

LAW & ORDER:
SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT
"HOW THE WORLD ENDS"

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Previously on Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

This spec episode of Law & Order: Special Victims Unit takes place in a future, unaired season, and references events from the following Law & Order franchise episodes.

Law & Order's "**Nullification**" featured militia members arrested for a bank robbery, who declared themselves to be prisoners of war. In response to police questioning, they repeated only their names and ranks.

In Law & Order: SVU's "**Raw**" and "**Penetration**," gun shop owner Brian Ackerman is revealed as the leader of a neo-Nazi terrorist group, Revolutionary Aryan Warriors, aka RAW. An undercover FBI agent, Dana Lewis, killed Brian's son to stop a courtroom massacre. From prison, Brian Ackerman later set up Dana's rape by the Aryan Brotherhood, as revenge for his son's death.

"**We Dream Of Machine Elves**" uncovered SVU's investigation into a cult run by a psychiatrist, Dr. Julius Adler, which drugged and raped women tourists. Caleb Williams, one of Dr. Adler's students/cult members, provided the first victim with bottled water laced with the hallucinogen DMT. Dr. Adler was Rollins' former professor and when she interrogated him, he suffered a psychotic break.

In "**Silent Night, Hateful Night**" SVU helped investigate Christmas Eve hate crimes. SVU determined that a domestic terror cell led by a man codenamed Northstar and his lover, Susan Nolan, was responsible for the attacks. Northstar was killed by Benson at a park after threatening to detonate a bomb. Susan thanked Benson for giving the movement a martyr.

LAW & ORDER:

SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT

"HOW THE WORLD ENDS"

TEASER

FADE IN

EXT. MORNINGSID PARK - HARLEM - NIGHT

A Flash Mob sets up. They're dressed up as the characters and zombies from Michael Jackson's Thriller music video.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

College Students in Halloween costumes and Hudson University gear party over loud house music. A few pass packets of drugs around and drink from mysterious water bottles labeled H2[^]. They dance feverishly to the music.

EXT. THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE - NIGHT

Excited Schoolgirls in private school uniforms exit the church. They skip down the steps toward charter buses.

EXT. MORNINGSID PARK - HARLEM - NIGHT

The Thriller Flash Mob is in full swing. Enthralled Bystanders record it on their phones.

VIDEO FOOTAGE:

Commotion breaks out at the flash mob's rear. The footage turns shaky and blurry as the person recording takes off.

EXT. THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE - NIGHT

Chaperones organize the Schoolgirls to account for everyone. The Lead Chaperone claps to get their attention.

LEAD CHAPERONE

Okay, girls. We're going back to
the hotel and then-

The Lead Chaperone is interrupted by a loud chiming from one of the girls' phones. That girl looks at her phone in wonder.

SCHOOLGIRL 1

Um, I think my phone got hacked.

She holds it up.

SCHOOLGIRL 1 (CONT'D)

There's an alert about zombies...
and to take cover?

The Lead Chaperone is not amused. She starts to speak but other emergency alerts begin chiming. Ruckus as everyone pulls out their phones.

LEAD CHAPERONE

Okay, settle down everyone. There seems to be a malfunction with the phone system here in New York City, so let's just-

She breaks off at the sound of rumbling.

SCHOOLGIRL 2

What's that noise?

SCHOOLGIRL 3

Feels like the ground is shaking?

The rumbling intensifies. The Lead Chaperone is now worried.

LEAD CHAPERONE

Ok, everyone on the buses. Right away. We'll sort everything out at the hotel.

As the girls head toward the buses, the rumbling turns to frenzied screams and noise.

A wall of crazed, bloodstained people, most in Halloween costumes and make-up, barrel down Amsterdam in the direction of the church.

Upfront are the Thriller zombies who are terrifyingly out of their minds, their lips dripping with blood. Nearby them are a few crazed college students, in Hudson University sweatshirts. Also covered in blood.

The Schoolgirls panic and make for their buses, screaming and tripping over each other. This catches the attention of the zombie mob, which veers toward them.

LEAD CHAPERONE (CONT'D)

Everyone to the buses NOW!

Most girls don't make it as the mob slams into them.

