

ACT I

FADE IN:

INT. DETECTIVE JOSH'S OFFICE - NIGHT

JOSH, 36 years old, Detective, and life long best friend to Zach. He is well respected, caring, and hardworking, but can also be manipulative and short-tempered.

Josh sits at his cluttered desk going over piles of evidence, as Thursday Night Football plays on the TV in the background.

Suddenly the TV switches to a red screen flashing "breaking news" getting the attention of Josh.

NEWS ANCHOR

(on the television)

Tonight we share some breaking news from Long Island. An arrest has been made earlier this week in connection to the murder of Zach Johnson from Rockville Center.

Josh grins as he shuts the TV off. Suddenly a knock comes from his office door.

JOSH

Come in.

The door creaks open slowly as a police officer makes his way into the office.

POLICE OFFICER

Detective, they want you downstairs right away.

JOSH

(confused)

Do you know what for?

POLICE OFFICER (CONT'D)

Something about the Zach Johnson case.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(worried)

Okay, I'll be right down.

The police officer leaves as Josh begins to tidy up his desk slowly. Finally, he gets up and walks out, closing the door behind him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN OF JOHNSON'S HOUSE - A WEEK BEFORE

MOLLY Johnson, 34 years old, stay-at-home mom, and wife to Zach. She is caring, quiet, and strong but also lets people walk all over her.

Zach Johnson, 36 years old, businessman, husband to Molly, and life long best friend of Josh. He is caring, family-orientated, and social, but can also be controlling and rude.

Molly is preparing dinner while both her kids (Anthony (8) and Emma (7)) are doing school work at the table.

MOLLY

It's dinner time, go wash up.

The front door opens and Zach walks into the kitchen.

ZACH

Hi honey, how was your day?

Zach kisses Molly on the forehead and turns around to hug both kids.

Intercut to the dining room

The Johnsons start to eat dinner when the front door opens again.

ZACH

(Jokingly)

Late again

Zach laughs as Josh walks into the dining room wearing a dress shirt and pants.

JOSH

Sorry, I'm late I got stuck on a case.

ZACH

It's alright bud, Molly go grab him a plate.

JOSH (CONT'D)

It's fine I can go grab it.

As Molly is about to answer she is interrupted by Zach.

ZACH (CONT'D)
No, it's fine she can go grab it.

MOLLY
It's okay, go sit down and relax.

Molly gets up quickly and hugs Josh before she goes and grabs him a plate.

CUT TO:

EXT. THE JOHNSONS HOUSE - NEXT DAY

Police tape blocks off the house, as the street is filled with cop cars, police, and neighbors.

POLICE OFFICER
Everyone stand behind the police tape!

Detectives begin to enter the house, as the sound of neighbors gossiping can be heard in the background.

Josh pulls up in a cop car and goes straight into the house.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY OF THE JOHNSON'S HOUSE - SAME DAY

Josh enters into chaos as the house is filled with detectives collecting evidence throughout the house.

JOSH
(concerned)
Where's Molly?

He gets the attention of one detective who points towards the living room.

JOSH (CONT'D)
Thank you.

Josh rushes towards the living room where he can see two detectives questioning Molly who is still in her pajamas.

Intercut to the living room

MOLLY
(hysterical)
I don't know what happened!

Josh interrupts the questioning and pulls the two detectives

to the side.

JOSH

Alright, guys, I have it from here.

The two detectives leave and Josh goes back over to Molly to try and get her side of the story which we are unable to hear.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE JOHNSONS HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Hours later the front door opens getting the attention of the crowd.

Josh walks out the front door leading Molly out in handcuffs. She tries to hide her face from the crowd as Josh begins to read her Miranda Rights.

JOSH

You have the right to remain silent.

MOLLY

I'm innocent, you have to believe me.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney, if you cannot afford one, one will be appointed to you. Do you understand your rights?

Molly shakes her head as she's put into the back of a cop car.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DETECTIVE JOSH'S OFFICE - SAME NIGHT

Josh continues to go over evidence from the case when he finds something shocking.

JOSH

This can't be.

Without hesitation, Josh grabs the piece of evidence and hides it in his briefcase. He then continues going over the rest of the evidence.

5.

FADE OUT:

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NEXT DAY

Detectives watch as Molly sits and talks to herself.

