

The Company

"I Was A Teenage Headline"

by
Sarah-Jane Sheppard

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. THE COMPANY - CONFERENCE ROOM - NIGHT

ANGLE ON HAND

Fingers drumming slowly on the table top.

PAN UP to reveal that the owner of this hand is none other than VIOLET MORGAN. She looks extremely bored.

ANDREW FRIAR sits next to her, his chin on the table. He stares intently at a couple of paper clips while behind him, ALISTAIR BENSON paces slowly.

BENSON

Mr. Friar, I had hoped that since becoming Miss Morgan's partner here at the Company, you would stand up and show a little pride in your work. Unfortunately, I was mistaken. But I can't say that I was surprised.

Andrew says nothing.

BENSON (CONT'D)

What I am surprised about is the fact that you have yet to comprehend that the things you do and the mistakes you make reflect on all of us. Now...

(beat)

In relation to these "mistakes". Can you explain something to me?

He places a piece of paper in front of Andrew who straightens up and turns to look at Benson.

ANDREW

I'm not sure I'm comfortable with you being in charge if you can't... Sort of... You know, read.

Vi turns towards the conversation. Her disinterest fades away at Benson's growing annoyance.

BENSON

I can read. That is precisely the problem. Now, an explanation is in order.

Andrew sighs and pulls the paper closer. He glances over it half-heartedly and Vi shifts to peer over his arm.

ANDREW
(to Benson)
It's my assignment report.

BENSON
And?

ANDREW
I have lovely penmanship, if I do
say so myself.

Benson snatches the paper away.

BENSON
This report is a waste of my time
and yours. Not to mention the
fact that you skipped almost half
the questions listed, didn't even
acknowledge using Company
resources to alter memories and
you used some kind of purple gel
pen!

VI
Can I just - -

ANDREW
Look, it's not my fault that I get
bored easily. Purple helps me to
focus.

Benson studies the paper.

BENSON
Focus on drawing stick figures
being eaten by giant anacondas?

VI
What I - -

ANDREW
Hang on, I hardly ever did
reports properly before but now
because I'm part of the 'Company
Big Brother Program' or whatever
I'm suddenly supposed to be all,
"Whoa! Reports! Hand me another,
Johnny!".

(beat)
And it's not a giant anaconda,
it's a giant Komodo dragon. It's
pretty obvious because snakes
don't have legs.

BENSON

Who on Earth is Johnny? What are you talking about? Am I supposed to understand anything you just said?

ANDREW

If not then you won't understand this. Sir, you are a - -

Vi stands suddenly.

VI

I hate pomegranates!

A long beat. All attention is now on Vi who flinches a little under Benson's scrutinizing gaze.

ANDREW

You mean as in the fruit?

VI

It's a thing. From when I was little. I didn't know what pomegranates were so they kind of freaked me out and that's exactly how I'm feeling right now. I don't know what's going on and so... I hate pomegranates.

Benson turns toward her.

BENSON

The situation is simply this. After every assignment the Runner is required to fill out a detailed report of the preceding events including an evaluation of their own performance.

He holds up Andrew's sad excuse for an assignment report.

BENSON (CONT'D)

This report is then sent to the Records Department where it is cross-checked for any fault and then filed away for future reference. As your Mentor, Mr. Friar was asked to complete your first report for you but has neglected to do so in any satisfactory manner.

ANDREW

Whoa. You totally just channeled my high school principal.

(beat)

Please don't ever do that again.

VI

Reports. Right. I kind of expected, y'know, a parade or maybe a big cake with "Congratulations For Stopping a Murderer" written on it but we get paperwork.

(beat)

Not that I'm complaining or anything.

Benson sighs.

BENSON

I can see I am not going to get through to either of you. And, it's obvious that you...

(looks to Andrew)

Are already starting to have a bad influence on her.

ANDREW

Does this mean you'll make someone else her partner?

BENSON

Absolutely not.

Andrew sighs dramatically. Vi glares at him.

ANDREW

(shrugs)

What?

Shaking her head, Vi turns to Benson.

VI

Can I go now? I should be getting home because... Y'see, my parents kind of think I'm re-organising my bookshelf.

ANDREW

Which was a really great excuse to give because now you have to actually do it.

VI

Yeah, I picked up on that after I said it.

(beat; cheerfully
sarcastic)

I'm smart.

BENSON

You are both dismissed.

Andrew stands and both he and Vi head towards the door.

BENSON (CONT'D)
Oh. One moment, Miss Morgan.

He pulls a piece of paper from his jacket pocket. Hands it to her.

VI
Not another one?

BENSON
Another one. Good luck and I'll expect a report when you're done.
(beat)
Black or blue pen, please.

She opens it.

ANGLE ON PAPER

It reads: "B-45/10:00"

ANGLE ON VI

She's is completely confused.

VI
I thought it was a name thing?
This is... Uh... Not.

Benson lifts his hands and mimes them being tied.

INT. THE COMPANY - RECEPTION - MOMENTS LATER

Andrew presses the elevator button. Vi continues to read over the note.

VI
Isn't he going to explain what this means?

Andrew laughs.

ANDREW
Yeah, then he's going to tell us the meaning of the universe and change his name to Mr. Gives-Everything-Away.

The elevator CHIMES and the doors slide open. Andrew and Vi step inside. We STAY ON THEM as the doors start to close.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
You have a lot to learn about the Company, kid.

Vi sighs and crumples the paper up in her hand as the doors meet.

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - VI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Vi stealthily climbs in through the open window and as one leg touches the ground...

PENNY (O.S.)
Oh. My. God.

Vi whirls around and, in doing so, trips and lands with a THUMP on the carpet. She scrambles to her feet.

PENNY MORGAN stands in the open doorway. She grins devilishly.

PENNY (CONT'D)
Violet Louise Morgan. I am shocked and appalled.
(beat)
How long has this being going on?

VI
What? Nothing's going on.

Penny moves forward and looks out of the window.

PENNY
Is he cute?

VI
(shocked)
What?

PENNY
The guy you've been sneaking out with.

She turns back to Vi. Hands on her hips.

