



IT'S
SOMEBODY
YOU KNOW

IT'S SOMEBODY YOU KNOW

Genre: Thriller / Mystery

Format: TV Movie

Setting: Present-day Atlanta

Tone: Suspenseful, emotional, sharp

Lead: Female Protagonist – Complex, Relatable, Relentless

Comparable Titles: *Gone Girl* x *Big Little Lies* x *A Stranger in My House*

LOGLINE

When a beloved Atlanta school counselor is found murdered in her home, a determined single mother and former cop must protect her daughter and her own secrets, when all signs point to the killer being someone within their tight-knit community.

Because the most dangerous person in your life... might be somebody you know.

CONCEPT OVERVIEW

It's Somebody You Know is a pulse-pounding mystery-thriller that unfolds in one of Atlanta's historic neighborhoods, where front porches hide dark truths and smiling neighbors aren't always what they seem.

At the center is **Renee Bishop**, a widowed ex-detective turned real estate agent, whose instincts are reawakened when her daughter's best friend's mother is murdered. The investigation quickly becomes personal when Renee starts seeing disturbing parallels between this case and the unsolved death of her husband.

The closer Renee gets to the truth, the more danger she and her daughter are in. Secrets start unraveling. Trust starts breaking. And Renee begins to suspect that the killer isn't a stranger at all... but someone woven deeply into their everyday lives.

This is a story of female resilience, maternal instinct, and the terrifying realization that safety is sometimes a beautifully constructed illusion.

WHY THIS MOVIE?

- **Fresh Female Lead:** A smart, layered, emotionally grounded Black woman who carries the film with grit and grace.
 - **Atlanta-Centric:** Uses the rich textures of modern-day Atlanta, not just as a backdrop, but as a character. Think tree-lined streets, gentrifying neighborhoods, community politics, Southern charm with sharp edges.
 - **Relevant Themes:** Trust, domestic violence, grief, motherhood, and the double lives we all lead on social media and behind closed doors.
 - **Universal Hook:** We all think we know the people in our lives. This movie challenges that belief and weaponizes it.
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KEY CHARACTERS

Renee Bishop (40s): A former homicide detective now selling homes and raising a teenage daughter. Tough but compassionate, she's a protector by nature but can't protect everyone from the truth.

Maya Bishop (16): Renee's daughter, bright and opinionated, whose friendships and digital life hold more danger than she realizes.

Jordan Cook (40s): The victim. A well-liked counselor whose own secrets may have led to her murder.

Detective Marcus Shaw (50s): Renee's former partner. Protective but increasingly suspicious, of Renee.

Cassandra "Cass" Hill (40s): PTA mom, community organizer, and maybe more manipulative than anyone knows.

STRUCTURE & STYLE

- **Act I:** A murder rocks the neighborhood. Renee comforts her daughter, then gets pulled back into the investigation unofficially.
- **Act II:** Clues mount. Paranoia grows. Renee juggles a tense relationship with local police, buried trauma from her husband's death, and secrets in Maya's friend group.
- **Act III:** The twist drops: The killer isn't a stranger. The threat is painfully close. Renee must outsmart someone who knows her better than anyone.
- **Finale:** A life-or-death confrontation at a community event exposes everything and leaves Renee changed forever.

Visual style is crisp and modern with grounded lighting, Southern gothic undertones, and emotional close-ups. Think *Sharp Objects* meets *Only Murders in the Building* but with a gritty, maternal urgency.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Women 25–54
 - Fans of Lifetime thrillers, *Big Little Lies*, *You*, and *The Undoing*
 - Viewers who love a good “twist you didn't see coming” ending
 - Atlanta-based productions with regional pride and national appeal
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CREATIVE TEAM VISION

This is a **female-driven thriller** that's both character-rich and high-stakes. The story centers

Black women's experiences without leaning on trauma tropes, instead showcasing strength, intuition, and vulnerability in equal measure.

