

SWEEP

Written by

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EPISODE 1 -- THE PHOTOGRAPH

INT. DAMIAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A cleaner's cart blocks the open door. Fresh towels. Tiny sewing kits. A master key clipped beneath the handle.

IVY, gray uniform immaculate, lifts a silver frame from beside the untouched bed.

The photograph shows IVY MARCH before the fall, laughing beneath a March Hotel awning.

She pulls off one glove finger by finger. Her bare thumb crosses her photographed face.

The bedroom door shuts.

DAMIAN stands against it, white shirt open at the throat.

DAMIAN
That isn't dusting.

Ivy slides the photograph behind her back.

IVY
Your staff handbook permits judgment calls.

DAMIAN
Show me.

IVY
It is a photograph.

DAMIAN
Yes.

He waits. Ivy sets it facedown on the nightstand and reaches for her cart.

Damian turns the lock.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
Your name.

IVY
Eve Gray.

DAMIAN
Again.

IVY

Eve. Gray.

He crosses to the nightstand and returns the frame to its exact place. His attention drops to the pale ring around her bare finger.

Ivy pulls on the glove. The fabric catches over the scar.

A KNOCK.

LENA enters with a tablet and cold cinnamon tea.

LENA

Security needs a disposition.
Terminated or reassigned. I have thirty
seconds.

Ivy reaches for the cart.

DAMIAN

Reassigned.

LENA

Floor?

DAMIAN

Here. My bedroom. Every night.

IVY

Sir, I clean six rooms on the executive
rotation.

DAMIAN

Now you clean one.

LENA

Access level?

Damian takes the master key from Ivy's cart. He closes her gloved hand around it, his thumb pressing the scar beneath the cloth.

DAMIAN

Only when I'm present.

Lena enters the change. Ivy's cart remains trapped between Damian and the locked door.

EPISODE 2 -- UNDER HIS HAND**INT. PENTHOUSE SERVICE CORRIDOR - NIGHT**

Ivy backs her cart out of Damian's bedroom. Damian follows.

At the next restricted door, she slips the master key toward the lock.

Damian plants his palm over her hand before the key enters.

At the far end, Lena watches beside the service elevator.

DAMIAN
Wrong door.

IVY
Then label it.

DAMIAN
Give me the key.

IVY
You gave it to me.

DAMIAN
For one room.

She twists beneath his palm. The key scrapes brass.

IVY
Dismiss me if my work is
unsatisfactory.

DAMIAN
You want that?

IVY
I want clear instructions.

DAMIAN
No, you don't.

Ivy shoves the cart between them. A bottle of glass cleaner topples and rolls under a laundry chute.

She reaches past Damian for the corridor release. He blocks the sensor with his shoulder.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
Why this door?

IVY
Because it has fingerprints.

DAMIAN
Whose?

IVY
I don't inventory fingers.

Lena checks her watch.

LENA
The night team loses this corridor in
two minutes. Decide before they miss
their lift.

Damian peels Ivy's fingers from the key and pockets it.

IVY
There. Theft prevented. Employee
corrected. May I go?

DAMIAN
No.

IVY
No to which part?

He opens the rooftop stairwell.

DAMIAN
Bring towels.

Ivy looks toward Lena and the waiting service elevator. Lena
presses the call button once.

Damian starts up the stairs.

Ivy yanks two black towels from the cart. She leaves the
elevator unopened and follows him.

The rooftop door swings shut behind her.

EPISODE 3 -- INTO DEEP WATER

EXT. CROSS TOWER ROOFTOP POOL - NIGHT

Midnight water hangs over the city behind glass walls.

Damian drops the towels on a lounge.

Ivy places them back in her arms.

IVY
Your instructions remain unclear.

DAMIAN
Stay out of locked rooms.

IVY
And when you invite me into them?

Damian steps onto the wet coping. Ivy follows with the towels.

DAMIAN
Go downstairs.

IVY
Return my access.

DAMIAN
No.

IVY
Then why keep me here, Damian Cross?

He turns at his full name.

DAMIAN
Don't use that voice with me.

IVY
Which voice?

DAMIAN
That one.

She advances. He gives ground along the narrow edge, refusing the open deck.

Ivy offers him a towel. He does not take it.

IVY
You brought me to a pool and ordered me away. Was there another part, or did you-

Her shoe slides.

The towels fly. Ivy strikes the water beyond the coping.

Damian dives fully clothed.

UNDERWATER

He catches her around the waist. Ivy kicks once toward the surface, then locks both arms around his shoulders.

They break through.

Damian carries her to the steps. She coughs against his neck as water pours from his shirt.

DAMIAN

Breathe.

IVY

I am.

DAMIAN

Again.

She does. His hand spans her back beneath the soaked gray uniform.

The rooftop doors open.

SÉVERINE enters in white couture. Behind her, a silent photographer lowers his camera.

She crosses to Damian and turns his face toward hers with two red-nailed fingers.

SÉVERINE

June eighteenth. The cathedral
confirmed it tonight.

Ivy releases Damian. He keeps one arm around her.

Séverine looks down at their bodies joined in the water.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Our wedding date.

EPISODE 4 -- MARCH SILK

EXT. ROOFTOP POOL ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Ivy steps out of Damian's arm. Water streams from her uniform onto white marble.

She bows to Séverine.

IVY

Congratulations.

SÉVERINE

Bring him a dry shirt.

Ivy gathers the soaked towels.

Séverine plants one heel on the nearest towel.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

That one stays.

Ivy releases it.

Séverine circles her. Damian climbs from the pool behind them.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Do cleaners swim on their first night now?

IVY

Only when requested.

DAMIAN

Enough.

Séverine takes the zipper at Ivy's collar and pulls it down several inches.

Ivory silk gleams beneath the gray uniform.

IVY

Please remove your hand.

SÉVERINE

Please?

Her nail hooks the wet seam. She rips the uniform from shoulder to ribs.

The vintage slip beneath it carries a woven border of tiny emerald M's.

Ivy uses a towel to cover the tear.

Séverine pinches the silk and draws Ivy closer.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

March issue. Private collection.

DAMIAN

Let her go.

SÉVERINE

She entered your pool dressed for your bed.

Damian takes a robe from the attendant station and holds it open. Ivy does not move toward him.

DAMIAN

Put it on.

IVY

My uniform is sufficient.

DAMIAN

Eve.

She steps into the robe. Damian closes it over the exposed silk without fastening it.

Séverine turns the robe's collar outward, displaying the torn gray fabric beneath.

SÉVERINE

Your mistress wears dead women's clothes.

IVY

I am an employee.

SÉVERINE

Then produce a receipt.

She keeps the strip of March silk caught beneath one blood-red nail.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Where did you get this?

EPISODE 5 -- THE FAMILY TOAST

INT. PENTHOUSE BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Séverine pins the torn silk against Ivy's exposed shoulder.

Damian stands behind the bar in a dry shirt. Ivy remains wrapped in his robe.

IVY

It came from a condemned linen sale.

SÉVERINE

Which property?

IVY

The March flagship.

SÉVERINE

There was no public sale.

IVY

Staff salvaged what the liquidators
discarded.

Séverine glances at Damian.

He pours amber liquor into three narrow glasses.

DAMIAN

I authorized the disposal.

Ivy looks at him.

SÉVERINE

You remember a cleaner's underclothes?

DAMIAN

I remember inventory losses.

Séverine takes the center glass. She nudges another toward
Ivy.

SÉVERINE

Victor toasted family with this bottle.
Left hand around the stem. Never the
bowl.

Ivy takes the stem with her left hand.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

What did he say?

IVY

I wouldn't know.

SÉVERINE

Then drink.

Ivy raises the glass. Her sleeve slips, exposing the silk
border again.

Damian lifts his own glass.

DAMIAN

To recovered property.

Séverine gives him a blank look.

SÉVERINE

That was poor, darling.

No one laughs.

Ivy drinks without coughing. She sets the glass precisely beside Séverine's.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Again.

IVY

The glass is empty.

SÉVERINE

Yes. I can see that.

Séverine leans close to Ivy's throat. She inhales once.

Her fingers close around the robe's collar.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Gardenia. Black tea. Cedar.

Damian sets down the bottle.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

That perfume was blended for one woman.

She removes the strip of torn silk and folds it into Damian's breast pocket.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Give me her name by morning.

EPISODE 6 -- MISS MARCH

INT. PENTHOUSE DRESSING ROOM - PRE-DAWN

Séverine stands before a wall of mirrors. Ivy, back in a replacement uniform, waits beside a garment rack.

Damian enters with a printed purchase record.

DAMIAN

Staff outlet. March stock. Perfume included.

Séverine takes the page.

SÉVERINE

A receipt can wear any name.

She offers it to Ivy.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)
Read the customer.

IVY
Eve Gray.

SÉVERINE
Louder.

IVY
Eve Gray.

Damian watches Ivy in the mirror.

DAMIAN
Miss March.

Ivy knocks a tray of cuff links from the dresser. Silver
scatters across the floor.

Séverine turns.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
That got a reaction.

IVY
You addressed someone else.

DAMIAN
I made a cruel joke.

SÉVERINE
Make another.

DAMIAN
No.

He points to the purchase record.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
Confirm the signature.

Ivy looks at the false name.

IVY
It is mine.

SÉVERINE
You stammered.

IVY
I dropped a tray.

SÉVERINE
You dropped it before I asked.

IVY
Then I was early.

Séverine tears the record once and lets both halves fall among the cuff links.

She exits. Damian moves toward Ivy.

IVY (CONT'D)
Do not.

He stops short of her.

A PHONE vibrates inside the unattended cleaner's cart. Ivy digs beneath folded sheets and answers.

NURSE (V.O.)
Three minutes. No names. She found the line.

A crash comes through the phone.

MARA (V.O.)
Damian Cross! Damian Cross!

Ivy drops the folded sheets and runs. The cart rolls after her, strikes the doorway, and spills white linen across the dressing room.

EPISODE 7 -- ROOM 714

INT. MARCH PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENCE - VISITING ROOM - DAWN

Ivy rushes in wearing her cleaner's uniform beneath a borrowed coat.

MARA sits at a bolted table in cream institutional clothes. Sugar cubes bulge inside one robe hem.

A NURSE checks the wall clock.

NURSE
Four minutes. Medication at six-ten.
Transport at six-fifteen.

Ivy sits across from Mara.

IVY
Why Damian Cross?

Mara arranges two paper cups and a spoon into a floor plan.

MARA
Seventh floor. East corridor. Room
seven-fourteen.

IVY
What is in room 714?

MARA
He was there.

IVY
Damian Cross was there when?

MARA
The blue dress. Rain at the ballroom
doors. Eleven twenty-seven.

IVY
Mother, look at me.

Mara pushes the spoon toward Ivy.

MARA
Run.

The nurse unlocks Mara's chair from the floor rail.

IVY
I have time.

NURSE
Transport moved forward.

IVY
By whom?

NURSE
Six-fifteen.

Mara fights the chair as the nurse wheels her away.

MARA
Seven-fourteen! Don't let Damian-
don't, don't-

The security doors close over her voice.

The nurse removes Ivy's visitor badge.

NURSE
Authorization revoked. No future
visits.

Ivy could block the exit. She steps aside. Mara disappears down the locked corridor.

EXT. RESIDENCE EXIT - MOMENTS LATER

NOAH PRICE blocks the steps in a rumpled tuxedo. A film canister rattles with lemon candies in his pocket.

He holds a sealed envelope of contact sheets against his press notebook.

NOAH
I have proof. You leave Cross, I hand
it over.

Ivy continues down one step. Noah moves with her.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Choose before he learns you came here.

EPISODE 8 -- CHOOSE YOUR ENEMY

EXT. MARCH PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENCE - DAWN

Noah holds the sealed envelope between Ivy and the street.

NOAH
Say you're finished with him.

IVY
Open the envelope.

NOAH
First, say it.

IVY
Noah Price, what is the evidence?

NOAH
Records. Photographs. Enough to-
enough. Come with me.

His residence access card hangs from a lanyard inside his coat.

Ivy steps close and smooths his loosened bow tie.

Noah lowers the envelope.

NOAH (CONT'D)
We can correct the record. The
engagement, all of it.

IVY

You ended our engagement.

NOAH

Formally. Under pressure. That doesn't
erase my-

IVY

You have no rights over me.

She pulls his access card free and holds it between them.

NOAH

You used to hate thieves.

IVY

Keep your envelope.

She walks away. Noah shoves the evidence into his coat and follows.

INT. CROSS TOWER SERVICE ELEVATOR - MORNING

Ivy enters the waiting car. Damian stands inside beside a stack of clean towels.

DAMIAN

You abandoned your floor.

IVY

Yes.

DAMIAN

Where were you?

IVY

Away.

He reaches for the controls. Ivy stops the doors with her body.

IVY (CONT'D)

I came back.

Damian releases the panel. He pulls her inside by the borrowed coat and kisses her.

Ivy drops Noah's stolen access card. It lands between their shoes.

The doors start to close.

Noah jams them open with his shoulder. An old camera covers half his face.

The shutter fires.

White flash fills the elevator.

EPISODE 9 -- PRIVATE PROPERTY

INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The flash fades. Damian steps in front of Ivy.

Noah winds the camera.

NOAH
Billionaire corners cleaner before
breakfast. That's the clean caption.

DAMIAN
Give me the film.

NOAH
Release her.

IVY
Noah, leave.

NOAH
Tell him you want to.

Ivy bends for the stolen residence access card. Damian reaches it first and gives it to her.

Noah photographs the handoff.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Mistress gets restricted access. Better
caption.

DAMIAN
She works for me.

NOAH
Not after this.

DAMIAN
Effective now, Eve Gray is my private
night attendant.

Ivy turns on him.

IVY
You cannot announce that without my
consent.

DAMIAN

Then refuse.

Noah raises the camera again.

NOAH

Go on, Iv- Eve. Refuse him.

Ivy looks at the envelope in Noah's coat, then at Damian inside the elevator.

IVY

I accept the position.

Damian presses the penthouse control.

Noah lunges toward the doors.

NOAH

He doesn't get to keep you because he changed your title.

DAMIAN

Publish the photograph. Publish her promotion beside it.

The doors close on Noah's camera.

INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

Damian removes a brass control key from the panel and pockets it.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Bedroom service. Every night. Midnight until I dismiss you.

IVY

That is imprisonment.

DAMIAN

It's access.

IVY

To what?

His answer catches behind his teeth.

The elevator climbs. Ivy and Damian face each other in the narrow car, their reflections divided by the brass seam of the doors.

EPISODE 10 -- THE HIDDEN SUITE**INT. DAMIAN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT**

Ivy enters with burnt toast, black coffee, and fresh sheets.

Damian stands before a carved section of wall behind a wardrobe. A dark signet hangs inside his open shirt.

A SECURITY GUARD speaks through the corridor intercom.

SECURITY GUARD (V.O.)
Sweep begins on the executive stairs.
Service corridor seals next.

Damian closes the wardrobe over the carved wall.

IVY
Your toast is burning through the
plate.

DAMIAN
Leave it.

She sets the tray beside the untouched sleep medication in his open drawer.

IVY
Will you be sleeping tonight?

DAMIAN
Make the bed.

Ivy pulls the old sheets free. One corner catches the coffee cup. Damian lunges and saves it from the carpet.

Ivy steps into the space he vacated.

Her fingers reach his shirt.

He catches her wrist.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
What are you doing?

IVY
Your collar was folded.

DAMIAN
You don't care about my collar.

A heavy lock engages in the service corridor.

SECURITY GUARD (V.O.)
Penthouse sealed.

Damian releases her. Ivy carries the sheets toward the laundry chute.

The signet is now hidden in her palm.

She yanks the wardrobe aside and presses it into a mechanical keyway.

Damian crosses the room as the carved door opens.

DAMIAN
Eve. Stop.

Ivy removes the signet and steps through.

INT. HIDDEN MARCH SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Emerald drapes. Polished March furniture. Family photographs stand beneath clean glass. A child's music box rests on a made bed.

Damian enters behind her.

IVY
Why is this here?

DAMIAN
Give me the signet.

IVY
Why did you preserve it?

He closes the door and drives the interior bolt into place.

Ivy keeps the signet clenched at her side as the lock seals them inside.

EPISODE 11 -- THE KISSED PRISONER

INT. HIDDEN MARCH SUITE - NIGHT

Ivy stands between Damian and the bolted door, his signet locked in her fist.

IVY
How long, Damian Cross?

DAMIAN
Your first night.

She crosses to the family photographs.

IVY
You recognized me.

DAMIAN
The scar. Your perfume. You looked at
your photograph before you touched
anything else.

IVY
The keys. The unlocked drawers.

DAMIAN
I chose what you found.

Ivy sweeps a ledger and a silver brush from the dressing
table. They strike the carpet.

IVY
You fed me secrets.

DAMIAN
Enough to keep you here.

A fist pounds the hidden door.

SÉVERINE (O.S.)
Damian. Open this room.

Ivy sets the signet on the bed.

IVY
Then you may keep your prisoner.

Damian takes the signet. He opens the bolt.

INT. DAMIAN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Séverine waits beside two SECURITY GUARDS. She turns
Damian's desk chair toward herself.

SÉVERINE
Dismiss her. Tonight.

DAMIAN
No.

He faces the guards.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
Eve Gray is my live-in personal
attendant. She answers to me.

SÉVERINE

The board will enjoy that sentence.

DAMIAN

Send them the recording.

He steps back to Ivy.

IVY

Do not use me for this.

DAMIAN

Too late.

Damian kisses her.

Ivy's shoulder strikes the carved wall. Séverine walks close enough to separate them with one white sleeve.

SÉVERINE

Say yes, Eve.

She opens Damian's bedroom door and gestures toward his bed.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Tell the guards where you'll be sleeping.

EPISODE 12 -- TERMS OF SURRENDER

INT. DAMIAN'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ivy breaks the kiss and steps out of Damian's reach.

The guards wait in the corridor. Séverine keeps the bedroom door open.

IVY

A separate room. A lock on my side.

SÉVERINE

Attendants do not negotiate their master's sleeping arrangements.

IVY

Then dismiss me.

Ivy walks toward the service corridor.

DAMIAN

Stop.

She stops at the threshold.

IVY

Unrestricted movement after midnight.
Service corridors, executive floors,
hotel levels.

DAMIAN

Granted.

SÉVERINE

No.

Damian addresses the guards.

DAMIAN

Record it. Separate bedroom. Night
access under my authority.

IVY

And no searches without me present.

DAMIAN

Granted.

Séverine takes a room key from the housekeeping cart and
drops it into a water glass.

SÉVERINE

She will attend you at dinner.

DAMIAN

Lena handles the board.

SÉVERINE

Lena has a seat. Eve has a tray.

Ivy retrieves the dripping key from the glass with her
gloved hand.

IVY

I accept the position under the terms
Mr. Cross announced.

SÉVERINE

Good. The board dines here tonight.

She crosses to the drinks cabinet and selects a dark wine
bottle. A red nail taps Damian's name card hanging from its
neck.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

You will open his bottle. You will pour
his glass.

She places the bottle in Ivy's housekeeping cart and closes the cabinet.

EPISODE 13 -- POISONED DEVOTION

INT. GLASS BOARDROOM - NIGHT

Cross Tower burns beneath the windows. BOARD MEMBERS eat beneath hanging crystal.

Ivy pushes a narrow service cart between their chairs. Séverine takes the dark bottle from its ice bucket and pours one glass herself.

Wine runs over the rim and across Ivy's gray glove as Séverine places it on the tray.

SÉVERINE

Mr. Cross first.

Ivy moves toward Damian. He watches her instead of the board member speaking beside him.

The glass passes beneath her face.

Ivy sniffs once.

Crushed apricot pits.

She sets the tray down.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Serve him.

IVY

The bottle should breathe.

SÉVERINE

It has had enough time.

Damian reaches for the glass.

Ivy slaps it away.

It explodes against the window. Red wine streaks down the glass over the city lights.

DAMIAN

Out. Everyone.

SÉVERINE

Nobody moves.

She points to Ivy.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Search her.

A SECURITY GUARD blocks Ivy against the service cart.
Another presses a test strip to the spilled wine, then to
the wet patch on Ivy's glove.

Both strips darken.

SECURITY GUARD

Same compound.

Ivy looks past him to Damian.

IVY

Victor kept that scent in a locked blue
cabinet.

Séverine lifts Ivy's contaminated wrist for the board to
see.

SÉVERINE

Call the police.

A restraint closes around Ivy's other wrist.

EPISODE 14 -- BURN THE EVIDENCE

INT. GLASS BOARDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The restraint chain pulls Ivy toward the doors.

Damian steps into the guards' path.

DAMIAN

Release her.

SÉVERINE

Her glove carries the poison.

DAMIAN

My order.

Séverine turns to the watching board members.

SÉVERINE

Then Cross security may detain both of
them.

DAMIAN

I ordered her to test the wine.

IVY

Damian-

DAMIAN

Quiet.

The guards hesitate. Séverine points toward the corridor.

SÉVERINE

Take her.

Damian removes the contaminated glove from Ivy's hand. He carries it to a candle burning beneath the wine decanter.

IVY

Give that back.

He lowers the glove into the flame.

Fire races along the gray fabric. Damian drops it into the silver ice bucket. Black smoke rolls across the table.

DAMIAN

No evidence. No detention.

The guards open the restraint and step away.

Séverine takes Damian's place at the head of the table.

SÉVERINE

Nine tomorrow morning. A confidence vote.

She motions the board members back into their chairs.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Dismiss her before these doors open and I withdraw it.

Damian guides Ivy through the doorway with a hand at her back.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D) (CONT'D)

Keep her, and I take your chair.

The boardroom doors close between them.

Inside, Séverine turns Damian's empty chair to face the scorched ice bucket.

EPISODE 15 -- NO MORE PRETENDING**EXT. CROSS TOWER ROOFTOP - NIGHT**

Wind drives ripples across the glass pool.

Ivy approaches Damian with a folded resignation. He stands at the edge in shirtsleeves, the city below his bare feet.

She offers him the paper.

IVY

File it before nine.

Damian lets the paper hang between them.

DAMIAN

No.

IVY

You lose Cross Tower if I stay.

DAMIAN

Stay.

IVY

Choose your company.

DAMIAN

I did.

She presses the resignation against his chest. He releases it to the wind.

The paper skates across the pool and sinks.

Ivy heads for the rooftop elevator. Damian reaches it first and plants his palm against the doors.

IVY

Move.

DAMIAN

No.

IVY

Damian Cross, are you dismissing me?

DAMIAN

Never.

She pulls him down and kisses him.

This time, he waits. Ivy kisses him again.

Behind the pool machinery, a PAPARAZZO in a catering jacket raises a camera.

The shutter snaps.

Damian turns toward the sound. The paparazzo ducks through a fire door.

Ivy steps into the elevator. Damian catches the doors before they close.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Eve-

IVY

Nine o'clock, Mr. Cross.

The doors slide shut.

Inside the elevator, Ivy opens her fist.

Damian's March signet rests in her palm as another flash burns through the narrowing gap.

EPISODE 16 -- KEEP THE KEY

INT. ROOFTOP SERVICE STAIR - CONTINUOUS

The paparazzo races down one flight. Damian reaches the stairwell and watches him disappear through a locked fire door.

A mechanical lock turns below.

Damian follows the sound.

INT. SEALED HOTEL CORRIDOR - MOMENTS LATER

Dusty brass numbers line the old March doors.

Ivy presses the signet into a keyway. Damian closes his hand over hers before she can turn it.

DAMIAN

You stole it.

IVY

Yes.

DAMIAN

After that kiss.

IVY

During it.

He opens his hand.

The signet remains with her.

DAMIAN

Keep it.

IVY

Is this another path you prepared?

DAMIAN

Every door down here belonged to
someone who saw the fall.

She passes 710, then 712. A housekeeping notice curls loose
from the wall. Ivy walks over it.

At the end waits 714.

Damian stops several paces behind her.

IVY

My mother named this room.

DAMIAN

I know.

Ivy fits the signet into the old lock.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

If you open it, I won't follow.

IVY

Why?

His answer catches.

DAMIAN

I can't-

The lock turns.

Ivy pushes the door inward. Darkness surrounds covered
furniture and a wall of shelves.

She looks back.

Damian has retreated to the corridor bend.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Judge alone.

Ivy enters. The door swings between them.

EPISODE 17 -- BEFORE THE FALL

INT. ROOM 714 - CONTINUOUS

Ivy pulls a lamp chain.

Shelves cover every wall. Black surveillance ledgers sit beside envelopes of photographs, receipts, and old March floor plans.

She opens the nearest ledger.

Her name fills the page in Damian's handwriting. Dates begin months before the takeover. Entries track dinners, board arrivals, even a charity gala.

Damian waits beyond the threshold.

IVY

Come inside.

He does.

IVY (CONT'D)

April sixth. Where were you?

DAMIAN

Outside the March boardroom.

IVY

April ninth.

DAMIAN

Your hotel gala.

IVY

April seventeenth, Damian Cross.

DAMIAN

I can explain the dates.

IVY

Explain that one.

She holds up a photograph of Damian watching her enter a car.

DAMIAN

Not here.

Ivy hurls the ledger. It strikes his chest and falls open at his shoes.

IVY

Get out.

DAMIAN

Ivy-

IVY

Out.

Damian leaves the room. He passes NOAH in the corridor, a replacement residence card clipped to his press notebook.

NOAH

Your staff think I'm covering the confidence vote.

Damian keeps walking.

Noah enters carrying a thick photograph envelope.

He empties it across the floor.

Black-and-white images fan around Ivy's shoes: Damian outside her hotel, Damian behind her at the gala, Damian watching her through a restaurant window.

NOAH (CONT'D)

He was following you before March fell.

EPISODE 18 -- CHOOSE YOUR WITNESS

INT. ROOM 714 - NIGHT

Noah pins a photograph beside an open surveillance ledger.

The dates match.

IVY

Who took these?

NOAH

I did. Some of them. The rest came from a photographer Damian paid.

He produces a film canister, then closes it in his fist.

NOAH (CONT'D)

The negatives prove the sequence.

IVY
Give them to me.

NOAH
Come back with me.

Ivy gathers the printed photographs.

NOAH (CONT'D)
I mean the engagement. Put it back.
Publicly.

IVY
No.

NOAH
Ivy, this is the correction. You and me
before he- before Cross.

IVY
Noah Price, are the negatives
authentic?

NOAH
Yes.

IVY
Were the dates altered?

NOAH
No.

IVY
Then you have answered me.

Noah pockets the canister.

NOAH
You don't get the originals.

Ivy carries the prints and Damian's ledger into the
corridor.

INT. EXECUTIVE SERVICE CORRIDOR - LATER

A room-service cart rolls past, stacked with untouched
desserts. Ivy follows it through a staff door before it
closes.

She reaches Damian's steel vault entrance and sets Noah's
photographs against the lock plate.

The elevator behind her opens.

Damian steps out alone.

DAMIAN
Give me one night.

Ivy turns, keeping the photographs against the vault with her body.

Damian places himself between her and the only corridor exit.

EPISODE 19 -- NINETY SECONDS

INT. EXECUTIVE VAULT CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Damian waits between Ivy and the elevator.

DAMIAN
One night. Don't open it.

Ivy removes Noah's photographs from the lock plate.

IVY
One night.

She walks past him into the elevator.

The doors close.

INT. SERVICE PASSAGE - MOMENTS LATER

Ivy exits through the opposite elevator door, pushes through hanging laundry, and returns to the vault by a maintenance stair.

Lena waits beside the alarm panel with cold cinnamon tea and a slim copy wafer.

LENA
March payroll archives purge at
midnight. Ninety seconds after I open
this.

She takes off her Cross security badge and places it on the floor.

The vault unlocks.

INT. DAMIAN'S VAULT - CONTINUOUS

Ivy inserts the wafer into a terminal. File lights race across it.

LENA (CONT'D)
Forty seconds.

The vault door begins to close early.

Lena jams her flat shoe into the track and keys the alarm panel.

LENA (CONT'D)
Copy or leave.

Ivy keeps the wafer connected.

Behind her, Lena draws a clear strip from her silver pen and presses it along the wafer's edge. A tiny tracking filament adheres.

LENA (CONT'D) (CONT'D)
Ten.

The copy light dies.

Ivy pulls the wafer free.

The vault door opens behind them.

Damian stands in the corridor, looking at the copied files in Ivy's hand.

EPISODE 20 -- ENEMIES IN DAYLIGHT

INT. DAMIAN'S VAULT - CONTINUOUS

Damian sees the clear filament on Ivy's copy wafer.

Footsteps approach through the executive corridor.

He takes the wafer from her as STAFF and SECURITY round the corner.

DAMIAN
Eve Gray breached my vault.

Ivy steps into the corridor beside him.

IVY
Damian Cross destroyed March Hotels.

The staff gather. Lena stands behind them, her silver pen clipped to her jacket.

DAMIAN
Remove her from the executive floors.

IVY

Say my name.

DAMIAN

Escort Eve out.

A guard opens the service elevator. Damian enters with Ivy and blocks everyone else.

INT. SERVICE ELEVATOR - CONTINUOUS

The doors close.

Damian digs a thumbnail beneath the filament and peels it from the wafer.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

Ortiz marked it.

He crushes the tracker against the emergency brake housing and returns the wafer to Ivy.

IVY

You knew I would open the vault.

DAMIAN

I hoped you wouldn't.

The elevator opens onto the hotel lobby.

INT. CROSS TOWER LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Photographers crowd the marble stairs. Séverine stands above them in white.

Two attendants unfurl a glossy enlargement of Ivy and Damian kissing beside the rooftop pool.

SÉVERINE

There she is. Damian Cross's mistress.

Damian moves toward Ivy. Security forms a line between them.

Camera flashes strike the glossy photograph as it spills down the stairs to Ivy's feet.

EPISODE 21 -- LOVE FOR SALE

INT. CROSS TOWER LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The rooftop photograph hangs across the marble stairs.

REPORTERS close around Ivy. Damian remains behind the security line.

NOAH pushes through, his old press notebook against his chest. Séverine holds out her hand.

NOAH

The photographs are mine. I took them.
I sold -- I licensed them.

IVY

To her.

NOAH

I needed the money. That isn't -- yes.
To her.

He gives Séverine a film canister. She spills the kiss negatives across her white glove.

A REPORTER raises a recorder beneath Ivy's mouth.

REPORTER

Were you Damian Cross's paid mistress?

IVY

I entered his private rooms to obtain
evidence concerning March Hotels.

NOAH

The kiss happened before the vault.

Damian steps through the security line. Guards hesitate, then let him pass.

DAMIAN

Tell them what it was.

Ivy looks up at the enormous photograph. Damian's face waits inches from hers in frozen silver light.

IVY

Access.

DAMIAN

Ivy.

IVY

There was no love.

Noah drops his notebook. Nobody retrieves it.

Damian takes Ivy's penthouse access card from a guard and bends it between his fingers.

DAMIAN

Revoke every private-floor permission.

IVY

Damian Cross, are you locking me out?

DAMIAN

Yes.

He walks into the executive elevator. The doors close on him.

INT. PENTHOUSE SECURITY VESTIBULE - LATER

Ivy presses her staff key to the reader. Red light.

A SECURITY GUARD raises a biometric scanner.

SECURITY GUARD

Right hand, please.

Ivy curls her scarred hand against her uniform as the scanner beam climbs toward her fingers.

EPISODE 22 -- THE OTHER CROSS

INT. PENTHOUSE SECURITY VESTIBULE - CONTINUOUS

The scanner beam reaches Ivy's wrist.

A linen panel crashes open behind the guard. JULIAN leans from a black service shaft.

JULIAN

Wrong hand. Terrible first date.

The guard turns. Ivy drives a laundry cart between them and runs.

DAMIAN appears beyond the penthouse glass.

DAMIAN

Open the door.

His digital key flashes red. Ivy's revoked access has sealed both sides.

Julian tears back a brass plate beside the linen panel. An old mechanical lock waits beneath it.

JULIAN

Your signet. Now.

IVY

You knew this was here.

JULIAN

I know where Damian hates dust.

Security boots pound up the corridor.

Ivy pulls the March signet from beneath her sleeve and opens the lock. Julian draws her into the shaft.

Damian strikes the glass with his palm.

DAMIAN

Ivy. Stay there.

Julian starts closing the panel. The old lock needs the signet again.

JULIAN

Give it to me or leave the door open.

The scanner sweeps across the wall behind Ivy.

She places the signet in Julian's palm.

He locks the panel. Damian's next blow lands on the other side.

INT. SEALED MARCH PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

Julian pockets the signet and leads Ivy down a narrow stair. Pipes shake overhead.

IVY

Return it.

JULIAN

After one answer.

He catches his sleeve on a valve. The vintage March watch turns inward against his wrist.

His laugh arrives too loud in the cramped passage.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

Well. This is... intimate plumbing.

Ivy offers nothing.

Julian opens the hidden suite door, then blocks it with his body.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Did Victor March father me?

Behind them, the linen panel buckles under Damian's shoulder.

EPISODE 23 -- BLOOD FOR TRUST

INT. HIDDEN MARCH SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Damian pounds against the passage door.

Julian holds Ivy's signet over an old wall cabinet.

IVY
Open that. I will give you proof.

JULIAN
And then this comes home with me.

IVY
The signet comes home with me.

He unlocks the cabinet. Inside: Victor March's sealed medical envelope and a small blood ampoule.

Julian reaches for it. Ivy closes the cabinet on his fingers.

IVY (CONT'D)
Written terms. The sample goes to an independent laboratory. We both receive the result.

JULIAN
You make brotherhood sound expensive.

IVY
It may cost half my inheritance.

Julian crosses to the preserved piano and picks out Mara's old lobby melody with one finger.

IVY (CONT'D)
Where did you learn that?

JULIAN
Outside her locked room.

He plays the wrong note, repeats it, then shuts the lid.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
I want the blood first.

Ivy takes hotel stationery from the desk and writes. She signs, slides the page over.

Julian signs beneath her name. He gives her the signet.

Only then does Ivy remove the medical envelope and place it in his hands.

The passage door bursts inward.

Damian enters, jacket torn at one shoulder. He sees the sample, then the signet in Ivy's palm.

DAMIAN
Stop the test.

IVY
Why?

DAMIAN
Come with me.

JULIAN
That wasn't the question.

DAMIAN
Choose me.

IVY
What are you offering, Damian Cross?

DAMIAN
Everything. I --

His gaze drops to Victor's blood.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
Leave him.

Damian extends one hand. Julian holds the sealed sample against his chest. Ivy stands between them.

EPISODE 24 -- CHOOSE HIM

INT. HIDDEN MARCH SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Damian keeps his hand extended.

Ivy pushes the signet onto her finger.

IVY
The test proceeds.

DAMIAN

Then he stays outside the gala.

Ivy opens the ballroom passage with the signet.

IVY

Move.

Damian blocks the opening.

DAMIAN

Ivy. Don't.

JULIAN

She answered you.

IVY

I can answer for myself.

Damian steps aside.

INT. ENGAGEMENT GALA ENTRANCE - CONTINUOUS

Crystal light floods the passage. Both boards, hotel staff and photographers turn toward them.

Séverine waits beside Damian's empty place at the head table.

Julian offers Ivy his arm.

JULIAN

Does this make me the preferred Cross?

Ivy takes it.

IVY

It gets you through the door.

JULIAN

Right. Yes. Door.

Damian follows several paces behind. A SERVER approaches him with champagne. He waves the tray away and stops beneath the Cross crest.

Ivy and Julian enter together. The board members part for them.

SÉVERINE

How generous. One discarded lover and one spare heir.

IVY

He is my guest.

Julian starts toward the March table. Ivy escorts him past Damian.

The ballroom service bell RINGS.

MARA MARCH stands in the entrance wearing her emerald robe over institutional cream. A paper swan clings to one sleeve.

Two NURSES hurry in behind her.

NURSE

Medication at ten. Transport at
ten-fifteen.

Mara points across the ballroom at Séverine.

MARA

Mrs. Victor March.

Séverine's champagne glass slips from the server's tray and bursts at Damian's feet.

EPISODE 25 -- THE SECRET WIDOW

INT. ENGAGEMENT BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS

Champagne runs across Damian's shoes.

Mara advances between the tables. Ivy reaches her first.

MARA

November second, 2018. Room 714. Eleven
twenty-seven. Blue dress.

SÉVERINE

Mrs. March requires clinical
supervision.

She turns Damian's chair toward herself and addresses the guards.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Remove her.

Ivy plants herself between Mara and security.

IVY

Ask her what happened at eleven
twenty-seven.

MARA

Victor signed. She used my fountain pen. Blue ink on her thumb.

A guard reaches Mara. Séverine lifts one finger. He stops.

SÉVERINE

Enough.

She takes a folded certificate from inside the lining of her white coat and opens it before the boards.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Victor and I married that night.

Mara lunges for the certificate. Ivy catches her around the waist.

MARA

You left me in that room. You left -- the bell. Where is my bell?

Séverine places the certificate beneath the March crest.

A SENIOR SERVER removes Victor's empty chair from the head table and sets it behind Séverine. The March staff bow to her.

SÉVERINE

As Victor's surviving wife, I assume his board authority pending probate.

She points to Mara. Security closes around mother and daughter.

A BOARD CLERK enters with two sealed packets. He gives one to Julian.

BOARD CLERK

Independent blood comparison.
Confirmed.

Julian tears it open. His laughter breaks once, then ends.

The clerk hands Séverine the second packet. She discards it unopened and lays a wedding contract before Damian.

SÉVERINE

Marry me on June eighteenth, or March is liquidated at opening bell.

Damian faces the contract. Beside it, Julian presses Victor's blood report flat beneath his shaking palm.

EPISODE 26 -- CAPTIVE GROOM**INT. GALA SIDE CHAMBER - MOMENTS LATER**

The wedding contract fills a small table. Through the glass wall, security escorts Mara from the ballroom while Ivy follows.

Séverine places a liquidation order beside Damian's hand.

SÉVERINE

Sign the marriage contract. I withdraw this.

DAMIAN

Transfer the March assets into protected trust.

SÉVERINE

After the wedding.

DAMIAN

Now.

She tears the unsigned liquidation order halfway down the center.

SÉVERINE

Choose quickly. Markets enjoy a widow's grief.

Ivy enters. The door closes behind her.

DAMIAN

Ivy, I --

SÉVERINE

Sign.

Damian looks through the glass at March employees removing their hotel pins under a guard's supervision.

He picks up the pen.

IVY

Damian Cross, what are you signing?

DAMIAN

March remains intact.

IVY

With her name on it.

The pen hovers.

IVY (CONT'D)

Look at me.

He does. Ivy takes his untouched water glass and drinks. Her lipstick marks the rim.

Damian signs.

Séverine countersigns and slides the torn liquidation order into a candle flame.

She lifts Damian's glass, wipes Ivy's lipstick from the rim with her bare thumb, then gives it to him.

Damian sets it down without drinking.

Séverine opens a slim document case and removes Damian's authorization for the March takeover.

SÉVERINE

Your lover kept something from you.

She presses the authorization into Ivy's hand.

Damian's signature sits above the acquisition order.

Ivy lowers the page. Damian remains beside his signed wedding contract as the burned liquidation order curls into ash.

EPISODE 27 -- HIS GUILTY HAND

INT. MARCH BOARDROOM - DAY

Ivy slams Damian's takeover authorization onto the table.

Séverine sits in Victor's chair. Damian stands alone at the opposite end.

IVY

Is that your signature?

DAMIAN

Yes.

IVY

Did you authorize the seizure of March Hotels?

DAMIAN

Yes.

IVY
Why, Damian Cross?

He says nothing.

Séverine opens a board folio and compares the signature to Damian's voting record.

SÉVERINE
The signatures match. His authority was personal and unrestricted.

IVY
You knew who I was. You watched me blame you. Why?

DAMIAN
Proceed with your motion.

IVY
Answer me.

DAMIAN
Proceed.

Ivy's prepared page shakes against the tabletop. She pins it beneath her forearm.

IVY
I move to strip Damian Cross of all March voting rights and suspend every proxy issued to him.

Séverine raises her hand first. The board follows.

The BOARD CLERK removes Damian's black voting card and places it before Ivy.

IVY (CONT'D)
Defend yourself.

DAMIAN
No.

IVY
No what?

DAMIAN
No defense.

He leaves. Ivy watches the door close, then takes the authorization and follows.

INT. STRIPPED EXECUTIVE OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Damian removes a framed Cross charter from the wall. A shallow safe waits behind it.

He unlocks the safe and sets a thick leather ledger on the bare desk.

IVY
What is that?

DAMIAN
Victor's.

He opens it to pages of dates, payments and hotel diagrams.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
Ask why.

Ivy lays his takeover authorization beside the open ledger.

EPISODE 28 -- LOVE WITHOUT MERCY**INT. STRIPPED EXECUTIVE OFFICE - CONTINUOUS**

Ivy turns a page in Victor's sabotage ledger.

IVY
Why did you authorize it?

DAMIAN
The hotels were already bleeding.
Victor called me before dawn.

IVY
What did he ask you to do?

DAMIAN
Buy them before Séverine could.

IVY
And keep them from me.

DAMIAN
Yes.

She closes the ledger against his fingers.

IVY
You could have told me.

DAMIAN
I should have.

His answer catches. He pulls his hand free.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)

I love you. I don't -- you owe me nothing.

The office doors open. A March attendant bows as Séverine enters, then shuts the doors behind her.

SÉVERINE

Victor's dead hand has dreadful penmanship.

She reaches for the ledger. Ivy blocks her.

Damian slides it to Ivy instead.

DAMIAN

Take it.

Séverine hooks one red nail beneath the ledger's bound authentication page and rips it out.

Damian drives the desk aside, but she feeds the page into the document shredder.

IVY

That page carries Victor's seal.

SÉVERINE

It carried a seal. Now it carries suspicion.

Paper strips spill into the bin.

Séverine flips to a later entry and taps a copied-file serial number.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Your vault wafer appears here. So does the minute you stole it.

Ivy reaches into her pocket and closes her fingers around the copy wafer.

DAMIAN

Leave her out of this.

SÉVERINE

She entered the vault. She concealed corporate evidence. Use this ledger and she confesses both.

Ivy takes the ledger from the desk. Séverine drops the shredded strips across its open pages.

Damian opens the exit for Ivy. She carries the ledger past him without taking his offered arm.

EPISODE 29 -- REVENGE CHOSEN

INT. MARCH CLAIMS OFFICE - DAY

Ivy enters with Victor's ledger under her coat.

Two FINANCIAL-CRIMES OFFICERS step from the reception area.

OFFICER

We need all takeover records in your possession.

Ivy backs into the records room and closes the door.

She pulls a drawer from a filing cabinet, wedges the ledger behind it, then replaces the drawer. The copy wafer remains in her pocket.

The officers enter.

OFFICER (CONT'D)

Any private records?

IVY

No.

Julian appears at the door carrying his blood report and a joint claim petition.

JULIAN

She has mine. Less romantic, more notarized.

The officer gives him a blank look.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

That was... never mind.

INT. MARCH CLAIMS ATRIUM - MOMENTS LATER

Cameras face Ivy and Julian at a filing table.

Séverine intercepts Julian beside Victor's portrait. She offers him a gold March voting card.

SÉVERINE

Support my widow claim. I recognize you
before the board.

Julian looks from the card to Victor's blood report.

JULIAN

Do I get a chair, or only a blood type?

SÉVERINE

Half a family is still a family.

He pockets the card without answering.

Ivy places the joint petition on the filing table.

IVY

We challenge Séverine's authority and
Damian Cross's takeover together.

Julian signs. Ivy signs beside him.

Damian watches from behind the glass doors. Ivy sees him and
turns her chair away.

A REPORTER calls to Julian.

REPORTER

What share are you claiming?

Julian sets Victor's blood report before the cameras.

JULIAN

Victor March was my father. I demand
half of March Hotels.

He drags the petition away from Ivy and plants his signature
across the center line.

EPISODE 30 -- HALF OF EVERYTHING

INT. MARCH BOARD REGISTRY - CONTINUOUS

Cameras crowd the filing counter. Julian keeps one hand on
the joint petition.

Ivy examines the seals on his blood report.

IVY

Two laboratories?

JULIAN

Three. I didn't trust the first two for agreeing with me.

IVY

We audit every March record before division.

JULIAN

No delay.

Séverine approaches. The registry staff bow and clear Victor's counter for her.

She taps the gold voting card inside Julian's breast pocket.

SÉVERINE

One vote for my authority. Your name enters the registry today.

IVY

What did you promise her?

JULIAN

A vote is not a promise. It's... a vote.

He pulls the card free, looks at it, then closes his fist around it.

IVY

Julian Cross, Victor March was your father.

His laugh escapes into the microphones. He wipes his mouth with his sleeve.

IVY (CONT'D)

I recognize the blood claim. I will not divide the hotels today.

JULIAN

I filed for today.

He pushes his verified claim through the registry slot. The CLERK stamps it and locks it in the March archive cage.

LENA enters in her navy suit. She removes a financial-crimes badge from behind her silver pen.

IVY

Lena?

LENA

Under criminal forfeiture law, the agent must freeze disputed inheritance pending investigation.

She serves one notice to Ivy and one to Julian.

JULIAN

The agent. You mean you.

LENA

Yes. I mean me.

Officers empty the filing counter and seal the archive cage. The clerk removes the March registry key from his neck and surrenders it to Lena.

Ivy and Julian reach the cage together as the steel grille drops between them and Victor's estate.

EPISODE 31 -- THE AGENT BESIDE YOU

INT. MARCH BOARD REGISTRY - CONTINUOUS

The archive grille locks. Ivy tears Lena's freeze notice down the middle.

IVY

What does this freeze?

LENA

Both claims. Every account. Every vote.

JULIAN

So we're equally broke. That's almost-

Nobody looks at him.

Lena clips her financial-crimes badge to her lapel. Officers carry the sealed files past Ivy.

IVY

Show me the allegation, Lena Ortiz.

LENA

Vault intrusion. Evidence theft.
Concealment of assets.

IVY

Against me?

LENA

Against you and Damian Cross.

Ivy plants both halves of the notice on the counter.

IVY
Your evidence.

Lena sets down a photograph of the copied takeover files. A bright filament crosses one folder.

LENA
I marked what you stole. Damian found
the marker and destroyed it.

IVY
You sent me into that vault.

LENA
The agent gave you access. You chose
what left.

JULIAN pulls Séverine's gold voting card from his pocket and drops it on the counter.

JULIAN
I'm going to find a drink that isn't
evidence.

He leaves. The card spins, then falls flat.

Lena opens a thin statement beside an immunity agreement.

LENA
Testify that Damian used the takeover
to steal March. Surrender the files.
Full immunity.

IVY
And Damian?

LENA
Charged with conspiracy, fraud and
obstruction.

IVY
If I refuse?

LENA
The agent requests adjoining cells.

A cleaner beyond the grille tries her old key. The lock flashes red. She walks away with her cart.

Lena places her silver pen across the signature line.

IVY
You want me to swear he stole my
inheritance.

LENA
Before he can say you helped him.

Ivy reaches for the pen.

EPISODE 32 -- CORRECTION TO THE RECORD

INT. REGISTRY INVESTIGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Ivy's fingertips near Lena's pen.

Noah lunges across the table and tears the statement away.

LENA
Mr. Price, sit down.

NOAH
Correction. No. I requested this
interview, and she- she doesn't sign
that.

He drops a bulging press notebook beside the ruined
statement.

IVY
Who admitted you?

NOAH
I said I had evidence. Which is true.
Mostly. It is true.

Lena shuts the door. Noah pulls out a signed transcript.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Séverine forced the annulment. She
threatened my source, my editor, Mara's
treatment. I gave her your movements.

IVY
And the photographs?

Noah searches his pocket and finds a lemon candy. He puts it
back.

NOAH
Those were mine. She paid. I sold them.

IVY
Say that again.

NOAH
I sold you.

LENA
Names, dates, corroboration.

NOAH
Mara March heard the threat. She kept
the first message. She can authenticate
my statement.

Lena slides a fresh immunity copy toward Ivy.

LENA
Mrs. March is confined. Her visits were
revoked.

Noah points to the statement.

NOAH
Sign it and Damian goes down before
Mara speaks.

IVY
You do not advise me.

NOAH
Right. No. Of course not.

Ivy feeds the immunity pages into the registry shredder. The
machine chews halfway, jams, and whines.

LENA
That offer will not be issued again.

NOAH
Then record this. I won't retract.

His phone vibrates. He reads the message and sets the phone
face down.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Mara transfers this afternoon.

Ivy takes Noah's old residence access card from her pocket.

NOAH (CONT'D)
Press can witness intake. That gets us
one door.

Ivy closes her fist around the card.

EPISODE 33 -- VICTOR'S LAST ORDER**INT. MARCH PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENCE - MARA'S ROOM - AFTERNOON**

An ORDERLY removes fresh flowers from Mara's table while Noah holds his press credential against the door camera.

Mara sits in her emerald robe. Noah offers his prepared statement.

MARA

Take that out.

NOAH

Mrs. March, it only needs-

MARA

Out.

He lowers it.

Ivy kneels beside Mara's chair.

IVY

When did Séverine threaten Noah Price?

MARA

January eighth. Four ten. Rain against the west windows.

NOAH

She was there. She heard everything.

IVY

Did Séverine force the annulment?

MARA

Yes.

Ivy places Damian's signed takeover authorization on Mara's blanket.

IVY

Did Damian Cross steal March?

Mara pushes the paper back.

MARA

Victor called him at 11:27. Room 714.
November second.

IVY

What did Victor ask him to do?

MARA

Buy the hotels. Keep the widow out.
Keep you away.

Ivy's knee slips from beneath her. She sits on the floor.

IVY

Did Damian Cross obey Victor March?

MARA

Yes.

The door opens. Séverine enters beside a waiting camera crew. An orderly brings a transport chair.

SÉVERINE

We are ready for your correction, Ivy.

She offers a prepared script.

IVY

I will not accuse Damian of stealing
March.

Séverine folds the script once.

SÉVERINE

Condemn him downstairs. Your mother
stays here.

IVY

Where are you sending her?

SÉVERINE

Choose first.

The orderlies lift Mara into the transport chair.

MARA

Ivy, the blue dress- no. No, the bell.

Séverine holds the script between Ivy and the departing chair.

The service doors open. Mara is wheeled through.

EPISODE 34 -- CHOOSE HIM LOSE HER

**INT. MARCH PSYCHIATRIC RESIDENCE - TRANSFER HALL -
CONTINUOUS**

Ivy knocks Séverine's script aside and runs after Mara.

The service doors slam. A red bolt drops into place.

SÉVERINE
Return to the cameras.

IVY
Open the door.

SÉVERINE
Say Damian deceived you.

IVY
Open the door, Séverine Vale.

The orderlies wheel Mara away behind wired glass. Ivy sees the emerald robe turn a corner.

She races down the public hall. Security guards block the elevators. A nurse snuffles into her sleeve while changing the lockdown placard.

Ivy ducks through the laundry room. She shoves aside stacked sheets and finds an old brass keyhole behind a steel panel.

She pulls the March signet from her pocket and drives it into the mechanism.

Gears grind inside the wall.

A narrow service door opens.

INT. ORIGINAL MARCH SERVICE WING - CONTINUOUS

Dust bursts under Ivy's shoes. She runs beneath dead chandeliers while alarms pulse through the newer corridors beyond the walls.

A guard pounds on the sealed panel behind her.

SECURITY GUARD (O.S.)
Miss March! Stop!

Ivy reaches Mara's rear door and turns the signet.

INT. MARA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The room has been stripped. Bare mattress. Empty wardrobe. Fresh flowers lie in the sink.

IVY
Mother?

She checks the bathroom, then drops to look beneath the bed.

IVY (CONT'D)

Mara March?

A flat shoe steps onto the scattered petals.

Lena stands in the dark doorway. She holds open cuffs beside her badge.

LENA

Unlawful entry. Obstruction of a lawful transfer.

Ivy rises between Lena and the empty bed.

LENA (CONT'D)

Turn around.

The cuffs swing from Lena's hand.

EPISODE 35 -- SIX STOLEN MINUTES

INT. MARA'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Lena lowers the cuffs.

LENA

The transfer vehicle missed both checkpoints.

IVY

Where is my mother?

LENA

Unknown.

IVY

Where is Mara March?

LENA

I said unknown. I- six minutes.

She crosses the detention time from her warrant log and writes a later one.

LENA (CONT'D)

After that, the agent arrests you.

They run.

INT. RESIDENCE DISPATCH CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

A manual route board fills one wall. Empty hooks rattle beneath two carbon transfer slips.

Ivy tears them free. One routes Mara to the River Annex. The other sends her to Cross Tower's service underpass.

LENA (CONT'D)

Two drivers. One patient. Neither route cleared central dispatch.

IVY

Which vehicle left?

Lena checks a clipboard.

LENA

Van twelve. No- fourteen. Someone overwrote it.

A room-service worker waits with cold soup outside a sealed patient floor. No one answers his knock.

Ivy presses her childhood brass room-number tag against the carbon impressions. Its worn edge fits a crescent punched into the second slip.

IVY

March freight code. The underpass.

Lena takes the slip, then gives it back.

LENA

Keep moving.

They reach the lobby. Security shutters begin dropping over the exits.

Lena's phone sounds a warrant alert.

She checks her altered log. The second hand crosses her new detention time.

LENA (CONT'D)

Six minutes.

Ivy sprints for the final opening. A shutter crashes down inches ahead of her.

Guards emerge from both stairwells.

Séverine watches from the mezzanine as Ivy tries her residence card against a side door.

The lock rejects it. Lena opens her cuffs.

Behind them, every elevator stops.

EPISODE 36 -- PROTECTED LIKE PROPERTY**INT. MARCH RESIDENCE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS**

Lena closes one cuff around Ivy's wrist.

An executive elevator forces its doors apart.

Damian steps through and lays a sealed order across Lena's open cuff.

DAMIAN

Release her.

LENA

The warrant is active.

DAMIAN

Read it.

Lena scans Victor March's trustee order. Ivy strains to see her own name beneath Damian's.

IVY

What is that?

DAMIAN

Authority over the March trust.

IVY

Since when, Damian Cross?

He signs the liability clause.

DAMIAN

The residence belongs to the trust. Her entry was authorized by me.

LENA

Retroactive authorization may defeat trespass. It does not defeat obstruction.

DAMIAN

Charge me.

IVY

You will not sign for me.

DAMIAN

Move, Ivy.

IVY
Since when, Damian Cross?

DAMIAN
Victor appointed me.

The lobby doors fill with board members and cameras.
Séverine descends from the mezzanine.

Lena unlocks Ivy's cuff.

LENA
Conditional release. Both of you remain
available.

Damian moves toward the elevator. Ivy refuses to follow.

DAMIAN
Please.

The word catches. He presses the elevator button again.

Séverine takes the trustee order before Lena can reseal it.
She raises the signed page toward the cameras.

SÉVERINE
Damian Cross holds trustee authority
over Ivy March's inheritance.

IVY
Give me the complete order.

Séverine passes it to a board voter instead.

SÉVERINE
He can authorize her movements, assume
her liabilities and control
distributions from every March account.

Damian steps between Ivy and the cameras.

IVY
Did you control my money?

DAMIAN
I protected it.

Ivy enters the elevator alone. Damian turns to follow.

Séverine plants her palm between the closing doors and holds
up the order bearing his signature.

EPISODE 37 -- THE TRUSTEE TRAP

INT. JOINT BOARD CHAMBER - LATER

Séverine displays selected pages from Victor's trustee transfer above the Cross and March boards.

Damian stands beside Ivy at the empty claimant table.

IVY

Produce the complete transfer.

SÉVERINE

These are the operative powers.

IVY

Where are the protective terms?

Séverine turns Damian's board chair toward her and rests the edited transfer on its seat.

SÉVERINE

Ask your trustee.

DAMIAN

The omitted pages limit every power to preservation of Ivy's estate.

A MARCH BOARD VOTER counts on his cuff links.

MARCH BOARD VOTER

Seven hotels frozen. Four lenders calling. Zero usable distributions.

IVY

Then demand the full document.

MARCH BOARD VOTER

I demanded solvency.

Séverine places Damian's wedding contract beside the edited transfer.

SÉVERINE

The June eighteenth ceremony proceeds. Cross financing remains available to March after the marriage.

DAMIAN

No.

SÉVERINE

Sit down, darling.

DAMIAN

No wedding.

Ivy moves to his side. The boards erupt. One executive knocks over a water glass and keeps speaking as it runs across his papers.

SÉVERINE

Separate from her and retain Cross command. She enters custody on the embezzlement warrant.

IVY

We leave together.

DAMIAN

Yes.

Séverine calls the vote. Cross hands rise against Damian. March hands rise against Ivy's access to frozen funds.

The board voter closes the claimant ledger.

MARCH BOARD VOTER

Both motions carry.

Security surrounds Ivy.

Séverine sets an arrest authorization on Damian's chair and offers him a pen.

SÉVERINE

Keep your tower. Give them Ivy.

Damian looks at the chair, then at the guards tightening around her.

EPISODE 38 -- TAKE MY EMPIRE

INT. JOINT BOARD CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

A guard reaches Ivy. Damian blocks the aisle with his body.

SÉVERINE

Authorize her removal.

Damian picks up the pen.

Ivy watches him.

IVY

Damian.

He snaps the pen against the table and steps away from his chair.

DAMIAN

Take Cross.

The room breaks into shouting.

SÉVERINE

Damian, no. No, darling, sit.

DAMIAN

Ivy leaves free.

CROSS BOARD VOTER

Removal requires sixty percent. We have sixty-eight.

DAMIAN

Then vote.

IVY

Do not do this for me.

DAMIAN

Your choice. Not mine.

Security overturns Ivy's bag while searching it. Sewing kits scatter across the floor. Damian crouches, retrieves one, and returns it to her coat pocket.

The Cross directors raise their hands.

CROSS BOARD VOTER

Damian Cross is removed as chief executive and tower principal, effective immediately.

