

TAINED

Written by

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EXT. CEMETERY - DUSK

Dark clouds threaten the area with rain. A tent stands in a corner of the cemetery.

Ten chairs sit in the inside of the tent. Only six people dressed in black occupy the chairs.

MARILYN (V.O.)

My mom taught me to never let anyone come between family. Family is everything.

A pastor stands facing everyone. He speaks as he looks at the Bible in his hands.

MARILYN (V.O.)

She also taught me not to let a man hinder me from my life. And if I let the wrong one in, he'd suck away my spirit little by little.

In the front row, BETTIE (34) sits slim and petite. She has on a black dress with laced black gloves. She cries softly.

MARILYN (V.O.)

I experienced loss at the early age of eight. I didn't know how to feel, but part of me was sad that I had lost my dad.

To Bettie's left, BRIAN (12), dressed in a dark grey suit, sits with his head lowered. He plays with his fingers.

MARILYN (V.O.)

The other part of me was relieved that I would no longer be woken up in the middle of the night from dad's drunken rage.

To Bettie's right, MARILYN (8) wears a laced black dress. She sits quietly with wide eyes. Her eyes glance at her mom then to the shiny brown coffin that stands besides the pastor.

MARILYN (V.O.)

It didn't rain on the day of my dad's death.

Marilyn looks at the dark clouds in the sky.

MARILYN (V.O.)

So I expected it to come on the day of his funeral, but it never did.

EXT. PARK - PRESENT DAY

A sunny day. JILLIAN (35), an attractive and slightly overweight woman with shoulder length blond hair, wears active wear. She tries to keep up with-

MARILYN (37), fit with long black hair pulled back in a ponytail. She wears active wear and runs like a pro.

The two women run on the sidewalk around the lake. Jillian stops and leans over. She grabs her knees.

JILLIAN  
Marilyn! Hold up!

Marilyn turns around and jogs in place.

MARILYN  
Come on, Jillian! We're more than half way around.

JILLIAN  
I'm not a super woman like you, honey! I don't know what I was thinking!

Marilyn stops and walks back to Jillian. Jillian stands and grabs the water bottle hooked on her side. She takes a drink.

MARILYN  
For your first run, you did great! Come on, we'll walk the rest of the way.

She pats Jillian on the back and wraps her arm around her.

MARILYN (CONT'D)  
My first appointment is in three hours and I'm in no hurry for this one!

Jillian laughs and walks with Marilyn.

JILLIAN  
I can't promise I'll run with you tomorrow.

MARILYN  
Yes you will! The more you do it, the easier it will get.

JILLIAN  
I don't know where you get your energy from.

MARILYN

Dedication. Once you set a plan,  
you stick with it all the way  
through.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME LIVING ROOM - DAY

LAURA (41), a moody housewife with unmanned hair, wears sweats as she dusts knickknacks on a shelf and drinks from a beer bottle in the other.

The TV shows a talk show that plays in the background.

Laura stops dusting when she hears the interview starting. She turns toward the television.

ON TELEVISION

A LOUD Lady is stands in front of a QUIET MAN that sits on a chair. Her finger points in the mans face as she yells.

LOUD LADY

You ain't nothin' but a no good son  
of a (BLEEP). You know that's yo  
kid. He look jus' like yo ass.

QUIET MAN

Nope, he ain't mine. How you gonna  
say he mine when you been with  
every dude on the block.

BOOS from the audience off screen.

LOUD LADY

I ain't been with no one but you  
since last year and you know that.  
Don't come on tv trying to make me  
look bad.

LAURA (O.S.)

Yeah, you tell her girl.

The show's HOST comes on screen and motions for the loud woman to sit down.

HOST

Well we are about to find out the  
truth in just a minute! The DNA  
test should be ready in any moment.  
Are you worried about the test  
results?

QUIET MAN

No, cause the kid ain't mine.

A pillow hits the television screen.

BACK TO SCENE

Laura drops the duster and sits on the couch. She takes a drink from the bottle then drops it on the ground.