MOLLY

(whispering)

I just have to prove I'm innocent

A folder of evidence is tossed on the table in front of Molly. When she looks up she sees Josh sitting across from her.

JOSH

It's not looking good for you.

MOLLY

You know I could never do something like this.

JOSH (CONT'D)

So then tell me what happened last night.

As he finishes his sentence the door to the interrogation room slams open by a well-put-together woman with a briefcase.

Elizabeth, 50 years old, lawyer to Molly. She is confident, well-respected, and hard-working.

ELIZABETH

My client has no more to say. Do you mind giving us some privacy?

Annoyed Josh gets up and walks out of the room. He watches Molly and her lawyer talk but is not able to hear what their saying.

Molly wipes tears from her eyes as Elizabeth waves Josh back into the room but stops him before he can sit down across from them.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

My client is done talking for now.

Josh is concerned by this choice and tries to get Molly's attention.

JOSH

Are you sure Molly? I won't be able to help you later.

Molly stays silent as she's handcuffed by another detective and walked out of the room to a jail cell.

CUT TO:

INT. COURTROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER

Molly is led into a crowded courtroom for her bail hearing.

A couple minutes later the judge walks in and starts the hearing.

JUDGE

Today we are here for The State of New York vs. Mrs. Johnson. Defense you may begin.

Elizabeth gets up and walks around the room pleading with the judge that Molly deserves to be let out on bail.

ELIZABETH

She's a stay-at-home mom with a perfect record, she's no danger to society.

After Elizabeth finishes her statement, she begins to walk back, sit next to Molly, and whisper something in her ear.

The prosecutor then gets up and pleads their case that Molly doesn't deserve bail.

The courtroom erupts in conversation making the Judge hit her gavel trying to quiet everyone.

JUDGE

Quiet down! I won't allow this behavior in my courtroom.

The Judge hits her gavel again getting the attention of everyone so she can give her verdict.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Mrs. Johnson your bail is set at \$1 million.

Outraged the prosecutor begins to fight the decision but ultimately ends up being ignored.

Molly turns to Elizabeth crying and thanks her.

ELIZABETH

This is just the beginning Molly,
we've got a long way to go.

Molly nods at Elizabeth as she is led back to a cell until her bail is posted.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOLLY'S CAR - NEXT NIGHT

The night after being released Molly goes to visit her kids. On her way home she realizes she is being followed by someone. She begins to panic and make a bunch of different turns but the person continues to follow her.

MOLLY

What the heck?

She begins to speed up when all of the sound of sirens fills her car. When she looks through her rearview mirror all she sees is flashing red and blue lights.

MOLLY

Crap!

Molly pulls over and rolls down her window where she is met by Josh.

JOSH

You're driving pretty recklessly for
someone who just got out on bail.

MOLLY

Josh, you scared me. Why were you
following me?

She begins to reach for her phone but quickly stops.

JOSH

Molly take the plea. Your perfect
image is already ruined. Why put your
kids through more?

MOLLY

No! I'm innocent you should know that
I would never do anything to hurt
Zach.

Josh's attitude begins to change and he starts to become more aggressive after Molly refuses to do what he said. Molly becomes worried because she has never seen Josh act this way.

JOSH

You're making me do this Molly. Please step out of the car you're under arrest for reckless driving.

MOLLY

Are you serious?

JOSH

Yes, get out of the car. I gave you your chance.

Molly is completely shocked but begins to follow Josh's commands. She slowly shuts the car off, unbuckles, and steps out of the car facing away from Josh.

Molly is then arrested and brought right back to the police station.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Molly begins the intake process again which takes forever. Once she's done she gets put into another cell and just lies staring up at the ceiling.

She begins to have flashbacks of the night go Zach's murder.

Intercut to the Johnson house

It was a normal night in the Johnson house, they had dinner with Josh like they always did on Sundays. Nothing was different the kids went to bed and Zach, Josh, and Molly all hung out in the living room. After that, the rest of the night becomes a blur for Molly and the next thing she remembers is finding Zach dead.

Intercut to jail cell

Molly becomes frustrated and cries because she still can't remember what happened that night.

As the night goes on she starts to question what Josh's motives are.

MOLLY

Josh has been acting weird. What does
he know that I don't?

Deep in her thoughts, she is interrupted by someone at the
front of her cell calling her name.