A staff member takes Damian's access card. Another removes his nameplate from the dais.

Séverine sits in his chair.

SÉVERINE

Now remove Ivy March.

DAMIAN

The condition was her freedom.

SÉVERINE

You refused the condition.

Guards seize Ivy's arms. Damian drives toward them, but board security forms a wall.

IVY

Damian Cross. Look at me.

He does.

IVY (CONT'D)

I believe you.

The guards close cuffs around her wrists.

DAMIAN

Release her.

No one moves.

They pull Ivy into the executive elevator. Damian swipes his confiscated card against the closing doors.

The reader flashes red.

The elevator descends with Ivy inside.

EPISODE 39 -- NO REWARD LEFT

INT. CROSS TOWER LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The elevator opens onto press cameras.

Ivy emerges in cuffs. Noah stands at the lobby lectern with copies of his authenticated testimony.

NOAH

Correction to every story I filed about
Ivy March.

Séverine enters from the private lift.

SÉVERINE

Turn off the cameras.

The photographers keep shooting.

Noah distributes the copies. Reporters crowd him.

REPORTER

Did Séverine Vale coerce you?

NOAH

Yes. And I sold her the rooftop
photographs later. That part was me.

Séverine approaches with a sealed press dossier.

SÉVERINE

Retract now. Your editors receive this unopened.

NOAH

What is it?

SÉVERINE

Everything they forgave because you were useful.

Noah looks toward Ivy. Her cuffs cut into her wrists.

He hands the last copy to Lena.

NOAH

Mara authenticated the threats. The original recording carries the residence seal and my sworn signature.

Lena reads two lines, then faces security.

LENA

Suspend detention pending evidence review. Remove the cuffs.

A guard unlocks Ivy. She rubs one wrist against the other.

Noah takes the original recorder from inside his coat.

IVY

You kept it.

NOAH

I kept... yes. I did one thing on time.

She steps close.

IVY

I forgive you, Noah Price.

He waits. Ivy gives him nothing else.

Séverine offers the sealed dossier.

SÉVERINE

Give me the recorder and retract.

Noah puts the recorder back inside his coat.

NOAH

No correction.

He walks through the service exit carrying the original.

Two security agents leave the lobby through separate doors and follow him.

EPISODE 40 -- THE FINAL CORRECTION

INT. CROSS TOWER SERVICE UNDERPASS - NIGHT

Rainwater runs across the concrete. Noah reaches the loading ramp.

Two SECURITY AGENTS block the street exit. A third closes the door behind him.

SECURITY AGENT

The original.

Noah removes a recorder from his coat and tosses it across the floor.

One agent opens it. The battery compartment is empty.

Noah backs against a parked room-service cart. Beneath its cloth, his phone transmits the authenticated recording to Lena.

The progress bar completes. He knocks the phone into a drain channel.

SECURITY AGENT (CONT'D)

Record a retraction.

The agent raises a camera.

NOAH

I lied about Ivy March. I- no.
Correction.

He looks into the lens.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Séverine coerced me. Mara March
witnessed it.

The camera lowers.

A muted gunshot.

Noah folds against the cart. A lemon candy rolls from his pocket and stops in the water.

INT. CROSS TOWER SERVICE UNDERPASS - LATER

Ivy kneels in Noah's blood. She presses her coat against the wound.

NOAH (CONT'D)

Iv-

His fingers release her sleeve. His eyes remain open.

Damian crouches behind Ivy. She leans back into him, Noah's blood across both palms.

Lena arrives holding her phone and the received recording. She removes her coat and covers Noah's face.

Across the underpass, Mara's transfer van stands open. Its restraints hang empty.

Security guards search between laundry cages and delivery trucks.

Behind a linen cart, Mara crawls beneath a hanging tablecloth. Her emerald robe drags through the water.

A guard checks the first cart.

Another guard reaches for Mara's tablecloth.

EPISODE 41 -- MARA BREAKS FREE**INT. CROSS TOWER SERVICE UNDERPASS - NIGHT**

A SECURITY GUARD lifts Mara's tablecloth.

Mara swings the ballroom service bell into his knee. He drops beside the linen cart.

She runs through an old service door and presses her shoulder against it. A gunshot punches through the panel and into her side.

Mara keeps moving.

The bell CLANGS against the walls.

Ivy hears it beside Noah's covered body. She runs. Damian follows.

INT. OLD SERVICE PASSAGE - CONTINUOUS

March room numbers appear beneath peeling paint. Mara leaves blood across 712, then 713.

She reaches a narrow chapel door marked 714 and rings the bell again.

Ivy rounds the corner.

IVY

Mother.

Mara gets the chapel open. Ivy catches her as Damian enters.

Security boots pound nearby.

Mara drops the bell through the iron door handles. The guards hit the other side.

MARA

November second. Eleven twenty-seven.
Victor signed before she came upstairs.

Damian tears open Mara's robe. Blood floods the cream cloth.

DAMIAN

Pressure. Here.

Ivy presses both palms over the wound.

IVY

Who signed, Mother? Who?

MARA

Damian Cross. Trustee for Ivy March.
Every hotel. Every distribution.

Ivy looks at Damian.

He kneels opposite her, holding Mara's blood inside her body.

MARA (CONT'D)

He bought the company because Victor told him to.

The chapel door buckles.

Damian places his phone beside Mara, ready to record.

MARA (CONT'D)

Séverine's crimes, under oath... or Victor's will. I can give you one first.

IVY

No. No, you will give me both.

MARA
Choose, Ivy.

The iron handles bend around the trapped bell.

EPISODE 42 -- HER FINAL ANSWER

INT. LOCKED SERVICE CHAPEL - NIGHT

The iron handles tear another inch apart.

Ivy taps RECORD on Damian's phone and places it near Mara's mouth.

IVY
Testimony. Begin.

Damian keeps pressure on the wound.

MARA
Séverine Vale ordered my confinement.
She paid Noah Price to abandon Ivy. She
altered Victor's medication after the
wedding.

IVY
Did she cause the March collapse?

MARA
Yes.

Mara's heel scrapes against the stone. Ivy pulls her closer.

IVY
Who protected my inheritance?

MARA
Damian.

Ivy's next question catches in her throat.

MARA (CONT'D)
Ask it.

IVY
Did Damian Cross destroy March Hotels?

MARA
He preserved them.

Damian reaches to stop the recording. Mara knocks his wrist away.

MARA (CONT'D)

The will is behind the ballroom altar.
Victor's chamber. The signet opens the
first lock. Turn the March crest after.

Her head slips against Ivy's shoulder.

IVY

Mother. Which crest? Mother, answer me.

MARA

You wore green shoes to your first
piano lesson. You kicked the pedals.

Ivy presses her face into Mara's silver-streaked hair.

A paper swan falls from Mara's robe.

MARA (CONT'D)

My darling girl.

Her arm drops across Ivy's lap.

The chapel's side door opens.

Séverine enters with Julian and two SECURITY OFFICERS. One
officer pulls Damian away. Séverine takes his recording
phone from the floor.

JULIAN

What did she say about me?

SÉVERINE

I knew Victor was your father years
before you did.

Julian gives one short laugh. Nobody joins him.

Séverine pockets the phone.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

You will enter my wedding separately.
You will look ruined.

She steps between Ivy and Damian as Mara's paper swan
darkens in the blood.

EPISODE 43 -- BLAME HIM PUBLICLY

INT. CROSS TOWER ATRIUM - NIGHT

Mara lies beneath a white hotel sheet. Cameras crowd the
security line.

Séverine stands beside Ivy with Damian's phone in her palm.

SÉVERINE

Tell them Damian manipulated your
mother. Tell them he used your grief to
steal March.

IVY

And the recording?

SÉVERINE

Survives if I believe you.

She turns Ivy toward the cameras.

Damian waits across the atrium with Julian. Police line the
ballroom stairs behind them.

Ivy crouches and tucks Mara's exposed foot beneath the
sheet. Damian comes close enough to help.

IVY

Can you follow me and do nothing?

DAMIAN

Yes.

IVY

No orders. No rescue.

His mouth opens.

DAMIAN

I- yes.

Séverine watches from above them.

Ivy rises and faces the cameras.

IVY

Damian Cross concealed his authority
over my inheritance. He decided where I
could live, what I could learn, and
when I deserved the truth.

A REPORTER wipes rain from his lens with his tie.

REPORTER

Miss March, did he exploit your
relationship?

IVY

Yes.

Julian turns to Damian.

JULIAN
Anything stirring in the great stone
vault?

Damian looks past him to Ivy.

He says nothing.

IVY
I condemn every choice Damian Cross
made in my name.

Séverine crosses the atrium and tips Ivy's chin toward her.

SÉVERINE
Look at him when you finish.

Ivy does.

IVY
I want him to lose everything.

Damian accepts a police escort toward the ballroom.

Séverine raises his recording phone.

SÉVERINE
Open the ballroom. The wedding begins
now.

The gold doors swing apart, exposing the lit altar.

EPISODE 44 -- VOWS OPEN DOORS

INT. MARCH BALLROOM - NIGHT

Séverine offers Damian her hand before both boards.

He takes it.

Ivy enters through the rear doors under police watch. Julian follows several paces behind her.

The WEDDING OFFICIAL fumbles his first page. One polished shoe squeaks as he finds his place.

WEDDING OFFICIAL
We are assembled to bind-

SÉVERINE
Proceed to the binding vow.

Damian reaches the altar with her. A brass March crest sits beneath their joined hands.

Across the ballroom, Ivy slips the March signet into a narrow lock beside a sealed wall panel.

A mechanism shifts under the floor.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

Damian, give me your right hand.

He does. His left palm settles over the altar crest.

WEDDING OFFICIAL

Do you, Damian Cross, freely-

SÉVERINE

Answer him.

DAMIAN

I am here.

Séverine's red nails dig into his wrist.

Behind the altar, Ivy turns the signet. It stops halfway.

