Introduction



In this episode Joe managed to predict his imprisonment and escape it using a hidden key he implanted in his arm. To then outsmart Kate Nadia and used a perfect multi staged plan that made him the victor over his opponents.

Context

After managing to get Harrison and Maddie arrested Joe lures Kate back to nyc and track her earbuds so he can follow her and seemingly kill her but when he comes to Kate in an isolated parking garage she turns around to reveal a decoy of her and Joe is then injected by an unknown assailant and he is then awakened by Nadia and Kate in his very own cage saying if he doesn't confess to his crimes he will be killed by being poisoned throughout the episode he is being threatened and blackmailed into submission but Joe resists and manages to divide Kate and Nadia so he can escape with a hidden key he managed to implant into his arm he bites it out and escapes successfully countering Kate's plan and showcasing his intelligence.

Joe's plan in full detail

Now after that summary the genius of Joe's plans and deductions throughout the episode is truly remarkable So lets break it down further The episode begins with Joe with Brontë stating how he can't be free because of the Lockwoods so he's taking steps to break the chains. It then cuts to a scene where Joe follows Harrison to his gym, meaning he either had his schedule mapped out beforehand, or he was waiting for him to leave his house and follow him. Considering he's wearing gym-like clothes, it's probably the former. He watches Harrison put in his code to open his locker from across the room, despite the numbers being small and with Harrison obstructing his view he still sees it and memorizes a 3-4 digit code in around 0.1-0.2 second time frame after waiting for him to leave,Joe puts on gloves so he doesn't leave fingerprints or DNA, he enters in Harrison's code to open the locker. He then pulls out a bag of Reagan's teeth, implying he got it after already disposing of her body, or he already kept it upon disposing of her body. He usually keeps the teeth of his victims and we already know Joe had many different contingencies for Reagan's death, so it's probably the latter.

He plants the teeth in his bag, then sends an anonymous tip to the police, saying he's suspicious of Harrison, which got them to search his bag and conclude that he was the one that killed Reagan, which also, by proxy, got Maddie arrested for impersonating Reagan, making her under suspicion of being involved Joe also has a video of her killing Reagan if they tried to say Joe was involved in Reagan's death now Joe did promise Maddie he would delete it if she helped him but knowing Joe and the fact it wasn't confirmed he did delete it he most likely kept it in case they tried to get him involved. This served three purposes.

1. To get Harrison out of the picture since Joe thinks he "was going to turn me in eventually. " 2. Baiting Kate and Henry into coming back to New York to deal with the situation as Joe says you can't play the hero if your family is in a murder scandal. Joe perfectly knows Kate's personality and her motives and he uses her emotions to his advantage 3. Getting leverage, so that if he is caught or hunted by them, they won't just be able to kill him; they will need him to confess,

meaning they will need to keep him trapped somewhere to get the confession.Knowing that most likely they will use his cage, whether for comeuppance or for convenience, Either way he knew they would put him there if things went wrong. Also knowing that they might search the cage for hidden keys (probably since both Kate and Nadia are smart in their own right), he cuts his arm big enough to slide a key into it, stitching and bandaging it up. He then enacts his plan to kill Kate, fails, and gets caught. As for how he knew about Nadia he knew Kate felt bad about her being complicit with Joes action then her suddenly going to London telling Joe she knows he was the etr killer on the phone and even Nadia stating herself it's like he knows when they were trying to get legal evidence on Joe and Joe called them again he called them at the exact time they were trying to plan against him and Nadia again says it's like he knows.

He tries to stir division between Kate and Nadia, but that fails. After Marienne says he's gonna die in that cage, he realizes they were never gonna let him go, seeing through Kate's attempt to lie and blame it on her being angry. Eventually, he gets angry at Kate, going off on her, which makes Nadia tired of hearing him argue ,so she threatens to shoot him, to which Joe riles her up even more, telling her to shoot and telling Kate to open the door. This division causes Nadia to storm upstairs and causes Kate to go after her, giving Joe enough time to unravel his bandages to get the key. He tries to pick at it, but he realizes that wouldn't be enough, so he bites through his own arm. get the key, also showing his endurance. He unlocks the door, waits for one of them to come back downstairs, which ends up being Kate, and he gets the drop on her. He overpowered her, forcing her to shoot herself and hitting her with a mallet, and would have finished the job if Maddie didn't come out of nowhere to burn the whole place down, to which he instantly realized Maddie was gonna try something, so he sprinted up the stairs after she called his name. His level of intelligence and foresight with this is crazy. If we ignore Maddie showing up since she was an anomaly, he essentially would have escaped this situation quite easily. Easy in an outsmarting type of way, not effort-type way, since he literally bit through his own arm. Joe also still kept his composure even while having the building on fire and he even attempted to get Kate's phone showcasing great composure from him.

Joes. Joe basically had a back up if his original plan worked he could've killed Kate in the garage but obviously he knew that wouldn't have worked that's why he had no gloves knives or any of his kill tools his plan A was escaping with the keys hidden in the cage possibly in the different books if that didn't work he had the backup key in his arm as a second option he also has security cameras in there which he could recover to show he was illegally kidnapped cause from a legal point of view Joe is completely innocent here he was kidnapped and imprisoned illegally got threatened with death if he didn't make a forced confession then got a gun pointed at him and then Kate was gonna kill him joe escaping attacking Kate and shooting her is all legally defendable as he can easily claim he was under duress that he was defending himself INFACT Nadia and Kate would've been charged for many crimes also the forced confession that Joe gave Kate in the fire isn't legally usable as it was obtained during duress (the fire) and it breaks Joes fifth amendment rights so INFACT Joe shoudnt have been on the run as he was in the legal right but Joe knew tne confession wasn't valid he even told brotne he is waiting for the nosie to die down that Kate tricked him with damming evidence but he isn't worried it is a legal issue but they will solve it so acknowledged that he isnt screwed it looks bad in context but he

wants to lay low to devise a plan so Joes plan even has him legally and makes him the victim and sense he didn't bring anything to the garage except a ring there's no knife gloves or etc they can't even argue he had bad intentions cause he has nothing deadily with him it can easily be argued he just wanted to meet up with his divorced wife to talk about their child and she kidnapped him with btw a acomplish who was charged with murder again a lawyer could easily say my client wanted to meet with his estranged wife to talk about their child unarmed she proceeded to illegally kidnap him with a rouge known convict who she recently released from Jail with her money Even if they can't argue him going to see Henry what bad intentions does Joe have to warrant such a crime rather than calling the police they pre planned on kidnapping him illegally. Another thing is Joe does have a decent amount of options to pick to escape he can one use the key hidden in the cage to escape option 2 is causing stir division between the different people like Kate naida etc to make one of them help him escape option 3 use the key in his arm and then the final one is using Brontë if she discovers the cage downstairs to help him escape which she did do at the end of the episode during the fire or she could call the police for him which would ruin Kate's whole scheme while yes she had turned on him when she wanted to save him to capture him herself when Bronte was loyal to Joe she would've helped him evade capture he even told her that they tried to kill him and that he acted in defense Joe Cleary knew about the legal situation and advantage he had again it was just plot issues to prevent that from happening most likely explanation he just didn't want to deal with police looking into his entire past or again just writing but as we know he later on said he wanted to lay low then adress it legally so the logic is simple he knew he was fine and just wanted to wait over time to build a case cause again he knows it's self defense the legal situation and everything so this doesn't downplay anything as I mentioned even Nadia admitted herself they cannot turn Joe in later on. Not to also mention Joe stated himself that his lawyer is getting the custody order reversed people say bu bu but Joe should've listened to his lawyer and not go after Kate people really got no logic Kate was already pursuing Joe legally and such if Kate dies and Joe was actively getting the order reversed even if she had papers to get Henry back with his adopted parents Joe being his father and the fact the order was getting reversed makes it more likely he gets order of Henry as Kate's family being a news headline for murder death etc is bad for court it makes Kate family and environment look dangerous for Henry makes them look unfit or unstable to while Joe's record at the time was extremely good and clear a hardworking man who lived with the riches then saved the true woman he loved (Brontë) from a violent man Clayton not only that his last wife before Kate love died in a tragic murder suicide. As for when Joe put the key in his arm the morning he framed Maddie and Harrison he didn't have the key in his arm when we cut to the scene of him putting it in his arm he has the same outfit on so he did it right after he framed them knowing the police will arrest them and Kate coming is coming back then when Kate starts messing with his life shutting down his shop taking money from his accounts this gave him his conformation that she is starting her plan and this gave him the green light to follow her and execute his plan of action also random but when she took his money he said he knew of the possibility and kept extra bag of cash in mooneys just incase his own words I have a secret stash of cash at Mooney's.Preparing for something like this.small but decent feat as it shows he prepared stuff for the cage his finances his legal ground etc he basically prepared for what would happen post cage incident he prepared the legal situation and his financial situation to make sure he looked good for Henry as for where he hid it he likley put it in his office if not

there upstairs or somewhere they wouldn't check as they never found it. As for people saying oh the key was for Brontë there was no hint towards that lol Joe had complete trust in her and trusted her in saving him genuinely dumb asf argument he trusted her completely to legit save him from the fire.

Reasoning feats

Kate's prison deduction:

Joe's reasoning for being locked in the cage is actually a pretty good showcasing of deductive inductive and abductive reasoning and will break down his chains of reasoning below

Premise 1: kate wants to to imprison joe and expose him

Premise 2: In order to imprison Joe to need a confession or enough proof to justify an arrest

Premise 3: if they kill Joe they will lose the information wanted from him aslong as numerous legal issues and much other problems such as explaining the death.

more problems come from if they killed him being captured fixes most of these problems

Conclusion 1: if captured Joe is needed alive to confess and not be killed

Premise 4: If Joe needs to be kept alive he needs to be restrained somewhere

Premise 5: Kate does not have a holding area or institution to hold Joe that's accessible or open to hold him like a traditional jail or prison cell

Premise 6: the cage is not only easily accessible it serves as a symbolic space due to the fact of

Joe capturing his victims there its also secure and convenient

Conclusion 2: If captured the most logical holding area would be mooneys cage

Premise 7: Kate and Nadia are smart in their own right

Premise 8: they know Joes behaviors and secrets

Premise 9: if they use the cage they will anticipate escape efforts

Premise 10: a smart captor will search the area for lock picks keys hidden items structural

problems and other ways to escape confinement

Conclusion 3: They will search the cage for hidden keys or other escape routes

Premise 11: If they search the cage a hidden key will be found

Premise 12: If they find the original hidden key which Joe places in all his cages and remove it

they will feel a sense of safety

Premise 13:

A hidden key must be placed somewhere that won't be expected to be found

Premise 14: They won't check the prisoner's body for surgical marks or hidden objects in his body

Conclusion 4:

The best concealment area must be in his own body

Here's an is one that explains it a lot better in explaining it

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1. Joe deducing he will be kept alive and imprisoned

Chain of reasoning

Premise 1

Kate wants justice and exposure, not impulsive revenge.

