

"HERE IS A TRAITOR"

The Sheridan Tapes - Season 01, Episode 17
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Based on story and characters from
"Homestead on the Corner"
By Trevor Van Winkle

BEEP

The inside of Sam's office, in a station that is once again silent and empty.

MARIA SOL

(annoyed)

...Is this really necessary detective Bailey? I already told you, I didn't have anything to do with...

SAM BAILEY

(serious)

That's not why you're here. Please state your name for the recording.

MARIA SOL

(sarcastic)

Jesus, you're recording again? And I thought Anna was bad...

SAM BAILEY

Miss Sol, I know must be difficult for you, but please -- *please*, try to take this seriously.

MARIA SOL

(blunt, to the point)

Am I being charged with anything?

SAM BAILEY

(taken aback)

What?

MARIA SOL

(almost an accusation)

Have you charged me with anything?

SAM BAILEY

Um, well -- no.

MARIA SOL

Do you plan to charge me with anything? Or am I free to go?

SAM BAILEY

(reluctantly admitting)

Well, yes, I suppose you are but... Hey!

Maria stands up and starts walking for the door the moment he says yes.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)

Miss Sol, wait, I...

MARIA SOL

If you're not arresting me, then
I'll just be going, thanks.

SAM BAILEY

Wait, Maria, please just -- wait.

(pause)

Look, I... I know we got off on the
wrong foot.

MARIA SOL

(SCOFFS)

You mean pulling a gun on me? Yeah,
that's a bit of an understatement.

SAM BAILEY

(desperate)

No, I mean -- before that. On the
phone. I...

(annoyed)

I made an ass of myself.

MARIA SOL

(sarcastic)

Oh really? I didn't notice.

SAM BAILEY

And... I'm sorry. I shouldn't have
yelled at you.

MARIA SOL

(trying to cut to the
chase)

Are you just saying that because I
won't talk otherwise?

SAM BAILEY

(wincing, but forced to be
honest)

Well... Kind of. Yes. And I hate
myself for it, but -- I think we
both want the same thing. I think
you're holding a few pieces of this
puzzle I don't have yet. And I
think that, just maybe I have a few
you don't.

MARIA SOL

(vaguely disappointed in
him)

(MORE)

MARIA SOL (CONT'D)

"Help me help you," then? That the best you've got?

SAM BAILEY

(shrugging a little
defeated)

It's either that, or try to get an arson charge to stick, and I don't want to do that.

There's a long pause between them... Then:

MARIA SOL

Maria Sol.

SAM BAILEY

(confused)

Sorry?

MARIA SOL

(SIGHS)

Maria Sol, freelance video editor and technical director, formerly employed by Poulitce Press. Is that enough for the recording?

SAM BAILEY

(surprised)

You're going to... Um, yes, that's plenty.

Maria and Sam sit down on opposite sides of the desk.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)

This is detective Sam Bailey, Oslow County Police Department, Homicide Division, recording on April 29th, 2019 at 9:41 PM.

(pause)

So...

MARIA SOL

So...?

SAM BAILEY

I think you have something you want to tell me about yourself and Miss... Yourself and Anna.

MARIA SOL

(suddenly self-conscious)

Oh, um... Well, I mean, we didn't talk about it much...

(MORE)

MARIA SOL (CONT'D)

We were both pretty private people,
and her family's super
conservative, so she didn't want
to...

SAM BAILEY

(confused)

Hold on... What?

MARIA SOL

(nervous, confused)

You found out -- You're talking
about... Well, me and Anna, right?

SAM BAILEY

(totally lost)

What about you and Anna?

MARIA SOL

(suddenly realizing,
embarrassed)

Oh god, you're just talking
about...

SAM BAILEY

(finishing her sentence)

...What you were talking about in
the parking lot.

(beat)

What did you think I was talking
about?

MARIA SOL

(pause, then, unable to
think of reason to lie)

Anna and I were... Close. For a
long time before she... Yeah.

SAM BAILEY

(a little patronizing)

Well... Yes, obviously -- You
worked together since you
graduated, and you were...

