

Shadowframe

"Pilot"

Written by

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12/13/24

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FADE IN:

1. INT. BATHROOM - ST. JAMES HOUSE - MORNING

LELA, (17, glasses, nerdy, not confident), stares at her positive pregnancy test.

LELA

Shit. This cannot be
happening...not right now.

She checks the time. Then she grabs the pregnancy test and puts it in her backpack, heading downstairs.

CUT TO:

2. INT. LANDON'S ROOM - ST. JAMES HOUSE - AT THE SAME TIME

LANDON, (16, tall, athletic), sits in his bed, spinning a basketball on his finger. He sets it down and goes to his computer. He types the name "KARLA RAVEN" into the search bar. He hovers the mouse over the "Contact Information" section. The door swings open and its JACKSON, (36, short but muscular - he's got that way too young to be a father look, and a small tattoo of an eagle on his forearm).

JACKSON

Hey Land, I thought I'd drive you guys to school today since I can go in later to work. Hurry up, your sisters waiting downstairs... About your game next week, sorry buddy I don't think I'm gonna be able to make it.

LANDON

Yeah it's fine. I'll be down in a minute.

Jackson closes the door.

LANDON (CONT'D)

(to himself)

Not like you ever come anyways.

Landon grabs his belongings and shoves them in his backpack. One of them being the book "The Tempest" by Shakespeare. He opens the door and goes downstairs.

3. INT. CAR - MINUTES LATER - MORNING

Jackson is driving. Lela sits in the passenger seat while Landon sits in the back. Lela talks obnoxiously loud on the phone.

LELA

I know!! Like you can't just do that...what an idiot move.

JACKSON

Oh my God...shut up!

Jackson kicks Lela's seat. Lela looks back and glares at him.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Hey! Be nice, Land.

LANDON

Are you serious? All I wanted was a little piece and quiet before I enter the gates of hell. What's so bad about that?

LELA

(into the phone)

Yeah no sorry I didn't go anywhere. It's just my stupid brother. Anyway I'll see you in AP chem later...bye!

Lela hangs up. Landon scoffs.

LANDON

You're such a nerd.

LELA

At least I actually have a future. Oh look we're passing Mcdonald's, get a good look at yours.

JACKSON

Guys...what's the St. James motto?

There is silence.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

I'm only gonna ask once.

Lela and Jackson mutter in unison "We protect those who cannot protect themselves".

JACKSON (CONT'D)

And does it sound like you guys are protecting each other?

LANDON

Where did you even get that from? It's not like you're a cop or something, you work in construction.

LELA

Landon!

LANDON

I didn't mean it like that...

JACKSON

Yeah, you did.

LANDON

I didn't- Why can't I ever say or do the right thing? Why am I never good enough for you?

They arrive at the school, Jackson stops driving.

JACKSON

(to Landon)

Go to school.

Landon scoffs.

LANDON

Unbelievable.

Landon gets out and slams the car door. Lela gives her dad a long hug.

LELA

(to Jackson)

Are you picking us up?

JACKSON

Nah, I'll be late tonight. Got to start a new project... You know, if you keep taking those long showers I'm gonna have to start charging you for the water bill.

Lela chuckles. Jackson digs in his wallet and pulls out 30 dollars. He gives it to Lela.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

This should be enough for pizza for you and your brother, now get outta here. Can't have my star student be late!

LELA

Thanks, dad. See you later.

Lela exits the car.

4. INT. HALLWAY - COURT HIGHSCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER - MORNING

Lela finds Landon standing with a group of guys. She goes up to Landon and pinches him.

LANDON

What the hell?

Lela pulls him off to the side.

LELA

Why'd you do that?

LANDON

Do what?

LELA

Be a dick to dad.

Landon laughs.

LANDON

Oh, that's real rich Lela. We can't all be daddy's favorite though. Some things you'll just never understand.

LELA

Shut up, he does not have a favorite.

LANDON

Ohh yes he does. And guess what? You're only the favorite because you're a splitting image of MOM.