Premise 2

Justice requires proof or a confession to legally expose Joe.

Premise 3

Killing Joe would eliminate their ability to obtain that confession or proof.

Premise 4

Killing Joe would also create legal risk and destroy narrative control of the situation.

Conclusion 1

If Kate captures Joe, she has more incentive to keep him alive than kill him.

This part is mostly instrumental reasoning + deduction.

2. Joe deducing where he would be held

Premise 5

If Joe must be kept alive, he must be restrained somewhere secure.

Premise 6

Kate does not have access to an official detention facility.

Premise 7

Mooneyâ€™s cage is already a secure confinement structure.

Premise 8

The cage is symbolically tied to Joeâ€™s crimes and therefore fitting for poetic justice.

Conclusion 2

The most logical holding location is Mooneyâ€™s cage.

This step is primarily abductive reasoning (best explanation).

3. Joe predicting how Kate and Nadia

would search the cage

Premise 9

Kate and Nadia are intelligent and cautious.

Premise 10

They know Joe is manipulative and capable of escape.

Premise 11

A cautious captor would search the cage for escape tools.

Premise 12

Joe always hides a spare key somewhere in the cage.

Conclusion 3

Kate and Nadia will likely search for and remove the hidden key.

This is predictive reasoning + theory of mind.

4. Joe deducing where the best

concealment spot would be

Premise 13

If a key is hidden inside the cage, it will likely be found.

Premise 14

A key hidden outside the cage would be inaccessible to Joe.

Premise 15

The safest hiding place must therefore be one they would not search.

Premise 16

Captors rarely conduct surgical searches on a prisoner's body.

Conclusion 4

The most secure hiding place is inside Joes own body.

Another good deduction is Joe deducting Kate would involve Nadia now if you say Joe acted

shocked when he saw her this is incorrect we know Joe is an unreliable narrator it's always been shown

sense the entire series Joe acts like he is done or he doesn't know what's going on (when he does like 3x10 and the whole love poisoning thing) Joe is also acting like he has no escape

route when he has the hidden key in his arm.

So I'll break down how Joe knew Nadia was involved

Premise 1 Kate goes to London with Henry

Premise 2 Kate wants to expose Joe

Premise 3 london is where naida was framed for killing Edward and was put in place for joes

crimes

Premise 4 When otp with Kate she reveals that she knows Joe was the etr killer and the only person who knew of that was naida

Premise 5 there is no other reason Kate would randomly go to London

Conclusion Kate went to London to see Nadia and see revealed to Kate about joes killings

Premise 6 Kate has a hero complex and wants to save people from her complicit behavior helping break our naida and have them takedown Joe would be reconciliation for Kateâ€™s complicity in her life

Conclusion 2 Kate and Nadia are planning on taking down Joe

Joe's deducing Nadia’s involvement

Your logic here is also pretty good, it just needed tightening.

Chain

Premise 1

Kate travels to London with Henry.

Premise 2

London is where Nadia was framed and imprisoned.

Premise 3

Kate tells Joe she knows he was the Eat-The-Rich killer.

Premise 4

Nadia is one of the only people who knows the full truth about Joe.

Premise 5

Kate would need a reliable source to learn that information.

Conclusion 1

Nadia is the most likely source of Kateâ€™s knowledge.

Premise 6

Kate feels guilt about her past complicity in harmful systems.

Premise 7

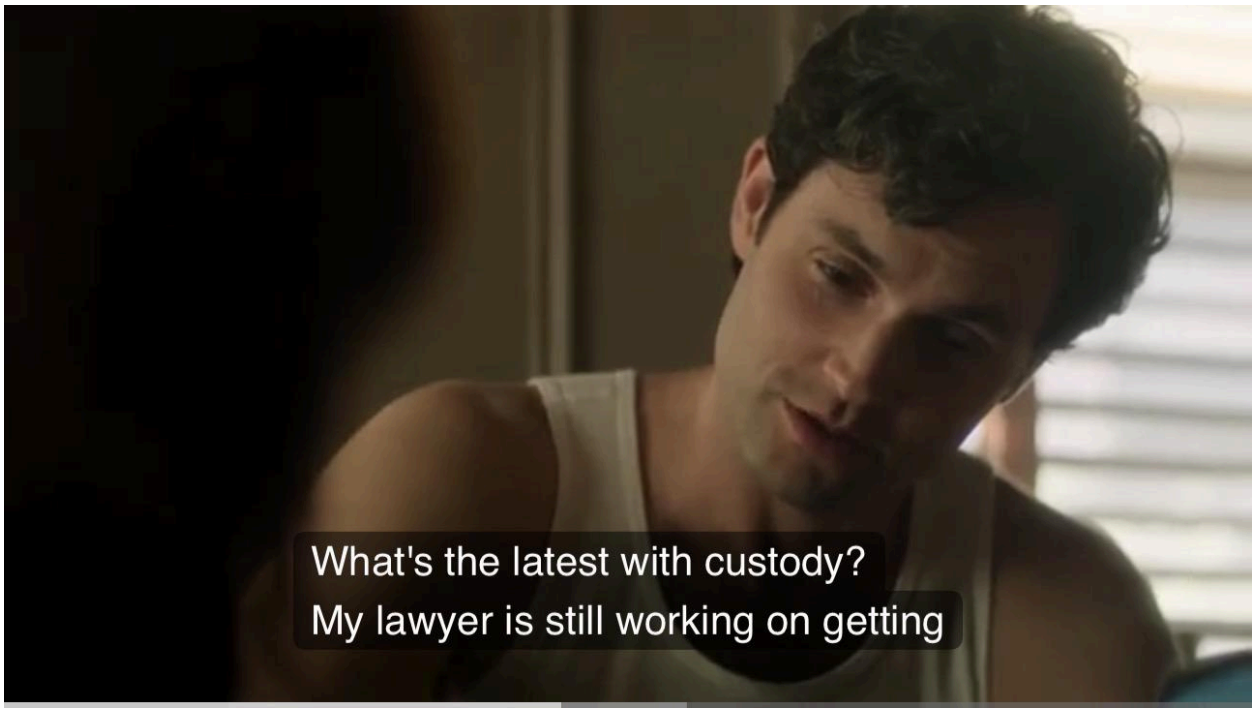
Freeing Nadia and exposing Joe would serve as moral redemption.

Conclusion 2

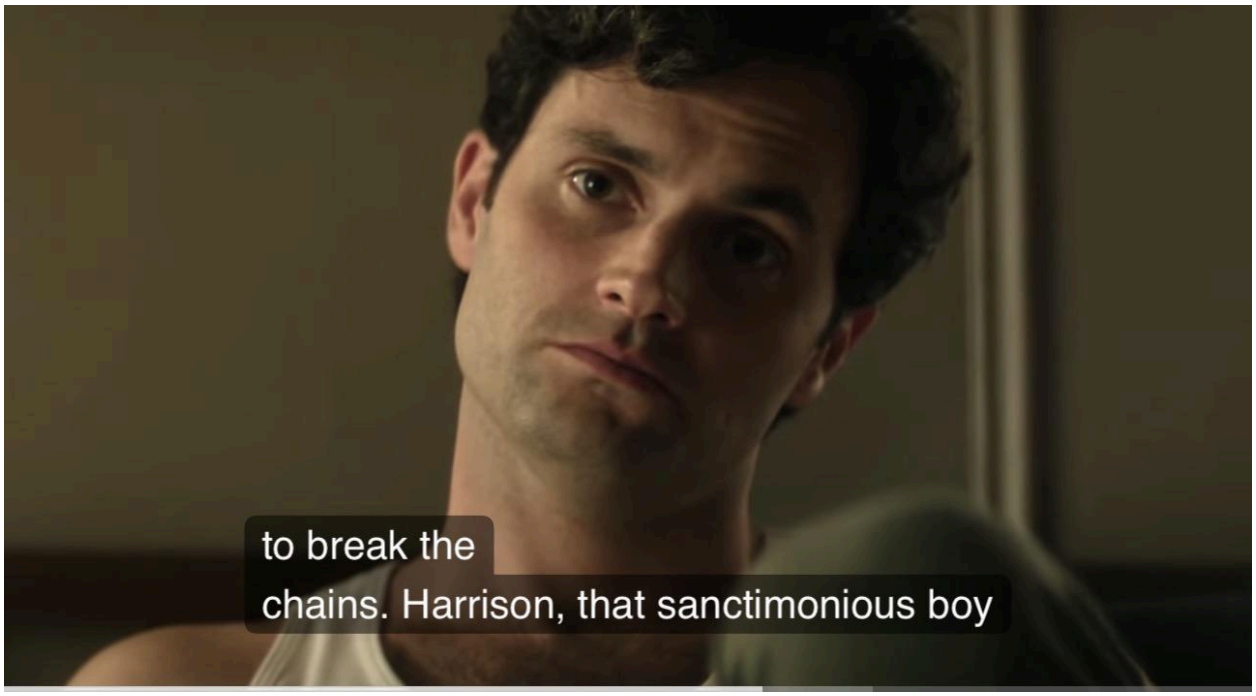
Kate and Nadia are likely working together to take Joe down

Screenshots and statements


Christ, it's like he knows.