The Lead Chaperone fights off the "zombies" with her backpack. But is quickly overwhelmed. Goes down.

Other girls run back up the steps toward the church. But the zombies catch them, too.

A Dazed Schoolgirl staggers to her feet. Her uniform torn, blood drips from bite marks all over her face and forearms.

A whistle gets her attention. She sees an Unharmed Classmate beckoning to join her in a safe hiding spot behind bushes.

The Dazed Schoolgirl zeroes in on her classmate. Races over.

The Unharmed Classmate's face turns to fear as the Dazed Schoolgirl jumps on her. She tries to fight as the girl's teeth sink into her neck.

The Dazed Schoolgirl rises triumphantly. CLOSE-UP on her lips, dripping with blood, as we --

FADE OUT

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN

INT. MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Benson flashes her badge and enters the ER, where dozens of "zombie attack" victims are being treated. Including the Schoolgirls.

Rollins, rushes in, her face still in Halloween make-up.

ROLLINS

My God, Captain, I can't believe the news. Dominick and I were out trick-or-treating with the girls when the chaos hit.

She gestures at a muted TV where the local news is on. A chyron scrolls about mass unrest across NYC and other cities.

BENSON

How are they?

ROLLINS

We weren't too far from home, so he's taking care of them tonight.

BENSON

Yeah, Noah was at a party. He's staying over at that friend's home.

Fin and Velasco make their way inside. Velasco is sporting a black eye. He waves off concerned looks.

FIN

Captain, what are we looking at here?

Benson gestures to the Schoolgirls being treated. CLOSE-UP on a shell-shocked, Black Schoolgirl having a bandage administered by a nurse.

BENSON

The mayor's niece is one of the schoolgirls visiting from Kansas who were attacked at St. John's. He personally asked Chief McGrath if SVU could take this. And, quite frankly, other units are overwhelmed after the panic and looting broke out.

FIN

I heard an intern got canned for sending that zombie emergency alert, which was only meant for internal testing.

VELASCO

He should be! I was at the grocery store when there was a run on the pharmacy. Hence-

Velasco points to his black eye. Rollins gestures to the muted TV where there's a news report about militias patrolling parts of the Bronx and Staten Island.

ROLLINS

Well that certainly isn't helping.

BENSON

Let's leave that to other units working to calm the city. In the meantime, we need to sort out exactly what happened here.

The trauma nurse, Rudy, approaches. Looking concerned.

RUDY

Captain, nice to see SVU on this. So far preliminary bloodwork on all of the victims, including the schoolgirls, shows traces of DMT, GHB, bath salts and PCP.

FIN

Even the schoolgirls from Kansas? That doesn't make sense.

ROLLINS

And it doesn't explain the biting, and then the bitten biting others.

Benson ponders this. A realization crosses her face.

BENSON

It does if the method of drug delivery into their systems was saliva, from biting. The biting can be explained by mass hysteria that often occurs in crowds.

RUDY

Right, where one person starts to display odd behavior, and that behavior becomes contagious.

VELASCO

Like the Dancing Plague in the 16th century, where a woman started dancing feverishly. Pretty soon the entire town danced uncontrollably for days.

The squad just stares at Velasco.

FIN

How do you know that? And why.

VELASCO

What? I don't mind a little History Channel to unwind after a day's work.

BENSON

Let's refocus here.

(to Rudy)

Now, DMT, GHB and PCP, that's a powerful, unusual combination.

RUDY

Mmm-hmmm. Bath salts and PCP, they tend to be used by your more hardcore drug user - smoking for a quick high. DMT and GHB, more for people looking to take a nice "trip." DMT gives the trip and GHB the euphoric high. Good luck.

Rollins thinks aloud as Rudy exits.

ROLLINS

So we have tourists preyed on with psychedelics. Again. Captain, you thinking what I'm thinking?

BENSON

Yep. Fin and Velasco, I want you to canvas around uptown. Let's get a picture of the moments leading up to the attack on the schoolgirls. Rollins, pay a visit to the last person who dosed tourists with hallucinatory drugs.

Fin and Velasco depart. As Rollins leaves, Benson stops her.

BENSON (CONT'D)

Do I need to go with you?