LELA

What does mom have to do with anything?

LANDON

You remind him so much of her,
you're a reminder of the one good
thing he lost. Meanwhile, he can
barely look at me.

The bell rings. Landon looks up.

LANDON (CONT'D)

Oh, would you look at that? Saved
by the fucking bell. Have fun in
whatever smart shit they waste
teaching you. Excuse me.

He bumps Lela's shoulder while walking past her.

Lela stands there as the hallway clears, fuming. She takes
some big deep breaths and eventually calms down. She walks to
class.

5. INT. CLASSROOM - COURT HIGH SCHOOL - 8:30 AM

Lela sits in chemistry class next to her best-friends HAILEY
(17), AND JEMMA (17),. They are mixing a bunch of chemicals
together.

HAILEY

(to Lela)

So you're sure this'll work?

LELA

100%.

Hailey pours some liquid into the test tube and it turns
purple.

LELA (CONT'D)

Boom, boom and that is why *I* am the
smart one in the friend group.

JEMMA

Well since you're so smart, let me
copy off your next exam.

HAILEY

Nice try, but she's not falling for
that shit. Remember the last exam?
Where she chose to sit all the way
in the back, just to get away from
us?

LELA

The only way we're gonna get into the same college is if you guys bring your grades up. I'm just saying...you need to learn on your own.

JEMMA

Yeah yeah whatever.

Jemma checks her phone.

JEMMA (CONT'D)

(to Lela)

Why didn't you tell us?

LELA

Tell you about what?

JEMMA

MASON'S party this weekend.

LELA

Mason's throwing a- give me that.

She snatches Jemma's phone.

HAILEY

Oof. Trouble in paradise lately?

LELA

We're fine.

HAILEY

(mockingly)

Yeah...rock solid.

JEMMA

Soooo solid.

Lela gives them both a blank stare.

6. INT. GYM - COURT HIGH SCHOOL - 1:30 PM

Landon plays a game of scrimmage basketball. Of course, he is the best one on the floor, scoring a majority of the points. The game ends with his winning three point shot.

LANDON

Boomshakalala!

TERRY, (16), of the opposing team gives Landon the middle finger. Landon smiles.

The gym clears out except for them.

TERRY

Keep it up like that, you might actually have a chance at making the NBA.

LANDON

Oh you mean the league where only 0.3% of people actually get into? Yeah...maybe high school basketball is it for me.

TERRY

Bro, you're kidding. You're not even going to try? I've never seen anybody play the way you do.

Landon shrugs.

LANDON

Yeah, I guess I just got that dog in me.

They both laugh.

LANDON (CONT'D)

But there's gotta be more to life than dribbling a ball.

TERRY

Not to me.

Terry touches his stomach and grimaces.

TERRY (CONT'D)

It's lunchtime for sure. You ready?

LANDON

Yeah, I'll catch up with you man.

TERRY

See ya.

They do a handshake and Terry leaves.

Landon stares at the empty basketball court for a moment. Then he leaves.

7. INT. HALLWAY - COURT HIGH SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER -
AFTERNOON

Landon walks past the case of basketball trophies and stops at the bulletin board. He sees a flier for "The Tempest Auditions". He looks around to make sure nobody is watching, and he signs his name. Then he continues walking.

8. INT. LUNCHROOM - COURT HIGH SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER -
AFTERNOON

STUDENTS are scattered around talking and laughing, some are eating, some are playing with their food, some are just on their phones. Landon spots Lela and immediately turns the other way. Then he spots Terry and begins to walk over to him. Terry is already eating.

TERRY

Sloppy joe. Not bad.

Landon nods, and goes to get into the lunch-line. He notices he is standing next to CHERRY, (17, girly girl type, wearing lipgloss, and has butterfly arm tattoos).

LANDON

Cherry!

She looks over at him. But doesn't say anything.

LANDON (CONT'D)

So, how'd you do on the math test?

CHERRY

I didn't study for it... got a 70 still though...you?