ELIZABETH

Karli, Karli, get up I have something
important to tell you.

FADE OUT:

ACT III

FADE IN:

EXT. MOLLY'S JAIL CELL - NIGHT

Elizabeth stands at Molly's cell waiting for Molly to come to her.

ELIZABETH

Molly come on it's me.

Molly finally starts to get up slowly still unsure who's at her cell in the middle of the night.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Hurry! We don't have a lot of time.

Molly gets over there and is relieved when it's Elizabeth standing there.

MOLLY

(confused)

What are you doing here? It's the middle of the night.

ELIZABETH

I know! I'm not supposed to be here but I have to tell you something.

Elizabeth waves for Molly to come closer and begins to whisper the important information into Molly's ear.

ELIZABETH

We can't be loud, but I found out who killed Zach...

Elizabeth and Molly's conversation is interrupted when the lights are flipped on and a figure stands in the doorway.

JOSH

Now what do we have going on here?

Molly and Elizabeth both are shocked when they see that it is Josh.

Josh walks towards the two of them pulling out his phone and taking a picture of Elizabeth outside Molly's cell.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Sneaking in to visit your client

after hours isn't gonna have the judge
too happy.

He tilts his head as if the statement he just asked her was a
question.

ELIZABETH

I was just on my way.

Elizabeth gives Molly a serious look and begins to walk out
of the hallway with Josh following right behind her.

CUT TO:

INT. VISITATION ROOM - DAY

Elizabeth is sitting in the back corner of the room when
Molly is brought in. Molly sits down and

Elizabeth starts to whisper but covers her mouth so no one
else in the room can know what she is saying.

ELIZABETH

Molly, listen to me. Josh is framing
you for Zach's murder.

She looks up at her as she continues to speak.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

We had to He did it. The warrant for
his arrest was just approved. We had
to keep you in here so no one could
tip him off.

Molly's eyes widen as her pervious thoughts have been
reassured by what Elizabeth is saying.

MOLLY

I knew that something was up. I've
never seen him act this way.

All of a sudden on the TV in the visitation room the words
"Breaking News" flash on the red screen.

NEWS ANCHOR

Good afternoon, we have just received
breaking news about a new arrest in
the murder of Zach Johnson.

Molly is filled with so many emotions she starts to cry from
happiness, sadness, and angry all at once. Elizabeth gets up

and goes to comfort her as the news continues in the background.

NEWS ANCHOR (CONT'D)
Detective Josh who was a long-time
friend of Mr. Johnson has been arrested
for his murder.

CUT TO:

INT. JOSH JAIL CELL - NEXT DAY

After finally being released Molly decides to go visit Josh.

MOLLY
Just tell me why.

Josh is shocked when he looks up and sees Molly standing at his cell

JOSH
Molly...

MOLLY
Just tell me why you would do this!

JOSH
You never realized, did you? I was
always jealous of the life you and
Zach had.

Josh gets up and walks towards the front of the cell.

JOSH (CONT'D)
I hit my breaking point and did
something I never thought I was
capable of. But there was no way I was
going to let it ruin my life.

MOLLY
So, you were just going to let me take
the blame?

JOSH
Yeah, and I would have gotten away
with it if it weren't for Elizabeth.

Molly walks away crying unable to wrap her head around what just happened.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE JOHNSON HOME - A COUPLE DAYS LATER

Molly is seen cleaning and packing up all the belongings in their house.

Outside the house is filled with news reporters trying to be the first to get an interview from Molly about the arrest of Josh, but are held back by a police barricade.

MOLLY

Come on guys finish packing. I want to be on the road in the next hour.

We see Anthony and Emma running around the house picking up all their toys as movers begin to take boxes out of the house.

As the movers begin to walk out the door, Elizabeth squeezes past them and walks right up to Molly giving her a big hug.

ELIZABETH

Are you sure this is what you want to do?

She begins to pull away holding Molly by the shoulders.

MOLLY

I need a fresh start. This isn't my life anymore.

Molly grabs the last few things in the house before all walk out closing the door behind them.

MOLLY

Thank you for everything you've done for me and my family.

She goes to hug Elizabeth one more time as she finishes packing her car with their belongings.

Molly gets into the car, gives one last wavy to Elizabeth, and drives away without ever looking back at her old life.

FADE TO BLACK: