

Hunt

Episode 1

"Pilot"

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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

The dark alleyway is full of shadows as we look out towards the street. It is a quiet night, there is barely any movement in the lonely street.

WOMAN (Emma, V.O.)

There are two forces in this world:
good and evil.

From the shadows, a large FIGURE looms. He crouches down near the entranceway and steels his gaze on the street.

WOMAN (Emma, V.O.)

They say you are either one or the
other. You can't be both.

He waits there, still and silent.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

From an office building a man, ROBERT MONTGOMERY (40s, slightly overweight), exits and steps onto the street. He gets a better grip on his briefcase and starts walking.

A few steps down the street, his mobile phone RINGS. He takes a moment to pull it out of his pocket and answers.

ROBERT

(into phone)

I'm on my way. You don't need to
remind me every five minutes.

(beat)

Yeah, sometimes I have to work late.
I'm sorry.

He continues walking.

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

The figure still waits, stalking his prey. Robert steps into his eyesight as he walks pass the alleyway. Without a moment's hesitation, the figure makes his move. He pounces on Robert and drags him into the alleyway.

Robert struggles but is no match for his captor's strong arms. He is shoved against the wall where he has the opportunity to see his assailant's face. There is a moment of recognition.

The figure's hands reach Robert's neck and squeeze. His face turns red both from the strangulation and struggle for his life. It takes only moments for Robert to go limp, his eyes wide open and staring.

The figure releases his hands and allows Robert to drop ungracefully to the ground. He watches, standing over the now dead body.

WOMAN (Emma, V.O.)

I believe there is evil in everyone.

From his pocket, the figure pulls out a MOBILE PHONE. He swiftly dials and waits.

FIGURE

(into phone)

It's done.

Stealthily, the figure leaves the alleyway and we watch him disappear into the shadows of the night.

CUT TO:

INT. EMMA'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

EMMA HUNT, late twenties, street smart, and beautiful with a hard edge, stands in her bedroom. She wears feminine pyjamas as she holds a mobile phone to her ear. She nods.

EMMA

(into phone)

Good.

Without another word, she hangs up and places her phone on the nightstand. Next, she checks all her window locks, probably for the fourth time.

Emma climbs into bed and snuggles in. She turns off the light, leaving only the moon to shine in on her. She closes her eyes as she drifts off to a peaceful sleep.

CUT TO:

MAIN TITLES

FADE IN:

EXT. ALLEYWAY - EARLY MORNING

The cold, dead body of Robert Montgomery has been found and is surrounded by POLICE and CSU technicians. Coroner ABBY WAITE (late 20s) is closely looking at the body while taking notes. Robert sits against the wall, still slumped in the undignified position.

DETECTIVE NATHAN FALCON, a ruggedly good looking man in his thirties, approaches the body. His partner, DETECTIVE GEORGE WALTER (40s) walks by his side. They crouch down for a better view.

FALCON

What have we got here Abby?

ABBY

Dead guy.

WALTER

Very funny. Isn't it too early in the morning for jokes?

ABBY

I don't get out much. My audience are usually tight lipped.

Abby has a smirk on her face, however Walter believes it really is too early for jokes and grimaces. Falcon gets back to business, ignoring them.

WALTER

Any ID?

Abby hands over a WALLET.

ABBY

Robert Montgomery. Age forty-three. Has a licence to drive and an employee ID card for the Federal Customs Department.

Walter flicks through the wallet, everything - including the cash - appears to be there.

WALTER

Everything's here.

FALCON

So we can rule out burglary.

(beat, studying)

How'd he die?

ABBY

My initial thoughts would be asphyxiation. See the marks on his neck? They aren't hickeys.

FALCON

Anything we can run with?

Abby shakes her head sadly.

ABBY

Looks clean. I'll have to do a full exam but nothing stands out.

FALCON

Time of death?

ABBY

My best guess would be between eight and twelve last night. I should be able to narrow it down after I've done a full exam.

WALTER

So we have a dead body in an alley way with no clues, no evidence, and no idea what happened.

ABBY

Pretty much.