MARIA SOL

(exasperated)

No, that's not what I mean.

SAM BAILEY

I... Sorry?

MARIA SOL
 (snapping a bit)
 God, do I need to spell it out for
 you? We were TO-GE-THER.

SAM BAILEY
 (realizing, suddenly
 embarrassed)
 You were... Oh. *OH*. I am so sorry,
 I didn't...

MARIA SOL
 (annoyed)
 No, of course you didn't.
 Obviously.

SAM BAILEY
 (uncertain what to make of
 this)
 I'm sorry, you just seemed kind
 of... Blasé about her
 disappearance.

MARIA SOL
 (SLIGHTLY CHOKED LAUGH)
 Ha! Well, sorry if I'm not weeping
 openly over my dearly departed
 love. Don't mistake *this* with being
 okay.

SAM BAILEY
 (a little lost)
 Maria -- Anna isn't dead. She's in
 a halfway house just outside town.
 We've confirmed it's her. She has
 the right ID, her fingerprints
 match, and -- well, she looks and
 sounds exactly like Anna Sheridan.
 Because she is.

MARIA SOL
 (looking at the tapes on
 Sam's desk)
 How many tapes have you listened to
 now?

SAM BAILEY
 (confused)
 Excuse me?

MARIA SOL
 How many of Anna's tapes have you
 listened to?
 (MORE)

MARIA SOL (CONT'D)

I mean, they shouldn't be here, but how many of them have you played?

SAM BAILEY

(thinking through them)

Well... Probably about 50 by now, though only about a dozen of them were actual recordings of... You know.

MARIA SOL

(looking at crazy wall)

And what about this? Abstract art? It's good, but I'd recommend cutting back on the red-string: it really overpowers the rest of the composition...

SAM BAILEY

(annoyed)

Okay, okay, fine. What's your point?

MARIA SOL

(explaining it like he's
5)

My point is, you've been listening in on Anna's life. It's honestly kind of creepy, but you know the kinds of things she dealt with, right?

SAM BAILEY

(giver her both barrels)

Miss Sol, I know that you worked on these recordings with her. Whatever can't be explained by her being high was added in by you later, correct?

MARIA SOL

What are you talking about?

SAM BAILEY

(SIGHS)

The Donner Pass tape? *The Anna Sheridan Files*? I know all about the podcast you were working on, and it's...

MARIA SOL

(shutting him down)

We only made that one episode. *Poultice* didn't think it worked.

(MORE)

MARIA SOL (CONT'D)

I'm kind of glad, honestly: it was a pain in the ass to edit to and from tape like that...

SAM BAILEY

(trying to rationalize)
No, wait. What about the one with the Wild Hunt?

MARIA SOL

(doesn't know what he's talking about)
Huh?

SAM BAILEY

(slowly dawning realization)
The... The Beechwood Monster?

MARIA SOL

(totally lost)
Who?

SAM BAILEY

(putting this together)
So... If you didn't edit those...

MARIA SOL

(slightly sarcastic)
And the lightbulb goes on. Ding!

SAM BAILEY

(not willing to accept)
No. No, there's no way that this is all... That she...

MARIA SOL

(explaining very clearly)
Listen to me detective. I hate to rain on your skeptics parade, but it's real. Maybe not all of it, but most of it. And it's knocking on your front door.

SAM BAILEY

(taken aback)
How... How did you know about that?

MARIA SOL

(lost)
Sorry?

SAM BAILEY

(explaining)

Someone knocked on the door of my apartment just before I got a call from Anna. There was no one there when I went to check, but...

MARIA SOL

I think you'd better get used to things not adding up if you're going to stick with this, detective. Once things like this get started, they tend to keep coming. Especially around Anna.

(beat)

But I think you've already started to notice that, haven't you? I mean, I didn't want to listen in, but...

SAM BAILEY

(realizing)

The fire at the bar. It's way too similar to the fire in Langlois to be a coincidence.

MARIA SOL

And what about... De Witt? Was that his name?

SAM BAILEY

A police officer I had a run in with last week -- well, someone pretending to be a police officer, at least.

