

"Loveline"
Pilot Episode: Scylla & Charybdis
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FADE IN:

SUPER: CATALINA ISLAND, CALIFORNIA

EXT. CATALINA ISLAND - NIGHT

Sweeping shots of Catalina and its beautiful harbor.

INT. CATALINA HOME/ANGEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

The home is a split level dwelling. ANGEL (30s, paranoid, broken) lives on the ground floor, she is asleep in pajama pants and an omni-present turtleneck. The room is dark except for moonlight which seeps through the slats of the blinds. Angel is having a nightmare and seems to be running from someone or something, she wakes up in a cold sweat.

EXT. CATALINA HOME - NIGHT

Disoriented, Angel runs out into the night air and down the street barefoot like her life depends on it.

SUPER: SIX MONTHS AGO

INT. TV STUDIO - DAY - FLASHBACK

VICTORIA CROSS aka Angel (30s, confident, well respected) and DR. DARIUS JONES (35, handsome, intense personality) are on a TAMRON HALL type talk show, they are holding hands.

TV HOST

Let's be honest your relationship has seen its share of ups and downs. Through it all, how do you make it work?

VICTORIA

I've been in the public eye as an actor since I was sixteen and now as a social influencer and trained psychologist it's hard sometimes to not allow the public gaze and-

DARIUS

And opinions.

VICTORIA

Yes, opinions and constant scrutiny
tear you down, but we make it work
by working at it everyday like
exercising, exercising patience,
forgiveness, and understanding.

Darius lovingly kisses Victoria's hand.

INT. VICTORIA'S NYC APARTMENT/BEDROOM - DAY

Victoria and Darius are in bed after making love.

DARIUS

What'd you think of the interview?
Now that we're an "it" couple.

VICTORIA

I hate that term because people
always can't wait to see you fall.

He kisses her, hops up out of bed naked and heads to the
shower.

DARIUS

Care to join me?

VICTORIA

No, I'll just watch your ass as you
walk away.

DARIUS

Oh really? Well I got something for
your ass.

He jumps back into bed and Victoria squeals with joy.

INT. FRESH FEAST GROCERY STORE - DAY

Victoria walks through the aisles. JASON (30s, a bit off)
follows her. Victoria notices and walks up to him.

VICTORIA

Have we met somewhere before?

JASON

Uh, no... I, I saw you on TV and-

VICTORIA

Are you trying to get a selfie?

JASON

I just wanted to say hi. We live in
the same building, 2-5-5 Park
Avenue, yeah 2-5-5 Park.

VICTORIA

Funny, I've never seen you, not
once.

JASON

Would you like to go out some time?

Darius walks over.

VICTORIA

No, I would not.

DARIUS

No she would not.

Jason stares at Victoria.

DARIUS

Did I stutter?

Jason backs away, Uncle Marty LORENZO (60s, Robert De Niro
type wise guy) store owner walks over to Victoria and Darius.

VICTORIA

Hey, Uncle Marty.

He gives her a big bear hug.

UNCLE MARTY

That guy bothering you sweetheart?

DARIUS

Not while I'm around.

VICTORIA

I'm sure he's harmless.

Victoria turns to look back at Jason, he has disappeared.
Darius's phone rings.

DARIUS

It's the hospital, my love.
(he kisses Victoria, then
to Uncle Marty)
Keep an eye on our girl.

UNCLE MARTY

Get out of here.

Darius gives Uncle Marty a hug and leaves.

UNCLE MARTY
Someone's still insecure.

EXT. FRESH FEAST GROCERY STORE - DAY

Uncle Marty is helping Victoria load groceries into a taxi. Jason is across the street watching them. After the cab pulls off Uncle Marty looks across the street and sees him.

UNCLE MARTY
Hey!

Uncle Marty crosses the busy street towards Jason. A delivery truck pulls up obstructing his view when the truck pulls off Jason is gone.

INT. HOSPITAL/DARIUS'S OFFICE - DAY

Darius is on his cell phone when a FEMALE DOCTOR (40s, pretty) enters and locks the door.

FEMALE DOCTOR
I heard you were getting married.
So, I wanted to give you my wedding
present early.

Darius smiles.

DARIUS
I promised I'd be good.
(into phone)
Vic, hey it's me-

Darius leans back in his chair, the Female Doctor locks the door.

DARIUS (CONT'D)
(covers phone)
You're not playing fair.
(into phone)
Babe I- I'm gonna be late.

The doctor strips down to lace panties and a bra, she mounts Darius in his chair. Darius disconnects the call.

FEMALE DOCTOR
Very, very late.

DARIUS
Come here!

Darius pulls the doctor into an embrace and they make love.

SHOT OF PHONE: Darius's phone, he didn't end the call, he put it on speaker, after a few moments WE HEAR...

AUTOMATED VOICE
Message sent.

Darius grabs his phone.

DARIUS
What? No, fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck!

FEMALE DOCTOR
Oops.

The Female Doctor lays back on Darius's desk ready to continue the action. Darius pulls up his pants.

DARIUS
You need to go, now!

FEMALE DOCTOR
Are you serious? Once an asshole
always an asshole.

DARIUS
Fuck you.

FEMALE DOCTOR
Wow, just wow.

Female Doctor leaves, slamming the door.

INT. VICTORIA'S LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Darius stealthily enters, he sees groceries on the kitchen counter, Darius looks around and finds Victoria's phone next to the microwave. Darius picks up the phone just as Victoria walks in from the bedroom, she jumps.

VICTORIA
Shit! You scared me.

DARIUS
Sorry babe.

Victoria walks over to Darius and kisses him.

VICTORIA
Thanks.

