

PLATFORM FULL SYNOPSIS

Remains of an adult female and two children are found in 55-gallon drums at an abandoned chemical storage facility in Los Angeles. Reporter DANNY KASHO uncovers a clue from a cold case that enables detectives to identify the victims as members of the SHAW family, who disappeared twenty years ago. Bodies of the father and one of the three children are not recovered.

A fatal single-vehicle crash in Malibu becomes a homicide investigation when reporter URSULA RUDA spots bullet holes in the car. The victim is oceanography scientist OLIVIA ALVAREZ. Ursula meets Olivia's grieving colleagues, DR. JILLIAN CONTI and JEFF LINDLEY. Jeff shows Ursula video that Olivia took of drums with peculiar, notched ends that are leaking toxic waste off of LA's coast. Olivia's girlfriend RENÉE HADDAD tells Ursula about threats Olivia received over her research, which is being used in lawsuits to delay a billion-dollar proof of concept development turning an offshore oil platform into livable space.

Danny and Ursula meet at a media event hosted by platform developers PHILLIP RUSSELL and KEITH REDFORD. Danny and Ursula are more than colleagues from the local news scene—a recent serendipitous liaison has left a palpable tension between them. Before futuristic autonomous drones fly them to the platform, developer employee FRANCES FAHEY advises Ursula that the drones' always-on assistant means that someone is always listening.

Keith Redford confides to Danny that he suspects RICHARD GARNETT of platform investment firm PRINZ-INNIS, and Richard's business partner PATRICK RUSSELL, Phillip's father, are not who they claim to be. Keith has DNA samples of both men. Danny declines his request to have them tested, and leaves the platform accompanied by a suspicious GINA GARNETT, Richard's daughter, and Frances Fahey's nemesis. Promising an exclusive interview in exchange, Keith persuades Ursula to deliver the samples to Danny, hoping to change his mind.

Danny learns that the storage facility where the bodies were found is owned by Prinz-Innis. Finding scant personal history on Patrick Russell, Danny comes across a cold case of a missing

man named JIMMY RUSSELL. A retired detective tells him that Jimmy's full name was James Patrick Russell. Jimmy vanished the same year that Richard Garnett met and became business partners with Patrick Russell.

Keith Redford dies in an accident on the platform. After Ursula gives Danny the DNA samples, they look around the abandoned storage facility and find dozens of rusting drums with the same notched ends as the ones Olivia Alvarez discovered leaking on the ocean floor. Inside of one are the decomposed remains of a man with identification belonging to WAYNE SHAW, the primary suspect in the deaths of his family. But DNA does not match the Shaw children's remains found in the lake—it's not Wayne's body. Phillip Russell calls Danny and invites him to meet at the Prinz-Innis building.

Renée Haddad shows Ursula texts between Olivia Alvarez and Dr. Jillian Conti the morning Olivia died that pinpoint where she was up until her fatal crash. Watching submersible footage provided by Jeff Lindley, Ursula matches the notched drums leaking on the seafloor to the ones she saw at the storage facility—proof that links Prinz-Innis to both toxic dump sites. Gina Garnett entices Ursula with an irresistible offer—to fly to the platform with her from the Prinz-Innis building for an exclusive interview with her father, facility owner Richard Garnett.

In the Prinz-Innis parking garage, Danny reminds Ursula to be careful out on the platform where Keith Redford died, and where she'll be isolated with creepy Gina Garnett. To Phillip Russell's relief, Danny confirms that he didn't do anything with Keith's DNA samples. Danny shows Phillip two photos. Phillip identifies his father Patrick in both, although he's never seen the second one—it's a family portrait of the Shaw family. Shaken, Phillip brings Danny upstairs to the executive suite confront his wheelchair-bound father in person. Richard Garnett is there, too—he has no interview scheduled with Ursula. Danny is able to text her a warning.

Gina turns off the drone's onboard cameras, assuming that no one can see or hear their conversation. Accusing Ursula of using her position in the media to undermine the platform development, she demands to know what Ursula and Danny did with Keith's DNA samples. Gina's threats include a detail from Olivia's crash that wasn't published. Ursula receives

Danny's text about Richard and secretly calls the detective who has Olivia's case, leaving the line open. Frances Fahey is listening, too—the always-on assistant can't be turned off. Frances takes control of the drone remotely and sends her nemesis and Ursula plummeting toward the sea.

Patrick Russell admits that he met Jimmy Russell but insists he didn't kill him. Jimmy planned to blackmail Richard over the storage facility. Patrick informed Richard, who was able to avert a costly scandal. They've been partners ever since, an arrangement that has Richard feeling increasingly trapped. Conditioned by Patrick to believe that his mother and siblings died in a car crash, the Shaw family photo causes Phillip's buried memories to reemerge with awful clarity of the night that he, then a ten-year-old CHRISTOPHER SHAW, survived the massacre of his family, and was forced to start a new life as Phillip Russell. Overcome by the horrific truth, Phillip pushes Patrick into the executive suite's indoor pool. The electric wheelchair pins him upside down at the bottom. With police arriving, Richard Garnett fails to bribe Danny into reporting Patrick's death as a tragic accident.

Frances Fahey puts the drone through terrifying maneuvers until Gina blurts confessions to pushing Keith down a flight of stairs during an argument on the platform over the DNA samples, and to killing Olivia to get her out of the development's way. The detective listening on Ursula's phone hears everything. Frances lands the drone on the beach in front of bemused onlookers and waiting police, who take a defiant but nauseous Gina into custody.

Police confirm that Patrick Russell was really Wayne Shaw. The body that Danny and Ursula found at the storage facility is that of would-be blackmailer Jimmy Russell, who Wayne murdered, then used his information and identity to start a new life for himself.

Ursula attends Olivia's funeral with Jeff Lindley. Renée Haddad scatters Olivia's ashes at sea. Jeff tells Ursula that Jillian Conti resigned in disgrace after being outed as Prinz-Innis's spy, as well as the person who was threatening Olivia. Departing with the mourners at Keith Redford's funeral, Danny and Ursula promise to try to meet somewhere normal, whatever that is.

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