ROLLINS
I can handle Adler.

INT. BELLEVUE HOSPITAL - NIGHT

An Orderly leads Rollins to a window looking into a padded room. Inside, Dr. Julius Adler mumbles incoherently while fixating on a patch of the wall.

A shocked Rollins turns to the Orderly.

ROLLINS
How long has he been like this?

ORDERLY
Since he was admitted four years ago.

ROLLINS
And you're sure it's not an act?

ORDERLY
If so, he's really committed to it. He's monitored 24 hours a day and has never come out of his psychosis. It's hard to fake crazy even when no one's around.

EXT. 111TH AND MANHATTAN AVENUE - NIGHT

Fin and Velasco speak with an Elderly Black Resident of the neighborhood who's out walking his two dogs.

ELDERLY BLACK RESIDENT
I had just stepped out with BeBe and CeCe here when all of the hullabaloo started. I hurried back inside and locked my doors. I saw 'em run past. College kids.

VELASCO
And what time was this, sir?

ELDERLY BLACK RESIDENT
Oh, just about 7 pm.

FIN
What made you think these were college students?

ELDERLY BLACK RESIDENT

A couple of 'em had on Hudson sweatshirts. I wasn't too worried at first; those kids party and rage every weekend. But then the news said they was runnin' around biting people. I had to go get my buddy Winchester, just in case.

VELASCO

You have any idea of where they party?

ELDERLY BLACK RESIDENT

There's a warehouse around the corner I have to be careful when walking BeBe and CeCe in the morning. A lot of littered drug stuff, you know. They're up there in age and with their paws-

FIN

(politely)

Sir, can you describe the warehouse for us?

ELDERLY BLACK RESIDENT

I'm colorblind. But it's dark.

VELASCO

Your buddy Winchester? You think we could speak with him?

The Elderly Black Resident lets out a hearty laugh.

ELDERLY BLACK RESIDENT

He's in my gun safe. Locked, of course. And I have a permit.

Velasco sheepishly grins as Fin chuckles.

FIN

You walked right into that one.

VELASCO

(to Resident)

Sir, I don't think you and Winchester will be seeing any action tonight. The "zombies" have been contained.

ELDERLY BLACK RESIDENT

It ain't the zombies I was worried about.

He pointedly looks at a military-style humvee parked nearby. Where a handful of men in fatigues unload boxes of food.

The decal on their truck says Patriot Shepherds. The bulges on their hips suggest weapons. They all wear body cameras.

Fin and Velasco exchange looks.

EXT. 111TH AND MANHATTAN AVENUE - NIGHT

Fin and Velasco approach the Patriot Shepherds. One of the men hand hold out a box of rations.

PATRIOT SHEPHERDS MEMBER 1
(Bronx accent)
How ya doin'? We have MREs here;
not sure when grocery stores will
open again after all the looting.

On top of the box is a flyer. INSERT: *"In times of unrest, the Patriot Shepherds have your back."*

Velasco and Fin decline the box. Flash their badges.

PATRIOT SHEPHERDS MEMBER 1 (CONT'D)
Nice to see you all out. We know
the guys over at the 28th. Back the
blue.

Unimpressed, Fin gives a brief nod. His hand is nonchalantly near his holstered gun.

FIN
I assume you all have valid conceal-
carry permits for your weapons?

An Older Patriot Shepherd wearing a camouflage vest motions to his vest pocket.

OLDER PATRIOT SHEPHERDS MEMBER
Yes, sir. Right here are New York
City Pistol Licenses for all of us.

He hands Velasco the papers. Velasco inspects them, nods at Fin. Hands them back.

FIN
How long you all been out here?

PATRIOT SHEPHERDS MEMBER 1
Deployed as soon as the emergency
alert went out. One of our units
was dispatched-

Velasco clocks use of an official word like "dispatch."

PATRIOT SHEPHERDS MEMBER 1 (CONT'D)
-to a nearby payday loan business.
We came to back them up.

PATRIOT SHEPHERDS MEMBER 2
By the time we arrived, the zombies
were long gone.

Fin flips them a card.

FIN
We're investigating the attacks
that occurred. If you come across
anything helpful, do let us know.

