

TALES OF THE DAMNED:

Episode 2 - "LOVE IN THE FIRST DEGREE"

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"LOVE IN THE FIRST DEGREE"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. BEACH - DAY

There is lots of activity, the beach crowded.

SANDRA lies on a towel, tanning in the sun. She is in her early thirties, good looking. Her hair is dark, shoulder length.

EXT. PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

CALVIN stands at the edge of the lot holding a towel and basket. He is in his mid thirties, handsome. His hair is light brown, short cut. He scans the beach.

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Calvin walks to the open sand next to Sandra.

CALVIN

Is this spot taken?

INT. JEEP - NIGHT

Convertible jeep. Calvin drives, Sandra in the passenger seat. The sun is low on the horizon.

SANDRA

That was a lovely dinner, Calvin.
Thank you.

CALVIN

Such pleasurable company isn't
always easy to find on vacation.

She gives a quick sneer.

CALVIN

(joking)

What?

A beat.

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT

A young COUPLE ARGUE on the side of the road. The man's back
to the highway.

INT. JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Calvin and Sandra drive to the SOUND of the radio. Calvin
reaches over and turns the volume down.

CALVIN

(pointing up the road)

Look at that.

Sandra glances to where he points.

SANDRA

She hit him!

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

The man punches the woman. The woman slaps him back, YELLS
at him.

The jeep gets closer. The woman hits the man multiple times.

The jeep is upon them. The woman PUSHES the man.

INT. JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Sandra watches the fight.

SANDRA
Look out!

THUD!

Calvin pushes the gas to the floor.

Calvin levels off the accelerator. His face remains featureless.

EXT. HIGHWAY - CONTINUOUS

The man is crippled on the highway. The young woman SCREAMS.

The jeep drives off, away from the sunset.

MANDRAKE (V.O.)
Damned: whether it be fear or
neglect, something must be done to
balance the equation.

MAIN TITLE

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. HOUSE - ENTRANCE - DAY

The door opens. It is sunny outside. Calvin walks in carrying a big box. He can hardly see over it. He lowers it near the staircase.

Sandra walks in with a bag hanging from her shoulder. She carries two smaller boxes.

Calvin closes the door behind her.

SANDRA

And that's the end of that.

Calvin takes the boxes from Sandra and places them on the big box.

CALVIN

Welcome to your new home, Sandra.

He wraps her in his arms and kisses her.

SANDRA

You know, I don't really feel like unpacking right away.

She looks in his eyes.

CALVIN

What did you have in mind?

Sandra pulls Calvin towards the stairs.

CALVIN

What about all this stuff? We can't just leave it here.

SANDRA

Yes we can.

Calvin opens his mouth.

Sandra smiles with her eyes.

He shuts his mouth.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

RAIN falls on the roof. The trees outside the patio doors blow in the wind.

Sandra is leaning on the kitchen counter. She takes a BITE from her apple.

Calvin comes in next to her. He kisses her cheek.

CALVIN

What dreadful weather. Maybe we should have stayed in the Bahamas.

She takes his hand.

SANDRA

But then we wouldn't be here, together. On the bright side, it makes for a great day to unpack.

CALVIN

Very well. I'll be in the living room watching the soccer game.

He walks to the living room entrance near the patio doors.

SANDRA

Oh...

Calvin stops and looks back at her.

SANDRA

...I Wanted to ask, maybe it's
nothing, but where are all your
family pictures?

Calvin grins.

CALVIN

There is reason for that. I'll
tell you some other time.
(half pause)
I don't actually keep any pictures
of anyone for people to see.

He turns and walks off.

Sandra looks out the patio doors with a bewildered look. She
takes another BITE from the apple.

SIX MONTHS LATER

INT. PUB - NIGHT

It is fairly empty, people scattered around. The sound of a
cue ball BREAKING the rack. Pool balls RICOCHET.

INT. PUB - BAR - CONTINUOUS

At the bar sits a MAN and Sandra. The BARTENDER is cleaning
near the end of the counter. The man has his arms resting on
the bar. No drink visible in front of him.