MARIA SOL

Or something.

SAM BAILEY

(pause)

You clearly have a point you're trying to make here, Miss Sol. Please find it.

Maria sits back and SIGHS.

MARIA SOL

And I thought I was blunt. Okay, fine. You want another story to put up on your conspiracy board? Two years ago, Anna called me from somewhere in Iowa.

(MORE)

MARIA SOL (CONT'D)

She was going home for the holidays for the first time in years, even though I told her it was a bad idea. Ever since her dad died her mother's been absolutely unbearable, and her sister isn't much better. She still hadn't come out to them, despite the fact we'd been off and on for nearly a decade at that point. I think they were about the only people who didn't know.

(beat)

Anyway, she thought spending the holidays with them would be better than having to listen to her mother complain about her not being there for another year, so she took off cross-country once she wrapped up an investigation in Boise. When she was a few miles out, she pulled off to call and let them know she was almost there. There was no cell service, but she knew that there was an old pay phone at the gas station, so she got some quarters from the mini-mart and dialed up the house. It was a bad connection, and when Kate picked up, she could barely understand her. Kate sounded almost... Confused when she heard Anna's voice. It seemed like, for some reason, she didn't actually believe it was Anna. She kept demanding to know who this was, what they wanted, and eventually Anna started to get a little worried. She had her recorder with her as usual, so she started taping the call about halfway through.

(beat, looks at case)

Come to think of it, you probably have that tape in there. Mind if I...

SAM BAILEY

(SCOFFS)

Good luck finding it.

Maria doesn't reply, but stands up and pulls a small paperback book out and flips it open.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)

What's that?

MARIA SOL
The Mysteries of Udolpho by Ann
 Radcliffe. Anna's old copy.

SAM BAILEY
 (realizing)
 Why are you... Oh.
 (beat)
 That's the key text? For the tapes?

MARIA SOL
 (distracted sarcasm)
 Someone get the man a prize. Let's
 see... That was... No... 2017, mid-
 December... Ah! December 20th, 2017
 -- Keyword "Deceit," 2-10-13-2-20.
 Can you...

SAM BAILEY
 (getting excited)
 Yes, I -- I think I might have seen
 that one already... Hold on...

The two rummage through the case together, pulling out a few
 tapes.

MARIA SOL
 2-10-12... No...

SAM BAILEY
 Got it! 2-10-13-1-21...

MARIA SOL
 No, that's "Ensuite..." May 24, 2010.
 I don't think we'll need that one.

SAM BAILEY
 (annoyed)
 Damn... Couldn't she think of an
 easier way to...

MARIA SOL
 Got it!

Maria opens the player and slips the cassette in. After a
 moment....

CLICK

The familiar crackle of static as the tape begins.

KATE SHERIDAN

(angry)

...listen, whoever this is, we're really not interested, so just...

ANNA SHERIDAN

Kate, just listen to my voice. It's me. It's Anna. I'm just outside Cedar Rapids, and...

KATE SHERIDAN

Look, just stop, okay? I know you're not Anna, so just cut the bullshit.

ANNA SHERIDAN

Jesus Christ... Kate, I don't know what's going on, but it's ME.

KATE SHERIDAN

(exasperated)

No, it isn't!

ANNA SHERIDAN

How the hell do you know that?

KATE SHERIDAN

(exploding)

Because I'm looking at Anna right now!

A moment of terrible silence.

ANNA SHERIDAN

(horrified)

Wh -- What?

KATE SHERIDAN

She's outside, playing with her nephew. So if you don't mind, I'm going to hang up and...

ANNA SHERIDAN

(desperate)

Kate, please, for the love of god listen to me: get whoever that is away from Andrew, it's... It's not me.

KATE SHERIDAN

(uncertain note)

What did you just say?

ANNA SHERIDAN
 (repeating urgently)
 Get them away from Andrew, he's not
 safe. Please Kate, you need to...

KATE SHERIDAN
 (getting more freaked out)
 How do you know my son's name? Who
 is this!?