VI
There's no guy! I was just...
Admiring the wonders of nature.
The sky. It's very... big
tonight.

PENNY
It's not that dorky kid from school is it? The one you're always hanging out with? Shawn?

VI
(annoyed)
It's Shane and he's not dorky.
And I'm not sneaking out with him either. No one's sneaking!
(MORE)

VI (CONT'D)

What are you doing in here anyway? I remember that door being closed.

PENNY

For sneaking purposes, I'm sure.

VI

You climb out the window all the time. You don't see me giving you the third degree.

PENNY

True. But...

VI

But what?

PENNY

I think Mum and Dad would be very interested in this information.

VI

What!? Don't you dare.

PENNY

It's for your own good. I mean, you never used to do anything like this back in our old house. In my opinion, this is just a cry for help.

Penny smiles and makes her way to the bedroom door. Vi darts in front of her and SLAMS the door closed. Penny's smile drops.

PENNY (CONT'D)

Whoa! Wanna hold back on the psycho there, Vi?

VI

(pleading)

You can't tell them.

PENNY

I'm the kind of person who believes that I can do whatever I put my mind to. To me, there's no such word as "can't".

There's a KNOCK on the door. Vi steps back as it is opened.

CAROLINE MORGAN enters.

CAROLINE

(to Vi)

Oh! There you are. Did Penny tell you?

VI
 (suspicious)
 Did Penny tell me what?

CAROLINE
 Dinner's ready.
 (beat; re: Vi's outfit)
 Are you going somewhere?

A beat. Vi turns to Penny. Penny remains silent - smirking.

VI
 No. I... I... Uh...

PENNY
 She was wearing that before. God,
 Mum - pay attention.

Caroline takes a moment to look over Vi's shoes and jacket again. Nods and leaves. Vi turns to Penny who smiles slyly and follows Caroline out of the room. Vi is left alone.

In stunned silence, Vi walks over to her bedroom window and closes it sharply.

EXT. GARRETON ACADEMY - DAY

Establishing shot.

SOPHIE (PRE-LAP)
 Cult initiation.

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - MAIN HALLWAY

SOPHIE GEORGE, Bianca's friend from 1x01, stands by a row of lockers with a mixed group of BOYS and GIRLS. They are hanging on her every word.

BOY #1
 Are you serious?

SOPHIE
 I swear to God. She wanted to join this cult and the only way they'd let her in is if she had a near death experience first. I heard she was going to buy like fifty bottles of vodka and give herself alcohol poisoning but that bullet seemed to do the trick.

GIRL #1
 But didn't she just fake it?
 Bianca's been saying - -

SOPHIE

Bianca says a lot of things. Like that she was attacked by the guy that offed Olivia Gibson. Does that tell you anything? Girl's a drama queen.

BOY #2

Aren't you her best friend?

SOPHIE

Can a person actually define the word "friend" nowadays? Anyway, so - Lucy told Gavin that she heard from Anna that Violet was rambling in this weird language when she ran into the store - like she was possessed or something.

VI (O.S.)

Excuse me.

Sophie turns to see Vi standing behind her. Sophie freezes.

SOPHIE

Uh... I was just...

She turns to look at her captive audience only to find that they've gone their separate ways - glancing back as they hurry off down the hallway.

Sophie turns back to Vi and smiles sweetly.

SOPHIE (CONT'D)

Violet! How are you?

VI

You're standing in front of my locker.

SOPHIE

Oh.

She steps out of the way. Smiles again and moves off. Vi opens her locker and digs around for her next set of books.

SHANE EVANS appears. He shakes a bag of jelly beans in front of her.

Vi smiles and reaches out for them but Shane pulls the bag away.

SHANE

What do you say?

VI

I say give me those jelly beans
or I'll put a curse on you with
my voodoo cult powers.

Shane softens and hands her the bag.

SHANE

So, you've heard that one?

VI

Just got a recap from Sophie
George. Another one to add to the
list...

She swings open her locker door and we see...

ANGLE ON LOCKER DOOR

A piece of paper taped to the inside. It is titled,
"Rumours About Me" and contains a list of various scenarios
some of which include; "Faked entire thing", "Just wanted
attention" and "Some bikers dared me".

She takes a pen and adds, "Cult initiation" to the bottom.

BACK TO SCENE

Vi pulls out her books and closes the locker. She and Shane
start eating the jelly beans as they make their way down
the hallway.

VI (CONT'D)

It's been about two weeks since
the whole thing happened. I get
that it's weird. I mean, I
wouldn't turn down a spot on
Ripley's Believe It Or Not but it
just gets to a point when you've
gotta...

A group of YOUNGER KIDS walk past - they stare and whisper.

VI (CONT'D)

(loudly; in their
direction)

Let it go!

They scurry away.

SHANE

Agreed. It'll blow over. Once
they realise there's nothing more
to the story, they'll find
something else to be obsessed
with.

Vi grimaces.

VI

Nothing more to the story. Right.

She grabs another handful of jelly beans as they move off screen...

EXT. GARRETON ACADEMY - LUNCH COURT - LATER

Vi carries her lunch and moves through the crowd towards her usual lunch table. Suddenly, her path is blocked by the energetic and talkative MAX HARVEY (16).

MAX

Violet Morgan, have I got a proposition for you.

She raises her eyebrows.

VI

No, I'm not going to teach you how to fake your own death. You'll have to look it up on the internet like everyone else.

She starts to move around him but he blocks her once again.

MAX

(laughs)

That's cute, real cute. The paper could use a bit of snark like that.

VI

The paper?

Max pulls a folded newsletter from his back pocket. Holds it out for her to see.

MAX

The Garreton Grapevine. I'm Max Harvey, the Editor. Usually it's a senior but she moved back to New Zealand so I took over. I'm looking for a big story as my first issue. Something that'll make the kids interested in the news again and... I think I'm looking right at her.

Vi lets out a short laugh.

VI

You can't be serious.

MAX

Oh, I am. I've heard the rumours about your so-called "accident" and let's face facts - no one in this school knows exactly what happened but you. I'm giving you a golden opportunity here. An exclusive, front page interview to tell your side of the story. The whole truth.