LANDON

Oh I...studied and got a 70 too...Math's not really my thing. Maybe you could help me sometime?

CHERRY

Mhmmm, nice talk Landon.

She grabs her food and goes to sit down. Landon grabs food and goes back over to Terry.

TERRY

Nice game.

Terry laughs.

LANDON
 (Playfully)
 Fuckkkk you.

9. INT. LUNCHROOM - COURT HIGH SCHOOL - AT THE SAME TIME -
 AFTERNOON

Lela sits with Jemma and Hailey, staring into the abyss.

JEMMA
 Heloooooo? Earth to Lela.

Lela turns to her.

LELA
 Sorry I'm just...when did you say
 that party was again?

HAILEY
 Oh my God just go talk to him. Is
 he in here?

LELA
 No, his lunch period is later.

Lela rubs her forehead.

LELA (CONT'D)
 I'm feeling kinda lightheaded, I'm
 gonna step out.

Lela leaves.

10. INT. HALLWAY - COURT HIGH SCHOOL - MOMENTS LATER -
 AFTERNOON

Lela texts Mason - "Meet me at our spot, ASAP". She walks
 off.

11. INT. SUPPLY CLOSET - COURT HIGH SCHOOL - MINUTES LATER -
 AFTERNOON

Lela checks the time and sees five minutes have passed.

LELA
 (to herself)
 God, where is he?

All of a sudden the door rattles, and there stands MASON (18,
 cool, dressed for summer even though its 30 degrees).

MASON

Hey babe. I got your text, what's up?

LELA

I need to tell you something.

MASON

Not appreciating the cryptic-ness, but shoot.

LELA

You remember last week when we...

Mason smiles in remembrance.

MASON

Vividly.

LELA

Well... it broke, apparently... and I'm-

MASON

Baby, speak english. It? You...what?

Lela takes his hand.

LELA

Mason...

Lela looks down at her belly. Mason's eyes begin to turn wide.

MASON

You mean.

Lela starts rambling.

LELA

I've been spending my entire life in my mom's shadow, and now I'm gonna end up just like her. Pregnant in highschool. But I would never... I would *never* abandon my child like her... I can't.

MASON

Hey...hey... Me and you, we're gonna figure this out together. Don't worry.

LELA

Is that gonna happen before or
after your spontaneous party?

MASON

I was gonna tell you, I just didn't
know if you had plans or anything
this weekend like with your dad. It
seems like you hang out with him
more than me...anyways that's not
the point. My folks went on a work
trip last minute, so I decided to
make a business decision of my own.
Of course I want you there...I have
a quiz next in history - gotta go.
I love you.

He kisses her.

LELA

I love you too... But I don't want
anything to change between us...
can you promise me that?

Mason takes her finger into a pinky promise.

MASON

I promise, Lee-lee.

Mason smiles and exits the closet.

12. EXT. DELL'S CONSTRUCTION SITE - LATER THAT DAY - LATE
AFTERNOON

There are a bunch of GUYS building a house. Jackson is
working on the roof. He hammers a piece of clay tile down. He
is sweating profusely. He looks over at CONSTRUCTION WORKER
ONE, (40s),.

JACKSON

I need something to drink, I saw a
gas station up the street. You want
anything?

Construction Worker One nods his head no, and goes back to
working. Jackson uses a ladder to climb down and starts
walking.

13. INT. GAS STATION - MINUTES LATER - LATE AFTERNOON

Jackson is in line to pay for his pop. A masked ROBBER,
(30s), walks into the store, with a gun.

He heads straight to the GAS STATION CLERK, (60s), and points the gun at her. Jackson immediately jumps into action. He runs over to the Robber. He starts pulling cash out of his wallet.

JACKSON

(to Robber)

Hey...I just got paid a thousand dollars from a job I just finished. Now, that's all I got. Take it and go.

The Robber snatches Jackson's money and turns toward everyone else.

ROBBER

(to everyone)

OPEN YOUR WALLETS NOW!

Everyone digs for their money, Jackson just watches. The Robber points his gun back at the Gas Station Clerk.

ROBBER (CONT'D)

Hurry up.

The Gas Station Clerk begins pulling out money and throwing it on the counter. The Robber collects it.

The Robber starts to go down the line and collect everyone's money. He stops when he gets to a WOMAN, (30s), clutching her purse, with her KID, (5), sitting right next to her.

ROBBER (CONT'D)

(to Woman)

Open up.

The woman starts pleading.

WOMAN

Please, please. This is all I have to feed my baby and I don't get paid for another two weeks.

The Robber breaks her hold on the purse and grabs it. The woman has a strong grip and they are tussling back and forth.

WOMAN (CONT'D)

Stop it! Stop!

ROBBER

Let it go!

Jackson sees this and starts to run over to them. The Robber sees him coming.

The Robber aims his gun at Jackson as he approaches, and he shoots him.

FADE TO BLACK:

FADE IN:

14. INT. CELL - RESEARCH LAB - SECONDS LATER - LATE AFTERNOON

JACKSON 2.0, (uncanny resemblance to Jackson), is activated and he awakens. He listens in on a conversation happening outside the door.

15. INT. OUTSIDE JACKSON 2.0'S CELL DOOR - RESEARCH LAB - AT THE SAME TIME - LATE AFTERNOON

GUARD ONE, (30s) and GUARD TWO, (30s), talk. They are both dressed in all black, with white patches on their jackets that have the initials "SS".

GUARD ONE
How did he die?

GUARD TWO
Shot in the head, dumbass tryna be a hero during a gas station robbery.

Guard One laughs.

GUARD ONE
Is this his first death?

GUARD TWO
Oh, yeah. First replica's been activated...Now we can control him one hundred percent.

Guard Two looks down at his clipboard.

GUARD TWO (CONT'D)
Uhhh, St James fellow.

GUARD ONE
Oof, St. James? Sweet, I've been watching them for awhile, that daughters kinda hot.

Guard Two chuckles.

GUARD TWO

She's 17, you idiot. Come on, let's go check on boss-lady, I know she always wants *something*.

Guard One and Guard Two leave.

16. INT. CELL - RESEARCH LAB - MOMENTS LATER - LATE AFTERNOON

Jackson 2.0 gets up. The door swings open. A MAN in a white lab-coat and mask walks in. He syringes Jackson 2.0, and Jackson 2.0 falls out, onto the ground. His head twitches back and forth.

17. INT. DINING ROOM - ST. JAMES HOUSE - EARLY EVENING

Landon and Lela enter the house. They see Jackson 2.0 sitting in the dining room. Landon rushes upstairs.

LELA

(to Jackson 2.0)

Hey dad, I thought you were gonna be home late?

JACKSON 2.0

Plans change.

LELA

Okayyy...Well since Land had basketball and I had math club, we just took the city bus, but I'll be upstairs if you need me.

Lela walks upstairs.

18. INT. LELA'S ROOM - ST. JAMES HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - EARLY EVENING

Lela is sitting in her desk chair, she hears a knock on her door.

LELA

What?

Landon enters.

LANDON

Can we talk?

LELA

It's a free country Landon, you can do whatever you want.

Landon sits on the bed.

LANDON

So...I fucked up.

LELA

And this would be referring to which time?

LANDON

All the things I said to you at school today. You're not a reminder of what dad lost. You're just his daughter...so I'm sorry.

Lela sighs.

LELA

Fine...yeah, thanks.

Landon continues to stare at her.

LANDON

That's not it... I got a text from Mason today.

LELA

About his party? Yeah, I guess I'll allow you to go.

LANDON

About... the baby.

Lela freezes up.

LELA

What the hell did he say?

LANDON

He just wanted to make sure I take extra care of you...when he's not around...you know since dad can't know and all.

LELA

Okay...

JACKSON 2.0 (O.C.)

Since dad can't know what?

Landon and Lela whip towards him, standing in the doorway.

LELA

Um...

JACKSON 2.0

I just came up here to let you guys know I'm ordering pizza for dinner. Any objections?

