

*"There's no one thing that's true. It's all true."
- Ernest Hemingway*

PASSENGER LIST

a mystery fiction podcast series
from PRX's Radiotopia

Episode 2.01 – "Class Action"

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We pick up KAITLIN from halfway through the last scene of SEASON ONE. She's in the back of a taxi in Miami.

Kaitlin's phone RINGS.

KAITLIN
Hello?

It's a poor, crackly line. A young man speaks.

YOUNG MAN
Kaitlin?

KAITLIN
Yeah?

YOUNG MAN
Kaitlin, can you hear me?...

KAITLIN
I can't — I can't hear you.

YOUNG MAN
Kaitlin, listen. It's me, OK? It's me.

KAITLIN
Who...?

YOUNG MAN
Conor. It's Conor.

KAITLIN
(her voice quivers)
C-Conor? What...?

His voice GARBLES as it comes down the line.

KAITLIN (CONT'D)
What?

YOUNG MAN
Look, I'm OK. We're all OK. I can't get into the details...

KAITLIN
Wait, Conor — what —

YOUNG MAN
... We're alive. We're all alive.

KAITLIN

Where are you? What is – what's...?

YOUNG MAN

Kaitlin, can you hear me? Listen, we need your help. Help us. Help us.

The line goes fuzzy, then cuts dead.

KAITLIN

Conor? Wait, Conor...? Shit.

She sits there for a moment, shocked.

TAXI DRIVER

Everything OK?

Kaitlin starts dialing frantically.

KAITLIN

Shit. Shit, shit, shit... Come on...

A default voice message – the kind when you haven't recorded a personal one – answers.

VOICE MESSAGE

The person you are trying to call is unavailable.

KAITLIN

Fuck.

VOICE MESSAGE

Please leave your message after the tone... To re-record your message, key hash at any time.

BEEP.

KAITLIN

Listen, something just happened. I– I need to talk to you. Look, I know you said you couldn't... but this– you need to call me. It's important. Call me as soon as you get this. It– it's about Conor.

She hangs up. She's very agitated now, looking around.

KAITLIN (CONT'D)

(to driver)

That car behind us. Is it following us?

TAXI DRIVER

You serious?

KAITLIN

Go left.

TAXI DRIVER

But you said you wanted to go to the airport.

KAITLIN

Go left!

He flicks on his indicator. As the taxi turns left, Kaitlin moves in her seat peering out the back window.

KAITLIN (CONT'D)

Oh, shit! He's right behind.

TAXI DRIVER

He's probably just going to work.

Kaitlin is startled by he phone ringing on the seat. She grabs it.

KAITLIN

Thomas?

A few moments of silence. Some crackling down the line.

KAITLIN (CONT'D)

Conor...? Is that--?

VOICE ON PHONE

Tell the driver to pull over.

KAITLIN

What?

VOICE ON PHONE

Kaitlin, tell the driver to pull over now.

KAITLIN

Who are you?

There is a CLICK on the line, and the call cuts dead.

1.2 TITLE SEQUENCE NEWS MONTAGE

1.2

As in SEASON ONE, a montage of news and media clips. With each episode, the backstory is advanced a little and/or a character who is the focus of the episode appears.

NEWSCASTER 1
Breaking news tonight...

NEWSCASTER 2
... Breaking news.

NEWSCASTER 3
... Breaking news that's just come
in during the break...

NEWSCASTER 4
... Wreckage believed to have come
from the missing Atlantic Flight 702
has been found in the North
Atlantic...

NEWSCASTER 5
... has been found in the North
Atlantic...

NEWSCASTER 6
... has been found in the North
Atlantic...

NEWSCASTER 7
... just west of the Isle...

NEWSCASTER 8
... The plane, as you say, just
minutes after take-off...

FISHERMAN
We were... We were pulling up the
nets, and I saw what I thought was a
whale caught up there. But then I
saw something mechanical and pieces
of orange life vests...

REPORTER 1
(helicopters overhead)
... Other objects found drifting in
the ocean currents suggest a crash
site just south of...

REPORTER 2
... including this, a child's water
bottle, a poignant reminder of the
lives lost that night on Flight
702...

EXPERT 1
... Using a type of analysis never
before used... in an investigation
of...

EXPERT 2

... The indications of burning along the tail fin suggest a catastrophic event of some kind...