Vi pauses. Thinks for a moment. She's tempted.

VI

I... I can't. I'm sorry.

She begins walking again. Max stays where he is for a moment. He can't believe she just said no. He scampers after her.

MAX

Well, I know it's a bit much to take in. Give it a couple of days - think it over. I'm sure you'll come to see that it's not such a bad idea. You can - -

Vi stops again. She's serious now.

VI

Look Max, you're just going to have to find another story. I'm not interested.

Max opens his mouth to speak.

VI (CONT'D)

Even if I waited a couple of days I still wouldn't be interested.

MAX

You're not thinking about - -

ERIN (O.S.)

She said no. Why don't you give her a break?

ERIN FOWLER sits with his group of friends next to where Vi and Max stand. Max looks from Erin to Vi.

MAX

Fine. Alright. But you're missing out on a great thing here.

He walks away. Vi turns to Erin.

VI
Thanks. But I was handling it.

Erin shrugs.

ERIN
Never said you weren't.

A beat.

VI
Well, OK then. Bye.

She walks off, a little confused at Erin's assistance - and also a little flattered.

She reaches the table and sits down. Shane is looking forlornly at his sandwich.

SHANE
I wish sandwiches came in cool colours.
(beat; cheerfully)
Then lunchtime would be like a rainbow of fun!

Beat.

VI
No more jelly beans for you.

From O.S we hear YELLING, CHEERING and WHISTLING. Vi and Shane look around for the disturbance.

SHANE
Wanna go check it out?

VI
If it's gonna get the attention off of me? Hell yeah!

They stand and hurry over to the large clump of noisy kids.

Pushing their way to the front, the noise dies down as they see the commotion...

Penny stands in the centre of the circle facing off against another girl, ASHLEY (18). A tall, very attractive boy DAVE (18) stands off to the side looking very overwhelmed.

ASHLEY
(to Penny)
You lair! I've got reliable sources - -

PENNY

Your sources suck! I didn't steal
your boyfriend, Ashley! Dave!
Tell her!

Dave looks to Ashley.

DAVE

She... She didn't, Ash. I swear!

ASHLEY

Oh, of course you'd say that. Of
course you'd defend her.

PENNY

I didn't do anything! I never
made out with Dave. Dave isn't
even my type!

ASHLEY

What's wrong with him then? Is he
not good enough for you?

Penny looks around and, for the first time, notices the audience she's got. Ashley stalks over to the first line of people and snatches a Frozen Coke from a younger kid. Turning to Penny, she dumps it all over her uniform!

Penny screams in shock and Ashley stands back - triumphant. Some of the watching crowd gasps while some laugh.

Penny looks around again, tears well in her eyes and she takes off - pushing her way out of the circle.

Vi looks after her.

SHANE

That was harsh.

VI

(to Shane)

Excuse me.

She follows her sister.

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - GIRLS BATHROOM

Vi enters to find Penny standing at the sink. She's crying and dabbing at her uniform with a damp paper towel. She looks up when Vi enters.

PENNY

Go away.

VI

Are you OK?

PENNY

God, Violet! Does it look like I'm OK? I have frozen coke all down my shirt and the whole school just saw me accused of stealing someone's boyfriend. And they saw me cry.

(beat)

I'm almost as pathetic as you.

At this last comment, Vi rolls her eyes and turns to go but thinks better of it and turns back.

VI

You know, I was trying to do the right thing. I just saw my sister be humiliated in front a crowd of people and actually thought, "Hey, she might need someone to talk to". So, here I am. Doing something nice. Which you might want to try sometime.

PENNY

We both know you aren't here to be nice.

VI

What is that supposed to mean?

PENNY

You're here to make sure that I'm upset enough to drag the attention away from your little "back from the dead" escapade.

VI

(wavering)

That's not true.

PENNY

Sure it isn't. Now, go away.

Vi angrily turns and walks out. Penny studies herself in the mirror for a moment. Wipes away another tear.

In the mirror's reflection, a stall door opens smoothly to reveal Max, leaning casually against the wall.

Penny whirls around.

PENNY (CONT'D)

What the hell are you doing? This is the girls bathroom, you freak!

Max walks out of the stall. He smiles.

MAX
Penny Morgan, have I got a
proposition for you...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - VI'S BEDROOM - MORNING

MOVE ALONG a bookshelf filled with books, CD's and various nick-knacks.

As an alarm clock starts to BUZZ, we slowly PAN DOWN and ACROSS to reveal Vi's sleeping form. She stirs, reaches across and turns the alarm off.

ANGLE ON CLOCK

Its digital numbers fade from 7:30 to 8:45.

ANGLE ON SCENE

The bedroom door opens and PETER MORGAN enters. He bends down and picks up Vi's washing basket. He turns to leave but spots Vi - still fast asleep.

PETER
(surprised)
Violet!

Vi wakes with a jolt.

VI
What... What is it?

Peter goes to her cupboard where her school uniform hangs on the door knob. He tosses it onto her bed.

PETER
You're late.

A beat.

VI
I'm...

She looks across to the alarm clock.

VI (CONT'D)
Late.
(beat)
Oh.

Peter shakes his head and walks out of the room.

ANGLE ON FLOOR

As Vi's bare feet land on the carpet, "Here It Goes Again" by OK Go begins to play.

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - LATER

The bathroom door bursts open and Vi emerges - uniform on - and brushing her hair into a pony tail.

She scoops up her backpack lying by her bedroom door and thunders down the stairs.

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - MOMENTS LATER

Peter stands in the kitchen by the toaster. It POPS and he gingerly pulls a steaming Pop Tart from the top. He juggles it in his hands.

Vi hurries into the room. Peter holds out the cooling Pop Tart which she takes.

EXT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

The front door opens and Vi rushes outside. Taking a bite of her breakfast, she slings her backpack over her other shoulder and jogs down the front path...

EXT. GARRETON ACADEMY - DAY

Establishing shot.

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - DAY

The BELL RINGS and students flock out of their classrooms as Vi makes her way down the hall - still with her back pack.

The kids seem to be staring and whispering about her more openly - so much so that they're hardly keeping their voices down at all. Vi notices this but tries to ignore it.