What's the latest with custody?
My lawyer is still working on getting

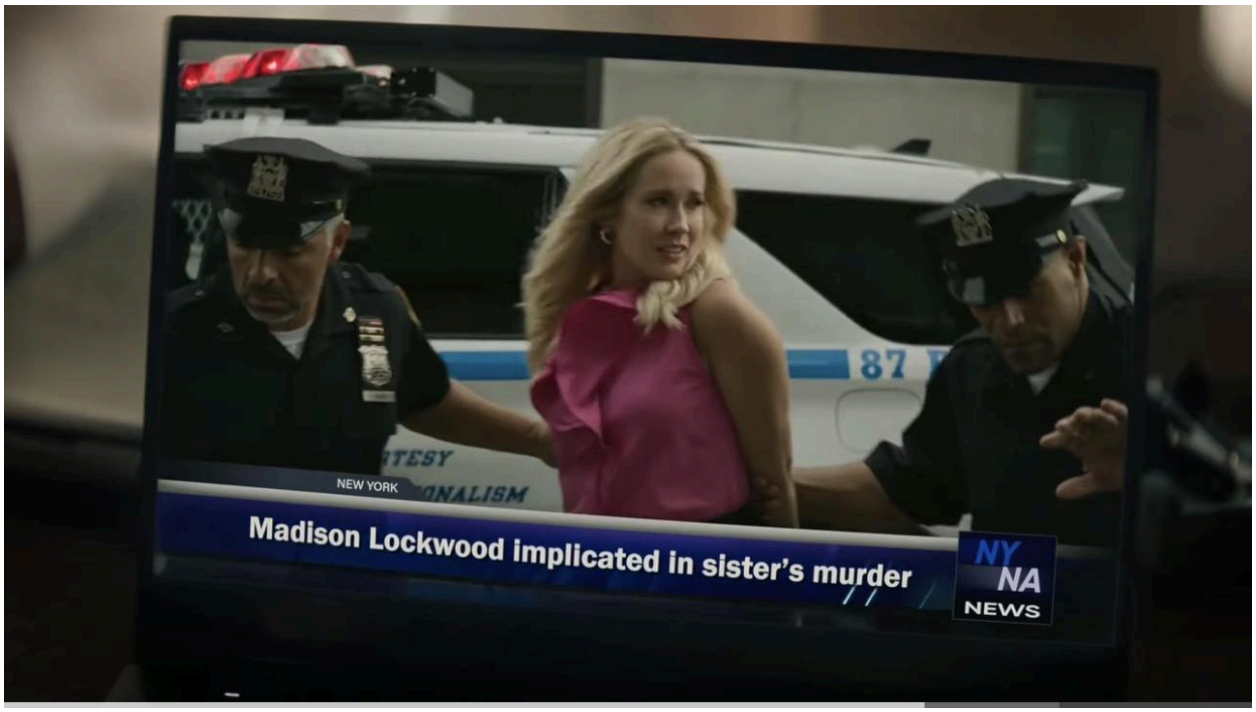

the temporary custody order reversed.
Oh, it'll

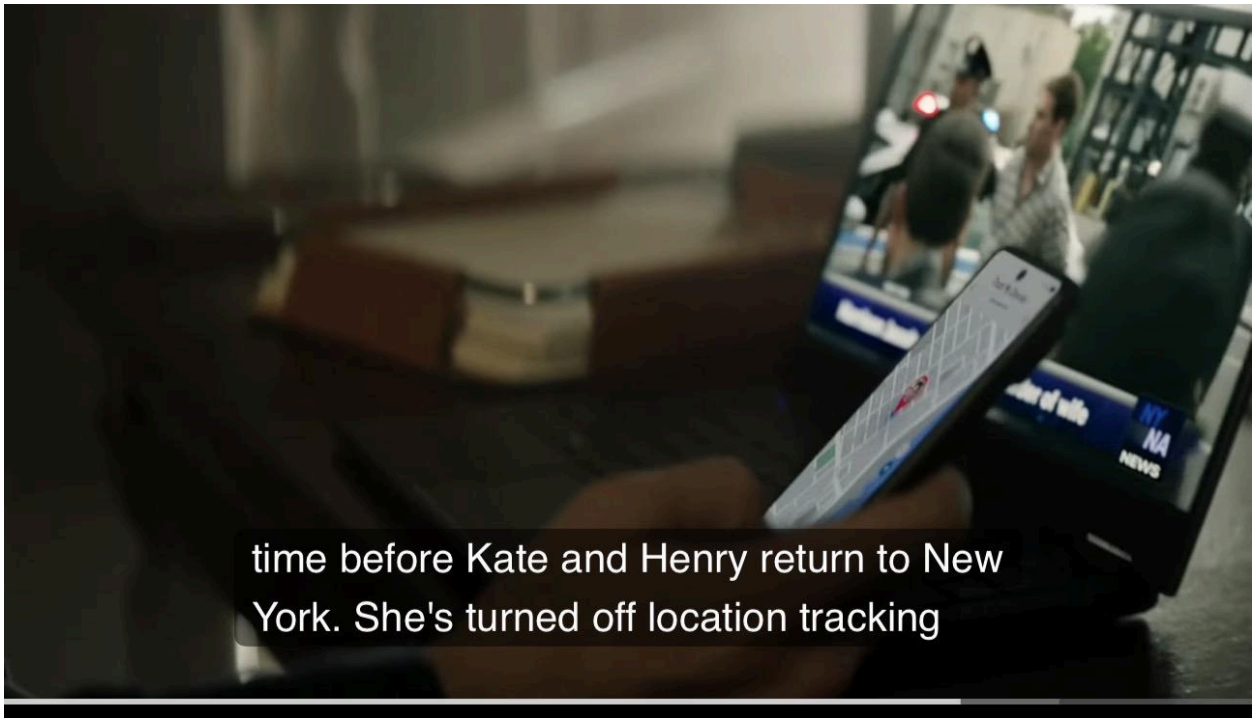

to break the
chains. Harrison, that sanctimonious boy

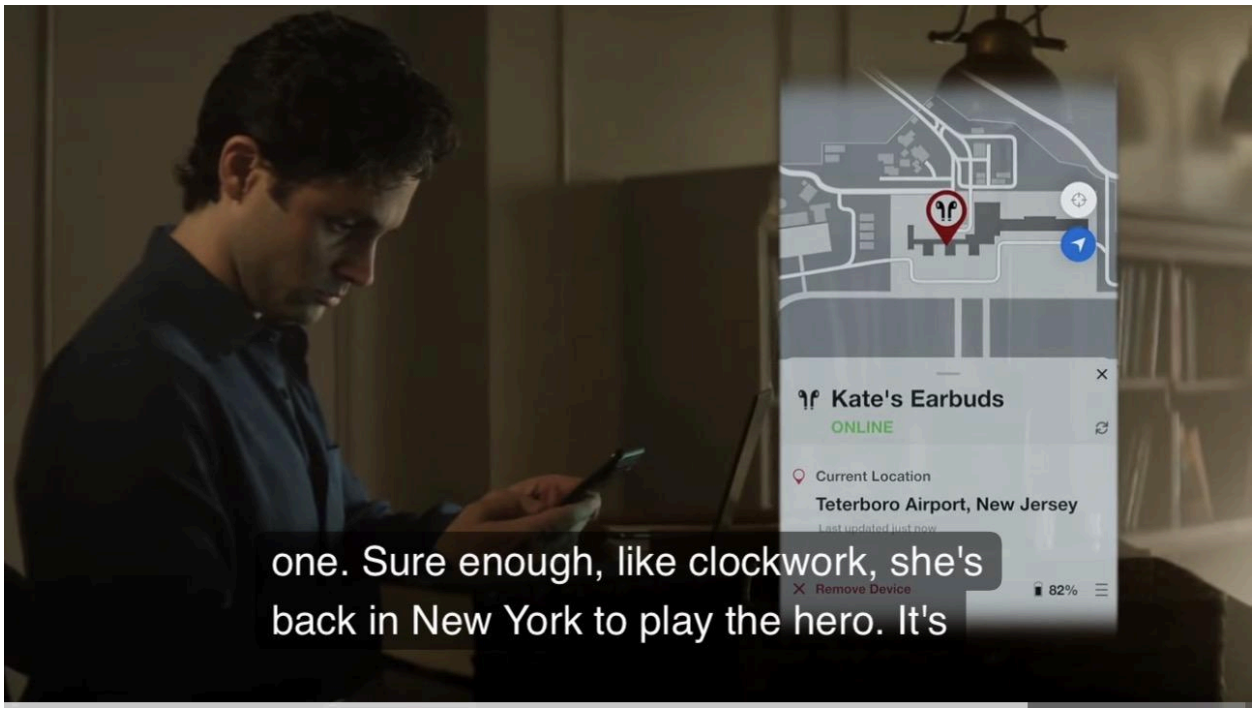

TENNIS
TOURNAMENT
scout was going to turn me in
eventually. It's a shame he couldn't

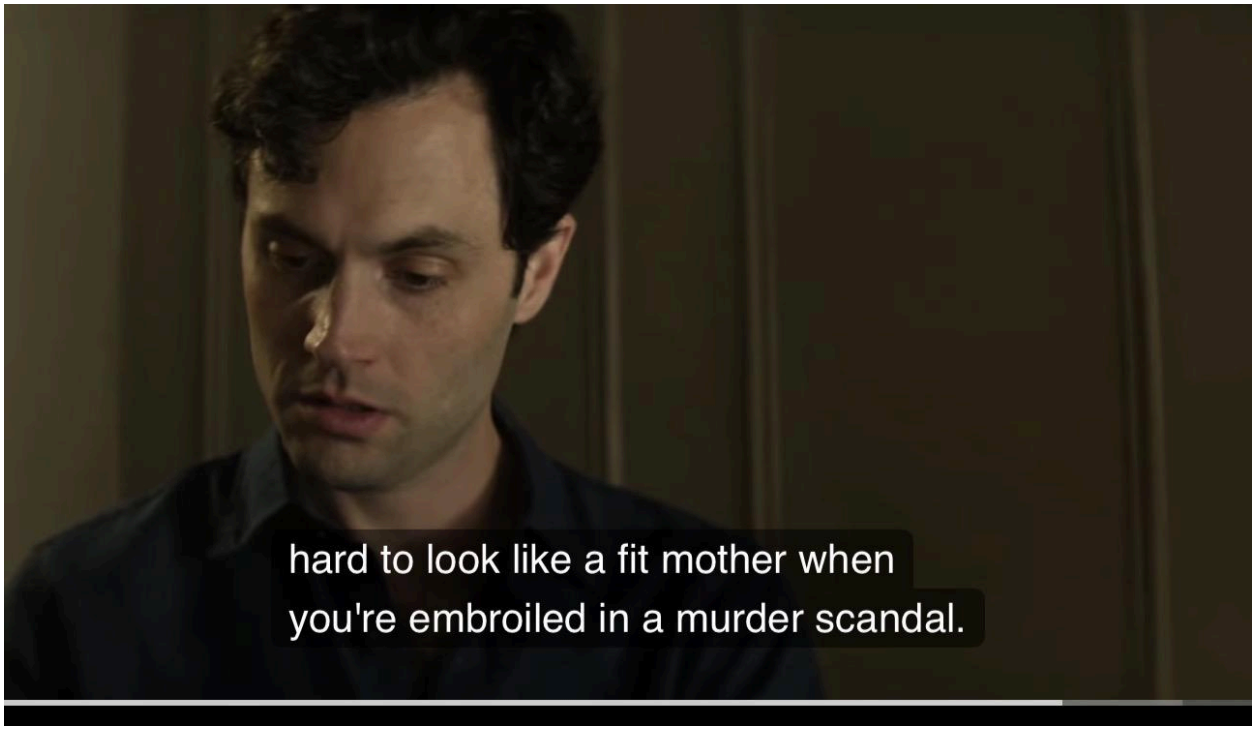

fully let go of Reagan after killing
her. Kept her teeth as a momento.

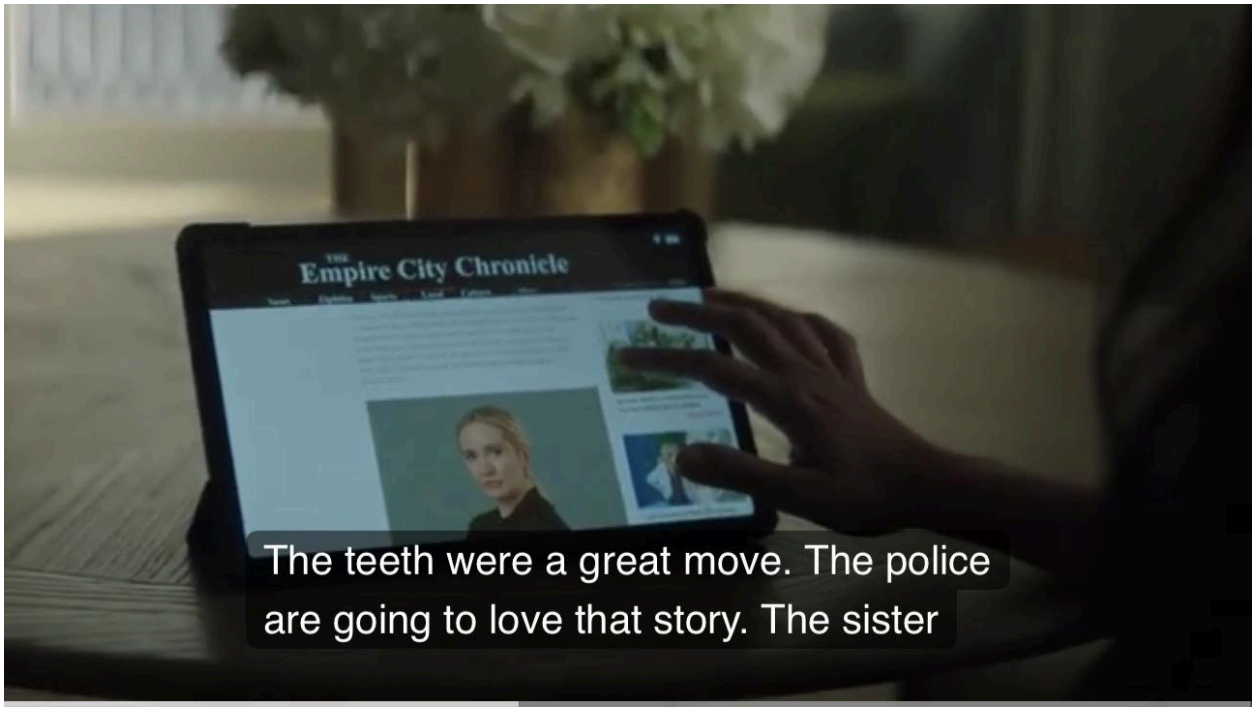

NEW YORK
Harrison Jacobs arrested for murder of wife
NY NA NEWS

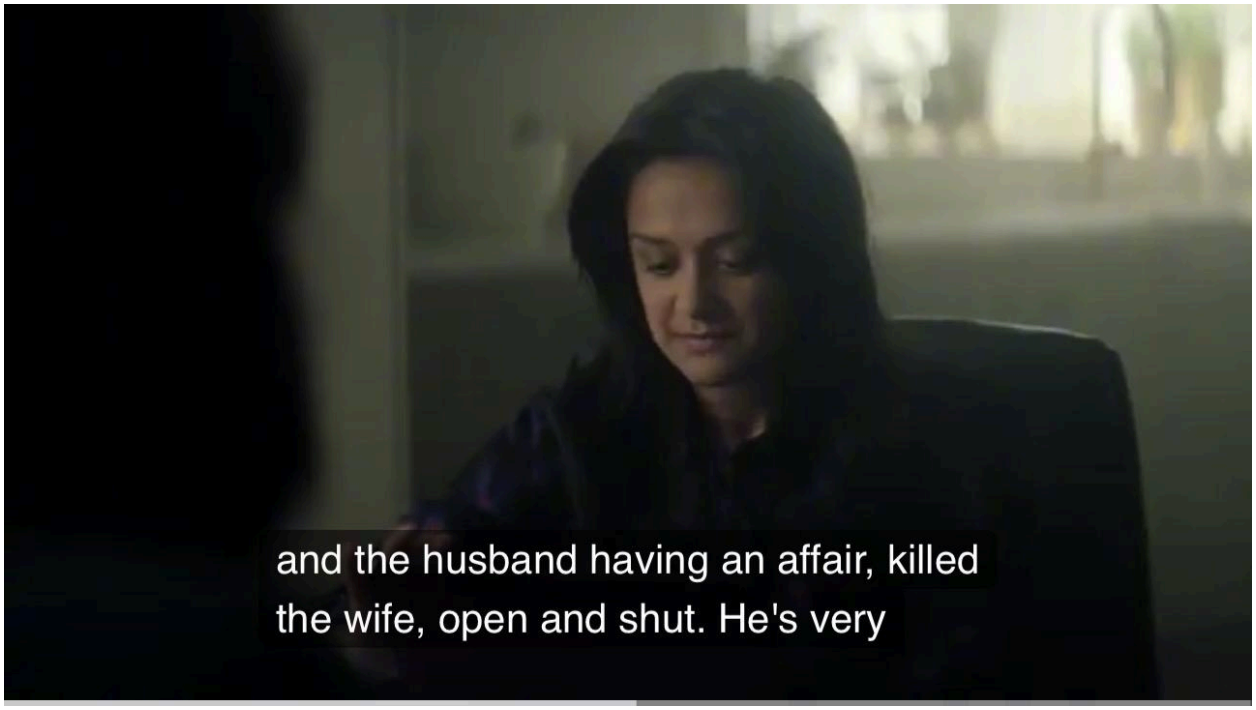

NEW YORK
Madison Lockwood implicated in sister's murder
NY NA NEWS


time before Kate and Henry return to New
York. She's turned off location tracking

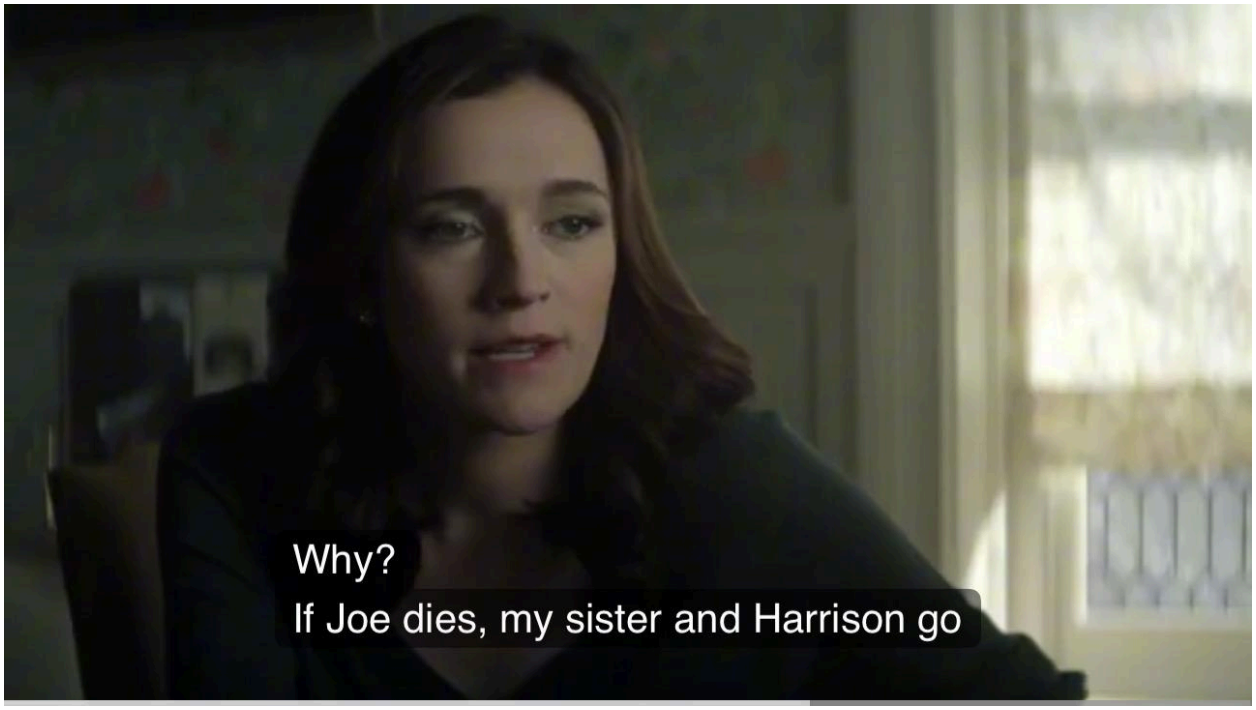

Kate's Earbuds
ONLINE
Current Location
Teterboro Airport, New Jersey
Remove Device
82%
one. Sure enough, like clockwork, she's
back in New York to play the hero. It's


hard to look like a fit mother when
you're embroiled in a murder scandal.

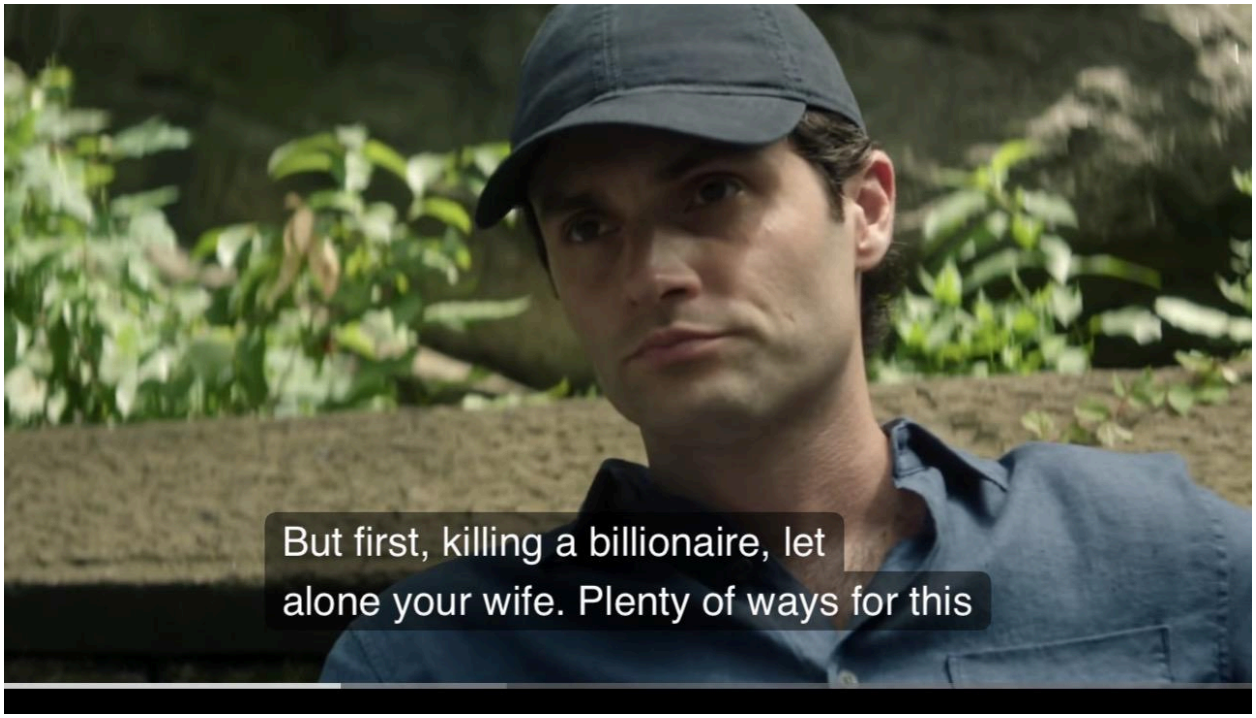

The Empire City Chronicle
The teeth were a great move. The police
are going to love that story. The sister


and the husband having an affair, killed
the wife, open and shut. He's very


smart. You just have to hope he takes
the bait and tracks your earbuds.
Producer
CARL OGAWA


Why?
If Joe dies, my sister and Harrison go


to prison. I need him to confess to
planting those [__] teeth.

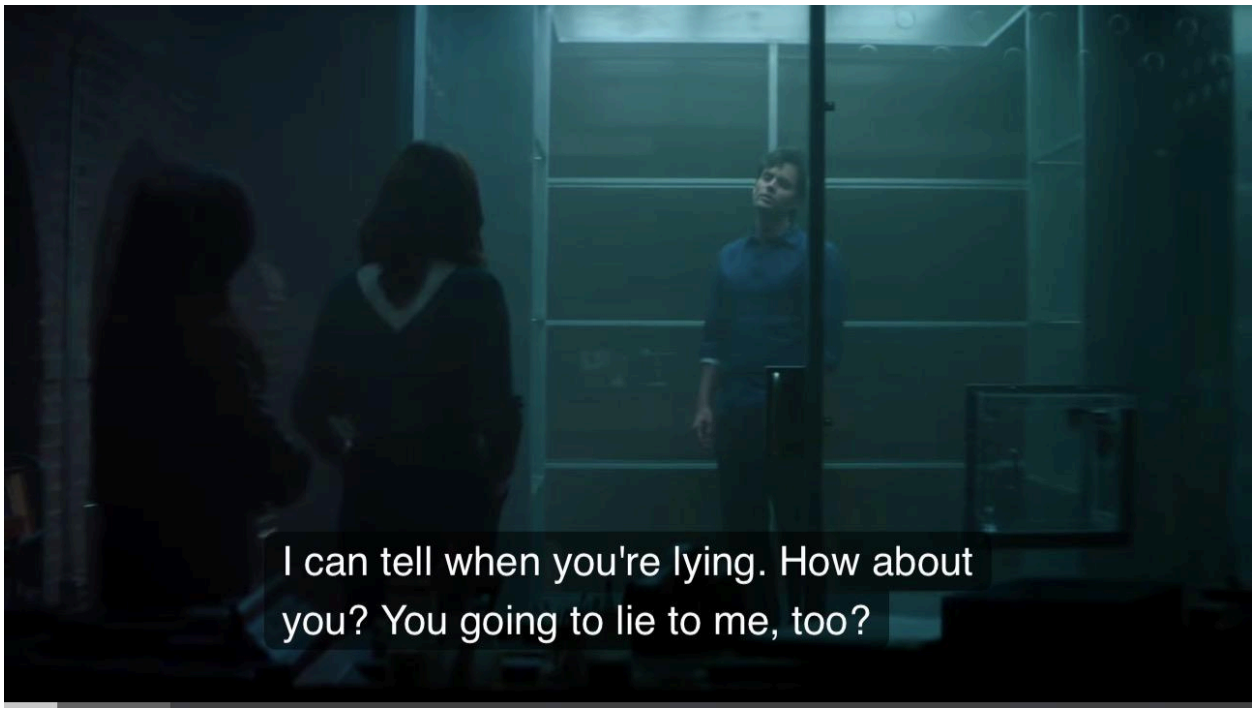

But first, killing a billionaire, let
alone your wife. Plenty of ways for this


to go wrong.
I'll have to choose my moment


to go wrong.
I'll have to choose my moment


[Music]
You never were planning on letting me


go, were you?
Marianne was upset. She was just trying


I can tell when you're lying. How about
you? You going to lie to me, too?


Open the door, Kate. Nia, what are you
doing? We have a plan. [__] the carbon

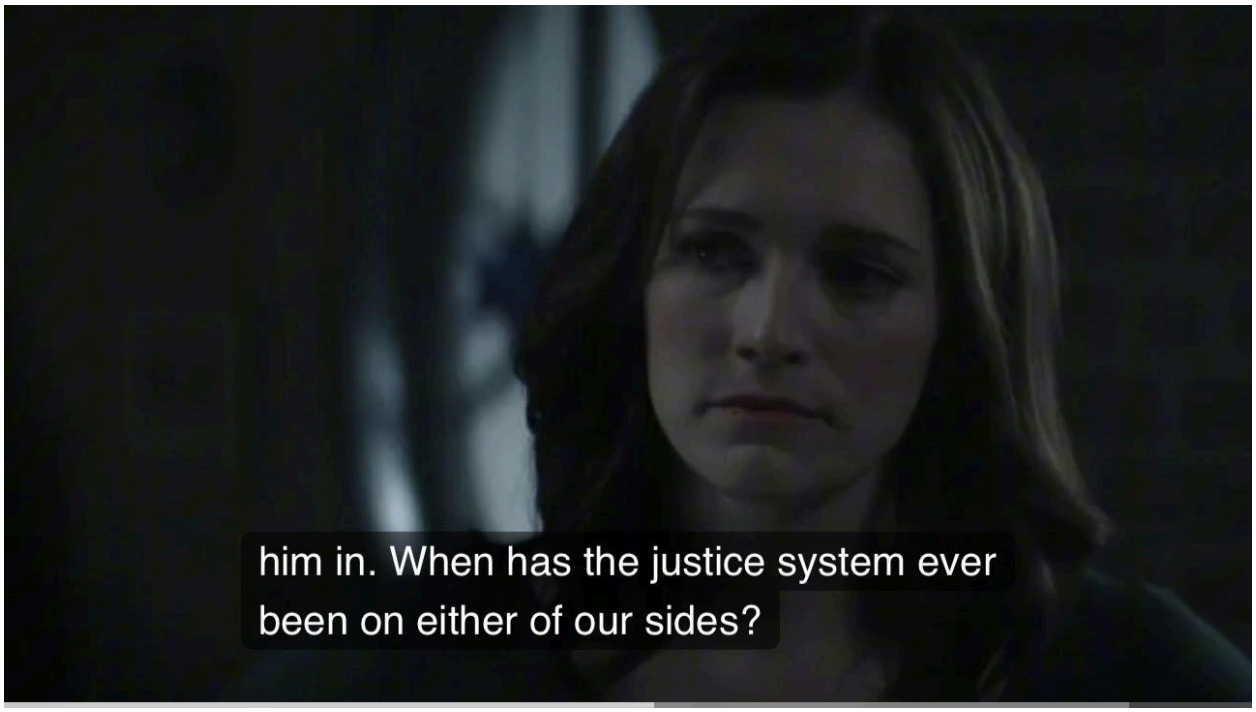


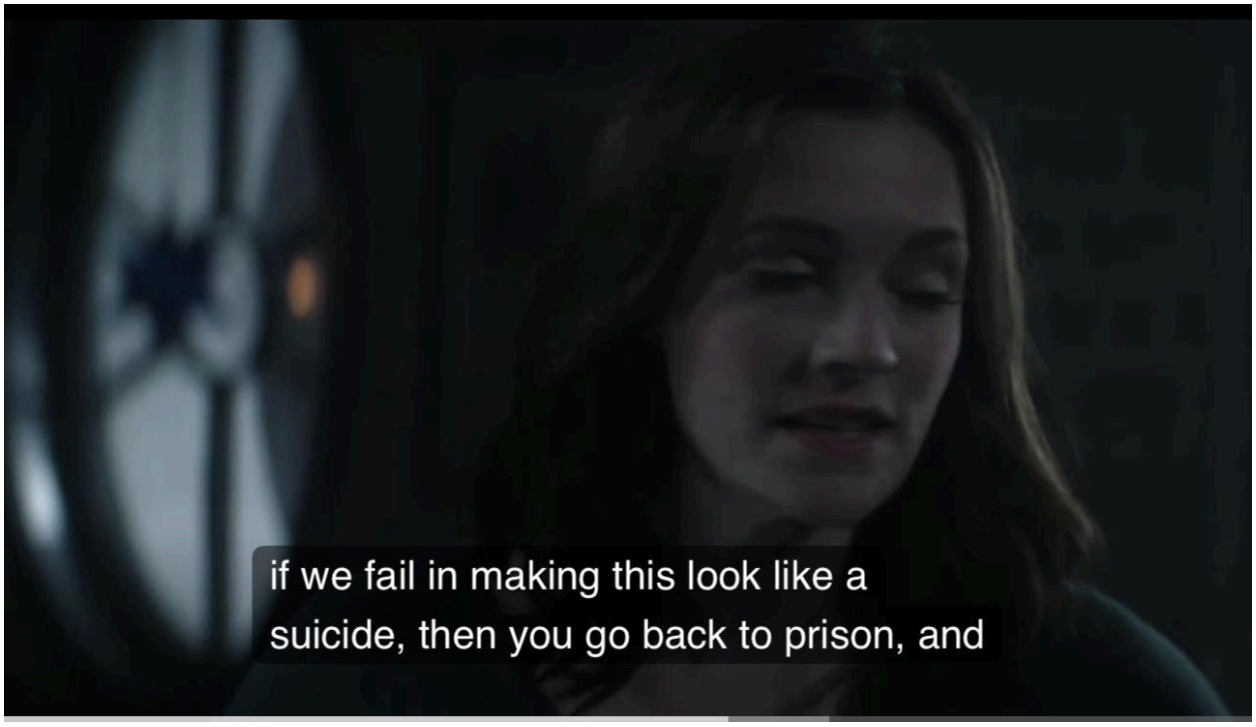


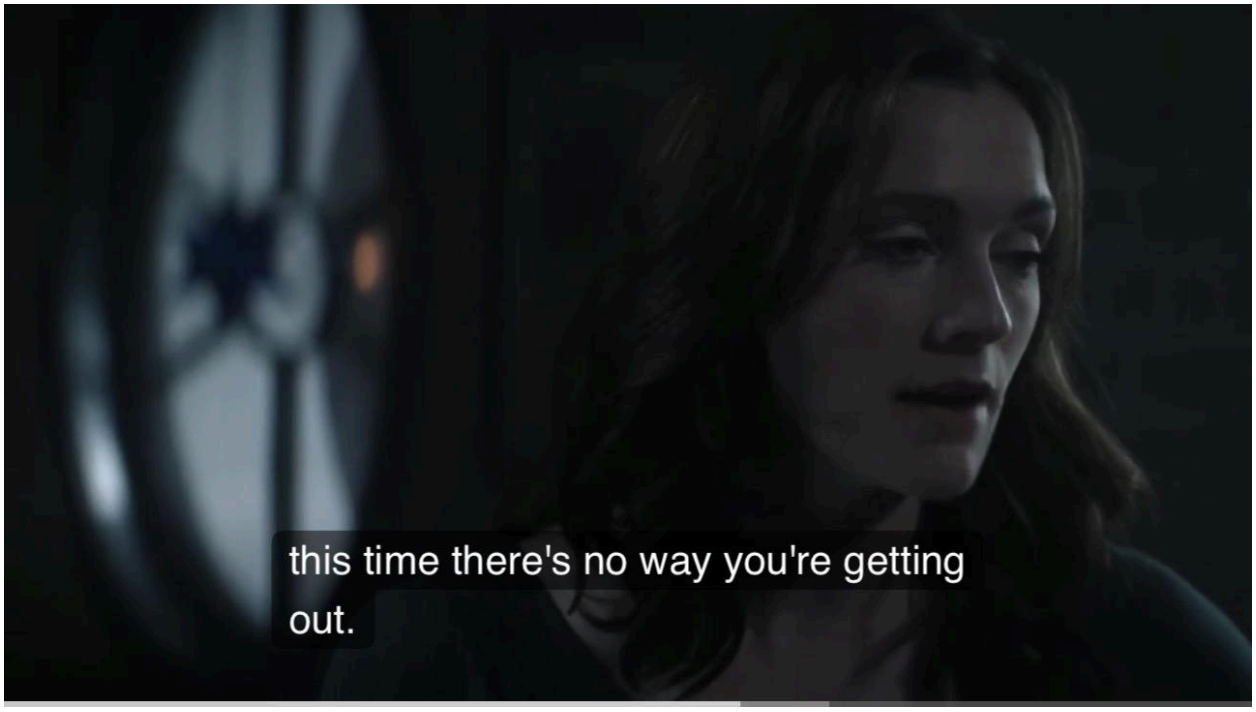


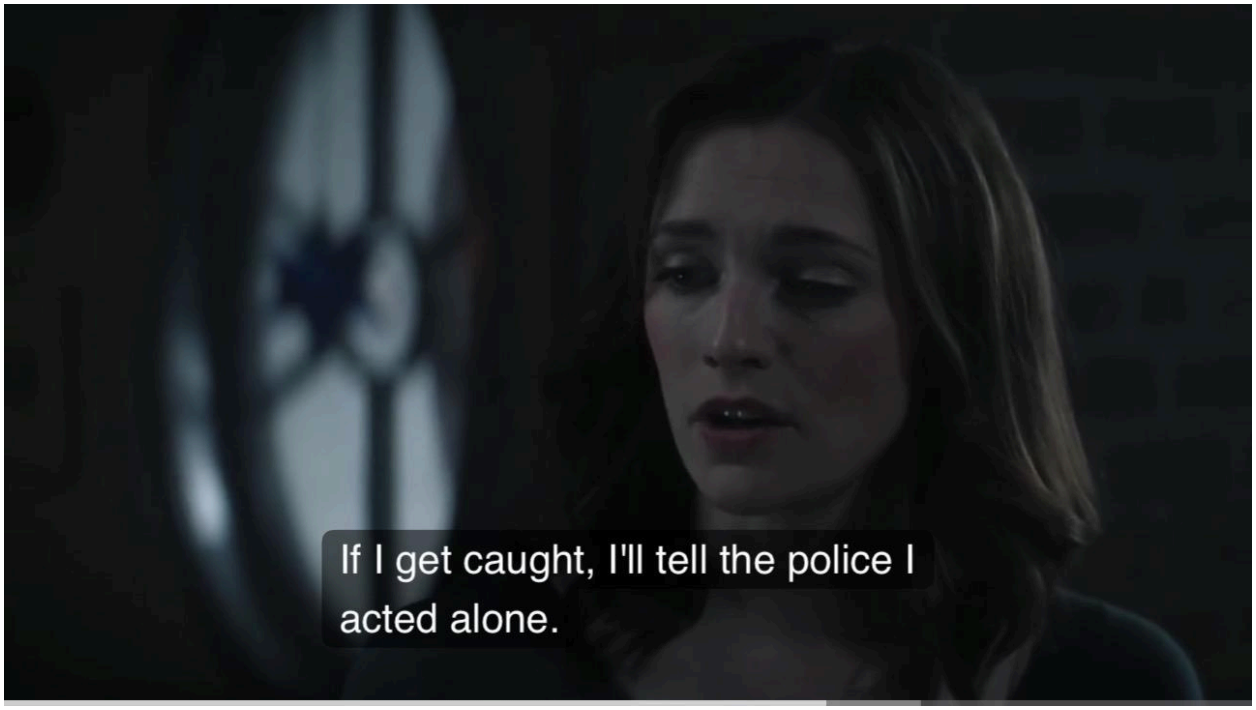



If we want Joe to die, it needs to
happen now. It's not like we can turn


him in. When has the justice system ever
been on either of our sides?


if we fail in making this look like a
suicide, then you go back to prison, and

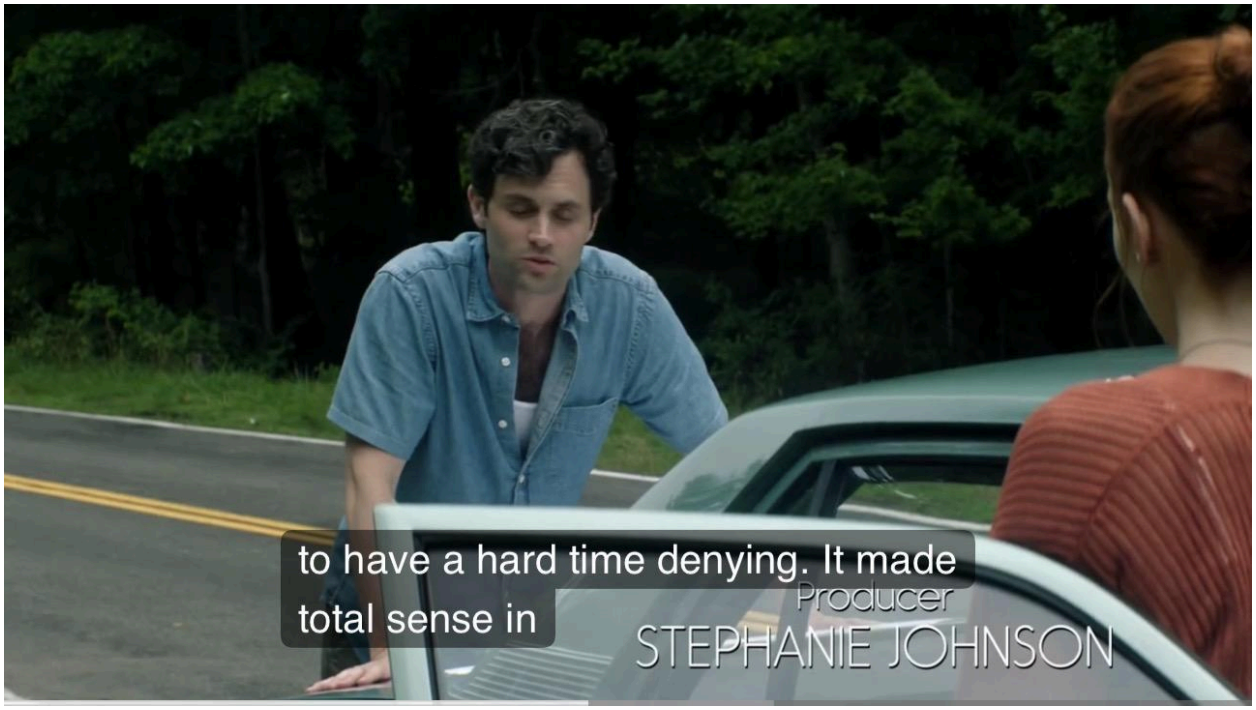

this time there's no way you're getting
out.