ANNA SHERIDAN
 For the last time Kate, *it's me!*
 The person in your garden right now
isn't!

KATE SHERIDAN
 (growing worried)
 I... I...

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)
 (from a distance)
Who's on the phone, Kate?

KATE SHERIDAN
 (to "Anna")
 It's... It's just, uh...
 (beat, thinking)
 It's for you.

ANNA SHERIDAN
 Kate! Kate, don't give them the
 phone, I...!

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER) (CONT'D)
Hello, Anna Sheridan speaking?

Anna's mouth goes dry. SHE STAMMERS A BIT, but can't reply.

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER) (CONT'D)
 (to Kate)
Must be a bad connection.
 (to phone)
Listen, please call my agent if you
need to get in touch for work,
okay? My cell's broken. Okay? Okay
great, thanks.
 (to Kate)
Do you know who that was?

ANNA SHERIDAN (CONT'D)
 (desperate, terrified)
 Wait, please don't hurt...

Click. The phone hangs up and the dial tone rings. Anna's change clatters into the coin return.

ANNA SHERIDAN (CONT'D)
 (terrified -- realizing
 the nightmare scenario
 has occurred)
 No. No, no, no, no....

Anna turns and bolt for her van before...

CLICK

Back in Sam's office. HE LETS OUT A LONG BREATH.

SAM BAILEY
 That was... Did that...

MARIA SOL
 Yes and yes. It was one of the
 entities Anna and I encountered.
 Several times, actually. She called
 it, "The Echo." The first time she
 found it was...

SAM BAILEY
 (piecing the puzzle
 together)
 Spirit Mountain Cave. She thought
 she let it loose, and was trying to
 hunt it down. *Trying* being the
 operative word.

MARIA SOL
 (slightly sarcastic)
 So you *have* been paying attention?
 Good.

SAM BAILEY
 (worried)
 What... What happened? To Kate and
 the kid, I mean?

MARIA SOL
 (uncertain)
 Well... There's quite a bit of tape
 left. Are you sure you...

SAM BAILEY
 (without hesitation: he
 needs to know)
 Yes. Play it.

Maria leans over and starts the tape again.

CLICK

Inside her van, Anna cuts off the engine. SHE TAKES A DEEP BREATH to try and steady her nerves, then reaches over and opens the glove box.

She pulls out a pistol, cocks it, and then tucks it into her jacket.

ANNA SHERIDAN
(muttering slightly,
trying to calm her
nerves)
Okay... Not the most well
concealed, but I guess it will have
to do.

Anna opens the door and walks down a short cement driveway. She hesitates for a moment, then knocks on the door.

After a moment, someone walks up and opens the door.

KATE SHERIDAN
(mildly surprised)
Anna? What, did you forget the key
or something...

ANNA SHERIDAN
(cutting to the chase)
Kate, shut up and listen to me. How
long do you think I've been here?

KATE SHERIDAN
(amused and slightly
annoyed)
Oh ha ha. Very funny Anna. I knew I
shouldn't have told you about that
call...

ANNA SHERIDAN
(dead serious)
Kate. Look me in the eye. Do I look
like I'm joking right now?

KATE SHERIDAN
(a little uneasy)
Um... No, not really.

ANNA SHERIDAN
 (challenging her)
 How long do you think I've been
 here.

KATE SHERIDAN
 (growing more nervous)
 Three days. Your flight came in on
 Sunday night, and...
 (notices something behind
 her)
 Whose van is that?

ANNA SHERIDAN
 (forcing her point)
 You know exactly whose it is. Kate -
 - I didn't fly here, I drove. I
 told you I was going to drive when
 we planned this.

KATE SHERIDAN
 (trying to rationalize)
 You... You said you were probably
 going to drive -- you hadn't made
 up your mind yet...

ANNA SHERIDAN
 I drove. I'm here. I only just got
 here.

KATE SHERIDAN
 Then who...
 (suddenly connecting the
 dots, realizing)
 Oh god.

ANNA SHERIDAN
 (nodding)
 The Echo. West Virginia. *This* is
 why I had to stop it there. I knew
 something like this would happen if
 I didn't.