PATRIOT SHEPHERDS MEMBER 1
Will do. We've got your backs.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

The squad reconvenes around Benson.

BENSON
What have we got?

ROLLINS
Adler's still deep into his
psychosis. I combed through his
visitor logs over the last year -
nothing. No one visits or writes to
him. Not even his daughter.

Benson turns to Fin and Velasco. They stand in front of a
whiteboard with a map and timeline with photos. Velasco
points to St. John's.

VELASCO
We know the zombies-
(off look from Benson)
-er, mob, attacked the schoolgirls
about 7:35 pm.

He drags a finger over to Morningside Park.

VELASCO (CONT'D)
Backing up, the Thriller flash mob
was livestreamed on Twitch. It was
interrupted at exactly 7:19 pm.

FIN

Using social media and location data, TARU matched other vics to various locations.

He taps various places on the map with pictures of injured victims, going east into Central Harlem.

FIN (CONT'D)

We have a witness who saw frenzied Hudson students tear through his neighborhood about 7 pm. No other reports before then.

BENSON

So that's when the outbreak started. What do we know about the college students?

VELASCO

They were partying nearby. TARU's pulling surveillance footage from around the neighborhood. We couldn't find the warehouse the witness mentioned to us.

Rollins ponders this information.

ROLLINS

College students, hallucinogens... sure feels like Adler.

BENSON

I agree. Whoever drugged these people knew what they were doing. Let's start with his former students who are still on probation or parole and need to be helpful.

Benson's phone chimes. She looks at it, looks back up.

BENSON (CONT'D)

And make it fast. A homeless man was just shot by someone who... thought he was a zombie.

(off collective groans)

We need to help get the city back under control by solving this NOW.

ROLLINS

I'll start with Caleb. He helped Adler mix the drug cocktail. Paroled early last year.

FIN

We'll circle back with TARU, keep trying to locate this warehouse.

Benson's phone rings. She motions for everyone to pause.

BENSON (INTO PHONE)

Yes, Chief?

(beat)

I'm on my way.

She hangs up. Gives everyone a weary look.

BENSON (CONT'D)

That intern who was fired... the one who sent the emergency alert and set off the panic? He's on the High Line and, suicidal.

The squad all exchange concerned looks.

BENSON (CONT'D)

Apparently, he's ranting about the government secretly creating zombies and something called "predictive programming."

Fin turns the squad room's TV on. Turns to the news. ON TV:

LUKE (early 20s), is distraught and disheveled in a suit.

LUKE (ON TV)

Prepare now. You've been warned. The worst is yet to come.

He leaps up on top of a narrow fence, overlooking the intersection below. Audible gasps from a growing crowd. He teeters dangerously along the edge.

LUKE (ON TV) (CONT'D)

This is how the world ends.

BACK TO SCENE

Off the squad's looks as we --

FADE OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. INTERSECTION OF GANSEVOORT AND WASHINGTON - NIGHT

Luke's dead body is zipped up in a body bag. Benson watches as it's loaded into the coroner's van. She holds her cell phone up to her ear.

BENSON (INTO PHONE)
So Luke was hyper-focused on this
concept of predictive programming.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

The squad is gathered around a speakerphone.

BENSON (FROM SPEAKERPHONE)
We need to figure out if there's
something actually there, or if
this was just the rantings of a
disturbed mind.

FIN
Predictive programming is a belief
that the government works with the
media to drop hints about planned
future events so that when the
event happens for real-

ROLLINS
-the public is ready to accept it.

VELASCO
There are a lot of zombie shows.
One show has like ten spinoffs now.

INTERCUT BENSON/SQUAD:

Benson heads toward her SUV.

BENSON (INTO PHONE)
Sounds very anti-government. Fin
and Velasco, head over to City Hall
and dig into this kid's background.
See if he has any ties to extremist
groups.

Rollins looks through a folder marked "Adler."

ROLLINS

I recall Adler ranting about the government and Big Pharma before his break. I haven't been able to track Caleb down yet but I'll cross reference Adler's disciples against known anti-gov groups.

Benson sees Chief McGrath approaching. Prepares herself.