LAURA

No good. Ain't non of them no good.

The DOORBELL RINGS.

LAURA (CONT'D)

Now what. A woman can't drink and watch her shows in peace.

Laura walks to the door. She looks out the peephole.

LAURA'S POV THROUGH PEEPHOLE

a DELIVERY PERSON who wears a dark green delivery uniform and a black hat has his back to the door.

The delivery person's head faces down at a box.

Laura sees the box in his hand and smiles as she opens the door.

Without looking up, the delivery person speaks to her.

DELIVERY PERSON

Laura?

LAURA

Yeah, that's me. It's about time someone sent me a package. I ain't had a delivery in years. Ya'll been holding back on me? Keeping my packages?

DELIVERY PERSON

Would you like me to sit this down on a table or somewhere for you? It's quite heavy.

LAURA

Yeah sure.

She opens the door wider and points toward the living room.

LAURA (CONT'D)  
You can sit it down on the floor  
right there by the couch.

The delivery person walks past her and places the box down where Laura suggested.

LAURA (CONT'D)  
Do I need to sign for it?

She walks toward him. The delivery person kneels down where the box is placed and doesn't move or say a word.

LAURA (CONT'D)  
Hey, I'm talkin' to you?

As she walks up behind the person, the person quickly stands, and grabs her by the throat.

Laura tries to let out a yell but it comes out as a GURGLE.

The delivery person raises his head up. Only she sees the person's identity and her eyes widen.

The delivery person pulls out a box cutter from his pants pocket and stabs Laura in the chest repeatedly.

After the fourth stab, the knife retracts and the delivery person releases Laura.

Laura falls to the floor and gasps while she clutches her bleeding wounds.

She looks up at the delivery person with blurred vision and the profile of the person stares down at her.

EXT. SUBURBAN HOME - NIGHT

Three police cars sit outside Laura's home. A police officer walks up to the house.

The front door stays open and light can be seen from inside. Yellow police tape strings along the home.

INT. SUBURBAN HOME LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Four police officers work in the home. An officer takes pictures of a blood stained carpet in the living room.

TWO OFFICERS stand in front of the couch. They step away. Laura sits in an upright position on the couch facing the television. The television shows a news program on the screen.

OFFICER 1

I am pretty sure she didn't walk over here after she was stabbed and decide to watch TV while she died.

OFFICER 2

Depends on what was on. My wife will do anything in order to make it home to see Survivor.

OFFICER 3 (O.S.)

What the hell?

The two officers turn and looks toward the other side of the room.

Another OFFICER stands at a table. A cardboard box sits on top of the table.

The officer pulls out a glass box out of the cardboard box.

Laura's bloody heart sits inside the glass box. Taped to the outside, a note reads, "A guarded heart is a useless heart. Here is what she could never give you. There should be no surprise that it is tainted."

INT. MARILYN'S OFFICE - DAY

The office has little personality. A few certificates, degrees and a nature painting hang on the walls and the furniture is professional, but bland. Marilyn sits on a couch with a tape recorder on her lap and legal pad in her hand.

Marilyn wears thin framed glasses, is dressed in a two piece suit She sits upright with one hand rubbing her chin as she looks down at the legal pad.

Across from her, MR. and MRS. CROSBY sit in separate chairs.

Mr. Crosby, (28), a scrawny man with unkept hair, fidgets with a business card and avoids eye contact with his wife and Marilyn.

Mrs. Crosby, (27), a heavy set woman, has her arms crossed. Her face shows disgust.

Mrs. Crosby takes turns looking at her husband and Marilyn.

MARILYN

Peggy, you've been using some vulgar language toward your husband.

Marilyn looks up from the yellow note pad in her hands.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

How do you think it makes him feel?

MRS. CROSBY

Why should I give a fuck? He's the one ignoring me!

Mrs. Crosby looks at Marilyn. Marilyn stares at her quietly.

MRS. CROSBY (CONT'D)

He's the one that would rather spend time alone in his study than to be around me! Why don't you ask him how he thinks I feel?