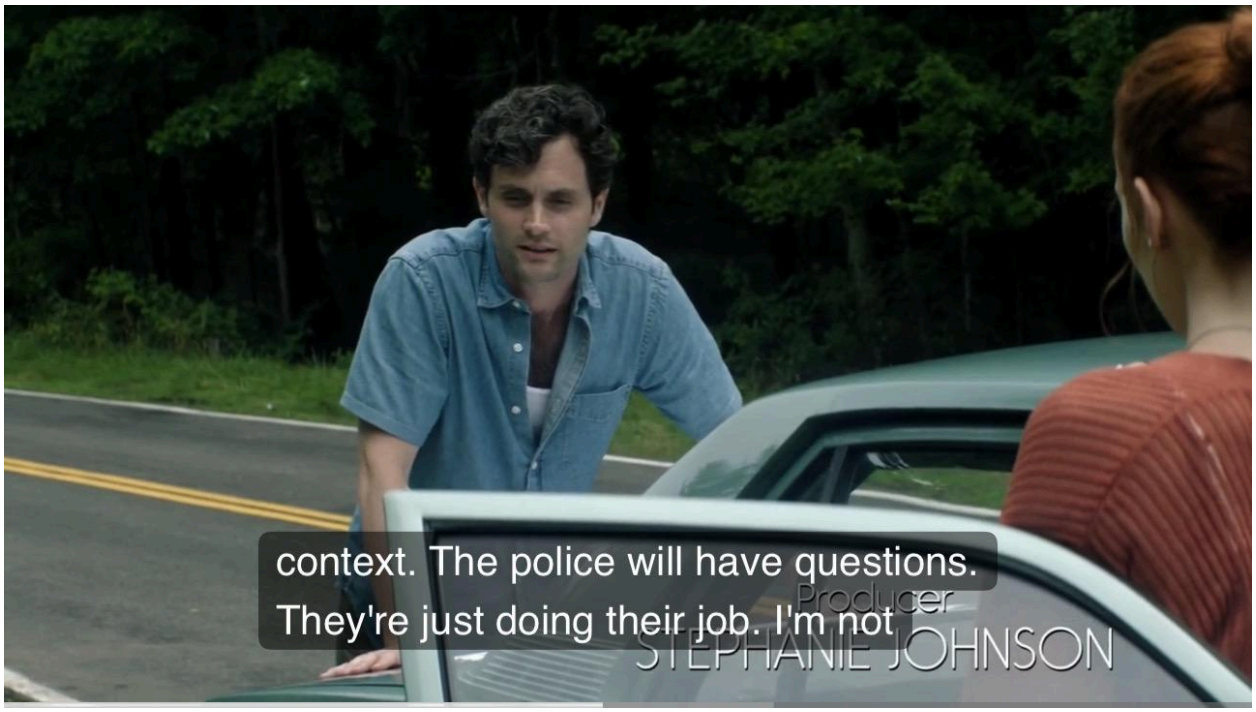

If I get caught, I'll tell the police I
acted alone.

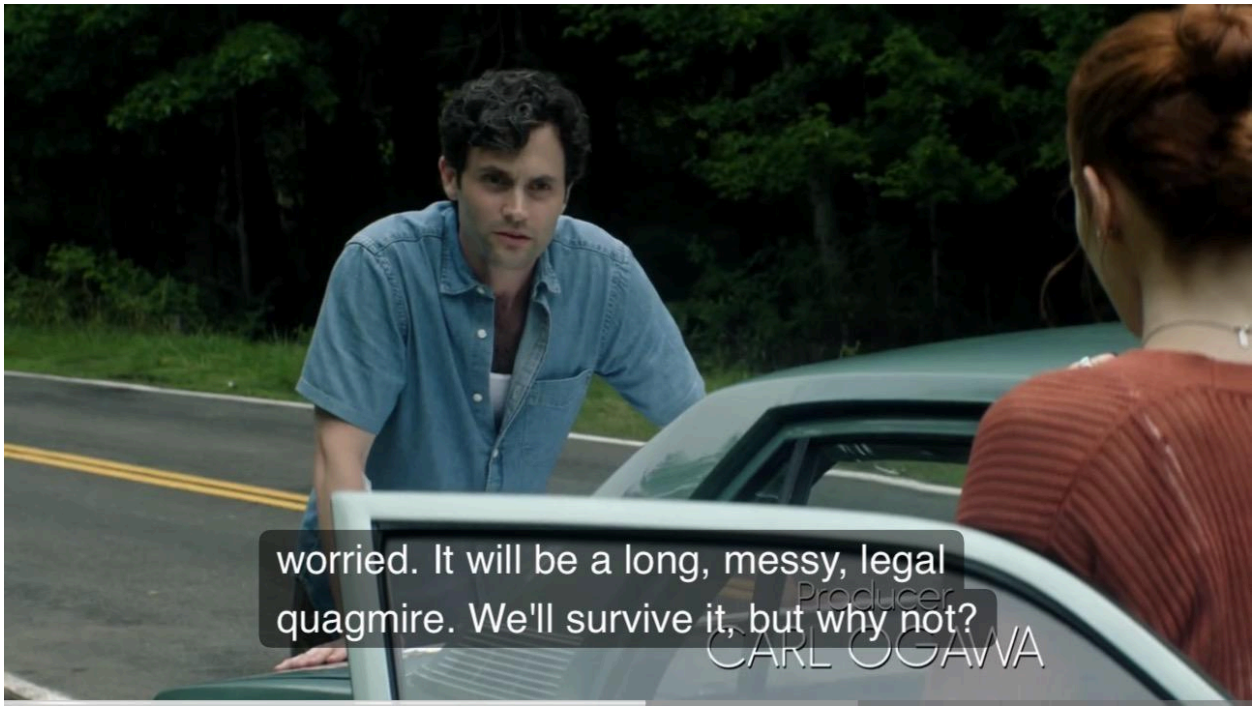

She tried to kill me.
I was defending myself.

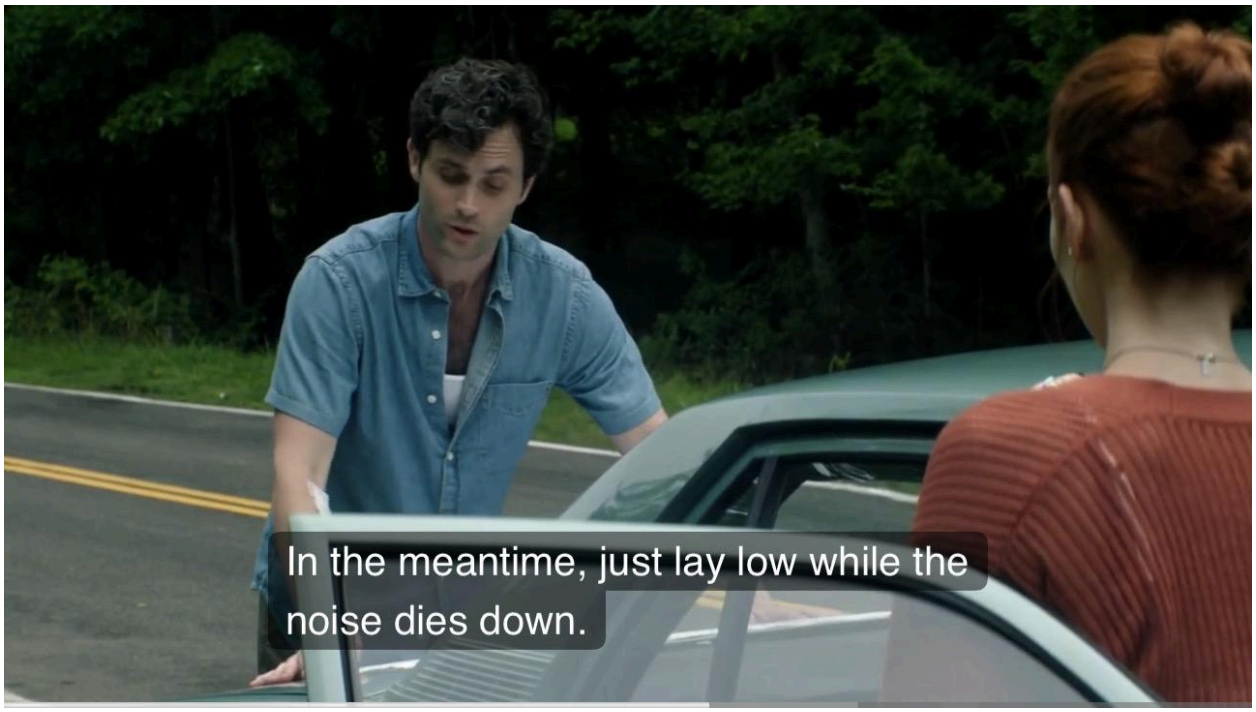

I don't think we were followed, but uh
it's only a matter of time. Kate tricked


me. She sent something damning into the
police. How damning? Something I'm going


to have a hard time denying. It made
total sense in
Producer
STEPHANIE JOHNSON


context. The police will have questions.
They're just doing their job. I'm not
Producer
STEPHANIE JOHNSON


worried. It will be a long, messy, legal quagmire. We'll survive it, but why not?
Producer
CARL OGAWA


In the meantime, just lay low while the noise dies down.



