

SC.1

JULIA STILLWELL

Thank you.

(Ashley goes)  
Stillwell. Yes? I see. When did  
it go down? Any survivors?

## INT. THE SEVEN TOWER - HALLWAY - NIGHT

STARLIGHT STEPS INTO FRAME, moves down the hall. Fish way  
out of water. When she passes --

BLACK NOIR. The silent, clad-in-all-black Seven member.

STARLIGHT

Black Noir. Hi, we haven't properly  
met. I'm Starlight.

(she SIGNS as she speaks)  
Hello. I'm Starlight.

Black Noir is clearly DEAF. He begins SIGNING BACK, too  
quickly for her to understand.

STARLIGHT

(awkwardly)  
Oh, I, I'm sorry. "I'm Starlight"  
is all I learned.

He gives her a long look. Pissed? Impossible to know, under  
that black mask. Then he heads off. Off Starlight -- shit,  
she blew that one.

## INT. THE SEVEN TOWER - BOARDROOM - NIGHT

Starlight enters to find beaming Ashley waiting for her.  
Along with TREVOR, an overworked VOUGHT TECH.

Ashley, like all publicists with all talent, is polite to the  
point of pandering.

START →

ASHLEY

There's our star. How you settling  
in?

Starlight forces a smile.

STARLIGHT

Well. It's -- an adjustment, that's  
for sure.

ASHLEY

This is Trevor from Crime Analytics.  
I've got good news: we're sending  
you on your first patrol. A team-  
up, tomorrow night.

Starlight. Finally. This is what she's been waiting for.

STARLIGHT

Great. Great news. Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

THE BOYS

1/7

CONTINUED:

TREVOR

Hi, big fan.

He hands Starlight an iPad.

She reads the screen -- it looks for all the world like a  
CALL SHEET -- and printed at the top:

STARLIGHT

A crime itinerary.

TREVOR

That's what my department does. Vet  
leads, crunch satellite data, COMP-  
STAT. Better intel than the police.

Starlight reacts. That's not such good news.

STARLIGHT

Thanks, but I'm good, I like to do  
my own investigating.

ASHLEY

Totally and that's why we love you.  
But it's not coming from us, it's  
policy from corporate. What if you  
grab the wrong person? There's  
liability to consider.

Now Starlight notices something on the iPad. Blanches.

STARLIGHT

The Deep is coming.

TREVOR

It's a water adjacent crime.

The last person she wants to be with is the Deep.

STARLIGHT

Then -- he should handle it by  
himself. He doesn't need me.

ASHLEY

It was gonna be Deep and  
Translucent, but we're just so  
excited to get you out there. Is  
there a problem?

STARLIGHT

No. Of course not. It's just -- in  
Des Moines, I patrolled alone.

ASHLEY

And you were amazing. But it's not  
us. Corporate loves a team-up.  
(then)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONT →

CONTINUED: (2)

ASHLEY (CONT'D)

I'm glad you brought up Des Moines,  
by the way. Lemme put a few bugs in  
your ear.

Ashley presses a button on a REMOTE.

ON A WALL SCREEN. CHANNEL 13 ACTION NEWS, Des Moines. It's  
a STAND-OFF. SWAT aim RIFLES at a shit-box CRACK HOUSE. But  
the DOOR kicks OPEN... and STARLIGHT roughly drags a SHOOTER  
out. The SWAT cheer! But her back's to camera --

STARLIGHT

I don't understand.

ASHLEY

(freeze-frames it)

There. Look. You got a beautiful  
face, I just wanna see it. If you  
opened yourself up to camera --

STARLIGHT

Um. I was dealing with an active  
shooter. I wasn't thinking about  
the camera.

ASHLEY

Oh, sweetie. You always need to  
think about the camera. Ever notice  
Queen Maeve, she's always finding  
her light.

Now Ashley ZOOMS IN on a moment where Starlight is SHOVING  
the SHOOTER against a car so the COPS can CUFF HIM. FREEZE-  
FRAMES on Starlight in an awkward position.

Trevor politely lowers his eyes.

ASHLEY

And here -- if you were just a  
little more aware of your body  
position. Something that says  
'confidence,' you know? Ever  
consider a movement coach?

Starlight's horrified. She does her best to push back. In  
her own polite Midwestern way.

STARLIGHT

Hold on, just -- hold on. Look, I  
get I'm new and there's a lot I  
don't know. But the -- one thing I  
know how to do? Is the job. I'm  
good at it.

Ashley. Sighs. We see a crack in her ass-kissing facade.  
Her pandering only goes so far. She LEVELS with Starlight --

(CONTINUED)

3/7

ASHLEY

Okay, look. If you wanna be some butch anonymous cop, I can make a call. But if that's what you wanted, you wouldn't be wearing the sparkly yellow outfit. Superheroes are symbols. You're only a symbol if you're famous. And you're only famous if people see you -- in a positive light.

Frankly, Ashley has a point. Off Starlight...

STOP

**EXT. EMPTY RESTAURANT - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT**

QUICK CUTS. Butcher's CADDY, followed by Frenchie's WHITE VAN. Screech up before an EMPTY RESTAURANT in a bleak part of town. Used to be a Red Lobster; now it ain't shit.

Butcher. Hughie. OFF-LOAD BOXES and SUPPLIES from Frenchie's van. Onto a dolly.