BENSON (INTO PHONE)

Any movement on TARU and the Harlem surveillance footage?

(tight smile)

Chief is here and I need to brief him.

FIN

Not yet, Captain but we'll stay on them.

Benson hangs up as an agitated McGrath leans in close.

MCGRATH

City Hall is crawling all over my butt. The optics are bad, as it now seems that emergency alert was sent on purpose.

BENSON

Chief, we're working a lot of leads-

McGrath takes Benson aside. Motions to a couple of Uni's (uniformed officers) chasing down Looters carrying TVs.

MCGRATH

We need an arrest and explanation, fast. Otherwise the city is going to lose confidence. I'm hearing the governor is on her way. And the National Guard won't be far behind.

BENSON

As I said, we have promising leads. We should be getting digital assets from TARU soon and-

MCGRATH

Great, let's plan for a press conference in a couple of hours. Show the city we're in control.

Benson is taken aback but falls in line. Nods. McGrath curtly heads off.

As Benson gets into her car, she sees Patriot Shepherds guarding a boarded up supermarket.

INT. BENSON'S SUV - NIGHT

As Benson drives past, a different militia in khakis, red shirts and red hats jumps out of an converted RV. Their more homemade uniforms and gear read "NYC Angels."

They confront the Patriot Shepherds. Appear to be arguing over turf.

BENSON
This city is about to explode.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

Phone to her ear, Rollins jots down notes.

ROLLINS (INTO PHONE)
Ok, that's very helpful. Thank you.

Rollins hangs up. Velasco looks over as he and Fin head out.

VELASCO
Any luck?

ROLLINS
No. Adler's little band of followers have joined the military, moved out of the country or died since their crimes. There's just Caleb left to track down-

A Uni enters.

UNI
I've got a Mr. and Mrs. Williams here for SVU?

Rollins shoots Velasco a shocked look.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT

Rollins ushers Mr. and Mrs. Williams inside. They all sit down at a table.

ROLLINS
Thank you for coming in. You could have called, you didn't have to drive down from Syracuse.

MR. WILLIAMS

Oh, we live out on Long Island now. We inherited a family home. A blessing after everything that happened with Caleb.

MRS. WILLIAMS

When we got your message, we came straightaway.

ROLLINS

Okay, how is Caleb doing? He's into what, his second year of parole?

The Williams exchange looks.

MRS. WILLIAMS

After that Dr. Adler was committed, Caleb finally broke free of his hold. After prison, he started seeing the cult de-programmer, putting his life back together.

MR. WILLIAMS

But, during his treatment, he met these alternative medicine guys, which led him into QAnon...

MRS. WILLIAMS

Which led him to doomsday prepping for the "apocalypse," which led to him joining a militia, this outfit called the Patriot Shepherds.

Rollins tries to make sure she's understanding correctly.

ROLLINS

So Caleb went from a "free-your-mind-through-acid" cult that drugged and raped women to "heal" them of their past trauma, to a right-wing militia group?

(off their nods)

Just out of curiosity, he ever say anything about zombies to you all?

They exchange looks again.

MRS. WILLIAMS

He's obsessed with them. He visited us with some friends and they were using zombie sheets for target prac-

She sheepishly breaks off. Rollins pounces.

ROLLINS

Target practice? Like with a gun? A gun that a felon on parole is not supposed to possess?

MR. WILLIAMS

When we confronted him, Caleb said he didn't shoot. Just his friends.

ROLLINS

I need to find Caleb, now. What can you tell me?

Off the Williams' worried looks --

INT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

Abuzz with distressed activity. TVs all show news coverage of the chaos and unrest across the city.

Fin and Velasco speak with Luke's Co-Worker (non-binary, 40s), who's trying but failing to hold it together.

LUKE'S CO-WORKER

I wish I'd known he was struggling.

FIN

Was his anti-government radicalization known?

LUKE'S CO-WORKER

No. That attitude's not a fit here.

VELASCO

It seems odd that Luke was able to activate the emergency alert protocols within 15 minutes of the first attacks. That's... fast.

LUKE'S CO-WORKER

It's hard to believe but it seems he planned this. He knew what was gonna happen. Had the alert queued up, ready to go.

