BECKETT

Yes. We need to know everything about him. If he got a speeding ticket in another universe. I want to know about it.

ESPOSITO

Are we treating her like a suspect?

BECKETT

We are dotting all the I's and crossing all the T's. I want every statement; every rock must be turned. We need this case as clear as possible.

Esposito looks into the office.

ESPOSITO

We need her side of it.

Beckett nods in agreement.

ESPOSITO (CONT'D)

Okay. But do we interrogate her now? He's not going to let us.

BECKETT

I'll take care of it.

Beckett doesn't take her eyes away from Castle and Alexis.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

First, check with Lanie. We follow every lead. Report back to me with any news.

Beckett grabs her phone.

BECKETT (CONT'D)
Hey. I need a favor.

INT. CAR - DAY

Esposito and Ryan sit in the car, staring straight ahead.
Ryan's phone interrupts the awkward silence.

ESPOSITO
My man, you gonna get that?

Ryan looks down at his phone.

ESPOSITO (CONT'D)
Everything good?

Ryan looks frustrated.

RYAN
Honest?

Esposito nods in agreement.

RYAN (CONT'D)
It's Jenny. We have an appointment
today. The doc didn't like
something in the last ultrasound.

ESPOSITO
Kev...

Esposito tries searching for the words. Ryan picks up on his
struggle for words.

RYAN
I'm sure everything is fine. I
can't leave. Not today.

ESPOSITO
What time is the appointment?

RYAN
4:00 PM. But we can go tomorrow.

ESPOSITO
No. That's your baby and your wife.
4 PM you'll be at that appointment.

Ryan types up a message on his phone and sighs in relief.

INT. MORGUE, VIEWING ROOM - DAY

Lanie is writing notes next to Samuel Mitchell's body.

The body has three entry wounds on the chest. Without all the blood, Samuel looks handsome and peaceful.

Esposito and Ryan enter. She notices them and sets all her notes down.

LANIE

How's Alexis? And Castle?

ESPOSITO

They're dealing. What do you have for us?

Lanie puts on her professional face.

LANIE

Male, 30s, three entry wounds to the chest. No fibers on the wounds, so he was naked at the time of the shooting.

RYAN

A silencer on the gun?

LANIE

Doubt it. Silencer would mean professional, and there's no pattern to the wounds. This wasn't premeditated.

ESPOSITO

You're thinking self-defense?

LANIE

Alexis wouldn't shoot otherwise.

ESPOSITO

Woah. Hold it. Lanie, Beckett wants to play this by the books. You can't think about what Alexis would have done.

Lanie's attitude changes. She's in defense mode.

LANIE

I know her, Espo.

Ryan and Esposito exchange a look.

RYAN

Give us the facts. Let's start
there. We can add it all up later.

Lanie relaxes a bit and she's back to her professional mode.

LANIE

(slightly annoyed)

Like I said, three shotgun wounds
to the chest with no particular
pattern. I place it around 1 AM.
Traces of alcohol on the vic.

Esposito's phone goes off.

ESPOSITO

Got it. We'll check it out.

RYAN

If you get anything else, give us a
call. Thanks, Lanie.

Ryan and Esposito turn to walk away. Lanie stops Esposito.

LANIE

I'm sure she didn't do this.

ESPOSITO

I know. We'll get to the bottom of
it don't worry.

END OF ACT ONE