KATE SHERIDAN
 (losing it a little)
 Oh god oh god oh god... If you're
 messing with me, it really isn't
 funny...

ANNA SHERIDAN
 I'm not. Where is the... The other
 me right now?

KATE SHERIDAN
(edge of panic)
At the store. We were wrapping
presents and she went to get some
more eggnog.

ANNA SHERIDAN
(trying to formulate a
plan)
Alone?

KATE SHERIDAN
No, she took... Oh god.

ANNA SHERIDAN
Who?

KATE SHERIDAN
(utter despair)
She took Andrew with her.

There's a long, terrified moment of silence before.

ANNA SHERIDAN
(swinging into action
mode)
Get in the van.

KATE SHERIDAN
(frazzled)
What? She's coming back here, we
can just wait...

ANNA SHERIDAN
I'm not taking any chances with my
nephew, Kate. And I'm not dragging
mom into this. We need to handle
this, now.

KATE SHERIDAN
Is... Is Andrew in danger?

ANNA SHERIDAN
More than you know.

KATE SHERIDAN
And do you still have... You know,
that, um...

ANNA SHERIDAN
Yes. I wish I didn't, but I do.

KATE SHERIDAN
 (making up her mind,
 determined)
 Good. Let's go.

ANNA SHERIDAN
 (taken aback slightly)
 Wait, really?

KATE SHERIDAN
 (angry, determined)
 This thing has my son, Anna. Don't
 give it an inch.

The two march towards the car, and...

CLICK

A few minutes later, inside a chaotic supermarket. A general
 hubbub and cacophony of voices, carts, and scanners.

KATE SHERIDAN
 (whispering to anna)
 How are we supposed to find her in
 here?

ANNA SHERIDAN
 I've got my scanner. If we can't
 just find her, then we'll...

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER) (CONT'D)
 (calling from the next
 aisle)
Kate? Kate, is that you?

ANNA SHERIDAN (CONT'D)
 Oh shit -- hold this.

Anna forces the recorder into Kate's hands.

KATE SHERIDAN
 (calling after her, loud
 stage whisper)
 Wait, what am I supposed to do with
 this? Anna? Anna?

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)
 (thinking she's calling to
 her)
Right here Kate! What are you...
 (sees the look on her
 face)
 (MORE)

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER) (CONT'D)

*Jeez, are you okay? You look like
you've just seen a ghost.*

"Anna" CHUCKLES AT HER JOKE, and KATE FORCES HERSELF TO LAUGH
AS WELL -- uncomfortable and nervous.

KATE SHERIDAN

(forced cheeriness)

*I'm... I'm fine, I just realized I,
um, I forgot to tell you that we
needed eggs as well.*

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)

(pointing at the cart)

No you didn't. See: Eggs.

KATE SHERIDAN

Oh. Right. Guess I just -- forgot.

(awkward beat)

How's Andrew?

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)

(creepily cheerful)

*Oh just -- the sweetest little
angel!*

(baby-talk)

*Who's Auntie Anna's baby boy? Who
is it? Who is it?*

A toddler, just barely old enough to walk and not yet
speaking, BURBLES HAPPILY, then LAUGHS. "Anna" LAUGHS AS
WELL. There's a tinny, unnatural quality to it on the tape.

KATE SHERIDAN

(nervous, about to break)

*Well I'm -- Glad you two are having
fun.*

(beat)

*I guess I'd... Better get going
then...*

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)

(suddenly concerned)

*Hold on... How did you get here? I
took the car.*

KATE SHERIDAN

(thinking up a lie)

I, um, drove mom's!

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)

(not buying it)

*Really? I thought she didn't let
anyone touch that thing.*

KATE SHERIDAN
 (sweating bullets)
 Well, you know, normally not, but,
 uh, she really wanted to make sure
 we got everything... You know it's
 going to be crazy in here the rest
 of the week, and...