Making it to her locker, she opens it up and starts getting her things ready.

Someone bumps into her from behind. The person falls to the ground - spilling their books everywhere.

Vi turns around to see a tiny YEAR 7 GIRL nervously trying to get her things in order.

YEAR 7 GIRL

I'm sorry! Oh! I'm so sorry! I didn't mean to...

Vi kneels down and helps her pick up her books.

VI

It's no problem. Really. Accidents happen.

The girl looks up with a smile on her face but it falls when she realises who Vi is.

YEAR 7 GIRL

Oh...

VI

What? Do I have toothpaste on my face?

She wipes a hand around her mouth. The girl looks down and begins scrambling to get her things together.

She makes a grab for something but Vi's already holding it...

Vi looks down.

VI (CONT'D)

What's wrong? What is...

Her eyes widen.

VI (CONT'D)

Holy mother of...

She stands. So does the Year 7.

ANGLE ON NEWSPAPER

A copy of the Garretton Grapevine.

Next to a picture of Vi is the headline, "I Was a Teenage Zombie!". A sub heading underneath reads, "The Truth About The Night I Died".

ANGLE ON VI

VI (CONT'D)

(to Year 7)

Where did you get this?

YEAR 7 GIRL

(nervous)

They... They're free. Everyone picks them up from outside the... journalism room.

Vi SLAMS her locker closed and marches angrily down the hallway.

Shane comes out of a classroom and sees her. He hurries to her side.

SHANE

Now, Vi. You're probably going to see some - -

Vi lifts the newspaper up into the air.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Oh.

(beat; hopeful)

Another one for the list?

VI

(furious)

I am going to kill him. As of this moment, Max Harvey is officially dead. Make a note.

Shane slows and stops as Vi continues to walk.

SHANE

(calling)

What happened to waiting for it to blow over?

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - JOURNALISM ROOM

Max stands over a bunch of photos laid out on a desk and looks over them intently. Around him, students scurry about as they work on the next issue.

Max leans down to study the photos closer. As he does this, we see Vi standing in the doorway behind him - her face a mask of fury.

She storms towards him.

VI

Max Harvey, have I got a proposition for you.

Max freezes and then slowly stands upright. He turns to face her.

MAX

Violet... I can explain.

Vi holds up the newspaper.

VI

Explain? Really? Can you explain this?

(begins to read)

"I didn't know what was happening to me. I heard voices in the distance and when I finally gained the strength to open my eyes, I saw a figure hovering over me with a scalpel to my heart. I had awoken in the middle of my own autopsy".

A beat.

MAX
Artistic license?

Vi SLAPS the paper down on the desk. Max jumps. Gulps.

MAX (CONT'D)
It was... It was your sister's idea. She... She gave me all of the information but... but I suggested that we write it in first person. You know, give it that personal feel. Plus... I had the title in mind from the beginning. It just made sense, you know?

VI
Penny? Penny agreed to this?

Max nods quickly.

MAX
Usually, I have to protect my sources but I think in this case it's best if I - -

VI
I hate to sound childish but there's only one thing to say in a situation like this.
(beat)
I'm telling.

She turns on her heel and starts for the door. Max follows and stops her.

MAX
It's too late. I already had a meeting with the principal. If I slip up again, I'm getting kicked off the paper and suspended. Right now it's just detention for two weeks.

He looks down sadly.

VI
Am I supposed to feel sorry for you? You lied to hundreds of kids - pretending to be me! Two weeks ago, I had the most traumatic experience of my life and you just turned it into something people read about in a tabloid magazine.

MAX

Uh... I'm sorry?

(beat; sincere)

I'm sorry. It's just... I wanted my first issue to be amazing. As good as any real newspaper anyway. I... I guess I just got carried away.

Vi shoots him one last glare and walks out of the room. Max looks back to the room which has now stopped to watch the disruption.

MAX (CONT'D)

(to group)

OK, everybody! Back to work!

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - HALLWAY

The hallway is empty.

Vi moves to the opposite wall and slowly sinks to the floor.

ANGLE ON DOORWAY

Brass numbers and letters are used above the door frame to make out the room number. The one above the Journalism room being "B-45".

ANGLE ON VI

She sits up slowly, staring at it. She digs through her pocket and pulls out the assignment sheet.

ANGLE ON ASSIGNMENT SHEET

Reading, "B-45/10:00".

BACK TO VI

Who looks down at her watch. It reads 10:05. She groans and stands.

VI

I better be getting paid for this.

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - JOURNALISM ROOM

Max stands talking to a student.

MAX

I don't know how we're going to manage. Carrie's off sick and I'm on detention.

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)
 We'll never get all the work done
 that we need to for next week's
 issue.

VI (O.S.)
 I could... help out.

PAN AROUND to see Vi standing in the doorway. Max is
 stunned.

MAX
 I thought you were mad at me?

VI
 I am.

MAX
 Why do you want to help me?

Vi shrugs.

VI
 I have my reasons.

A beat. Max considers this.

MAX
 (unsure)
 Another girl was going to cover
 the Soccer game this Friday but
 she can't make it. Do you want
 it?

VI
 (reluctant)
 Yeah. Of course.

Vi attempts a smile but just comes off looking like she's
 going to be sick.

INT. THE COMPANY - BENSON'S OFFICE - DAY

Flowing, CLASSICAL MUSIC plays in the background as we PAN
 OVER a large wooden desk layered with files and papers
 along with an antique clock and a framed photograph of a
 WOMAN holding a BABY in a beautiful garden.

A hand moves in front of the photograph and picks up a
 manila envelope.

Benson, sitting behind the desk, starts to read its
 contents intently, occasionally jotting down notes in the
 margins with an expensive pen.

We finally get a good look at his office. It has an air of
 age and dignity with dark mahogany furniture, delicately
 woven rugs and thickly bound volumes gracing a bookshelf
 that takes up an entire wall.

After a beat, there is a knock on the door.

BENSON
(distracted)
Come in.

The door opens and GLENDA MORRISON enters. Benson looks up.

BENSON (CONT'D)
(off Glenda's
expression)
Bad news?

GLENDA
This just got delivered from
Surveillance.