Conclusion :

Joes plan was very genius he managed to account for many variables and predict peoples behaviors well he had an extremely high level of composure mental fortitude em and other ac categories during this episode not only remaining calm when cutting into his own arm and then biting it out (showcasing remarkable fortitude and composure as he wasn't screaming or yelling in pain during this) he also manages to remain decently composed during an entire fire going on around him and he was still showcasing critical thinking skills as his first thought was to get Kate's phone to call for help. Joe also has a camera recording in the basement so he can likely also use the footage to get them arrested but idk they didn't go that route via plot. Not only that, Joe also managed to learn how to stitch his own arm closed properly which btw if done improperly if he cut wrong that would've killed him in minutes Joe had to avoid cutting his brachial artery or cephalic vein while also avoiding other arteries if he cut just a little deeper it would've been major risk after that he then had to stitch it shut using his non dominant hand mind you if he stitched it to tight or loose the stitches would've broken or cause infection he had to do it perfectly and then apply some bandages to his arm to handle the wound after the fact and did this with no antibiotics or anything to help him feel less pain and did it when he knew Kate was gonna capture him to decrease he risk of infection insane learning ability. One dumb ass argument I heard is Joe should've put the key in his crotch in between his ass or inside his ass genuinely the DUMBEST shit I've heard for the first two options if they lift him move him or just pick him up it has major risk of just falling out and getting himself caught it's not that secure to hold a whole key if there moving him or if they pat him down or just hold him upside down to lift him boom key is out while yes they find Joe disgusting and probably wouldn't check that area but it's still risky if they are moving him and it's shown they checked his pockets or some of his area for objects so even they did a basic pat down and it's so easy for that key to fall or slip out

as for the key inside his ass that’s even more retarded not only do they way of accessing it cway more difficult not only would it take an extreme amount of time to uhm idk shit out a fucking key 😭it’s just dumb asf that will cause internal bleeding tearing and would kill him instantly the key has the least risk while being the hardest to discover as again the one inside the rectum has more risk of infection bleeding death it’s slower to get out harder to get out and etc the arm has some risk but it’s extremely hard to find as flipping him moving him etc won’t slip the key out and it’s more safe then inside his asshole which btw could cause ecoli .More proof of Joe knowing Kate’s plan he didn’t bring any kill tools or have any of his outfits gloves or anything on he could’ve killed Kate in the garage but obviously he knew that wouldn’t have worked that’s why he had no gloves knives or any of his kill tools his plan A was escaping with the keys hidden in the cage possibly in the different books if that didn’t work he had the backup key in his arm as a second option and we KNOW that Joe wanted to kill Kate at that moment Joe isn’t dumb he always uses gloves like legit used it when framing Harrison so why now would he not have any equipment it makes no logical sense Joe always acts shocked or pretends to be in doom while he is completely fine (When love poisoned him to the own audience he acted shocked when he was fine when Nadia said they took the keys he was like dammit when he knew he had a backup key) there’s even subtle word play from Joe killing a billionaire let alone your wife is tricky I’ll have to choose my moment wisely and if it’s tricky then why wouldn’t he be prepared he’ll even for much less difficult kills like when he wanted to kill Candance he had pre planned kill tools and he even has a bag full of stuff for his kills for some cases one being tom the other being Bob yet he doesn’t use this with Kate in the parking garage? It’s contradictory to say plenty of ways for this to go wrong yet not bring kill tools like he did with Bob Tom etc not to mention Bob was much lower of a threat then Kate yet he still brought not just gloves or his usual outfit no Joe had a whole bag full of gear ready at disposal same with Reagan he had a bag basically a kill kit yet with Kate who is much bigger then both he doesn’t have anything yet acknowledged the risk of it killing a billionaire let alone your wife plenty of ways for this to go wrong it being impulsive is more contradictory as he acknowledges the risk and even has the key in his arm so my claim is much more supported towards Joe knowing Kate’s plan rather then being impulsive.now let's go over usually what's in Joes kill bag let's use Reagan when Joe went to kidnap Reagan he had a whole all black outfit on with a mask with glove's a lock pick to pick locks stuff like cutters to disable security so this bag had gloves, mask lock picks a kidnapping bag to put over her head etc Bobs had gloves and other items I presume Joe didn't use much of it as he killed Bob with a lasso inside his house we can assume it has lock picks and the usual items as it had gloves and Bobs house basically didn’t require the other tools so Joe didn’t need to use it for Tom's it had a box cutter handcuffs to keep Tom secure also leg shackles aswell chloroform with a rag to make Tom go to sleep a gun a box of gloves so numerous gloves and chemicals to cover it up (bleaches and other stuff for oxygen bleach) as well as duct tape a trash bag and a plastic bag Kate was objectively the biggest threat she had custody over Joe's son was actively trying to expose him and had Control over Joes finances his life his family and a multi billion dollar company so Joe being more prepared for Lower level issues then Kate makes no logical sense aswell as even from a distance you can Cleary tell it’s not Kate and Joe wouldn’t kill somebody this high level in a public parking lot Joe married her for years he would know how she acts her routine etc like mind you he had ample time to prepare Kate was doing her own things in different areas and Joe specifically went back to his

apartment (which Kate locked him out of with an eviction notice but somehow he got in via lock picking or he had another backup place for his supplies) to get his hat but he wouldn't get anything else Joe is the person if he has time to prepare he prepares as we established really getting a hat so he could attack his wife in a public area with no proper equipment yeah this is dumb to assume Joe didn't know and just luckily had a key in his arm especially when he did specifically after framing Harrison and Maddie which would lead to Kate returning so my conclusion is the most logical.

Another good part of his plan was using Kate's own plan to his advantage he knew Kate would imprison him so he lets her think she had the upper hand, lowering her guard down and making her seem like she was the one who outsmarted him the key in his arm showed good counteractions and unpredictably. Another good part of his plan was using Nadia's anger to cause them to go upstairs, leaving him time to get the key out of his arm despite again having a gun to his head. Joe managed to use their anger and frustration to make them leave showcasing good 'em. Joe's adversities again were extremely impressive throughout this plan Joe was getting drugged kidnapped blackmailed his life threatened with carbon monoxide poisoning if he didn't confess a gun pointed at him cutting his arm open with only just a slight groan biting his own stitches bleeding from his arm and everywhere on his mouth yet still keeping so calm he didn't even scream or pass out from shock which something like this causes class 2-3 hemorrhagic shock with rapid heart rate intense dizziness and rapid breathing. Even when the room and himself was full of blood everywhere he was still smart enough to hide in an area where he could keep the jump on Kate even when in a legit burning building he still managed to critically think to try to get Kate's cell phone and when Brontë found him in a massive fire btw he's inhaling smoke is bleeding out from the arm just got woken up or recently awoke from getting struck with a hammer to the head which knocked him out and he was still able to logically comprehend she was there reason with her and explain how he was the victim while actively inhaling smoke all around him and barely being able to move he somehow managed to get up with her help and leave the store then gain the consciousness to purpose to her fully as if he was fine. Also during 5x9 Strat Joe was still recovering from tranquilizers,, and had been without food or water for several hours. Then he lost several milliliters of blood from not only inserting the key in his arm which was shown to start bleeding then ripping it out and digging for the key his entire face arm and even the floor was covered in blood, and his blood oxidized due to iron. I assume that he has lost about 750-1500 ml of blood. When a person loses 750-1500 ml of blood, they become 15-30% weaker. The average number is 22.5% All this will cause extreme cognitive deficits again dehydrated starved compromised nervous system from tranquilizers and tissue trauma from a hammer strike all while having to deal with the Lockwoods his relationship with Bronte getting his son back/loosing his child loosing his bookstore apartment his bank account drained and potentially law enforcement. This plan showcased great unpredictability counteractions foresight etc.

Joe's strategy after the fire

After being exposed Joe immediately has a plan he drives off with Brontë into a secluded rental property that has completely no cameras security or heavy locks he checks it to make sure nobody is renting it while will is helping him secure passports and a boat to sneak onto the Canadian border now once he gets their he will seemingly work out his legal issues as he said to Brontë and work it out to get Henry back. Joe seemingly anticipates a point of failure in his plan so he very much likely prepared the passports ahead of time in case anything went wrong cause when we see Joe call will will is like midway done almost like he was told ahead of time to work on them sense the timeline between the fire and the time he calls will is like under a day (he likley asked Will after he frames Harrison and Maddie). Another thing is Joes phone is untraceable it's seemingly by Wills help encrypted to prevent police from following him or tracing his phone he had a complete genius strategy lay low while going to Canada with passports then later clear his legal issues then get Henry back which he would contact first to ensure him he's gonna be their for him he used will to contact Henry through his game to talk to him and inform Henry he will not leave him sense he's contacting Henry through will's computer while he's on a phone call with him he's completely untraceable with his already encrypted device he contacts him on a video game chat while on the phone with Will so the police have to trace through wills computer which isn't even in America then somehow get past the game chat to will's encrypted phone to Joes encrypted phone. This strategy was so effective that state Marshall couldn't even track Joe even with Kate's help Joe had an active abp out for him yet Joe remains fine he likley had his credit cards and other things being shut down or monitored but Joe is smart we see him use nothing but cash when needed and ofc the Airbnb is free via him sneaking in.

What if Joe won?

If Joe would've won aka Maddie never came Joe would've killed Kate and he would've either taken her phone to call the cops or Brontë to act as the self defense narrative Kate dies and Joe either runs away with Brontë and Henry immediately or he gets money or his position back at Lockwood corp with only Teddy being the real Lockwood left but he basically is useless with the position his family is in and how Joe is a massive victim of his own family Teddy will either yield or Joe just handles him. He will then move to Ireland with his castle that he planned on going with Brontë earlier in the start of episode 9 ofc he would still have to deal with Brontë but sense he's less stressed over Kate has his son he would be able to spot her much sooner and basically win having everything he wanted proving that Joe plans was just bad circumstances Joe would be seen as a victim of a brutal rich family who got his son in the end. Side note (even if Joe won with his strategy of laying low and etc like in the finale he could've easily used Maddie's fire as further proof the lockwoods are crazy and unstable)