SANDRA

(to herself)
Maybe it's for the best.

She reaches for her drink. The man looks down at the bar
top.

MAN

Pardon me?

Sandra looks over at him. The man's face is hidden from her.

SANDRA

Oh, I'm sorry. I was just talking
to myself.

She turns back to her drink and lowers her head to it. A
tear trickles down her face and lands on the bar.

MAN

Can I help you miss?

SANDRA

Oh... No. Some things have
happened today that I can't... No,
won't talk about right now.

(pause)

Especially not to a stranger.

Sandra dips her finger into her drink and swirls it around.

MAN

Sometimes it is better to talk to
someone you'll never see again.

(half pause)

Maybe I can help.

His face remains still. He reaches out to touch her arm that
is resting on the bar.

Sandra jerks back from his touch, but remains seated. She
settles back down.

The man places his arm back on the bar in front of him.

Sandra lifts her head a little.

SANDRA

Maybe you're right. Maybe you can help, even if just by listening.

She takes a drink and leaves the glass alone on the bar. She turns to him slightly.

SANDRA

Six months ago I met a man in the Bahamas. We hit it off instantly and spent every minute together.

(pause)

One night, when we were driving back to the hotel from dinner, we came upon a young couple. They were fighting. I don't just mean arguing, I mean actually hitting each other.

(pause)

As we were about to pass them the girl pushed the guy away from her and into the path of our jeep. There was nothing we could do.

FLASH CUT TO:

EXT. HIGHWAY - NIGHT (6 MONTHS AGO)

The jeep runs over the man.

SANDRA (V.O.)

We ran over him.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. PUB - BAR - CONTINUOUS

Sandra takes another drink.

MAN

Oh my god!

The bartender glances back then continues cleaning.

Sandra puts her drink back down.

SANDRA

Yes, I know, but it was an
accident. What happened next was
worse.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT (6 MONTHS AGO)

Calvin pushes Sandra into the hotel room. He shuts the door
and locks it.

SANDRA

What are you thinking?! Why didn't
you stop?!

Calvin turns on her.

CALVIN

I didn't see you say anything when
I drove away.

Sandra backs towards the bed and slumps down on it.

SANDRA

We should at least call the police.

CALVIN

No! We're not getting involved
with any of the police or anything
else. If that girl didn't want him
hurt, or dead, she wouldn't have
pushed him in our way.

SANDRA

Maybe it was by accident. You saw
the way she was screaming?

CALVIN

Can we just drop the subject?

CUT TO:

INT. PUB - BAR - CONTINUOUS

Sandra wipes her eyes dry with the back of her sleeve.

SANDRA

We've never told anyone. We came
back to the states and never said a
word.

Sandra grabs her drink and downs the rest in one go.

MAN

Why is it upsetting you so much
tonight?

She puts down the empty glass.

SANDRA

Well, I guess that's the sad part.
That's not what's upsetting me.
It's what happened earlier today.
Just a little while ago in fact.

She takes a deep breath.

SANDRA

It's what I've done now that is
bothering me.

MAN

It must have something to do with what happened at the Bahamas though, to bring up that memory.

SANDRA

Oh, it does, and then some.

Sandra turns fully to him on the stool. His face is still hidden from her.

SANDRA

When Calvin and I, that was his name by the way. When Calvin and I returned to the states, we decided to move in together. I arranged for a transfer at work and moved into his house. Everything was going perfectly.

(pause)

Then I found it. Quite by accident really. I wasn't looking for it.

The man shifts on his stool a little.

MAN

I don't understand. What did you find?

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - ENTRANCE - EVENING

Sandra closes the door behind her. She removes her shoes and hangs her keys on the key rack.

SANDRA

I'm home!

No response.

INT. HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Sandra opens the fridge and gets a bottle of water. She opens it and takes a drink.

She looks to the end of the counter. The phone is on the hook. The message light is flashing. Sandra walks to the phone and presses play.