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)
 (backtracking from her
 accusation)
*Okay, okay, got it. Jesus Kate,
 you've got to chill out a bit. Go
 ahead: I'll finish up in here.*

KATE SHERIDAN
 (relieved)
 Oh good. I'll just...
 (reconsidering, trying to
 play it off as
 nonchalant)
 Mind if I take Andrew home with me?

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)
 (suspicious again)
Why?

KATE SHERIDAN
 (pushing)
 Well, I think it's getting to be
 past his nap-time, and he doesn't
 really like crowds, so...

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)
 (realizing she knows)
*What are you talking about? You
 took him to Disneyland last month.*

KATE SHERIDAN
 (realizing she's caught)
 I... Uh...

At that exact moment, a loud and obnoxious fire alarm goes
 off. Annoyed groans go up around the store.

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)
 (annoyed)
Oh come on... Hey!

Kate grabs the cart and runs with it towards the door,
 PANTING SLIGHTLY.

CASHIER
 (calling after her)
 Ma'am? Ma'am, you need to leave
 your shopping here while...

KATE SHERIDAN
 Here! Take it!

Kate shoves the cart in their direction, pulling Andrew out of the baby seat. HE STARTS CRYING.

KATE SHERIDAN (CONT'D)
 (trying to calm him)
 Shhh shhh shhh shhhh...

ANNA SHERIDAN (OTHER)
 (from somewhere in the crowd)
Hey! Stop her!

Kate keeps running, cradling Andrew. She gets through the automatic doors and out into the parking lot, where distant fire trucks can already be heard.

KATE SHERIDAN
 (PANTING SLIGHTLY,
 terrified)
 Where's the van... Where did Anna
 park the... There!

Kate starts running, and someone's brakes squeal behind her.

KATE SHERIDAN (CONT'D)
 (flustered)
 Sorry! Sorry!

She makes it the rest of the way to the van, then grabs the handle, but it's locked.

KATE SHERIDAN (CONT'D)
 No no no, not now, not now...

ANNA SHERIDAN
 (from behind her)
 Kate...

KATE SHERIDAN
 Ah!

Kate spins around to face Anna.

ANNA SHERIDAN
 Careful with Andrew, Kate! Did you
 get out safe? Did it follow you?

KATE SHERIDAN
(in shock)
Stay away from me!

ANNA SHERIDAN
(a little desperate)
Kate! It's me!

KATE SHERIDAN
(turning to anger)
No, you're not. I know what you
are, and you're not going to fool
me again!

ANNA SHERIDAN
Kate...

KATE SHERIDAN
No! You are *not* my sister!

Anna doesn't reply, but SIGHS HEAVILY, pulls out her key-fob,
and unlocks the van.

ANNA SHERIDAN
(sarcastic)
Remind me -- Did I bring my van, or
was that the Echo? I can't quite
keep it straight.

KATE SHERIDAN
(suddenly embarrassed)
Oh god Anna, I'm so sorry. It... It
was right behind me when I got out,
and I just thought...

ANNA SHERIDAN
(dismissive)
It's fine, no hurt feelings. Is
Andrew okay?

KATE SHERIDAN
What? Oh, yeah, he's fine... A
little scared, but he's okay.
She... What are you doing?

Anna has pulled out her scanner and switched it on.

ANNA SHERIDAN
Just checking to make sure...
(beat, SIGH OF RELIEF)
No. It's him.

KATE SHERIDAN
(confused)
Who else would it be?

ANNA SHERIDAN
(hesitant, but wanting to
tell her the truth)
I'm not really sure, but... That
thing pretending to be me -- the
Echo -- it can imitate more than
one voice at a time. And... Well,
I'm not really sure, but I'd bet
that it can imitate more than one
person at a time too.

KATE SHERIDAN
(horrified)
You don't think it was...

ANNA SHERIDAN
(uncertain)
I don't know -- but why else would
it want to spend so much time alone
with Andrew, if that's not what it
was doing?

KATE SHERIDAN
(in shock)
Oh god.

ANNA SHERIDAN
Are you okay?

KATE SHERIDAN
(falling apart at the
seams)
No. I think I'm going to throw up.

ANNA SHERIDAN
(urgently)
Do you need me to hold Andrew?