FIN

What do you know about his background?

LUKE'S CO-WORKER

He had solid references from working on Bernie's campaigns, nothing problematic on Twitter.

Luke's Co-Worker breaks off as a thought occurs to them.

VELASCO

What?

LUKE'S CO-WORKER

One of Luke's references came from a former donor, big-time money. But that guy took a hard pivot to the right. You know, a White guy, upset about free speech censorship on social media. Blah, blah, blah.

FIN

You have a name?

LUKE'S CO-WORKER

How could I not? He's all over TV.

They point to the bank of TV screens. ON SCREEN:

A Reporter interviews Travis Kilpatrick (White, 30s). A chyron identifies him as the Founder and Captain of... the Patriot Shepherds Militia.

BACK TO SCENE

Off Fin and Velasco's looks --

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

Benson returns. Heads over to Fin and Velasco, who add Luke and Travis' pictures to the whiteboard. Benson looks at Luke's picture.

BENSON

Tell me we've got something good.
We've got a press conference in
(checks watch)
90 minutes.

FIN

Well, Luke kept his radicalization under wraps from his co-workers.

VELASCO

We discovered he used burner social media accounts for his anti-government rantings.

BENSON

(at Travis' photo)
Who's this?

VELASCO

Travis Kilpatrick, a tech bro turned militia enthusiast. He was close to Luke. And based on their social media, as Travis radicalized, so did Luke.

FIN

He's the founder of the Patriot Shepherds militia. We had a run in with those guys in Harlem.

BENSON

Wait. The Patriot Shepherds are the group Rollins said Caleb had fallen in with. She's with his parole officer, tracking him down.

The three stare at the board in puzzlement.

VELASCO

We have Caleb, who has prior history with hallucinogens. And Luke, who says the government is behind zombie media. And what connects them both is a militia.

FIN

This is weird. What are we missing?

BENSON

Let's look into these Patriot Shepherds. See if something jumps out at us and-

Carisi enters. Benson is surprised.

BENSON (CONT'D)

Hey. Rollins said you were home with the girls.

Carisi glances over at the suspect board.

CARISI

The 8th floor heard about the press conference so her mom took over. You close to bringing these guys in?

BENSON

Hopefully Rollins has a solid lead and we're still waiting on-

Fin's computer chimes. He makes a single, excited clap.

FIN
Just got the TARU footage from
Central Harlem!

Velasco and Fin immediately get busy at their computers.

CARISI
Well that sounds promising.

Carisi eases closer to Benson. Tries not to look worried.

CARISI (CONT'D)
I'm hearing things are a little hot
out on Long Island.

BENSON
Things are hotter in the city.
Rollins'll be okay. Suffolk County
knows she's in their backyard.

INT. ROLLINS' CAR - NIGHT

Rollins eases into the parking lot of a shooting range. Her headlights shine onto the license plate of a small car.

A Parole Officer in the passenger seat beside Rollins peers at the car's license plate. Nods. Picks up a police radio.

PAROLE OFFICER (INTO RADIO)
Dispatch, this is Charles 1. We've
got a 10-45c at 332 Riverton Road.

RADIO
Copy that.

PAROLE OFFICER
(to Rollins)
I grew up out here. Everyone's
worked up. Follow my lead, alright?

Rollins nods. The Parole Officer hands her a hunter's camouflage hat.

INT. L.I. SHOOTERS - STOREFRONT - NIGHT

Rollins and the Parole Officer enter wearing the camouflage hats. They nod past two Range Members with gun bulges on their hips, who menacingly patrol for looters.

The women stroll up to the counter. As the Parole Officer engages the Clerk, Rollins casually looks around. Sees a door marked "RANGE" where target shooting can be heard from it.

PAROLE OFFICER

Hiya. How's it going? Things are just so crazy in the city, we had to come check in on our parents.

CLERK

Yeah, my brother said his wife scared off a couple of looters over in Staten Island.

Rollins inches closer to the Range door. Peers through the door's plexiglass window to the range.

ROLLIN'S POV:

Clusters of men around various shooting lanes. A group of men in militia uniforms are in the furthest lanes.