CALVIN (V.O.)

(on message)

Hey sweetie. Fell behind on some paper work at the office. I'll be back later this evening. Love you.

ANSWERING MACHINE (V.O.)

BEEP. Next message.

UNKNOWN WOMAN (V.O.)

(on message)

Calvin baby, just get it done and then we can go on in peace. I'm getting tired of playing this game with you.

Sandra hits the answering machine 'stop' button hard.

She downs the rest of her bottle of water. She leaves the kitchen clearly unsettled.

INT. HOUSE - DEN - CONTINUOUS

Sandra pulls a box down from the shelf in the closet. She opens the box and digs through it.

She pulls out a photo of herself and her parents.

SANDRA

That's where I put you.

She lays the picture gently on the floor and closes the box. She places it back in the closet.

Sandra picks her family picture up and turns to the door. She freezes.

She hears the MAIL SLOT open and something SLIDE through.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Sandra stands at the entrance to the den looking at the entrance door. At the base of the door is a PICTURE SIZED package.

She walks slowly towards the package and kneels down. She picks it up and looks at the address. It comes from the Bahamas.

Sandra rips open the package, dropping her family photo in the process. She pulls out the picture inside the package.

The picture is of the girl in the Bahamas dressed seductively.

Sandra turns the photo around. On the back of the photo it reads: "A taste of what awaits when you do your part."

FADE OUT:

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. PUB - BAR - CONTINUOUS

The bartender puts his cloth in the sink and comes over.

BARTENDER

Another one, miss?

SANDRA

Yes, please.

Sandra and the man sit quietly. The bartender mixes the drink and brings it over to her.

BARTENDER

On your tab?

Sandra nods. The bartender goes back to cleaning.

SANDRA

It's been two days since that picture came in the mail.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - BEDROOM - DAY

Sandra rips open the drawers to the dresser. She rummages through the clothes.

She gets up and pulls the closet open. She searches through the hanging clothes then pulls everything off of the shelf. She goes through everything.

Sandra puts everything back in the closet and closes it. She starts to walk out of the room and stops. She falls down next to the bed and looks under it. Nothing.

CALVIN (O.S.)

What are you doing?

Sandra jumps to her feet. Calvin is standing in the bedroom entrance.

SANDRA

You startled me.

She regains her composure.

CALVIN

What's all the noise about?

SANDRA

I'm trying to find something.

Calvin raises an eyebrow.

CALVIN

Okay... Anything I can do to help?

SANDRA

Oh, no. It is nothing, really.

CALVIN

Alright, I'm heading out for a bit then. Can I get you anything?

SANDRA

No thanks.

Calvin blows her a kiss and leaves.

SANDRA

Bye.

She wipes the sweat from her brow.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRANCE - LATER

Sandra comes down the stairs. She gets on her knees and starts to check the hard wood for loose boards.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sandra sorts through the loose papers and magazines. She looks under all of the furniture.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. PUB - BAR - CONTINUOUS

Sandra shifts back towards the bar on her stool. She fondles her glass.

SANDRA

I guess you could say I've been
obsessed about all of this.

MAN

Did you find anything?

She takes a quick drink.

CUT TO:

INT. HOUSE - DEN - LATER

Sandra looks through a filing cabinet. She pulls out a folder marked "Phone Bills". She pulls out a bill and looks over it. She slams the folder on the ground.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sandra slumps in the LAZY BOY chair. She shifts uncomfortably. She gets up and looks at the chair. Calvin's CELL PHONE is there.

She picks it up and flips it open. She finds her way to his "outgoing calls". She looks through them. She stops on one.

EXT. PAY PHONE - EVENING

Sandra dials the number on the pay phone. She crumples the paper in her hand and stuffs it in her pocket. The phone RINGS. The receiver on the other end is PICKED UP.

GIRL (V.O.)

Hello?

Sandra doesn't reply.

GIRL (V.O.)

Hello, who is this?

She SLAMS the receiver back on the phone.

