

Amanda Cobb  
Story Treatment  
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Creative Writing for Entertainment  
Writing Workshop 2: Television  
Story Treatment  
Revenge

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## Revenge

### "Secrets and Lies"

Emily must choose between saving herself and protecting Jack when the FBI comes to investigate their missing agent.

## Act One

EMILY THORNE and BEN HUNTER are sleeping. Ben's arm is draped over Emily's body, above the blankets. The sun is just barely shining through the open blinds. A banging resounds from somewhere else in the house. Emily stirs, and Ben mumbles unintelligibly. The banging noise repeats. Emily sits up, clutching her sheets to her chest. Ben buries his head under the pillows. He tells Emily to make the noise stop.

Emily follows the pounding sound to her front door. She is now dressed in sweats and a pullover. The banging has become more insistent. She opens the door to find two men in suits standing there. She asks who they are. One of the men identifies himself as AGENT PAUL REGAN, FBI. The other says he is AGENT ALEXANDER JONES. Emily opens the door further after he requests to be let inside.

Ben is in the living room, dressed in his police uniform. He frowns when Emily tells him to leave. He leaves the living room, but pauses to eavesdrop at the door. He over hears Emily ask the men what the FBI wants with her. He leaves before they answer.

Ben knocks loudly on a glass back door. The sun is fully above the horizon behind him. He knocks loudly again and shakes his hand. JACK PORTER looks through the glass as he walks closer to the door. He opens it enough to poke his head out and demands to know what Ben is doing at his house. Ben tells him that the FBI is at Emily's house. Jack replies that he doesn't care. Ben says he knows that they are hiding something, and that he will find out what. Jack repeats that it is too early for him to care and remarks that Emily is a big girl. He slides the door shut, locks

Ben slaps the door and turns away. He walks down the stairs, clenching his fist and releasing it. He shakes his hand again. After he is off the porch, Jack reopens the door and watches him walk down the beach. He closes the door again.

### Act Two

Emily is making herself breakfast. She is wearing jeans and a t-shirt but is shoeless. A loud knock echoes through her house. She turns the burner off and walks to the door. She opens it without looking. Jack is standing on her porch, wearing shorts, a t-shirt and sunglasses. She asks him what he wants.

He pushes passed her and storms into her living room. She sarcastically invites him in and closes the door.

Jack is pacing in the living room. His sunglasses have been tossed onto the couch. Emily sits on a chair and looks up at him. He demands to know what the FBI wanted. She replies that she can handle it. He tells her that Ben is investigating them. She replies not to worry. He sits on the couch, his glasses crunch underneath him.

Emily leans forward. She tells Jack that she has it handled and that she will do her best to keep him safe. He asks her who will be her protector. She smiles at him but says nothing.

VICTORIA GRAYSON is in her closet. She is still wearing her robe and is rapidly flicking her clothes aside. She settles on a red dress. It is lower cut than is strictly appropriate for a woman her age. She turns to her shoes.

Victoria descends her staircase. She is wearing the red dress and gold high heels. Her posture is regal. She opens her door to welcome her guest, who is poised to ring the bell. NATALIE WALSH, 40's, is wearing a yellow sundress and a wide brimmed sun hat. She remarks to Victoria that she feels underdressed. Victoria tells her not to worry about it. She welcomes Natalie into her home. Natalie graciously accepts the welcome.

They walk together to the dining room. Natalie remains by Victoria's side and enters the room at the same time as Victoria. Victoria comments on good social graces, Natalie replies that they are equals. She reminds Victoria that she does

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not have to pretend to be Queen with her. Victoria replies that she is not pretending to be anything. She offers Natalie a seat at the foot of her table. Natalie demurs and sits to her left instead.

Victoria awkwardly sits at the head. She asks about medieval courts. Natalie tells her to consider her a princess. Victoria nods and calls for their lunch.

Act Three

Jack is cleaning his bar as Agent Alexander Jones walks through the door. Jack tells him that the bar is closed. Agent Jones responds by showing his badge. Jack asks what he wants. Agent Jones implies that Jack already knows. Jack reasserts that the bar is closed.

Agent Jones looks around. He slides a picture across the bar. It is of Agent Kate Taylor. Jack looks at the picture. He looks up and asks Agent Jones what he wants. Agent Jones tells him that he and his partner are looking for Agent Taylor. Jack tells him that he hasn't seen her in a few weeks.

Ben is in the filing room of the police department. He is standing at a filing cabinet. He pulls out three files and slides them into his uniform shirt. He grabs a random file and leaves the room.

He is sitting at his desk. The random file is open in front of him. A large photograph of Agent Kate Taylor is on the jacket of the file. It is a missing persons report. Most of the required information is incomplete, but the filing officer was Jack Porter. He slams the file shut, picks it up, and storms out of the station. The other officers watch him leave.

Victoria and Natalie are finishing their tea and talking about inconsequential happenings in the Hamptons when there is a booming knock on Victoria's front door. Natalie remarks that that must be her signal to leave and she thanks Victoria for a lovely lunch. Victoria shows her to the door as the knock repeated.

Ben stood aside when Victoria was not the only person at the door. Natalie nods towards Ben and thanks Victoria again. Victoria turns to Ben and politely asks him why he's there.

Ben tells her that he is investigating a missing person. He

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informs her that she was listed as one of the last people to see Kate Taylor alive. Victoria invites him inside.