NEWSCASTER 1

... This appears to confirm that Atlantic Flight 702 was, indeed, brought down by an explosion or fire on-board...

FRENCH NEWSCASTER

... abattu par une explosion ou un incendie à bord...

NORWEGIAN NEWSCASTER

... dette på grunn av en eksplosjon eller brann om bord...

NEWSCASTER 2

The focus of the inquiry now is to pin down the exact location of the plane...

EXPERT 2

... after six months of being pushed along by the currents, it should be possible to fairly accurately, uh...

EXPERT 3

... No, what I'm saying is: the North Atlantic currents don't work in that way...

OFFICIAL

(Press conference -
clicking cameras)

... Its last position was...

FAMILY MEMBER

... Why aren't they telling me the truth?...

A TV debate-type show.

HOST

Sir, the families want answers.

MAYOR OF NEW YORK

Well, of course... of course the families want answers. We all want answers...

Another show.

EXPERT 4

If there was terrorism or criminal intent, the sea has effectively aided and abetted to hide the crime.

MAYOR OF NEW YORK

(Press conference –
clicking cameras)

... We have to learn. We have to move on. Life is a fragile thing, and, um, maybe this is a time for all of us to... to pause and turn to those we love and hold them close... because life... well, life is... fragile...

The voices and music fade leaving just a distant, pulsating buzzing...

1.3 PHONE CALL

1.3

Recorded with both ends down the line.

A BEEP, then a phone RINGS, followed by a CLICK.

A generic U.S. answering machine message plays.

A man SIGHS and TAPS his fingers impatiently.

VOICE MESSAGE

The person you are trying to call is unavailable.

RORY

(whispering)

Not again.

VOICE MESSAGE

Please leave your message after the tone.

BEEP.

RORY

Hello. It's Rory Murray again, from Murray and Wexler in New York. I am trying to reach Mr. and Mrs. Le regarding Flight 702. I'm so sorry to chase you. The last thing I want to do is to intrude on your grief. But I think you'll be interested in what I have to say. It's very important that I speak to you.

(MORE)

RORY (CONT'D)

Um, it's something good. It's good news... that will benefit you and your family immensely--

MAI

(a click)

Hello?

RORY

Mrs. Le?

MAI

Yes. What do you want from us?

The rest of the conversation continues to play as if recorded on the answering machine.

RORY

I work for a law firm in New York called Murray and Wexler, and--

MAI

I know. What do you want?

RORY

We specialize in aviation law, and we represent a number of relatives of passengers lost on Flight 702.

MAI

We've had a lot of lawyers call.

RORY

Well, we think there's enough evidence to win substantial damages against the airline and the airport authorities for negligence. We've won a lot of such cases.

A short silence.

MAI

Money won't bring my son back.

RORY

No, no, no, of course not--

MAI

We don't want to keep talking about it.

RORY

Can I at least, um--?

MAI

So please don't call again, Mr. Murray. Please don't leave any more messages. It upsets my husband.

RORY

Of course, of course. I... um... I apologize for causing any distress.

MAI

It's OK. Just don't call here again.

RORY

Yeah, I won't... call again.

MAI

Thank you, Mr... um...

RORY

Rory... just Rory is fine. I'm... I'm so sorry for your loss.

MAI

Thank you. Goodbye.

RORY

Goodbye. Mrs. Le, I think— I think you've shown great dignity. I've spent a lot of time with grieving families. I can only imagine what you're going through. When there are just so many unanswered questions. You see, I used to work on the other side — for the airlines. So... Well, I know what can be hidden from view.

Silence.

RORY (CONT'D)

Mrs. Le, are you still there?

MAI

Yes.

RORY

I'm not like the other lawyers. I'm not here to waste your time.

(beat)

I think Atlantic Airlines have been obstructing the investigation.

(beat)

I know money won't bring your son, Conor, back. But I think this is about more than that.

(MORE)

RORY (CONT'D)

The airline pushed the birdstrike theory. Then, only when wreckage was found, accepted that there was an explosion on-board, and now they are pushing the terrorist theory — because it exonerates them of responsibility.

(beat)

Well, I'm going to take them on. And I think I can beat them.

Beat.

MAI

What do you want from us?

RORY

Don't you want to know the truth?