As Frenchie quickly carries TRANSLUCENT, 'Officer' and a Gentlemen' style, toward the restaurant. At least, we assume so -- we can't actually see anything in his arms --

**INT. EMPTY RESTAURANT - MEAT LOCKER - NIGHT**

In the basement of the empty restaurant, a large STEEL-ENCLOSED MEAT LOCKER.

HUGHIE. Stands on a chair, PAPERS what looks like ALUMINUM FOIL to the ceiling. As he starts looks at--

Butcher and Frenchie. Attaching a TANGLE of JUMPER CABLES from a bulky DOG CAGE to a semi-circle of CAR BATTERIES.

Hughie. It's all so grimy. Surreal. Claustrophobic.

FRENCHIE

(to Hughie)

That stuff really blocks the chips

HUGHIE

Blocks all GPS signals. R.F. Shielding Foil, you can buy it at Fry's.

Butcher. Hughie is just full of surprises.

BUTCHER

What I tell you about this kid?

FRENCHIE

You in Tech Intelligence?

HUGHIE

Sales and Installation.

(CONTINUED)

4/7

BUTCHER

I got enough to worry about, without  
you clutching yer pearls like some  
old minge.

FRENCHIE

(pointed, dry)  
You're worried? I thought you had  
everything under control.

Butcher gives a sharp look that clearly means "conversation  
fucking over."

Frenchie pivots away. Glances at the TV. Frustrated.

ANGLE. Hughie. Should he run? While he has a chance?

Frenchie watches the DISCOVERY CHANNEL. Sees the special on  
TURTLES. Stares deeply. Then -- eureka!

Frenchie snatches the CATTLE PROD.

BUTCHER

What're you doing?

FRENCHIE

Shocking our invisible friend. I  
need him unconscious.

BUTCHER

Why?

FRENCHIE

Because I've got it.

INT. THE SEVEN TOWER - STARLIGHT'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

CLOSE ON STARLIGHT. In a robe. Sits before her VANITY. She  
holds an old PHOTO -- Starlight, beaming, with a group of  
adoring GIRL SCOUTS. At the Iowa Corn Festival.

Starlight smiles softly to herself. Feels like maybe, just  
maybe, she's getting some of her old mojo back.

She affixes the photo to her vanity mirror. When suddenly --

POUND POUND POUND! Her door. She opens it --

Revealing an apoplectic Ashley. Gone is the polite  
pandering. This is what happens when a publicist roars.

START →

ASHLEY

What the FUCK, Starlight?

STARLIGHT

What are you talking about?

Ashley holds out her PHONE.

(CONTINUED)

ON THE SCREEN. Shaky YouTube VIDEO of Starlight kicking the SHIT out of the Frat Boys. Not only is she in her plain-clothes, but garish text is stretched along the bottom:  
"STARLIGHT: SUPE BRUTALITY?"

STARLIGHT  
Oh shit.

ASHLEY  
And so glad you did it in plain clothes, so you could blow your secret identity, too. Here --

ON THE SCREEN. A TWITTER FEED. Two PHOTOS. A still of Starlight from the video. And Annie's SENIOR YEAR PORTRAIT.

ASHLEY  
(reading the tweet)  
"OMG. You see that YouTube video? Starlight is Annie January! I went to Hoover High with her. #SheWasBulimic."  
(off Starlight's horror)  
One, this was stupid. Two, it was really stupid to do it on camera. Didn't I say always look for cameras? You had one in a 3rd floor window.

STARLIGHT  
They were about to rape a girl!

ASHLEY  
What girl? There's no girl on the video. You get a name?

STARLIGHT  
No. No, she ran off.

ASHLEY  
You always get a name. Always.

STARLIGHT  
(spinning)  
I think she was -- they said she was a friend. It was date rape. I think.

ASHLEY  
Well, she hasn't come forward and, statistically, she's not likely to. So all we've really got is two Delta Tau's who swore they were just getting drunk in an alley.

STARLIGHT  
They're lying! Aren't I innocent until proven guilty?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ASHLEY

When you're in the big leagues?  
Flip it.

(then)

Whatever you had going on in the morning? Cancel. 'Cause there's gonna be meetings with risk assessment, crisis management, legal -- Jerry's gonna lose his shit.

STARLIGHT

Am I -- are they gonna fire me?

ASHLEY

Just be in the boardroom at 10.

Ashley storms off. Starlight calls after her --

STARLIGHT

But am I fired?

STOP

INT. THE SEVEN TOWER - BULLPEN - NIGHT

Anika, the Vought Tech. At her workstation. When --

RANDOM TECH (O.S.)

Jesus Christ!

Anika looks up to see --

Homelander. Walking through the bullpen. And judging from everyone's shock -- for the first time. His grandeur is out of place in this scruffy, cluttered, banal office space.

He arrives at Anika's desk. She straightens.

ANIKA

Homelander. Um. Welcome to Crime Analytics. Can I -- would you like a Red Bull or something?

HOMELANDER

Have you found Translucent yet?

ANIKA

Oh. No. But Security's on it -- should find him soon.

HOMELANDER

He's been missing for over 24 hours. Is he in danger? Do you even know?

(off Anika)

I'll find him myself. His last known position?

(CONTINUED)

7/7