She places something on the desk.

ANGLE ON NEWSPAPER

The Garreton Grapevine. Vi's picture stares up from the cover.

ANGLE ON BENSON

BENSON
Thank you, Glenda.

GLENDA
What should I do, Sir?

A beat. Benson thinks and then...

BENSON
Get me Andrew Friar.

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - MAIN HALLWAY - LATER

The hallway is almost empty. Vi walks slowly - tired, dejected. Suddenly, we hear a BUZZING coming from somewhere nearby.

Vi jumps and searches her pockets - pulling out a mobile phone. She glances around for incoming teachers and ducks around the corner.

VI
(into phone; quiet)
Hello?

INT. THE COMPANY - CORRIDOR #1 - SAME TIME

Andrew leans against the wall by the corner leading into the reception area.

ANDREW
We have a problem.

INT. THE COMPANY - RECEPTION - LATER

ANGLE ON ELEVATOR

It CHIMES. The doors open and Vi enters the room. She stops.

VI
Uh... Hi?

ANGLE ON SCENE

Benson stands in the middle of the room with his arms folded over his chest. He looks very angry.

Andrew stand on one side of him and looks like he wants to be anywhere but here.

BENSON
We need to have a little talk.

Off his dangerously cold expression, cut to...

INT. THE COMPANY - CONFERENCE ROOM - LATER

Vi sits at the table looking over the newspaper article. Andrew hangs nervously by the door, biting his fingernails and Benson - once again - paces the room.

Vi slowly puts the newspaper down.

VI
I can explain.

BENSON
There's no need. I'm afraid the evidence explains itself.

He turns to Andrew.

BENSON (CONT'D)
(to Andrew)
You have no idea what you've done.

Andrew's eyes widen.

ANDREW
How did this get to be about me?
I'm not the one who spilled my guts to the Sesame Street press!

VI
I didn't - -

BENSON

But you put her up to this, I have no doubt about that. Your dislike for the Company has been apparent from day one and I don't think sabotage is below your level.

Andrew looks genuinely offended.

VI

Andrew didn't do anything!

Benson turns to her.

ANDREW

Thank you!

VI

And neither did I. It's just a big misunderstanding. It'll blow over. Besides, the article doesn't say anything about the Company. Just about me being... not dead. What's the big deal?

BENSON

To the students at your school this article is entirely true. It won't take long for word to reach the real newspapers and TV stations. Until it's too big to ignore. At that stage, people start digging. We have to stop that from happening.

VI

(fearful)

What are you going to do?

He picks up the paper.

BENSON

If you didn't give the interview yourself, there are things in here that need investigating.

VI

Of course I didn't!

BENSON

Quotes. From a Doctor Sutton and the Morgue Attendant. I know for a fact that they had their memories altered to exclude you.

(MORE)

BENSON (CONT'D)

If it's a fault in our technology we need to repair it as soon as possible. We've got a Runner on assignment at the hospital so I'll get him to check on Doctor Sutton but I need you to pay a visit to the morgue.

(beat)

Again.

Vi looks back down at the newspaper and the CAMERA lingers on the photo of her - a smiling school photo at least a year old.

Vi sighs and pushes the paper away as she stands...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. CITY MORGUE - FRONT OFFICE - DAY

The room is empty. From within the building, a radio plays a static version of Gwen Stefani's "Hollaback Girl".

Andrew and Vi enter. Vi now wears casual clothes. They approach the desk cautiously.

ANDREW

What's our cover story?

VI

We need a cover story?

ANDREW

Well, how's it gonna look if we just start questioning people about corpses coming back from the dead?

VI

Alright... Well... I'll just pretend that I'm doing a follow up article for the school paper. Fact checking or something.

ANDREW

Can I be from Texas?

VI

What?

ANDREW

Can I be a guy from Texas. Like... Your assistant?

VI

Why would a high school journalist have a twenty-four year old assistant from Texas?

A beat.

ANDREW

Never mind.

Vi looks around.

VI

Is everybody here dead or what?

ANDREW
 (mumbling)
 I just like the accent, that's
 all.

Vi peers around the desk and through the door leading into the next room. She motions for Andrew to follow and they move quietly towards it.

INT. CITY MORGUE - MAIN ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

They emerge into the main room. It's exactly as Vi remembers it. SONNY BELMONT (26), the Morgue Attendant from the previous episode, is busy sweeping the floor.

He wears a white lab coat over a pair of tight jeans and a faded band t-shirt. He doesn't exactly look like someone who takes his job very seriously.

SONNY
 (singing)
*A FEW TIMES I'VE AROUND THAT
 TRACK. SO IT'S NOT JUST GONNA
 HAPPEN LIKE THAT. CAUSE I AIN'T
 NO HOLLABACK GIRL. I AIN'T NO
 HOLLABACK GIRL.*

He spins around and is startled by Andrew and Vi. The broom CLATTERS to the floor. He takes a moment to recover.

SONNY (CONT'D)
 OK, first rule about being in a morgue? Make lots of noise. Leave the stealth for the spy missions.

He bends down to pick up the broom and then moves to the radio - switching it off. Andrew looks over to Vi. She nods.

VI
 (whispered)
 That's him.

Sonny turns back to them.

SONNY
 You know, you guys aren't supposed to be back here.

ANDREW
 Sorry, there was no one at the front desk.

SONNY
 Can I help you with something, then?

VI

Yeah, we'd just like to ask you a few questions.

Sonny moves over to a metal table and hops up on top.

SONNY

Yes, I am single. I know, it's hard to believe.

He shoots Vi a smile. Andrew raises his eyebrows - extremely amused.

SONNY (CONT'D)

(to Vi)

Hey, have we met before? You look kinda familiar.

ANDREW

The last time you saw her she was probably a lot paler. And in a big plastic bag. Most likely not wearing any - -

Vi steps down on Andrew's foot and he grimaces in pain. Vi decides to cut to the chase.

VI

Have any of your corpses ever opened their eyes and started walking around?

And as Sonny thinks...

ANDREW

(quiet; to Vi)

What about our cover story?

Vi shrugs.