MAI

(quietly)

What truth? Whose truth? Our truth is that we lost our son...

(sighs)

And we lost our daughter too.

RORY

Kaitlin? Your daughter, Kaitlin, right?

In the background is the voice of Mai's husband KIEN. (Note: Mai and Kien speak to each other in a mix of English and <Vietnamese>)

KIEN

(muffled)

Who — who is it? *Nói chuyện với ai vậy?*
<Who are you speaking with?>

MAI

(to Kien)

Một ông luật sư. <A lawyer.>

(to Rory)

I have to go.

RORY

Yes, I understand. But would it be possible to speak to Kaitlin?

MAI

She's gone.

RORY

Gone? Where...?

Kien has grabbed the phone.

KIEN
Who is this?

RORY
Mr. Le, is that—?

KIEN
We don't need any lawyers.

RORY
No, no, I was... I was just speaking
to your wife —

KIEN
Don't call us anymore.

The phone is knocked, and in the distance an argument in Vietnamese between Kien and Mai.

MAI
Ừa chẳng làm như thế. <Whoa, don't do that.>

KIEN
*Đừng nói chuyện với thằng nó nữa. <Don't talk
to that guy anymore.>*

MAI
*Nếu nó đòi tiền, ém sẽ cúp tin ngay lập tức.
Anh đừng có lo. <If he asks for money, I'll hang
up immediately. You don't have to worry.>*

KIEN
*Không cần, mất thời giờ. <No need, it's a
waste of time.>*

MAI
Thôi, thôi đi. <Stop, stop it.>

KIEN
Muốn tiền thôi. <He just wants money.>

MAI
Đã mệt rồi. <We're already tired.>

KIEN
*Cút đi ngay cho đỡ tức. <Get rid of him
immediately so my anger can subside.>*

After a moment, Mai comes back on the line.

MAI
Are you there?

RORY

Yes, I'm still here.

MAI

We haven't heard from Kaitlin for six weeks. The police are looking for her. You see, Mr. Murray? This has been bad for all of us. My daughter was unable to carry on with her life and now we fear...

(She can't quite say it)

She was so close to Conor. They were twins... When one goes, the other... well...

RORY

Where was she last seen?

MAI

Miami. She went there to see the brother of one of the passengers.

RORY

Do you know why?

MAI

Why? That's all she did after the crash. She quit school and spent all her college funds just traveling around... meeting relatives, questioning them, recording everything, stirring up pain...

RORY

Sorry, um... recording what?

MAI

Yes. Every interview, every phone call... She couldn't think of anything else.

RORY

And what did she do with them, the recordings? Where are they?

MAI

We don't know.

1.4 INT. RORY'S APARTMENT — EVENING

1.4

Rory is on his laptop, playing back messages.

Beep.

RELATIVE

Hi, Mr. Murray. You've been leaving messages on my phone.

(laughing)

Now, listen buddy, if you keep phoning someone and they don't pick up, maybe, just maybe, they don't want to talk to you. Just a tip to help you out. Because I'm not interested in your services, OK?

(angrily)

I already have legal representation. Now fuck off and leave me and my family alone.

Click.

RORY

Oh, OK...

Beep... Another message, this one from ELOISE, one of Rory's ex-wives.

ELOISE

Rory, the clinic have called to say the bill hasn't been settled.

Rory SIGHS heavily.

ELOISE (CONT'D)

This is your daughter, your flesh and blood, and you know what? I don't appreciate having to be the one who always -

He cuts the message off and progresses to the next message, this one from one of his freelance INVESTIGATORS.

INVESTIGATOR

Look, I've got something for you, but you better pay me this time, and don't be late, or I won't be working with you again, OK?

(beat)

So I've drawn a blank on Kaitlin Le. She seems to have vanished. No credit card transactions. Her phone was left in the back of a taxi in Miami. She missed the flight she was booked on back to New York. So, she'd been talking to a lot of people connected to 702, apparently had gathered a lot of recorded testimony.

(MORE)

INVESTIGATOR (CONT'D)

I don't know what she might have discovered... But I do have one lead — the bereavement officer at Atlantic Airlines. Hold on... Jennifer, Jennifer...

RORY

(to himself)
Jennifer Wong.

INVESTIGATOR

Jennifer Wong.

RORY

Tried her. She shut me down.