She reaches for her phone, Darius hides it behind his back.

DARIUS
No phones tonight, it's been a long
day for us both.

Darius powers down his and Victoria's phones and puts them on
the counter.

VICTORIA
Okay, well I was going to cook but,
let's order some Thai food and pick
a movie, what do you want to watch?

DARIUS
You getting naked.

VICTORIA
Boy please, oooh you know, what
about that new movie with Idris
Elba?

DARIUS
Haven't we already watched every
movie he's ever made ever in life.

VICTORIA
He is my celebrity free pass, okur.

Victoria heads to the bedroom, when she's out of view Darius
powers on her phone and tries to break the code with no luck.

INT. VICTORIA'S LIVINGROOM - NIGHT

Victoria enters the living room, she takes her phone off the
counter, Darius enters wearing boxer shorts.

DARIUS
I thought we said no phones?

Victoria jumps.

VICTORIA
Shit! If you don't stop sneaking up
on me. I'm expecting a call back
from The View. It'll only take a
second and then we can get nasty.

Darius grabs for the phone, but Victoria pulls it away.

VICTORIA
Stop playing.

Victoria plays her messages on speaker phone.

VICTORIA
Aw, you left me a message.

DARIUS (ON PHONE)
Hey my love- What are you doing
here?

FEMALE DOCTOR (ON PHONE)
I heard you were getting married.
So, I wanted to give you my wedding
present early.

Victoria looks at Darius.

DARIUS (ON PHONE)
I promised I'd be good.
(into phone)
Vic, hey it's me-

Victoria hits pause on the message.

VICTORIA
Is that her?

DARIUS
Nothing happened.

VICTORIA
You refuse to stop lying, get out.

Victoria takes off her engagement ring and hands it to
Darius, he doesn't take it.

DARIUS
No, we can fix this.

VICTORIA
Nope, I'm done, this isn't the
first time, this isn't the second
time, this is the third fucking
time! I am done!

DARIUS
(under breath)
You cheated first.

VICTORIA
Once! Once! In college! This isn't
a fucking competition! Fucking
asshole, you won!

She takes off the her engagement ring.

VICTORIA
You won! Are you happy?!

Victoria throws the ring at him and he catches it mid-air.

VICTORIA
Either you leave or I leave.

DARIUS
Babe, we can-

VICTORIA
This is my place you leave!

Victoria pushes Darius towards the door but he's too big and strong to move.

VICTORIA
Get your shit and go!

She hits him repeatedly, but he doesn't move.

VICTORIA
Fine, I am going to Uncle Marty's
and by the time I get back-

Darius grabs her by the arm, she pulls free of him.

VICTORIA
Out! I have built a career and a
life around us. I teach people how
to avoid this very thing, but I'm
done pretending we're picture
perfect. You fucking narcissistic
sociopath!

Darius pulls Victoria into an embrace and she resists.

VICTORIA
No, let me go!

Victoria struggles to break free. Darius slaps her so hard she bounces off the wall, loses her balance, and falls to the floor. He moves towards her and she kicks him away. Darius goes into the bedroom and comes back dressed, Victoria is still on the floor.

DARIUS
I'll be back when you've come to
your senses.

Darius slams the door as he leaves.

ACT I

EXT. CATALINA ISLAND/FARMER'S MARKET - DAY

Angel has on sleeveless turtleneck, dark classes, and a baseball cap. MAN AT FARMER'S MARKET (50s)

MAN AT FARMER'S MARKET
Victoria! Victoria!

Angel quickly weaves through the crowd.

MAN AT FARMER'S MARKET
Vicky! Vicky!

Angel panics.

MAN AT FARMER'S MARKET
Don't make me run after you.

Angel stops and turns to see that the man is talking to his TEENAGED DAUGHTER.

MAN AT FARMER'S MARKET
I swear the world could end and you
would never know because you have
these things in your ears.
(re ear buds)

Angel hurriedly disappears into the crowd.

EXT. CATALINA ISLAND - DAY

Angel is riding her bike furiously, she's making sharp turns, going over curbs and nearly runs over a PEDESTRIAN.

INT. CATALINA HOME - DAY

Angel quickly enters and slams the door, she falls against the closed door and slides to the ground crying, she lies down and curls up into a ball.

INT. VICTORIA'S BATHROOM - FLASHBACK

Victoria is dozing off in the bathtub, We HEAR what sounds like a book dropping in another room.

VICTORIA (CONT'D)
Hello?

INT. VICTORIA'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Victoria enters cautiously.

VICTORIA
Darius?

All the lights go out in the apartment.

VICTORIA
Shit!

Victoria feels around for the fuse box and flips the switches, but the lights don't come on.

VICTORIA
Fuck, Darius you better not be
playing games!

Victoria looks out the window and notices that the lights are on in the street and other apartments in the building. She then feels around for her cell phone, she finds it on the kitchen counter top, and makes a call.

VICTORIA
Cynthia, hey, sorry to bother you
but are the lights out in your
apartment?

An ASSAILANT dressed in black, wearing an opaque expressionless mask comes out of the shadows and walks towards Victoria.

VICTORIA
That's strange, yeah, the lights
seem to only be out in my place,
yeah I'll call the super, thanks.

Victoria hangs up, she turns around in time to see the assailant's scalpel come down. Victoria screams and makes a run for the bathroom but the assailant tackles her from behind. She fights back with all of her strength and is able to free herself, she runs into the bathroom with her cell phone, she locks the door.

INT. VICTORIA'S BATHROOM - NIGHT

Victoria desperately searches for something, anything that she can use as a weapon. She looks under the sink and in the medicine cabinet but there is nothing.

VICTORIA
No, no, no, no, no!