SONNY

Nooo. But there was that time a couple got up and started doing the *Macarena*.

Vi discreetly rolls her eyes.

VI

Thanks for your time.

She turns and walks out of the room. Andrew nods to Sonny and follows.

SONNY

Sure you don't wanna hang? We can play Blackjack?

They're already gone.

EXT. CITY MORGUE - STREET - MOMENTS LATER

Vi and Andrew emerge from the building. They start to walk down the foot path.

ANDREW

Well, that was a waste of time.

VI

He did say that he thought I looked familiar. Maybe he remembered me.

ANDREW

That was a line. He didn't remember you.

VI

Are you sure?

ANDREW

Trust me.

Vi smiles - lines aren't thrown at her very often.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

Although, it's kinda gross when you think about it. I mean, the last time he saw you, you were dead.

Vi tries to ignore this but her smile drops.

VI

Now what?

ANDREW

We have to find out where those quotes came from and we have to do it fast.

EXT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - NIGHT

Establishing shot.

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM

Penny sits alone on the couch watching one MTV television program or another. Suddenly, the TV turns off.

The room is now dark - the only light source being the glow of the TV and a couple of table lamps around the room.

PENNY

What the... ?

She sits up and looks around. Vi stands in the doorway, holding the remote control in her hand. She walks calmly into the room.

PENNY (CONT'D)
What are you doing? I was watching that?

VI
I have to talk to you.

Penny stands to face her.

PENNY
Really? Is this about something in particular or do you just want to chat about the weather?

Vi takes a deep breath.

VI
Who gave you those quotes for the article?

PENNY
(feigning innocence)
Quotes?

VI
Yeah. Off the top of my head one guy called my experience "a miracle of biblical proportions".
(beat)
But, you see, it's kinda funny. When I spoke to him - he didn't even remember me. So, I'm going to ask you again. Where'd you get the quotes?

Penny smiles. She lifts a finger to her temple.

PENNY
Right here, little sis. And they say I don't work hard enough in English class.

Vi nods slowly. A long beat.

VI
I would get so mad at you right now. Seriously, there would be yelling and everything. But, I've had a really long day. I'm tired and your little stunt...
(MORE)

VI (CONT'D)

Well, it would have been a lot easier if you'd just spread around a rumour that I still liked *Hanson* or something. Y'know, like a normal evil sister would do.

She tosses the remote control onto the couch. Turns and exits.

Penny looks after her - not sure how to take Vi's lack of outward anger. After a beat, she sits back down on the couch and stares at the darkened TV screen.

EXT. GARRETON ACADEMY - SOCCER FIELD - DAY

Fall Out Boy's "Champagne For My Real Friends, Real Pain For My Sham Friends" blares in the background as...

ANGLE ON FIELD

A soccer ball rolls into frame and is stopped by...

ERIN

Wearing a Garreton soccer uniform. He looks up and scours the field for an opening. He runs for a few metres, dribbling the ball between his feet and then kicks it to another player who makes an easy goal.

The CROWD CHEERS in approval.

ANGLE ON VI

Sitting on the bottom row of stands, a note pad in one hand and a camera slung around her neck. She yawns. Lifts the camera and takes a new snaps of the players.

THROUGH THE CAMERA

We see her focus on Erin. She zooms in. Takes a couple of shots.

BACK TO VI

She lowers the camera and begins scribbling some notes.

SHANE (O.S.)

OK, you didn't kill Max and take over the newspaper did you?

Vi looks up. Shane stands in front of her and she moves over to give him room to sit down.

VI

Nope. I restrained myself from tearing his limbs off. I'm actually helping him out.

Shane nods to the camera and note pad.

SHANE
By being Lois Lane?

VI
I don't know if Lois Lane
actually covered high school
soccer games.

The crowd CHEERS again and Vi and Shane look to the field.

VI (CONT'D)
Oh! Did someone just get a point?
Are they called points or is a
goal or something?

SHANE
I can see your article is going
to be just chock full of accurate
soccer terminology. And, you see
that thing?
(pointing to field;
mocking)
It's called a ball.

Vi sticks her tongue out at him.

A gust of wind rushes past, blowing a stack of flyers for a
Garreton Academy fund-raiser from a table a few feet away.

As the wind settles, something on the ground catches her
eye.

ANGLE ON GROUND

Which is littered with flyers. Starting from Vi's feet and
leading in a line around the stands - the writing has been
replaced with IMAGES OF FOOT PRINTS.

BACK TO VI

She looks around and notices this phenomenon only occurring
to her. Definitely a Sign.

VI
I'll be right back.

SHANE
What? But you're supposed to be
covering the game and... Uh...
Game's here.

Vi stands.

VI

(distracted)

I know what to write. Heroic
victory, one team saddened but
inspired by their loss,
sportsmanship, matching outfits,
etcetera, etcetera.

She begins to follow the footprints...

A beat.

SHANE

(to himself; casually)

Yep, she's weird.

EXT. GARRETON ACADEMY - BEHIND STANDS - MOMENTS LATER

Vi rounds the corner to find the flyers and their
subsequent footprints end. Puzzled, she looks around only
to gasp in shock.

Leaning against the seating structure, is Penny and Dave -
their lips firmly locked. At this point, Dave doesn't seem
too worried that he already has a girlfriend.

Vi glowers.

VI

That lying...

A beat. She quickly lifts the camera - taking shot after
shot. After a moment, she lowers it.

VI (CONT'D)

(to herself)

Max wants a story...

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - VI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Vi sits facing her computer. On the screen, we see her
loading in pictures of Penny and Dave's passionate meeting.

VI

He'll get a story.

And off Vi's cunning smile - -

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. ANDREW'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Andrew is asleep on the couch, the TV plays softly in the background. A SCRAWNY CAT sits on his lap - licking the remains of Andrew's dinner from the take out container on his chest.

His telephone RINGS and Andrew jolts awake. The food container tumbles to the floor and the cat scampers away.

Andrew fumbles in the surrounding mess of his living room until he produces a cordless phone from between the couch cushions.

ANDREW
(into phone)
What?

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - VI'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Vi moves about her room, fully dressed and with her mobile phone pressed to her ear. Her room is dimly lit by her bedside lamps and she speaks quietly.