INVESTIGATOR

Oh, did you hear that she's left Atlantic? It might just mean she's more open to... you know.

1.5 INT. THERAPIST CENTER — DAY

1.5

Sound is muffled, like the recorder is in Rory's pocket. He's led into a small meeting room, by JENNIFER, former Atlantic Airlines family support officer.

JENNIFER

(muffled as they walk in)
... so they can call me when they need to, but essentially the airline has wound down their, uh... Have a seat...

RORY

Thank you.

JENNIFER

... that particular service.
Budgets, et cetera, et cetera...

During this speech her voice becomes clearer. Rory has taken the recorder out of his pocket and placed it on the table in front of them. A phone RINGS in the background.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

It's a difficult time for the airline industry, as I'm sure you know. So, my role was, uh... well, it was time to move on anyway.

(noticing the recorder)

You're recording this?

RORY

Old habits. Do you mind?

JENNIFER

Um...

RORY

I've got a terrible memory. My writing's illegible. Even I can't read it.

JENNIFER

Right. OK.

(beat)

In that case, if it's all right with you, I'm going to record too, because my memory is also terrible.

She places her phone on the table.

JENNIFER (CONT'D)

So what do you want to know?

RORY

So, you quit Atlantic?

JENNIFER

Yes. I mean, I was ready for a new chapter. There was an opportunity here.

(beat)

It's a small firm. I guess I'd been in the corporate world for long enough.

RORY

So your role at Atlantic Airlines was... was what?

JENNIFER

Family support officer. Bereavement counselor.

RORY

And they stopped doing that?

JENNIFER

Yeah. Well, officially they contracted it out, but essentially, yeah. I guess they felt enough time had passed and, um...

(beat)

So, you said you had some questions you wanted to share with me?

RORY

Yes, yes.

JENNIFER

And you are legal counsel for... one of the families?

RORY

For several, yes. We're— we're gathering information —

JENNIFER

Against the airline? I'm not sure I'm allowed to say anything that, uh —

RORY

Oh, no, no, no. Not against the airline. We're just, we're representing the families' interests, to make sure they get what they're due.

JENNIFER

Can I ask you which families you represent?

RORY

You can, but I'm afraid I'm not at liberty to disclose their details at this stage.

Beat.

JENNIFER

I see. How many families?

RORY

Again —

JENNIFER

You're not at liberty to say.

RORY

Yeah.

JENNIFER

So, is *this* evidence gathering? I just want to be clear on what this is actually about —

RORY

Well, everything is useful. Anything you can tell me about the conversations between the airline and families –

JENNIFER

I was there to help with their emotional needs.

RORY

I know. And from what I hear you did an amazing job under extremely challenging circumstances.

JENNIFER

Thank you.

(beat)

Have you ever lost someone, Rory?

RORY

Yes... Yes, I have.

JENNIFER

Someone who went before their time?

RORY

Yes.

Beat.

JENNIFER

Then you would know... Everyone deals with loss in their own unique way. It's especially hard for people when they hang onto the hope that their loved one might still be alive. But in the case of Flight 702, we knew within the first few hours that that was not the case. And my job was to be that bearer of bad news... To convey that information to them as clearly and compassionately and professionally as I could. That was my job.

RORY

You wouldn't be breaking any confidences if you were to introduce me to some of the relatives... as someone they can talk to. In confidence, if they wish. Because, well, after events like this, people do sometimes disappear.

JENNIFER

Usually because they don't want to be bothered by lawyers like you.

RORY

I want to help them.

JENNIFER

OK.

(beat)

Whatever.

RORY

OK. So generally speaking, your role was to help the relatives come to terms with the -

JENNIFER

Yes.

RORY

To- to give them certainty.

JENNIFER

Yes.

RORY

The birdstrike theory. Your job was to push that line -

JENNIFER

That was the information we had at the time.

RORY

You're not working for the airlines anymore. You can absolutely be -

JENNIFER

I can't do anything.

RORY

Is that because you think there is something to hide? Did you feel the airline wasn't being honest with you, Jennifer?

Silence.

JENNIFER

(getting up)

I have a meeting at two. If there's nothing else -

RORY

Did the airline use you to get the families to sign an NDA and not talk to the press about their concerns?

Silence.

RORY (CONT'D)

Do you keep in touch with any of them?

JENNIFER

They have my new details. They know they can come to me whenever they want to.

RORY

Kaitlin Le. Her brother Conor was on the flight. Has she been in touch?

JENNIFER

I can't talk about individual clients.

RORY

She was talking to the others. She was recording them, putting together some sort of personal investigation into what happened.

JENNIFER

Mm-hmm.

RORY

And now she's disappeared.

JENNIFER

Mm-hmm.

(beat)

Is that a question?

RORY

Maybe she was getting too close to the truth.

JENNIFER

If you want names, there's a Facebook Page. You probably know about it, right? It's a support site for and run by grieving relatives. A safe space. And if you want to reach out to any of them, you can try there. I have got to go. Good luck with it all.

She walks away.

Rory grabs the recorder, and it clicks off.

1.6 INT. RORY'S APARTMENT. NEW YORK — NIGHT

1.6

Rory is sitting up in bed, typing into his laptop.

PING.

RORY

Hola...

WOMAN

Hello... *Señor Murray?*

RORY

Si. Gracias por responder a mi publicación.

WOMAN

¿Tú hablas español?

RORY

Un poco. Um... My first wife... Mi primera esposa era de Venezuela, así que— uh... I'm sorry, my Spanish is a bit, um... fuera de practica, lo siento.

WOMAN

It's OK, we can speak English.

Beat.

RORY

Well, as I said in my message, I'm representing a number of relatives and... uh... Monika was... uh, she was cabin crew, right?

WOMAN

Yes.

RORY

So, firstly, I need you to know that whatever the airline may have offered you — and I have no reason to know if they did or didn't — whatever they may have made you sign is not important.

(MORE)

RORY (CONT'D)

If they are found to be negligent,
the payout we can get you by
pursuing this in a court of law will
be far in excess of anything -

WOMAN

My daughter is alive.

Silence.

RORY

I'm sorry?

WOMAN

She called me.

RORY

What... When?

WOMAN

I want to invite you, Mr. Murray, to
our group.

1.7 INT. CHURCH HALL. NEW YORK - EVENING

1.7

There are footsteps, and a church organ plays somewhere in
the background.

WOMAN

We've been looking for someone
who'll take us seriously. Someone
who can help us. Come...

RORY

So... um... When- when you say you
had a call from Monika, what did she
say?

WOMAN

She said she was healthy and OK, but
that she couldn't come home just
yet.

RORY

Um... Why? Was she being held
somewhere?

WOMAN

No, but she said there was something
she needed to do. She couldn't tell
me.

(MORE)

WOMAN (CONT'D)
(leading Rory through a doorway)
Through here...

RORY
Did you record the call? Do you have any...

WOMAN
Proof?

RORY
Mmm.

WOMAN
I thought about that a lot. I- I guess I was so shocked. It was late at night when she called. Obviously, I wasn't expecting it...
(beat)
I even wondered afterwards if...

She pauses, lost in thought.

RORY
... You imagined it?

WOMAN
Yes.
(beat)
I can see you are thinking the same thing, Mr. Murray.

RORY
No, it's- it's just -

WOMAN
But then I met the others.

RORY
The others?

WOMAN
(opening a door)
Through here.

A room full of people.

WOMAN (CONT'D)
This is Mr. Murray.

MAN
Hello.

RORY

Hello.

MAN

Thank you. Thank you so much for coming.

WOMAN

We meet here in the church once a week.

MAN

Sit, sit.

Rory sits.

MAN (CONT'D)

Why have you come to see us, Mr. Murray?

RORY

Well, my firm, Murray and Wexler...
(handing out his business card)
... Here, please take my card.

MAN

Thank you.

RORY

We're representing a number of relatives of passengers on-board Flight 702, and we are building a case against the airline, uh... Look, I'm sorry. I'm really confused... I- I mean... you seem to be saying you've had contact with passengers on-board Flight 702?

MAN

Yes.

RORY

But... The plane crashed into the Atlantic on -

MAN

Yes.

(laughs)

We don't believe that. That's why we need your help.

WOMAN

We think the plane was diverted.

RORY

But the wreckage has been found.

MAN

Let me show you something.

He pulls out his phone.

MAN (CONT'D)

This is my son, Lucas. He'd been on a vacation in France with his mom – she's French.