BACK TO SCENE

PAROLE OFFICER

Y'all got any ammo left?

CLERK

Nah, we got wiped out pretty good-
(sees Rollins)
Hey, she can't be back there!

The Range Members rush over to Rollins. She innocently puts her hands up. They firmly usher her back toward the counter.

She gives the Parole Officer a slight nod. Fakes a smile for the range personnel.

ROLLINS

Sorry, I haven't been out here and was wondering about your setup.

CLERK

(suspicious)
Sorry, this is a members-only clu-

Rollins and the Parole Officer whip out their badges.

CLERK (CONT'D)

Oh. Um, right this way.

INT. L.I. SHOOTERS - RANGE - NIGHT

Rollins and the Parole Officer make their way toward the end of the range. There they see Caleb Williams, in uniform, with a few other Patriot Shepherds.

PAROLE OFFICER
Caleb Williams. You're under arrest
for violating your parole.

CALEB
I haven't touched any guns, swear
to God. These guys'll vouch for me.

The Patriot Shepherds nod. Rollins steps forward.

ROLLINS
The defendant shall not own,
possess, **or have access to** a
firearm.

Caleb's face pales seeing Rollins. He squirms as his Parole
Officer places him in handcuffs. Gestures to Rollins.

CALEB
What's she doing here? I haven't
seen Adler in years!

As Rollins and the Parole Officer muscle Caleb away, one of
the Patriot Shepherds yells after him.

PATRIOT SHEPHERDS MEMBER 3
Remember your rights, soldier!

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Rollins sits across from Caleb, who's handcuffed to the
table. He stares straight ahead.

Rollins sets down surveillance photos of the schoolgirls
being bitten. Their eyes are terrified.

ROLLINS
Tell me how this happened, Caleb.

Caleb refuses to engage with Rollins or look at the photos.

CALEB
Caleb Williams, Private First
Class.

ROLLINS
Um, what? What did you say?

CALEB
(more confidently)
Caleb Williams, Private First
Class.

ROLLINS

Um, I don't know what that's about
but help me understand the tie
between your group and zombies.

Caleb stares directly at Rollins. An angry glint in his eyes.

CALEB

Caleb. Williams.
Private. First. Class.

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT

Carisi and Benson watch through the glass.

CARISI

I hope this isn't the start of some
insanity defense.

BENSON

Yeah, this isn't going anywhere.

Benson knocks on the interrogation door. Rollins comes out.

ROLLINS

What the hell. Caleb was nothing
like this during the Adler
investigation.

CARISI

Sounds familiar, I just can't place
it. It's like name and rank, or
something.

Benson snaps her fingers.

BENSON

Like a prisoner of war.

Carisi and Rollins stare blankly at Benson.

BENSON (CONT'D)

Munch once told me about a case
where a militia was arrested for
planning a domestic terror attack.
Considered themselves prisoners of
war; would only give name and rank.

Carisi is flabbergasted but goes with it.

CARISI

Okay, that jives with the anti-
government angle.

ROLLINS

Then that means he's received some kind of programming and won't cooperate. We'll have to break him.

(to Benson)

Maybe something good came up when they tossed his place? The prospect of time back behind bars might crack him.

BENSON

No, his place was clean. Let's see if Fin and Velasco have anything that might help.

INT. SVU SQUADROOM - NIGHT

BENSON

The press conference is in 30 minutes and I need to brief the Chief beforehand.

Velasco and Fin head over to the timeline and suspect board.

FIN

Good news. We found the warehouse where the party took place. It seems the outbreak started a couple blocks away, with a smaller group of partygoers that wandered away.

ROLLINS

Anyone stand out on surveillance video? Looking to tie someone to Caleb. He isn't talking.

VELASCO

No but once we're back uptown, we may be able to zero in on a perp. Just waiting on a signed warrant.

BENSON

The militia angle is still the most promising. Rollins, look through our old files, see if any of those cases with anti-government groups may have a tie to Caleb.

ROLLINS

Got it, Captain. I know I can break him. I just need the right angle.

BENSON

Perfect. We have enough to placate McGrath for now and update the public. I'm going to check in with a contact about zombies, militias and the Feds.