VI
Is that how you answer the phone?

ANDREW
(filtered)
Oh, I'm sorry.

INT. ANDREW'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

He sits up, rubbing his eyes.

ANDREW
And to what do I owe the pleasure
of this call at - -

He glances at his watch.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
Two thirty in the freaking
morning!? Don't you have school
tomorrow?

VI
(filtered)
Technically, yes.

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - VI'S BEDROOM

VI

But that's only because it's Sunday morning and therefore tomorrow would be Monday. I'm still working on the idea that it's Saturday night though, so if you go by that, then... No. No school tomorrow.

INT. ANDREW'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM

A beat.

ANDREW

Uh... OK?
(beat; yawning)
Why are you calling, Violet?

VI

(filtered)
I know how we can find out who gave those quotes for the article.

ANDREW

I thought you were gonna ask your sister?

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - VI'S BEDROOM

Vi pauses.

VI

Uh... Yeah. I did. She wouldn't tell me.
(quickly)
Said something about Max having the details somewhere though. So, I need your help.

She moves to her computer and puts a computer disc into a plastic case. She holds it for a moment longer.

VI (CONT'D)

How do you feel about a bit of breaking and entering?

EXT. GARRETTON ACADEMY - SIDE LAWN - NIGHT

Andrew and Vi creep quietly along the side of the building. They crouch low and move swiftly underneath a row of windows.

ANDREW

This is such a bad idea.

VI

Do you want to find out where the information came from or not?

ANDREW

Not really. I couldn't care less.

VI

Do you want to make sure Benson doesn't drop you down the elevator shaft?

A beat.

ANDREW

Which room is it?

Vi points to the window just up ahead.

VI

This one.

They reach it and straighten up.

ANDREW

Hang on... This isn't a Catholic school, is it?

VI

No.

ANDREW

OK, good. For a second there I was afraid I was going to hell.

Andrew bends his arm back and breaks the glass with his elbow.

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - JOURNALISM ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Vi steps cautiously over the broken glass while Andrew finishes climbing in the window.

The room is dark but Vi knows exactly what she's doing. She moves to a computer and turns it on.

ANDREW

You think the information's on a computer?

VI

Uh... Yeah.

ANDREW

What if it's locked. Do you have his password?

A beat.

VI
 Why don't you check that filing
 cabinet.

Andrew moves over to a filing cabinet, pulls it open and
 begins sifting through the files.

ANDREW
 (reading sheet)
 Voting ballot for dance
 decorations. Under the Sea or
 Magical Ice Garden.
 (beat)
 I'm so glad I'm not in high
 school anymore.

Vi pulls out the disc from her bag and loads it onto the
 computer.

ANGLE ON COMPUTER SCREEN

She clicks on an icon and a newspaper article appears.

It's heading reads: "Penny Morgan: My Life As A Compulsive
 Liar". Underneath it is a large picture of her smooch
 session with Dave.

ANGLE ON SCENE

Andrew glances over and moves towards the computer.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 You found something?

VI
 I...

ANDREW
 (sees article)
 What is... ? Did you write this?

Vi sighs.

ANDREW (CONT'D)
 (realising)
 There's no information on the
 quotes in here, is there?

VI
 Sorry.

ANDREW
 You used me so you could get back
 at your sister.

VI

Sorry again.

ANDREW

You woke me up at two thirty in the morning to commit crime where I almost ripped my favourite jacket smashing in a window.

VI

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry! How many times do I have to say it?

ANDREW

Can we go now?

Vi looks back to the screen.

VI

I have to do this. On Sunday they take the disc to the printers, I need to put this article on the front page. I won't get another chance.

ANDREW

To humiliate your sister?

VI

Yes.

ANDREW

Trust me. There'll be plenty of other chances.

(beat)

Is this what your assignment's about? Getting revenge?

Vi sighs and leans back in her chair.

VI

Maybe. I thought so but it doesn't feel...

ANDREW

Right?

VI

Yeah.

Vi pushes herself away from the desk and stands. She wanders around the room slowly - mulling over the problem in her mind. Andrew looks around nervously.

ANDREW

I think we'd better go. Don't private schools have laser beams and pressure pads in the floors and stuff?

VI

Maybe at your high school they did.

ANDREW

Hey, I went public. None of this... manicured lawn and two dozen types of extra curricular sport. We had a cement car park and three tennis balls, thank you very much.

Vi moves closer to the wall - squinting to see something in the darkness. It's a framed photograph.

ANGLE ON PHOTO

The caption down the bottom reads, "Max Harvey; Garretton Grapevine Junior Reporter and Dennis Holland; Editor of the Garretton Herald".

The photo shows Max enthusiastically shaking hands with a confident, well dressed man.

BACK TO VI

As she moves back to the computer and sits down.

VI

I can't believe I'm doing this.

ANDREW

You're actually going ahead with this?

ANGLE ON SCREEN

Vi right clicks the file titled "Penny_Sucks.doc". Selects "Delete".

The window appears and she chooses "Yes". The file disappears.

ANGLE ON SCENE

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I would congratulate you for taking the high road but now aren't you back at square one?

VI
Not exactly.

FOOTSTEPS are heard coming up the hallway.

ANDREW
(quietly)
Abort mission!

He heads for the window. Vi stands and grabs his arm.

VI
No! I can't. I have to finish
this.

The FOOTSTEPS come closer. A KEY RATTLES in the lock on the door. Andrew looks from Vi's pleading face to the open window.

ANDREW
Aw, damnit!

INT. GARRETON ACADEMY - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

A SECURITY GUARD opens the door and shines his torch inside. It easily picks out Andrew standing in the middle of the room. Andrew waves.

ANDREW
(in Texan accent)
Howdy! This ain't the room for
the National Rodeo Clown
Convention, is it?

SECURITY GUARD
No but the police will be happy
to give you directions.

He takes Andrew roughly by the arm and leads him out of the room. Andrew turns.

Vi looks apologetically at him from her hiding place underneath the computer desk.

ANDREW
(mouthing)
You owe me!