They sit in the living room as Victoria tells Ben that she did see Kate on the day she went missing. She tells him that Kate Taylor was very much alive when she left Grayson Manor.

Act Four

Ben paces on Emily's porch. He knocks on the door and resumes pacing. He is holding the missing persons file. He knocks again. Emily comes up the stairs behind him. She asks him what he is doing there. Ben jumps and turns to face her. He shows her the file and asks to go inside. Emily opens the door.

Ben puts the file down on Emily's table. He asks her if she knows what it is. She looks at it. She tells him that it is a file from the police department. Ben asks her if she needs to tell him anything and she tells him to leave it alone. He pulls the other three files from under his shirt and puts those on top of the first file.

Emily repeats her command for Ben to stay out of it. He asks her how he can protect her if she keeps secrets from him. She tells him that she doesn't need protection and to leave. Ben scoops up the files and storms out of the beach house.

Emily sits on the couch and dials her phone. Her father DAVID CLARKE answers on the first ring. She explains that the FBI was sniffing around. David offers to come over but Emily tells him to lay low. She reminds him that he is considered dead. He tells her to be careful and to keep him informed. She agrees to both and ends the call.

There is a knock on her door. She flings it open to find Jack on her porch. He barges in and tells her that the FBI came to the bar. She asks about the topic of conversation. He tells her that he didn't say anything. She responds to keep it that way and let her handle the FBI.

Jack replies that he has a better plan than letting her take over again. He asks her if she is okay with him handling it. She refuses. Jack tells her that it is not her choice. She disagrees and tells him that she has a plan to protect everybody involved. Jack replies that he isn't worried about protecting everybody.

Act Five

Victoria struts into the country club. She walks up to her usual table with her friends already seated in their usual places. She notices an extra chair at the left of her normal seat. It is empty. She sits and her friends launch into their normal platitudes. Victoria looks around the restaurant. She asks where Natalie is.

Natalie slides into her seat from behind her. She remarks that she is right here. Victoria smirks and asks the group at large about their late summer plans. The women begin talking over each other as Victoria smirks at Natalie. She leans over and whispers that she does not have to pretend. She is the Queen of the Hamptons.

Agents Regan and Jones walk into Jack's bar. Jack is serving drinks. The bar is crowded enough that the agents are left waiting for several minutes. When the bar is finally clear, the agents approach Jack. He asks them what they need. Agent Regan tells him that they need him to come with them. Jack signals to his manager that he's leaving.

Ben knocks on Emily's door. The lights are off and the house is silent. He knocks again, and then sits on the porch. He digs his cell phone out of his pocket and dials. The phone rings three times before Emily's voicemail picks up. Ben leaves her a message to call him. He looks at his watch and tries again. The phone goes to voicemail again and he hangs up.

Agent Regan tells Jack to sit down as they enter the Police Department's interrogation room. He complies and Agent Regan sits across from him. Agent Regan asks if Jack knows where Agent Taylor is. Jack replies that he has no idea. Agent Regan shakes his head.

Ben is dozing on Emily's porch. Emily is standing over him. She nudges him with her toe. He jerks awake and blurts out that the FBI had arrested Jack. She asks if Ben knew how long it had been and he shrugs. He tells her that if she wants to help Jack, it has to be soon. He tells her that Jack is listed as the last person to see Agent Taylor alive. Emily nods and Ben tells her to hire a lawyer for Jack.

Act Six

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David Clarke walks into the police department. Emily is right behind him holding a briefcase. David asks the DESK SERGEANT, 30's, to speak to Agent Regan or Agent Jones. The sergeant retrieves Agent Jones for him. David introduces himself as David Thorne and asks to speak privately. Emily insists on going with them.

Agent Jones brings them to an office and closes the door. David tells the agent that Agent Taylor had been working for Malcolm Black. He says that they were very friendly with each other. Agent Jones asks for proof. Emily hands him the briefcase. Agent Jones opens the case. He pulls out a tape recorder.

Agent Regan is reading Jake his Miranda rights in connection with the disappearance of Agent Taylor. He handcuffs Jake and is about to lead him out of the interrogation room when Agent Jones comes in. Jones tells Regan to let Jake go.

Regan complies and Jake is told to leave. He walks out of the room. Before the door closes, Regan tells Jake to stay in town. Jake hangs his head as he walks down the hall. Emily calls his name from the lobby and she offers him a ride.

They arrive at Jake's bar and Jake asks Emily about what happened. Emily replies that she had said she would handle it. She tells him to trust her more. Jake responds that she should trust him more too. Emily tells him that she does. Jake offers to buy Emily a drink. They go into the bar.

Agent Regan knocks on Emily's door. He is alone. She answers quickly and asks him to explain why he is there. He tells her that he knows there is more to the story and that he is watching them all. Emily tells him to enjoy his stay in the Hamptons and to try the lobster.

Victoria is on her cell phone. She is watching Natalie from her car window as Natalie says her goodbyes to Victoria's friends. Victoria tells the person on the other end of the phone to be patient. She hangs up as Natalie opens the passenger door.

Natalie apologizes for bothering her and asks if Victoria would mind giving her a ride. Victoria consents and the pair drives away.

Agent Jones watches the socialites drive off and takes pictures of their car. He makes a call on his own cell phone and tells

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the person on the other end that he has what they need.

End