He plays a video of a cute child.

CHILD

(reciting a poem)

*The moon comes every night to peep,
Through the window where I lie,
But I pretend to be asleep,
Watch the moon go slowly by.*

RORY

Um... nice kid.

MAN

Lucas had an extra toe on his left foot. Before his mother took him away, we talked about having it removed – not that it was a problem, but just growing up, we didn't want him to have any insecurities about being different. We didn't want him to spend the rest of his life having to buy different size shoes...

(beat)

So look closely...

He plays the video again.

RORY

What am I looking for?

MAN

He has five toes on his left foot. The sixth has been removed.

RORY

Is it possible his mother, when she took him to France, had it done there?

MAN

It- it takes at least six weeks to recover from that kind of operation. But look - no scar, even. I've had doctors examine this, and Lucas was operated on at least two months before this video was taken. At least.

RORY

So...

MAN

He was operated on *after* Flight 702 disappeared.

Silence.

WOMAN

See? All of us here have been contacted.

RORY

And you were sent this... when?

MAN

I found it. On the internet. Yeah, I've spent the last six months scouring the internet, looking for him.

RORY

Lucas... What's his surname?

MAN

James.

RORY

OK, there were six minors on Flight 702. I don't recall a Lucas James on the passenger manifest.

MAN

His mother was traveling on a different name.

RORY

What name was in his passport?

MAN

I don't know. She was trying to stop me from seeing him. She changed his name, I think, when she left the family home.

RORY

Wait. She... she took your son -

MAN

We were going through a... a difficult time. We needed time apart. But then we spoke and we decided we wanted to be together again. And they were coming back.

Rory sighs. He doesn't know what to say.

RORY

Um... Have you had contact from the airline?

MAN

No. They, uh... they don't accept my son was on the flight. That's why we need you.

Beat.

RORY

Look... um... I really appreciate you inviting me here, but unfortunately I'm late for another meeting.

MAN

But... but you'll help us. Right?

1.8 INT. CHURCH HALL. CORRIDOR - EVENING

1.8

Rory is walking out of the church when JIM catches up with him.

JIM

Um, Mr. Murray? Mr. Murray, Mr. Murray, wait. There's something I'd like to ask you...

RORY

(stopping)
Yes?

JIM

Um... I run this group and, uh, I wanted to... Well, hi, I- I'm Jim Travis.
(holding out his hand)

RORY

Uh, hello.

JIM

Not everyone here is imagining things. People do that, sure. But some of us are real. I lost my dad.

RORY

I'm sorry for your loss.

JIM

I just want to honor his memory by helping all the other grieving relatives who need help. We don't ask too many questions of those who come, and... we don't want to judge. Well, sure, we get a lot of... well, you know— you know what I mean, but, uh, that's OK. This is a safe place where I hope people can find some peace in the world. And, uh, that's all we want. Anyway, if— if you want names, addresses, telephone numbers, there's, uh, there's a girl who lost her brother. She was going around visiting lots of relatives, collecting stuff, and um... maybe you should talk to her.

RORY

Kaitlin? Kaitlin Le?

JIM

Yes, Kaitlin, that's right.

RORY

You've spoken to her?

JIM

A few weeks ago. Actually, she was supposed to come to one of our meetings. But she never turned up.

RORY

Do you have a number for her?

JIM

We— we don't actually ask for details here. It's... it's part of our approach. But— but I wouldn't think it's hard to find. She's a— a psychology student at, uh, Vassar— at Vassar College, I believe.

RORY

I don't think she's doing that any more.

JIM

Hmmm...

(thinking)

Well, I, uh... She said she was going to Miami to see the brother of one of the passengers.

RORY

Do you know which passenger?

JIM

Yeah, yeah. I think a doctor, she said.

1.9 INT. RORY'S APARTMENT. NEW YORK — NIGHT

1.9

Rory presses a button on his phone.

VOICE MESSAGE

Please leave your message after the tone.

Beep.

RORY

Hello, this is a message for Mr... uh... Hassan Aziz. My name is Rory Murray. I'm a lawyer representing a number of families of the passengers on Flight 702. I'd very much like to talk to you with some news I have. It's good news... Um...

(his phone beeps — another incoming call)

I'll try again in a short while.

Bye.

(taking other call)

Petra?

PETRA

OK, I'm authorized to send through the airline's proposal.

RORY

Proposal?

PETRA

Yeah. We're putting together a settlement. So, I'm contacting all the lawyers representing families.

RORY

(suspicious)

The airline wants to settle? Why now? It's a bomb, that's what they're saying. So what's going on?

PETRA

Oh come on, Rory, don't look a gift horse in the mouth. Read it, and we'll get together.

RORY

You don't understand... This— this isn't about money, Petra. My clients want the truth.

PETRA

(sarcastically)

Hmm, you are quite the crusader, aren't you Rory?

(beat)

Look, you need to look at this seriously. Get back to me if you don't want your clients to miss out. Well, everyone else is on board with it. What's your problem? You need the money. Everyone in the business knows that.

RORY

What's my problem?

(beat)

My clients want to know what happened. They want an apology, an admission of culpability. That is how they will get peace. That is how they will begin to rebuild their broken lives. They want the truth, and *then* we can talk about compensation.

PETRA

So do you want it or not?

RORY

What?

PETRA

The proposal. I'm just giving it to you ahead of the meeting as a professional courtesy.

RORY

Yeah, send it over.

PETRA

(clicks a button on her computer)

There you go. Right, see you at the meeting on Thursday.

She hangs up.

Rory's computer pings. He clicks on the file and scrolls through it.

RORY

No way...

His phone vibrates. He picks up.

ZARA

Dad?

RORY

Zara? Is everything OK?

ZARA

It's horrible here. I don't like it. Can I come back?

Rory sighs.

ZARA (CONT'D)

I just want to get away, Dad. It's awful here.

RORY

Well...

ZARA

I can't stay here, Dad.

RORY

... You just— you need to hang on in there, Zara. Just get everything right. Then come back.

ZARA

Can't I be in a clinic in New York?

RORY

Yes, but your mum, she wants— she wants to be close to you.

ZARA

I don't believe that, Dad. It's you who doesn't want to be close to me.

RORY

No, Zara... Why would you say that?

ZARA

(crying)

I want to come back. I want to come back.

RORY

Zara—

ZARA

(pleading)

Please, Dad. Talk to Mom.

RORY

Zara...

ZARA

(calmer)

I promise I won't see him again. I know he was bad for me. I accept that now. I'm— I'm better. You'll see...

(crying again)

I can't handle it here, Dad. We're not allowed to go out. It's like a prison. There are cameras everywhere.

RORY

It— Zara— Look, look, it will— it will get better. You'll get better, you'll see. It will— it will be OK.

ZARA

(emphatically)

No, no Dad —

RORY

Listen —

ZARA

It won't, it won't —

She hangs up. A dial tone sounds.

Rory sighs, clearly unsettled by this.

Another call comes in. Rory picks up.

RORY

Hello?

HASSAN

It's Mr. Aziz. You left a message.

RORY

Ah...

HASSAN

How did you get my number?

RORY

There were six doctors on Flight 702. Only one of them has a brother living in Miami. Once you have a name, the number's easy.

HASSAN

And how can I help you, Mr. Murray?

RORY

I believe, um, Kaitlin Le, the sister of one of the passengers, came to see you a few weeks ago.

HASSAN

Yes.

RORY

Can I ask you why?

HASSAN

She wanted to know if my brother was a terrorist.

(beat)

Was there anything else?

RORY

Kaitlin hasn't been seen since visiting you.

HASSAN

So I hear. I'm sorry I can't offer you any assistance, Mr. Murray. The police are looking for her, I believe. I've told them everything I can.

(beat)

She was... lost.

RORY

Lost?

HASSAN

Like she didn't know where— where to go, who to turn to. I told her she needed to mourn her brother, move on and live her life, because that was all she had.

RORY

What do you think happened to her after she left?

HASSAN

I don't know. I just don't know.
(beat)
But she did call, and left a message the next day to thank me.

RORY

She called you the next day?

HASSAN

Yes. I told the police that.

RORY

Where from?

HASSAN

I don't know. She said she was grateful for my advice and thanked me for the coffee, which she said was the best she ever tasted.
(beat)
That's what I can't work out.

RORY

I'm sorry?

HASSAN

You see, I didn't make her any coffee. So I don't know why she said that.

CUT.

MUSIC.

End of Episode 1.

*