The door closes and Vi is alone. After a beat, she climbs back up to the computer. She sits down and flexes her fingers. She begins to type.

VI (V.O.)
I have always wanted to be a
great Editor. Someone that uses
the news to inspire others
towards discovering the truth.
(MORE)

VI (V.O.) (CONT'D)
 I admit that what I did, although
 done with good intentions, was
 wrong and I apologize to all
 parties that were hurt in the
 process.

(beat)

The news and true journalism is
 not about shock value - although
 that's what some publications
 might want you to believe...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GARRETON ACADEMY - LUNCH COURT - DAY

Shane and Vi sit at their table. Shane holds the Garreton Grapevine, reading from it. On the front page, we see Max Harvey's picture and the headline, "Editor's Letter: The Whole Truth...".

SHANE

(reads)

... It is about thinking for
 yourself and not basing your
 opinions on rumours or
 speculation. Real journalists
 want to use facts to help you to
 shape your opinions - not fiction
 to shape them for you.

Shane closes the newspaper.

SHANE (CONT'D)

(to Vi)

Wow. Kid can write.

Vi smiles with pride.

VI

Yeah. I know.

Max cautiously approaches the table.

MAX

Violet?

VI

Hi, Max.

SHANE

Max! Nice article.

MAX

Uh... Thanks.

(to Vi)

I wanted to apologise... Again.
 And to... Thank you. At least, I
 think it was you.

(MORE)

MAX (CONT'D)

I'm not entirely sure but I've got this... Journalistic hunch, I guess you could say and - -

VI

(interrupting)

Max... Max. I have no idea what you're talking about. And ditto to what Shane said. Nice article.

She smiles. Max laughs slightly.

MAX

Sure.

(beat)

Oh! And I wanted to tell you. The principal sent a copy of this new article to the Garretton Herald. And they agreed to me doing work experience there this Summer. My next step to becoming a real Editor.

VI

That's great!

Max nods and turns to walk away.

VI (CONT'D)

But Max!

He turns back.

VI (CONT'D)

What do you mean? You are a real Editor.

Max grins, waves and leaves. Vi turns back to Shane who stares at her curiously.

SHANE

I don't get you.

Vi bites into her sandwich.

VI

I'm sorry?

SHANE

You seem so... closed off, I guess but then... You just go and... Never mind.

VI

No. Tell me. I just go and what?

SHANE

Do... That.

He motions in the direction of Max.

SHANE (CONT'D)

It's just surprising. That's all.

VI

Don't worry. I'm kind of
surprising myself.

Vi smiles as she takes another bite of her lunch.

EXT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - PENNY'S ROOM - AFTERNOON

Penny lounges on her bed reading a magazine. Her door opens
and Vi walks.

Penny sits up.

PENNY

Did I say you could come in?

Vi places a paper copy of her article about Penny onto the
bed. She tosses down the disc along with it.

Penny lifts up the article. She scans it and her mouth
drops open in shock.

VI

That's how much I could have
destroyed you today.

(beat)

Note the words: "Could have".

PENNY

Vi - -

But Vi is already halfway out of the door.

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

The family sit around the table. We don't hear their
conversation, however, as "The Truth" by Good Charlotte is
our sound track for the following scenes.

Caroline passes a bowl of bread rolls to Peter who takes
one and tosses it to CAM MORGAN sitting across from him. He
misses it and it sails almost completely past his head. The
family, including Vi, laughs at this.

Even Penny cracks a smile as she sits at the end of the
table, playing with her food.

Vi glances at her. Penny notices this and looks down.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - LATER

Peter stacks the dishwasher with Cam while Caroline and Vi finish putting the leftover food into the fridge.

They talk for a moment before Vi turns and heads into the front hall...

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - STAIRS

Where she moves up the stairs.

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

The music fades into the background as Vi moves toward her door. Suddenly, Penny emerges from Vi's room. They both stop and Penny looks nervous - caught in the act.

Vi's face darkens.

VI

Looking for a backup copy, huh? I gave you the only one. Unlike you, I know when to let things go.

Penny opens her mouth to speak but thinks better of it. Instead, she walks around Vi and towards her own room.

PENNY

(over her shoulder)
Good night, Violet.

A beat. Vi shakes her head as she enters her room.

INT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - VI'S BEDROOM

She closes the door behind her. As she turns, she notices something on her bed. A white box with a red ribbon tied around it.

Vi picks it up curiously and unwraps it slowly. Inside is a brand new mp3 player.

Vi, almost not believing her eyes, looks up and towards the direction of Penny's room. She closes her eyes briefly as she realises what Penny was doing in her room.

She turns, putting the gift down on her bed and makes her way to the door.

She looks at her watch and stops. Her shoulders slump and she grabs a jacket from the back of the door. She crosses to the window and opens it.

EXT. MORGAN RESIDENCE - FRONT YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Vi jumps down from the tree and hurries across the front yard to Andrew's waiting car. She slides into the passengers seat.

The car doesn't move. After a beat, Vi looks over at Andrew who stares straight ahead, his hands resting on the wheel.

VI

Don't we have a meeting?

ANDREW

(calmly)

I was almost arrested for you.

VI

Oh... I should probably invest a button that I can wear. It would say "I'm Sorry" and I'd just point to it every time I messed up.

A beat. Andrew doesn't reply.

VI (CONT'D)

How'd you get out of it?

ANDREW

I gave him the slip somewhere between the journalism room and the security office.

(beat; sighs)

And then I got lost and couldn't get out. When the cleaning ladies found me in the morning I had to pretend that I was substitute teacher who'd gotten locked in the library.

VI

That button would really come in handy right about now.

ANDREW

Don't worry about it. It's all part of the job.

(beat)

Unfortunately.

He starts the car and they start moving. Andrew brightens.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

I picked up a report for you.

He reaches onto the dashboard and hands her a piece of paper. Vi looks over it.

VI
Got a purple gel pen I can
borrow?

Andrew smiles.

ANDREW
I was hoping you'd ask me that.

He reaches into his jacket pocket and pulls out the
infamous pen which he hands to her.

Vi, resting the report on her knee, gets to work.

BLACK OUT:

END OF EPISODE