Landon and Lela shake their head no. Jackson 2.0 leaves. Lela waits for a moment to start talking again.

LELA

God, I hate lying to him.

LANDON

Ah, cheer up sport, you'll get used to it.

LANDON (CONT'D)

On the topic of motherhood though...you ever wonder why mom left?

LELA

You mean that bitch? Absolutely not. Why? Is dad not good enough for you?

LANDON

Nah just, sometimes I just wonder what it would be like...if-

LELA

If nothing, Landon, that's dead. Thanks for your apology, now get out.

Landon throws a pillow at her, and then gets up to leave.

LANDON

And that is what I call, a graceful exit.

Landon bows and leaves.

19. INT. DINING ROOM - ST. JAMES HOUSE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER
- EVENING

Jackson 2.0 sits and drinks water. Lela approaches him.

LELA

Hey dad, can I talk to you for a minute?

JACKSON 2.0

Of course.

LELA

Do you ever think that...mom shouldn't have had us?

JACKSON 2.0

How could you say that? No... Your mom loved both of you...why do you ask?

LELA

I was just curious...since you know she abandoned us and all.

JACKSON 2.0

Hey Len- I mean Lela. Could you grab my phone for me? I think I left it in the kitchen.

Lela is stunned.

LELA

Yeah...okay.

She goes into the kitchen.

CUT TO:

20. INT. LANDON'S ROOM - ST. JAMES HOUSE - AT THE SAME TIME - EVENING

Landon opens his laptop. He goes to a chat he had open. It reads "Karla Raven's agent". He types "Is this a good time to call". The chat-bot responds "Yes". Landon picks up his phone and dials the number he sees on the screen. AGENT, (40s), picks up.

LANDON

Hello?

AGENT

Hello.

LANDON

Hi, my name is-

AGENT

I know what your name is, that's the only reason you got my real contact info...Why are you trying to get in touch with Karla?

LANDON

Because I need answers.

AGENT

Answers to what?

LANDON

To-

AGENT

Look, some things, some secrets, are better left buried...and I'm gonna leave it at that. Don't ever call here again. Take care, Landon.

LANDON

Wait!

The Agent hangs up. Landon sighs.

21. INT. KITCHEN - ST. JAMES HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - EVENING

Lela finds Jackson 2.0's phone. She goes to give it to him, but then she sees his face glitch, it becomes distorted for a second, then it goes back to normal. Lela stops in her tracks, confused. Then she starts to walk again.

22. INT. DINING ROOM - ST. JAMES HOUSE - SECONDS LATER - EVENING

Lela hands Jackson 2.0 his phone.

LELA

Dad...are you okay?

JACKSON 2.0

Yeah, of course, why wouldn't I be?

LELA

Nothing...just, checking in on you.

Jackson 2.0 smiles warmly.

JACKSON 2.0

My sweet girl.

Lela smiles at him, uneasily.

LELA
I'm gonna go work on my science
project upstairs.

She gets up and leaves.

23. INT. LANDON'S ROOM - ST. JAMES HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER -
EVENING

Lela knocks on the door. Landon hears this and shuts his
computer.

LANDON
What?

Lela rushes in and shuts the door.

LELA
Something's up.

LANDON
No shit.

LELA
Wait...you know what I'm talking
about?

LANDON
Do I ever? Just spill it.

LELA
I need you to tell me, that I am
not crazy...dad called me the wrong
name...and then I saw his face
disappear, then reappear.

LANDON
Ok, so all of a sudden he doesn't
know who you are?...And his face
did what?...Lela, I don't have time
for games, and I don't know what
type of shrooms you're on...but you
should probably stop that now...you
know...considering...

Landon points at Lela's stomach. Lela looks at him in
annoyance.

LANDON (CONT'D)

Anyway, I have something important to tell you...I've been trying to get in touch with mom.

Lela looks disgusted.

LELA

Why would you do that, Land? She left us before we could even walk! She chose her career over her family. We haven't needed her before, and we don't need her now. Let it go.