FALCON

This is the fifth one this year.

WALTER

And that's only the ones that have passed over our desks.

FALCON

Will you let us know when you have something?

ABBY

You're on my speed dial Detective Falcon.

Falcon shakes his head as he and Walter stand. They leave Abby to the body as they start to leave the alley.

WALTER

I know what you're thinking.

FALCON

It's got to be her.

WALTER

We've got no proof.

FALCON

We never do.

(beat)

Let's go find some evidence.

WALTER

Here we go again.

The detectives head for their car, determination on their faces.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BOOK NOOK - DAY

The old fashion book store is only lit with daylight as it streams through the large windows. Rows upon rows of bookshelves line the walls and make neat aisles. The wood panelling and Victorian chairs give the store a vintage feel.

The sound of KEYS RATTLING in the front door breaks the silence. Emma opens the lock and steps in, turning on the lights.

She goes through her opening routine, turning on lamps and de-activating the security system. She turns the front door sign to OPEN and fires up the cash register. It's a routine she knows well.

While Emma is sorting through the mail, a WOMAN appears in the doorway. RENEE BARTLETT (20s) smiles broadly as she approaches.

RENEE

Oh my God, please tell me it isn't true. Emma, it can't be.

EMMA

What isn't? I'm going to need some more information Renee.

RENEE

Please tell me Skylar didn't cheat on Morgan. Seriously, I don't think my heart would be able to handle it.

Emma laughs at her melodrama.

EMMA

Morgan started it when he developed his drug dependency. He should have treated her better.

RENEE

But they are soul mates.

EMMA

And it's only a television show. You can't take it personally, Renee.

Renee cuts it with all the drama.

RENEE

Fine. But until I get a life of my own, I need to live through these people.

EMMA

Whatever you need to do to get through the day.

RENEE

Well, if you're not going to give me any sympathy for my emotional trauma, I guess I'll get back to my own store.

EMMA

See you later.

Renee heads for the door, waving as she goes.

RENEE

Bye.

Emma watches Renee leave, still smiling.

CUT TO:

INT. MONTGOMERY RESIDENCE - DAY

Falcon and Walter are sitting with Robert Montgomery's wife SALLY MONTGOMERY (40s). Tears stream down her overly-made up face. Her large fake breasts heave with the sobbing.

Walter can't help but stare, it's like watching a train wreck. Falcon shifts uncomfortably as he waits for the dramatic sobs to die down.

FALCON

Mrs Montgomery, we're very sorry for your loss. How long were you married?

SALLY

Six months. We were still on our post-wedding high. Oh God, we're not going to grow old together anymore. We made vows.

WALTER

Did Robert have any enemies?

SALLY

No, everyone loved him. He was a very caring person, would do anything for anyone.

FALCON

Were any of his friends particularly interested in his job at the Customs house?

Sally stops her sobbing to stare at Falcon, as if he was accusing her dead husband of something. She goes on the defensive.

SALLY

No, what are you saying? You saying my poor husband was up to no good?

FALCON

No, Mrs Montgomery, we're just trying to find out who murdered him.

SALLY

I think you should leave. I have arrangements to make.

FALCON

If you think of anything, please give me a call.

Sally shoots them a look before waving them away.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BOOK NOOK - DAY

Emma hears the BELL of the store's door. As she looks up, the front door is filled with a WOMAN entering. Emma is not happy to see her.

EMMA

What the hell are you doing here?

WOMAN

I need to know if it happened. Is he dead?

Emma meets the woman half-way through the store. She pushes her around and starts shoving her towards the door.

EMMA

You need to get out of here. You can't be anywhere near me. You're going to get us both killed.

They reach the door. The woman turns around quickly, pleading.

WOMAN

Please, I need to know my family is safe now, that I have justice for my baby. Just tell me it's over.

EMMA

It's over. It's done. Now get far away from me and don't come back.

The woman nods and hurries away. Emma sighs and turns around to re-enter the store. As she walks away, she hears footsteps behind her. She cringes and turns around, ready to tell the woman where to go again.

EMMA (Cont'd)

I told you -