The movie thrives in tension and misdirection, every character has something to hide, and every scene pushes the question: *Do you ever really know anyone?*

RENEE BISHOP (40s)

Former detective. Strong, intuitive, emotionally layered. A mother and protector at her core.

Casting Suggestions:

- **Regina Hall** – Brings both warmth and edge, perfect for a layered lead.
 - **Nicole Beharie** – Grounded, soulful, with a quiet strength that explodes when needed.
 - **Sanaa Lathan** – Elegant and emotionally fierce, with strong thriller presence (*The Perfect Guy*).
 - **Gabrielle Union** – Can balance vulnerability and strength, known for maternal roles and thrillers.
 - **Nia Long** – Brings grace, emotional depth, and long-standing audience trust.
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MAYA BISHOP (16)

Renee's daughter. Smart, opinionated, and quietly rebellious. Unknowingly close to danger.

Casting Suggestions:

- **Lidya Jewett** (*Nightbooks, Hidden Figures*) – Can balance innocence with growing independence.
- **Saniyya Sidney** (*King Richard*) – Exceptional emotional range, naturalistic and expressive.

- **Demi Singleton** (*King Richard, Godfather of Harlem*) – Brings maturity beyond her years.
 - **Navia Robinson** (*Raven's Home, Genius: MLK/X*) – Confident, Atlanta-native energy.
 - **Marsai Martin** (*Black-ish*) – Smart, sassy, and grounded when needed.
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DETECTIVE MARCUS SHAW (50s)

Renee's former partner. Loyal but increasingly suspicious. Protective of her... or hiding something?

Casting Suggestions:

- **Wendell Pierce** – Brings gravitas and emotional tension to every scene (*The Wire*).
 - **Courtney B. Vance** – A master at subtle conflict and internalized pressure.
 - **Mykelti Williamson** – Intense, layered, and commands presence.
 - **Glynn Turman** – Adds weight, wisdom, and Southern flair.
 - **Isaiah Washington** – Can play both protector and potential threat.
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CASSANDRA "CASS" HILL (40s)

PTA mom, charming and helpful... but calculating. Thinks she's the smartest woman in the room.

Casting Suggestions:

- **Kerry Washington** – Sophisticated and cunning, perfect for misdirection.

- **Aunjanue Ellis-Taylor** – Brilliant at masking emotional volatility under composure.
 - **Tasha Smith** – Bold, expressive, and capable of scene-stealing manipulation.
 - **Jurnee Smollett** – Can tap into polished surface with simmering fire beneath.
 - **Tika Sumpter** – Stylish, confident, and excellent at complex female friendships turned rivalry.
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JORDAN COOK (40s)

The victim. A beloved counselor whose double life unravels posthumously. Her secrets echo through the story.

Casting Suggestions:

- **Taraji P. Henson** – Even in flashbacks, would carry weight and emotional resonance.
- **Yaya DaCosta** – Has a serene surface but can hint at layers underneath.
- **Essence Atkins** – Warm and likable with a quiet emotional depth.
- **Garcelle Beauvais** – Glamorous but mysterious, great for someone whose death shakes the community.
- **Melinda Williams** – Evokes sympathy and curiosity.

IT'S SOMEBODY YOU KNOW synopsis

Thriller | 1hr 30min | Set in Atlanta

When a beloved school counselor is brutally murdered in her upscale Atlanta neighborhood, shockwaves ripple through the close-knit community. But for **Renee Bishop**, a former detective turned real estate agent, the tragedy strikes too close to home. The victim was her daughter's best friend's mother and the police are getting it all wrong.

Haunted by the unsolved murder of her own husband years earlier, Renee quietly begins her own investigation. What she uncovers is a web of secrets, lies, and betrayals, one that stretches across PTA meetings, church brunches, and neighborhood watch groups. The deeper she digs, the more she realizes: the killer isn't a stranger. It's someone they all know.

With her daughter's safety on the line, Renee must confront her past, navigate rising paranoia, and outsmart a murderer hiding in plain sight, before the truth costs her everything.