LANDON

Okay but, I got through to her agent today.

LELA

So?

LANDON

So...she said some weird things.

Lela is now intrigued.

LELA

Like what?

LANDON

Like something about secrets staying buried, and then she told me to never call again.

Lela thinks.

LELA

Okay well...Could this somehow be connected to dad? Maybe something they're both not telling us? You know I don't want that to be the case but...I can't ignore what I saw.

Landon shrugs.

LANDON

You're driving me insane. I'll go see what's up with dad.

They both leave Landon's room.

24. INT. DINING ROOM - ST JAMES HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - EVENING

Jackson 2.0 sits at the table, scrolling on his phone. Landon approaches.

LANDON (CONT'D)
Hey so...I'm sorry for the way I acted this morning.

JACKSON 2.0
Don't worry about it, son.

LANDON
Son?... Hey do you remember my first starting game on varsity, last season?

JACKSON 2.0
Of course.

LANDON
The crowd was crazy. Do you remember how many points I scored?

Jackson 2.0 pauses and stares into oblivion for a prolonged minute. Landon is puzzled, he looks at Jackson 2.0's arm and notices that his tattoo is missing.

JACKSON 2.0
Ahh, yes, 32. You were amazing!...Sorry, I'm getting old. Speaking of, in need of a bathroom break.

Jackson 2.0 gets up and leaves. Landon gets up.

25. INT. KITCHEN - ST. JAMES HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - EVENING

Jackson walks over to Lela.

LANDON
(whispering to Lela)
Okay...you're right...something freaky is going on. Where the *hell* is dad's tattoo? And there's no way it would take him that long to remember that game. It was the only game he ever went to. Hell, I dedicated the game ball to him!

Lela walks over to the kitchen window.

LANDON (CONT'D)
Whattt are you doing?

Lela opens up the blinds. She turns on the backyard lights, and sees a SCARY MAN with no face, wearing all black, with a white SS patch on his jacket. It appears as if he's looking at her. She closes the blinds quickly and reopens them...he is gone.

Landon walks over to her. He looks outside the window.

LANDON (CONT'D)
Do you need a new prescription?--
That's not important. I'm tryna
talk to you about the game.

Lela opens the cabinet to find a pot, and puts boiling water on.

LELA
Yeah so...you see what I'm saying?

LANDON
Yeah, I guess...But on the other
hand, couldn't he just be getting
old?

LELA
Doesn't explain the tattoo...Which
I didn't even notice.

LANDON
I don't know.

LELA
Or maybe I'm wrong, like how you
think I'm wrong about everything.

LANDON
Hey, don't use this as an excuse to
attack me!

The water comes to a boil. Lela sticks her finger in it.

LANDON (CONT'D)
What the hell are you doing?

She waits for it to hurt, but she feels nothing. She takes her finger out and puts it back into the water, this time it hurts like hell.

LELA
Ahh!

Landon stands there, confused. Lela's phone starts to ring, and they both jump at the sound of it. She looks at it.

LELA (CONT'D)
It's just Mason, I'll call him back later.

CUT TO:

26. INT. TRAILER - STUDIO BACKLOT - AT THE SAME TIME - EVENING

KARLA RAVEN, (36, pretty, prissy, short) sits in her trailer, on her phone. Agent enters.

AGENT
About what I was trying to tell you earlier...it's your son.

Karla's face has a ounce of intrigue.

AGENT (CONT'D)
Don't worry, I told him to never call again.

Karla pauses.

KARLA
No, I'd like to talk to him. He can't disrupt my story, give me the number.

27. INT. KITCHEN - ST.JAMES HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - EVENING

Lela and Landon observe Jackson 2.0 as he re-enters the dining room. He goes on his phone.

LELA
(to Landon)
I don't know why, or how...but that is not our dad.

Landon looks at Jackson 2.0 and takes a nervous gulp.

28. INT. LANDON'S ROOM - ST. JAMES HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER - EVENING

Landon's phone sits on his bed, ringing.

END OF PILOT