

# AINSLEY

EXT. THE HIGH LINE - AFTERNOON

A beautiful day in New York. Bright strolls with his sister, AINSLEY WHITLY (20s). She's younger and more normal(ish). She's also an emotional spark-plug. They drink coffee.

START  
SC. 1

AINSLEY

*They fired you! Because of dad? The FBI are idiots!*

People look over. Bright winces --

BRIGHT

Well, I did punch a sheriff in the face, which is frowned upon. But I'm over it. I'm fine. Honestly.

AINSLEY

Honestly? You look like crap. Have the nightmares come back?

BRIGHT

Don't worry. I found some extra-comfy restraints at a family-owned bondage boutique on St. Marks.

AINSLEY

Well now what am I going to get you for Christmas?

(she gets a TEXT, reads it)

Sorry, work. I gotta report on a thing.

BRIGHT

Ooh. An Ainsley Whitly exclusive?  
(announcer voice)

*The Surgeon's daughter dissects another murder? Tonight at 11!*

AINSLEY

(clocking his excitement)

You wish. Just, um, white collar stuff. You know, Malcolm, maybe this is a good thing, taking some time off from murder. Hey, that should be your new affirmation!

BRIGHT

*I'm taking a break from murder. You want me to go around saying that?*

Prodigal Son Pilot 2/14

Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access



1/3

CONT. 

AINSLEY

No, I just... I worry about you. It's like you think it's your job to make up for everything dad did twenty years ago.

(off his hesitation)

It's not. You're a good guy and you didn't do anything wrong. You can have a normal life.

BRIGHT

Who wants that?

AINSLEY

Fine, whatever. I tried. I have to go. Love you, mean it!

||END

EXT. ASTORIA TOWER - LATER

A brand new tower of glass and steel. NEWS CREWS occupy the front. Ainsley owns a plum spot. She talks to camera:

AINSLEY

Initial reports paint a disturbing picture of the crime scene and our suspect. Profilers call this type of assailant a Power-Control Killer. This is the third high-profile homicide this month. Sources in the NYPD fear the worst - New York may have a new serial killer.

Her CAMERAMAN (30s) motions to Ainsley.

CAMERAMAN

And we're out.

The crew disperses as Ainsley dials her cell. Suddenly, casual.

AINSLEY

Sup, bro. So am I going to see you at mom's *petite soirée* tonight?

BRIGHT


That's tonight? Damn. I just made plans to gouge my eyes out.

AINSLEY

Eye-gouging. That's very Oedipal.



2/3

START  
SC.2 



BRIGHT  
Wow. Let's leave Freud out of this.

AINSLEY  
Listen, I need you there.

BRIGHT  
Sorry, sis.

AINSLEY  
(playing her card)  
Fine. If you don't come, I'm reporting that the son of The Surgeon is assisting the NYPD with their new serial killer investigation.

BRIGHT  
Wait. You can't do that.

AINSLEY  
(fucking with him)  
You hear that? That's Wolf Blitzer howling for my exclusive! Oh hold up! Now I got Anderson Cooper on line two.

BRIGHT  
So you're blackmailing me?

AINSLEY  
One hundred percent.

BRIGHT  
Ainsley, you can't do this. This serial killer... he's copying The Surgeon.

AINSLEY  
*What?* Is dad a person of interest?

BRIGHT  
No. Maybe. Ains, you can't report this. It would cause a panic.

AINSLEY  
(a beat)  
Maybe people should panic...

11END