

TEST.ED PILOT

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**Logline:** An ousted CEO takes over Chicago Schools, but her job is at risk when a detective names her daughter an accomplice in a school shooting.

TEASER

EXT. DOWNTOWN CHICAGO - TECH CENTER - DAY

A small crowd gathers at the steps of a historic building in downtown Chicago.

At the top of the stairs, flanked by a half-dozen district bureaucrats, is ANGELICA LI (early 40s) a sleek, well-kept CEO turned superintendent who makes everyone around her look slightly less capable.

Angelica addresses the crowd - undeterred by the distant group of protestors behind a nearby police barricade.

Several signs can be seen from a distance, including "Profit Margins Don't Teach" and "My Kid is Not a Number."

ANGELICA

Two years ago, I never could have  
imagined this moment.

EXT. CHICAGO - WHITMAN COLLEGIATE PREP HIGH SCHOOL - SAME

A school bell RINGS. Class is dismissed, and yet the campus of this elite prep school remains eerily still.

There is no rush of students outside. Instead, SIRENS echo in the distance.

INTERCUT: SCHOOL/ANGELICA

Angelica clutches the podium as she looks out onto the crowd.

ANGELICA

Standing here, in downtown  
Chicago...

The school parking lot fills with police cars. Uniformed officers secure caution tape around the perimeter of the school grounds.

ANGELICA (V.O.)

...celebrating the launch of three  
state-of-the-art transformative  
high schools.

The SWAT team prepares to breach the building.

INT. LI HOME - DAY

We move through an extravagant family home, well-decorated but not well-lived in. The stairs are lined with FAMILY PHOTOS of Angelica with her husband and daughter.

ANGELICA (V.O.)

To be fair, I didn't anticipate leaving Silicon Valley...or my Fortune 500 company...or my penthouse overlooking the Bay Bridge.

INT. LI BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Small, BLOODSTAINED hands shake as they reach for the faucet. Water BURSTS through the shower head and slams against a fully-clothed teen girl.

Angelica's daughter, SOPHIE ZORKO (15), is covered in BLOOD. She's dressed in a classic school uniform: pleated skirt, white blouse, navy vest with a white and silver CREST sewn over the heart.

The water soaks into her school uniform and runs red down her skin until it pools over the drain and the stark white tile.

ANGELICA (V.O.)

Still, you know what they say. Life is what happens to us, while we're busy making other plans.

INTERCUT: SCHOOL/ANGELICA

Footsteps THUNDER against the tile as the SWAT team storms the building. The halls are deserted. Everyone is hiding. As the SWAT team passes, we see a wall of plaques and awards. In the center is a large SCHOOL CREST with a SILVER GRIFFIN and the Latin phrase "Sapere Aude" or "Dare to Know." It is the same crest we saw on Sophie's uniform.

ANGELICA (V.O.)

I'm grateful my plans were disrupted. Because as the Chancellor of the Chicago Unified School District, I have had the pleasure of meeting the most remarkable students.

Angelica's assistant, EVAN, (mid-20s) - a preppy, ivy-league social justice warrior - moves to the podium with a panicked look in his eyes. Angelica fails to notice him.

ANGELICA

And trust me when I tell you, these  
kids are going to change the world.

Evan grabs Angelica's shoulder and nudges her away from the podium. He hands her a PHONE. We watch as Angelica steps away, raises the phone to her ear and learns of the shooting. The phone slips through her fingers and SHATTERS as we...

SLAM TO BLACK

INT. LI BATHROOM - NIGHT

Angelica stands in the bathroom and stares at the empty shower. A voice calls to her from the hallway.

SOPHIE (O.S.)

Mom?

Angelica turns and follows the sound of her daughter's voice.

ANGELICA

Sophie?

Angelica stops in front of Sophie's bedroom door. She turns the knob. As the door CREAKS open, we hear STATIC, as if someone has turned on a TV. Angelica glances to the flat screen mounted on the wall which is off.

ANGELICA (CONT'D)

Soph? Where are you?

SOPHIE (O.S.)

Mom?

Angelica returns to the hallway. The static grows louder with each beat until she stops in front of another door. This time when she opens it we are bombarded with bursts of FLASHING lights; the CLICK, CLICK, CLICK of camera shutters; and reporters yelling her name.

REPORTER 1

Angelica, is it true your daughter  
was dating the gunman?

REPORTER 2

Where is your daughter now?

REPORTER 3

Do you blame yourself for the  
shooting?

REPORTER 4

How long did Sophie know what  
Jamison Dewitt was planning?

REPORTER 1

Will you resign from your position  
as chancellor?

Angelica staggers backwards and spins around. Desperate to escape, she SLAMS into Sophie. Only not really. Sophie's hair is matted with BLOOD. Her skin is deathly pale. There's a large gaping WOUND at her shoulder.

ANGELICA

Sophie? What happ-

Angelica stares at her daughter in disbelief, trying to process what she is seeing.

Sophie raises a GUN, points it at her mother and - BANG. She shoots.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Angelica JERKS AWAKE and nearly falls out of her chair. As she reorients herself she knocks over an untouched dinner tray which CLATTERS on the ground.

SUPER: "36 hours Later".

A NURSE hears the commotion and rushes to help.

ANGELICA

I've got it. It's okay. I've...

NURSE

Not a problem, Ms. Li. Let me help.

ANGELICA

It's my mess. I can clean it. I  
just - I was waiting for an update.  
I must have fallen asleep...

NURSE

It's okay.

The nurse lifts the cart to a standing position.

Angelica beats the Nurse to the dinner tray, setting it on the cart with a thud. It's then that she spots the TV in the corner. CNN is on but muted. The time reads 4:30 AM Central.

Footage of the school shooting is followed by a skanky Facebook photo of Sophie and a dated corporate headshot of Angelica. With her wild hair, and wrinkled workout gear Angelica barely resembles the woman on the screen.

NURSE (CONT'D)

Here, hun.

The nurse reaches for the remote and clicks off the TV.

ANGELICA

I'm fine. It's fine. I'm fine.

It's clear Angelica is anything but fine.

NURSE

You should get some sleep.

ANGELICA

I tried that. It didn't work out so well.

NURSE

Go home. Shower. Eat something that doesn't come from St. Mary's Michelin star cafeteria.

For the first time, we get a good look at the person lying in the hospital bed and realize it's not who we expect. Angelica's husband, WILLIAM ZORKO (late 40s), normally handsome and fit, is hooked to several machines and shows little sign of life.

ANGELICA

I can't leave him.

NURSE

He's not going to wake up tonight. Trust me. Not with the drugs we're giving him. Go home. Get some rest. This place will make you crazy.

The nurse makes one last swipe at the floor with a rag and then wheels the cart out of the room.

Angelica grabs the TV remote. She points it at the television, hesitates, then tosses it aside before collapsing back in the chair.

She stares at her husband for a moment before reaching for her cell phone. She scrolls through her contacts and we see faces of friends and loved ones. "Will" her husband. "Sophie" Her daughter. "Evan" her assistant.

She swipes faster and stops on a contact listed "DO NOT CALL"  
There is no photo, instead there is only a biohazard icon.  
She dials.

The phone doesn't ring. Instead it goes to a disconnected  
message.

VOICE MAIL (V.O.)

We're sorry, the number you are  
trying to reach is disconnected.  
Please try again later.

Angelica waits a moment. Then there is another tone.

MALE VOICE (V.O.)

If you know who this is leave a  
message.

ANGELICA

Donovan. It's me. I need to see  
you.

END TEASER