

People to Kill (Season 1, Episode 1)

By

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EXT. DINER - DAY

Approaching a vintage looking diner.

INT. DINER - DAY

SCOTT is sitting in the diner eating a sandwich and fries. A WAITRESS walks by.

SCOTT
You have ketchup?

WAITRESS
Sure.

The waitress comes back with a bottle of ketchup and slams it down on the table. Scott looks up a little disturbed by the service as the waitress walks off. He adds to his order...

SCOTT
And another coke.

Scott continues eating. There's an old radio in the corner. The RADIO ANNOUNCER mentions a news item.

RADIO ANNOUNCER
In the east end of Chicago last night you may have heard an explosion near Stetson and South Water. Officials say a car bomb was detonated causing one fatality. Miles Herlock who was an Avondale Construction employee appeared to be the target in the bombing and was pronounced dead on site. Investigators have not commented on potential suspects and would not speculate whether the bombing was related to organized crime.

The waitress comes back with a tall glass of coke. She attempts to slam it down like she did with the ketchup, but Scott grabs it clenching her hand and the glass and a little coke spills on the table. The waitress scowls at him and tears her hand away and walks off. Scott takes some napkins and cleans up the mess.

Scott looks up and notices another guy (Dylan) holding a newspaper in his hands, looking at him from another table. The guy looks down at his newspaper and continues reading.

EXT. CITY STREETS - DAY

Scott is coming around a corner as he folds up a newspaper and stuffs it in under his arm. He reaches in his pocket and pulls out a pack of cigarettes and a lighter. He stops for a moment to try and light his cigarette, but the wind is making it difficult. That same guy from the restaurant comes up to him out of nowhere.

DYLAN

Need a lite?

SCOTT

Are you following me?

DYLAN

We just want to have a word.

SCOTT

We?

Just then another guy comes up from behind with a taser gun and zaps him. Scott instantly loses consciousness, drops to his knees as the a couple of guys catch his fall. A van pulls up and the door slides open. They drag him into the van. Everyone jumps into the van and they drive off.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Scott is tied to a chair in a warehouse. Two thugs are standing guard over him and Dylan is dragging a chair over to where Scott is. Scott's beginning to wake up. Dylan spins the chair around and positions it in front of Scott and sits down.

DYLAN

Good. You're awake.

Dylan hands a tin of Ammonium Carbonate (smelling salts) to one of the thugs to take it away. The thug takes it.

DYLAN

Where were you last night?

SCOTT

I want to talk to my lawyer.

DYLAN

That's not going to do you any good. We're not cops. (beat) You don't have to tell me what you were up to last night. I already know.

(MORE)

DYLAN (cont'd)
You've been a person of interest to
this organization since you were
discharged.

SCOTT
You're military.

DYLAN
Some of us are, yes. But we're not
a military organization. I'd like
to un-tie you and we could talk
about it. I'm sorry my colleague
here tasered you, it might not have
been necessary, but we've seen what
you're capable of and some of us
got a little over anxious.

Dylan looks in disapproval at the thug that tasered Scott.

DYLAN
If I un-tie you can we have a
conversation?

Scott nods Yes. Dylan motions to the thugs to un-tie him. Scott is tied with zip ties, so they use wire-cutters to cut the ties. First his feet then, his hands. The moment one of the ties is cut from his hands Scotts fist comes up and clocks the thug who tasered him knocking him on his ass. Dylan and the other thug back up. The thug left standing cocks his gun and points it at Scott. Dylan motions for the thug to stand down.

DYLAN
Put it away. (beat) He deserved
that. Now we can talk.

SCOTT
Ya.

The thug lowers his weapon and Dylan moves over to a desk and pulls up a chair for Scott to sit. Scott makes his way over to the desk and sits down.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

Scott and Dylan are in the warehouse at a desk. Dylan opens a folder and begins to scan through it.

DYLAN
It doesn't say it here, but I know
you were part of the Sandbar
(MORE)

DYLAN (cont'd)
operation in Kuwait. I only know
this because I was there, second
battalion. You were first right?

SCOTT
Ya.

DYLAN
Let me cut to the chase. You have
something we need on this team.
Your background and specialized
skill in electronics and munitions
is something we can make use of.
The only question that matters, is
motivation.

So far we understand very little in
that regard. Which is why we're
here now.

SCOTT
I'm done with the military.

DYLAN
And so are we.

SCOTT
Sounds like a military operation to
me.

DYLAN
You'd be right if you weren't
wrong. A military background helps
and it hurts. Being done with the
military is what it takes to be on
this team. That's step one. Step
two goes a little further into your
modivation.

SCOTT
I think your wasting your time. I'm
not interested in being on any
team.

DYLAN
What modivated you to end Miles
Herlocks life?

Scott shifts around in his seat, refusing to answer.

DYLAN

I'm not judging. In a nut shell.
It's what we do. I just have to
know the reason. What's at the core
of this behavior?

SCOTT

If I was to kill someone like Miles
Herlock, he would deserve it.

DYLAN

For what reason? (beat) Let me
spell it out and you just have to
nod in agreement or don't. At the
core of what we do, we hold a
common belief that there is a
pathological nature to some peoples
distruction. They destroy lives
whether it's directly or
indirectly. But the key here is
that pathological nature. It's
habitually present in these
people's actions and they have a
sickness that spawns greed, slavery
and injustice.

There are interested parties that
will no longer sit idle and quiet
to watch the destruction of this
country. Police, the legal system,
have been unable to address this
problem effectively. In fact the
system often protects these
scumbags and allows them to slowly
erode the fabric of our country and
take away our civil liberties one
by one. Our answer? Elimination.
There is a duality that is needed
here. One, necessary to govern this
country moving forward in a free
and righteous way. And a darker
side. Right now, we have a mess to
clean up. (beat) Do you agree?

SCOTT

Hell ya.

EXT. ROAD / GARAGE - DAY

Two sport type motorcycles are driving down the road. They approach a mechanics garage and they pull in. As they arrive a heavy set greasy looking boss man, ARNIE strolls out as the guys park their bikes. The bikers approach Arnie and one of them hands Arnie a bag full of cash.

ARNIE
How much is here?

BIKER ONE
About two thousand give or take.

ARNIE
That's less than half.

BIKER ONE
That was everything.

ARNIE
Okay. Go back tomorrow and collect again.

BIKER ONE
Yes boss.

ARNIE
Did you send a message?

BIKER ONE
We did. He got it loud and clear.

INT. GARAGE - DAY

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

In a mechanics shop. A man lies on the floor with the crap beaten out of him. Bloody face and bruises.

EXT. GARAGE - DAY

END FLASHBACK.

ARNIE
(Under his breath) Blood from
a stone eh?

Arnie walks back into his office at the back of the garage. The bikers get back on their bikes.

MALE VOICE (O.C.)
Arnie, you have a phone call.

ARNIE
I'm comin.

EXT. HOUSE - NIGHT

Outside of Scotts house his light is on in his livingroom window. A man walks up to his door and slides an envelope under the door.

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

An envelope slides under the door into the foyer of Scotts house. Scott notices the envelope. He gets up, walks over to it and picks it up. He opens the door and looks outside, but no one is there. He takes the envelop over to a desk and sits down. He opens it up and dumps the contents which appear to be some papers, a photo and a book of matches. He starts to read.

DYLAN (V.O.)
The mark is Arnold Kruickshank.
Otherwise known as Arnie Knuckles.
At first glance he appears to be a small time thug. Further investigation has exposed him as a key component of a corruption that spreads across 143 local businesses and 17 police officers, so far. With him in place it makes it possible for what we call the triangle of corruption to exist. Traditionally justice organizations tackle this top down or bottom up. Top down is trying to cut the head of the organization off. Bottom up is to persecute the little guy into submission cutting of the market so that the organization has to find other markets. The problem with both of these approaches is, they don't work. Our strategy is different. We hit em in the middle. The scumbags that do the doing. The third point on the triangle. Every big organization knows that you have to collect as many capable heads as you can get your hands on to execute the vision of

(MORE)

DYLAN (V.O.) (cont'd)
leadership. Even in the legit world
it takes a special kind of
individual that can take a
whimsical dreams of a leader and
conform them into a plan of attack
and execution. The task jockeys
that carry them out are no more
valuable than the next. So it's the
man in the middle that we're after.
For this assignment, Arnie Knuckles
is our man in the middle. The
enclosed paperwork breaks it down
for you and will give you enough
info to plan the execution. How you
do it is up to you. Interested
parties would like it to be
completed by months end.

Scott looks up at a calendar and all the days of the month
are crossed off except the last 4.

DYLAN (V.O.)
The matches should be self
explanatory. Good luck. Signed D.

Scott continues to read through the paperwork. Some time
passes as he studies the contents, especially the photo. He
then gets a tin garbage pail tosses the envelope contents
into it, opens the book of matches and burns everything.

FADE OUT.

THE END