Damian rotates the crest beneath his palm.

A hidden door releases behind Ivy.

The boards murmur. Séverine pulls Damian closer and blocks their view of the opening with her white train.

SÉVERINE

Take my hand properly, darling.

Damian interlaces his fingers with hers.

Ivy withdraws the signet and reaches for the chamber door.

Julian steps into the gap.

IVY

Move.

JULIAN

What do I become when you have the will?

IVY

Julian-

JULIAN

Say it before he marries her.

He plants one shoe against the chamber door. It starts to close against his back.

EPISODE 45 -- HALF MY KINGDOM

INT. MARCH BALLROOM - CHAMBER DOORWAY - NIGHT

The chamber door presses Julian toward Ivy.

She stops pushing.

IVY

You are Victor's son. You receive half
of March.

JULIAN

Receive. Lovely servant word.

IVY

Equal votes. Equal distributions. Equal
title.

JULIAN

On paper.

At the altar, the official continues over them.

WEDDING OFFICIAL

Do you enter this union without
coercion-

SÉVERINE

He does.

Damian stares toward the chamber doorway. Séverine turns his face back to her.

Julian pulls a folded transfer deed from his jacket.

JULIAN

I had one prepared. Sad little hobby.

Ivy reads the first line.

IVY

You expected this.

JULIAN

I expected somebody to lie.

He offers a pen.

IVY
If I sign, you open the door.

JULIAN
I don't know. Yes. I mean- sign it.

Ivy braces the deed against the wall and signs. She gives Julian the pen and the deed.

He reads her signature once.

IVY
Brother.

Julian's thumb smears the wet ink.

SÉVERINE
Julian.

Her voice carries across the ballroom. The official falls silent.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)
Keep that chamber closed. When Damian marries me, Cross Tower joins March. I will place both beneath your authority.

Damian tries to release her hand. Séverine tightens her grip.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)
You wanted a family that could not dismiss you. Take mine.

Julian stands between Ivy and the chamber, holding her signed half of March.

Séverine extends her free hand to him from the altar.

EPISODE 46 -- CHOOSE YOUR FAMILY

INT. MARCH BALLROOM - NIGHT

Séverine's hand remains extended.

Julian looks from it to Ivy's signed transfer deed.

JULIAN
Both dynasties. Do I get a crown, too, or is that extra?

Séverine gives him a blank look.

The joke dies between the board rows.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
Right. Fine.

He steps away from the chamber door.

JULIAN (CONT'D)
She signed before she knew what was
inside.

He folds Ivy's deed into his breast pocket and pulls the
chamber open.

Ivy enters. Lena slips through behind her as the door swings
wider.

Séverine holds up Damian's recording phone.

SÉVERINE
One command and Mara March becomes a
confused patient making accusations
under sedation.

Ivy stops inside the threshold.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)
Condemn Damian again. During the vow.

IVY
No.

SÉVERINE
Then the recording disappears.

Ivy returns to the ballroom floor. She walks past the boards
and stops beside Damian.

Séverine shifts between them.

IVY
I lied in the atrium.

A BOARD MEMBER lowers his champagne without drinking.

IVY (CONT'D)
Damian protected Victor's trust. I
entered this wedding with him. I leave
with him.

Damian steps off the altar.

SÉVERINE

That is an admission of coordinated fraud.

IVY

Then use my full name on the warrant.

Séverine points to the police.

SÉVERINE

Arrest Ivy March.

Two OFFICERS advance. One opens a pair of cuffs.

Damian tears his hand from Séverine's and jumps from the altar into their path.

EPISODE 47 -- TAKE MY TOWER

INT. MARCH BALLROOM - ALTAR AISLE - NIGHT

Damian blocks the officers.

DAMIAN

Stop.

OFFICER

Move, Mr. Cross.

Damian takes the Cross transfer instrument from the altar documents and lays it before Séverine.

DAMIAN

Cross Tower. My remaining shares. Take them.

SÉVERINE

You have no chair to bargain with.

DAMIAN

I own the building.

He signs.

Séverine's attention drops to his signature. Ivy pushes between the officers.

IVY

Damian, don't.

DAMIAN

No.

He opens a second page.

DAMIAN (CONT'D)
The Cross reserve goes to Ivy's
defense. Every liquid account.

IVY
Look at me.

He cannot finish his signature. Ivy takes the pen from
beneath his fingers.

IVY (CONT'D)
Damian Cross, is this what you want?

DAMIAN
Yes.

She returns the pen.

He signs the reserve authorization.

Séverine pulls both pages toward her.

SÉVERINE
Under our wedding contract, I am your
sole Cross beneficiary. The tower comes
to me.

DAMIAN
Release her.

Séverine watches Ivy. Then she motions to the officers.

They close the cuffs without using them and step back.

Ivy crosses to Damian. He has no documents left in front of
him.

The wedding official moves to the ballroom doors and throws
the brass bolts.

SÉVERINE
You paid for her freedom. Now honor
your contract.

She places Damian's signed transfer beneath the vow book.

The official returns to the altar.

WEDDING OFFICIAL
We will complete the binding vows.

The locked doors shudder as people outside try to enter.

EPISODE 48 -- THE WIDOW CLAUSE**INT. MARCH BALLROOM - NIGHT**

The wedding official raises the vow book.

LENA
Stop the ceremony.

Lena emerges from Victor's chamber carrying a sealed will.
Dust streaks her navy suit.

Séverine turns Damian's chair toward the altar.

SÉVERINE
Ms. Ortiz entered that chamber during
an illegal investigation. Her evidence
is contaminated.

Lena reaches the altar.

LENA
The agent accepts review, suspension,
and prosecution after the document is
secured.

Her silver pen clicks twice. She breaks Victor's wax seal.

SÉVERINE
Read one word and I expose every
falsified detention time in your case.

LENA
Add it to the review.

She opens the will.

LENA (CONT'D)
Victor March grants widow authority
only while Mara March remains free,
medically independent, and protected
from coercion.

The March board members rise from their seats.

LENA (CONT'D)
Confinement by the surviving spouse
terminates every widow vote and
inheritance preference.

Séverine takes a step down from the altar.

SÉVERINE

Mara was ill.

LENA

Victor appoints Damian Cross as trustee
and directs him to preserve March
Hotels for Ivy March.

Ivy faces both boards.

IVY

Restore Damian's trustee record. Remove
Séverine Vale from every March vote.

A BOARD MEMBER tears Séverine's proxy badge from the seating
ledger.

Séverine reaches for the will. Lena closes it against her
chest.

SÉVERINE

I never ordered Mara confined.

Lena looks toward Julian.

LENA

The remaining charge requires a witness
to her orders.

Julian leaves the chamber doorway and walks past Séverine.

He stops beside Lena as the boards turn toward him.

EPISODE 49 -- CONFESS BEFORE EVERYONE

INT. MARCH BALLROOM - NIGHT

Julian stands beside Lena and raises his right hand.

JULIAN

Séverine gave me the March sabotage
orders. Vendor withdrawals, false
safety reports, emergency debt calls. I
carried two of them to the board.

SÉVERINE

An unacknowledged son buying legitimacy
with perjury.

JULIAN

There she is. Almost missed you.

His laugh breaks off.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

She knew Victor was my father. She told me he was a stranger.

Séverine turns to Damian.

SÉVERINE

Choose me willingly. Cross returns to you. March follows. All of it.

Damian steps down from the altar and removes her paper rose from his breast pocket. Its taped petals shake between his fingers.

He sets it on the vow book.

DAMIAN

No.

SÉVERINE

Dami. Please. We can- you and me, we can still-

He walks to Ivy.

Ivy faces Séverine across the abandoned train of her wedding dress.

IVY

Why did Mara have to disappear?

SÉVERINE

She was sick.

IVY

Why, Séverine Vale?

SÉVERINE

Because she knew.

Lena starts recording on Damian's recovered phone.

IVY

Knew what?

SÉVERINE

That I broke March. That I moved Victor's money. That I locked her away.

Séverine lunges toward Damian.

SÉVERINE (CONT'D)

I did it for us. Dami, tell them. Tell them you understand.

Damian moves behind Ivy.

Lena cuffs Séverine and removes Mara's recording phone from her dress pocket.

Across the ballroom, Julian drags the March board chair onto the center aisle.

He places it before Ivy.

JULIAN

Sit and keep what his ruin bought you.
Or leave it.

EPISODE 50 -- LOVE WITHOUT TITLES

INT. RESTORED MARCH BOARDROOM - DAWN

The March chair waits before Ivy.

She remains standing.

Julian sits at the far end with her signed transfer deed.

IVY

File equal authority. Neither of us
rules alone.

JULIAN

You already gave me half.

IVY

Now I am giving you my vote beside it.

She signs the restored governance register and slides it to him.

Julian takes the chair opposite hers.

INT. DAMIAN'S PENTHOUSE - MORNING

The rooms are stripped. Pale rectangles mark where paintings hung.

Damian packs the repaired mechanical bird beside Ivy's pre-fall photograph. The brass tag from room 714 rests on the table.

Ivy enters carrying two cups and a slice of burnt toast.

DAMIAN

I don't want gratitude.

IVY

Good. I did not bring any.

He looks around the emptied penthouse.

DAMIAN

You left March for this.

IVY

I shared March. I came here for you.

DAMIAN

Because I lost Cross.

IVY

Damian Cross, do you want me here?

His answer takes a moment.

DAMIAN

Stay.

Ivy pins the cuff of her black mourning glove beneath the brass room tag and draws her hand free. She touches Damian's face with her bare palm.

He winds the mechanical bird. Its wings open between them.

They kiss.

The private elevator opens.

Julian enters holding a second page from Victor's will.

JULIAN

There is another condition.

Ivy keeps her hand in Damian's.

JULIAN (CONT'D)

If you marry Damian, controlling March
authority transfers to me.

He lays the succession page across their joined hands.