KATE SHERIDAN
(refusing to let go of him
after that scare)
What? No, I...
(wretches slightly)
Actually, yes, please...

CLACK

The recording ends. Sam sits back in his chair.

SAM BAILEY
(stunned)
Shit.

MARIA SOL
(slightly sarcastic)
Yeah.

SAM BAILEY
(realizing what she's
saying)
So you think that the person we
found in that halfway house -- that
it's not Anna, but... Some kind of
copy of her. Something pretending
to be her.

MARIA SOL
Not just pretending. For all
intents and purposes, it is her: it
looks like her, it sounds like her,
and after all this time following
her around and learning about her,
it probably thinks like her too.
But trust me, it isn't.

SAM BAILEY
(hesitant)
Look... Even if I believed that
this "Echo" exists... What am I
supposed to do about this?

MARIA SOL
(as if it's obvious)
You? Nothing. You're not even
supposed to know about this.

SAM BAILEY
(incredulous)
I... Sorry -- what?

MARIA SOL
(exasperated)
I didn't come to you for help,
detective... I didn't come to you
at all. I'm here to figure out what
it's doing and how to stop it. I
don't need your help, and I
certainly didn't show up expecting
it.

There's a moment of tense silence.

SAM BAILEY

(nervous)

Miss Sol... What *exactly* are you planning to do here?

MARIA SOL

I don't know yet. Whatever I have to.

SAM BAILEY

(trying to talk her back)

And what if you're wrong?

MARIA SOL

(as if she's been
insulted)

Excuse me?

SAM BAILEY

(trying to walk her
through this)

What if -- just hypothetically -- it isn't the Echo. What if it is actually Anna, and she's really just trying to get sober. What happens if you do something... *drastic*, and it turns out it was actually her all along?

MARIA SOL

(with conviction)

It isn't.

SAM BAILEY

(carefully)

I'm just working with hypotheticals here. Say that it is Anna, but you don't realize that until you've already put a gun in her face and pulled the trigger.

MARIA SOL

I wouldn't...

SAM BAILEY

I'm not saying you would, but Anna definitely seemed to think that was the way to deal with this thing. What if you only figure out then? What happens to you? What happens to me, for that matter?

MARIA SOL
(confused)
You?

SAM BAILEY
You told me you were going after
her, going to do whatever it takes
to stop her, and I did nothing
about it. In that case, you've
pretty much made me an accomplice
to murder. What's your plan to get
out of that?

MARIA SOL
(taken aback, lost in
thought)
I... I don't have one. Maybe...

SAM BAILEY
(dead serious)
Maybe nothing. We both go to prison
for a very long time, and your...
Partner is dead by your hand.

MARIA SOL
(disgusted that he'd stoop
to that)
Jesus, detective...

SAM BAILEY
(a little ashamed)
Sorry, that was... I'm sorry.
(beat)
But my point still stands: this can
spiral out of control real quickly
if either one of us goes in guns
blazing.

MARIA SOL
(exasperated)
So what do you suggest we do?

SAM BAILEY
Exactly what Anna told us to.

He pulls a sheet of paper from inside his desk.

SAM BAILEY (CONT'D)
(reading)
"Listen." Together.

MARIA SOL
What is this?
(reading)
(MORE)

MARIA SOL (CONT'D)

"The last will and testament of Anna Sheridan, concerning the future?" Where did you get this?

SAM BAILEY

They found it in the glove box of her van when they brought it to impound. It was the only piece of evidence besides the van itself and the tapes.

MARIA SOL

Which still make no sense.

SAM BAILEY

(nodding)

Which still make no sense. But since I do have them, here's what I propose: we stop arguing, we sit down, and we keep listening until we find some way to prove whether this Anna's the real McCoy or not. You know Anna, you know -- the things she dealt with. And I know how to build a case. We do this carefully, methodically, and, if we figure out she isn't who she says she is, we arrest her. Deal?

A too-long pause, and then...

MARIA SOL

Deal.

BEEP. The recording ends.

ROLL END THEME
AND CREDITS