CUT TO:

INT. PUB - BAR - CONTINUOUS

Sandra takes a few swigs of her drink.

MAN

But, you only heard her screaming, right?

SANDRA

No, but it doesn't matter. It was definitely her.

MAN

So what did you do?

CUT TO:

EXT. ROAD - EVENING

Sandra drives really fast. She passes a few cars.

She whips through a light that just turned red.

EXT. DRIVEWAY - EVENING

Sandra turns quickly into the driveway and stops just before the garage door.

Sandra gets out of the car. She runs up to the garage door, unlocks and then opens it. She gets back in her car and drives into the garage.

INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Sandra looks out through the lower corner of the window.

A car drives into the driveway and shuts off.

Sandra hurries out of the living room.

INT. HOUSE - STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Sandra runs up the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sandra comes into the hallway from the top step of the stairwell. She ducks into a dark alcove just to the side of it. She waits.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Calvin comes in the door and closes it.

CALVIN

I'm home!

INT. HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sandra peers around the corner. Calvin is taking off his jacket and shoes.

SANDRA

I'm upstairs!

INT. HOUSE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Calvin hangs his jacket on the hook. He kicks his shoes to the side.

He looks up the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Calvin walks up the steps. His hand brushes along the railing. He nears the top step.

INT. UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Sandra JUMPS out from the alcove and startles Calvin.

CALVIN

What the hell woman?

Sandra withdraws the picture of the Bahamas girl from under her shirt. She shoves it in his face.

SANDRA

Who is this? Why is she sending you her picture?

CALVIN

I swear I don't know who that is.

SANDRA

Don't give me that. It's the girl from the Bahamas, on the road side? She's been sending you messages too. Kind of stupid to leave them on an answering machine I use too don't you think?

CALVIN

Once again, I have no idea what you are talking about. This is a big misunderstanding.

SANDRA

Don't lie to me!

Sandra shoves Calvin really hard. He stumbles back and falls down the stairs.

INT. STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Calvin falls down the stairs. Sandra steps up to the top step.

She walks down the stairs.

INT. HOUSE - ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Calvin lays still at the foot of the steps. His neck is broken.

Sandra stops next to him and examines the body.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Sandra closes and locks the door. She walks down the front path.

CUT TO:

INT. PUB - BAR - CONTINUOUS

The man is silent. Sandra finishes her drink.

The man suddenly lifts his head and pushes a concealed drink away from him. He LAUGHS.

Sandra nearly drops her glass on the counter.

SANDRA

What are you laughing at? There is nothing funny about this! What is wrong with you?

MAN

What's funny? I'll tell you what's funny. Next time you and your boyfriend decide to kill someone, make sure he's dead before you leave the scene of the crime.

The man turns his face to her. She GASPS, her hand comes up to her lips.

His nose has clearly been broken, face damaged beyond repair.

SANDRA

Oh my god!

She staggers to her feet. She runs from the bar.

INT. BAR - CONTINUOUS

Sandra nears the door. She looks up.

Leaning on the rail of the upper bannister is the girl from the Bahamas with a smile on her face.

Sandra continues out the door.

EXT. PUB - CONTINUOUS

Sandra exits the bar and runs straight into a big, husky POLICE OFFICER. She starts to hit him on the shoulder with a fist.

SANDRA

(crying into his chest)
I killed him! I killed him! I
killed him!

INT. PUB - BAR - CONTINUOUS

The man's face turns back to normal. It is MANDRAKE. He looks at his beer mug.

He pushes the mug away from him. The bartender hands him his fedora and trench coat. Mandrake whips the trench coat over his shoulders and flips the fedora on his head.

He walks towards the pub entrance and smiles.

NEWS REPORTER (V.O.)

Thirty-one year old Sandra Grier pleaded guilty before the jury today. There was no trial as she came clean about the murder of her husband to be and to a hit and run in the Bahamas over six months ago. She has been given a twenty year sentence for her crimes.

FADE OUT:

END ACT TWO

THE END