INT. BENSON'S SUV - NIGHT

Benson visits with Stabler.

STABLER

Kids are fine. Eli's out of town and was most worried about me. Mom was elated. Apparently, her first date with my father was at a drive-in for The Last Man on Earth.

Stabler gently touches Benson's hand.

STABLER (CONT'D)

Liv, how are you? I can't believe SVU caught a case on a night like this.

Benson lingers with Stabler's hand on hers. But she focuses.

BENSON

About that case. So whatever started the zombie panic seems to have an anti-government, conspiracy theory connection.

Stabler isn't sure he heard correctly. Benson makes a "yeah, I know" face.

BENSON (CONT'D)

Is there anything you know, through Organized Crime or the Feds, about anti-government groups and zombies?

STABLER

Well, lots of conspiracy theories originate with those groups. They're nuts so I guess zombies aren't too far-fetched.

BENSON

Any theories stand out?

STABLER

They talk about "false flags" after mass shootings, terrorist attacks, etc.

BENSON

False flag attacks?

STABLER

Acts committed by one group and blamed on another party, to justify a heavy response the first group planned all along.

BENSON

So the group making up the attacks, has something to gain from blaming someone or something else for them.

They watch as a few Patriot Shepherds pass by on "patrol."

STABLER

If a militia engineered zombie attacks to pin blame on the government, what would they gain?

Benson mulls this.

STABLER (CONT'D)

We have an Organized Crime Task Force meeting tomorrow with the feds. I'll sniff around.

Benson's phone chimes. She checks in. Then looks up at Stabler in shock.

BENSON

Any chance you can reach out to your contacts earlier? There's been another attack, this time in Brooklyn. And people are dead.

Off Benson and Stabler's looks as we --

FADE OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. GRAND ARMY PLAZA - BROOKLYN - NIGHT

Benson and Rollins flash their badges to Uniforms and duck under crime scene tape. Dozens of Injured Victims in Halloween costumes are treated by EMTs.

Across the street, Reporters, Youtubers and Looky-loos jostle against each other, all filming with phones and cameras.

ROLLINS

Thank God Chief cancelled that press conference.

Benson nods agreement as they approach a Sergeant McKenzie, who's directing Uniforms and the Crime Scene Unit (CSUs).

BENSON

Sergeant McKenzie, what happened?

She walks them through the scene. Points at a grassy area.

SERGEANT MCKENZIE

Despite the events in Harlem, people still gathered for a midnight, outdoor Rocky Horror Picture Show performance. Witnesses said some performers started behaving oddly. That turned into biting and mass hysteria that quickly spread.

The group continues walking.

SERGEANT MCKENZIE (CONT'D)

Since we already had so many units out to deter looting we were able to quickly subdue the, um, biters.

BENSON

Still, there are three bodies on their way to the morgue.

A Uniform beckons Sergeant McKenzie's attention.

SERGEANT MCKENZIE

Look, I got cadets and aux units tied up trying to prevent junkies from raiding pharmacies. Not to mention THAT-

She points across the street where Uniforms struggle to contain a swelling, angry and conspiratorial crowd.

SERGEANT MCKENZIE (CONT'D)

-so we did the best we could.
Excuse me, Captain.

Sergeant McKenzie steps away. Benson and Rollins approach an EMT swiftly rolling a Teenage Victim with a head wound on a stretcher toward an ambulance. Benson gestures around.

BENSON

What is this looking like?

EMT

Most vics' eyes are dilated.
Consistent with hallucinogens.

ROLLINS

Can we have a few minutes with her?

The EMT motions to walk and talk. Benson tenderly looks at the Teenage Victim.

BENSON

How are you? Can you tell me your name?

TEENAGE VICTIM

Vanessa.

ROLLINS

Very good. Vanessa, is there anything you can tell us about what happened?

TEENAGE VICTIM

We had just gotten snacks from some of the street vendors and were talking with cast members we knew.

ROLLINS

I hate to ask, but did you or anyone you know take drugs? Maybe to make the show a little more fun?

They reach the ambulance.

TEENAGE VICTIM

No, all I had was water. I didn't even open my chips before I started feeling strange.

(MORE)