

T H E M E N T A L I S T P R I M E R

THE TEAM

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Background on the team.



The Mentalist—Theresa Lisbon

Theresa Lisbon is the head of her CBI team. Her age isn't given, but I'm assuming she's in her mid-thirties. We know very little about the team's personal lives and Lisbon's is no exception. One thing we do know, (from *Red Tide*) is that her mother was killed in a car crash and her father couldn't handle it. "*He killed himself. Damn near killed me and my brothers, too.*" I'm not sure if that's literal or figurative, but it does show that she had to learn to be self-reliant at an early age.

From the beginning we see that she's tough, good at her job and fair-minded. She listens well and has a very good relationship with her subordinates (even though they're all intimidated by her). She's also able to stand toe-to-toe with other law officials and suspects—more than a few times we see her firmly reminding them who's in charge (they generally all back down).



The Mentalist—Theresa Lisbon

Her relationship with Jane is at once giving and contentious. She allows him a lot of latitude while keeping him in line. One of my favorite scenes between them is during *Flame Red*, when they're discussing what to do about a suspect:

Jane: "...He deserves to suffer a little."

Lisbon: "Nobody deserves murder."

Jane: "Machado helped burn Dave Martin alive, out of greed."

Lisbon: "Jane. We're officers of the law."

Jane: "You are. I don't care about the law. I care about justice. And justice says Machado deserves to suffer."

Lisbon: "That's not justice, it's vengeance."

Jane: "What's the difference?"

Cho: Interrupts them. "What do you want us to do with Machado, boss?"



The Mentalist—Theresa Lisbon

Lisbon: Looks over at Jane, challenging him.”Let him go.”

Cho: Glances at Jane.”Really? Like let him go, let him go.”

Lisbon: “Really. Like that.”

Cho: Looks back and forth between Lisbon and Jane.”Okay.” He leaves.

Jane: “Trying some reverse psychology?”

Lisbon: “You talk tough. Maybe it's time you learn there's consequences. If Machado gets hurt, it's on you.”

Jane: “Fine with me.” Starts to leave, then comes back.”We've never discussed this. Because I thought it went without saying that when I catch Red John, I'm gonna cut him open and watch him die slowly. Like he did with my wife and child. Now, if you have a problem with that, we should talk.”



The Mentalist—Theresa Lisbon

Lisbon: “Then let's talk. Because when we catch Red John, we are going to take him into custody and he's going to be tried in a court of law.”

Jane: Smiles again. “Not if I'm still breathing.”

Lisbon: Slowly, and very succinct. “If you try to do violence to him, I will try to stop you. If you succeed in doing violence to him, I will arrest you.”

Jane: “I understand.”

Lisbon: “I hope so.”

Jane: “Well, I'm glad we talked. I had no idea you were so bourgeois and conventional on the issue.”

They bare their teeth at each other and Jane leaves.



The Mentalist—Wayne Rigsby

Like the other members of the CBI team, we don't know much about Rigsby. He seems to be third in line in seniority (Lisbon, Cho, and then Rigsby) and is probably late twenties or early thirties.

The only specific thing we do know about him is that he had some childhood trauma that he won't talk about. He's in love with Van Pelt and spends the first season trying to get up the courage to ask her out.

Some of his best scenes, however, are with Cho. They do a lot of stakeouts together and have a lot of funny back and forths.



The Mentalist—Grace Van Pelt

Grace Van Pelt is the newest member of the team (she meets Jane for the first time in the pilot). Her age is unknown—maybe late twenties?

We've learned that she knows a lot about football (from her father) and cars. She believes the best in people, a trait which often clashes with Jane's cynicism. She also believes in the supernatural (she says her aunt has the 'gift') and is uncomfortable messing around with things like seances.

She's in love with Rigsby, but is, I think, trying not to be (probably only because of the rule against relationships between co-workers).



The Mentalist

The Couch. Just because it makes a lot of appearances.