MARILYN

Okay, since you are the victim and have done nothing wrong, I will address all my questions to Stan.

She looks at Mrs. Crosby in the eye.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

In fact I'm tired of hearing your voice for the past forty-five minutes.

MRS. CROSBY

What did you--?

MARILYN

-- Stan, in all our sessions, I've barely heard you say anything. How do you feel when your wife verbally puts you down?

MR. CROSBY

I... I... I don't like it.

MARILYN

No, Stan, I don't want to hear the bullshit answer. How do you feel about your wife?

Mrs. Crosby uncrosses her arms and balls her hands in a fist.



MRS. CROSBY  
 He's not going to answer you. And  
 if he does, with all that  
 stuttering, he'll take up the whole  
 session.

Mr. Crosby shrinks back and Marilyn sits back, observing.

MARILYN  
 How do you feel, Stan?

MR. CROSBY  
 I... I... I...

MRS. CROSBY  
 I... I... I...

MR. CROSBY  
 I hate her! Every time she talks I  
 want to take a roll of toilet  
 tissue and stuff it down her  
 throat.

Marilyn smiles and Mrs. Crosby gets up from her chair.

MRS. CROSBY  
 You little scrawny piece of --

MARILYN  
 Sit!

Mrs. Crosby sits back down.

MRS. CROSBY  
 What kind of therapist are you? Our  
 last therapist would never use such  
 unprofessional methods!

Marilyn stares down Peggy.

MARILYN  
 If your last therapist was of any  
 help, you wouldn't be here, would  
 you?

A KNOCK at the door.

MARILYN (CONT'D)  
 Excuse me for a moment. Stan, think  
 about your emotions now that you've  
 confessed your true feelings.

Marilyn puts the pen down and turns the note pad over on her  
 desk.

She walks over to the door and opens it up slightly. Her SECRETARY, (22), with brunette hair and thick framed glasses, stands on the other side of the door.

SECRETARY

I don't mean to bother you, Ms. Rose.

MARILYN

You couldn't of come at a better time.

The secretary peeks in and looks at the tense couple. She smiles.

SECRETARY

There are two detectives in the waiting room that insist on speaking with you.

MARILYN

Did they mention what it's about?

The secretary shakes her head

SECRETARY

But they keep trying to ask me questions about what you do and what kind of clients you see.

The secretary fidgets with her glasses.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

I told them that they had to wait to talk to you.

MARILYN

Tell them I'll be with them in five minutes.

SECRETARY

Okay, Ms. Rose.

The secretary closes the door.

As Marilyn walks back to her desk, Mrs. Crosby mumbles insults about her husband under her breath.

Mr. Crosby has his hands balled in a fist, the business card has crinkled up in his hand. His eyes focus on the floor.

MARILYN

I am sorry, but I have a situation out front that I need to attend to.

She closes her note pad and places it in the drawer of her desk.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I don't like closing out a session like this but I don't know how long this is going to take.

Marilyn looks through her appointment book

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Will you both be able to come in this same time on Friday?

Mrs. Crosby rises from her chair and grabs her purse from the floor.

MRS. CROSBY

We'll be here.

Mr. Crosby rises from his chair and stuffs his hand with the business card in his pocket. He turns to Marilyn.

MR. CROSBY

Thank you.

Mr. and Mrs. Crosby walk towards the door. Mr. Crosby opens the door and lets Mrs. Crosby out.

MRS. CROSBY

What are you thanking her for?

Mr. Crosby follows his wife out the door and closes it behind him.

Marilyn stands beside her desk, sighs, and puts away the note pad and appointment book. She presses a button on the phone.

MARILYN

Liz, please show the detectives to my office.

She presses the button again.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Oh and the Crosbys should be coming through. Can you reschedule them for Friday? Thank you.

Letting go of the button, she sits at her desk. A few seconds later her office door opens and two tall men enter the office.

Both men step in dressed in slacks and button shirts.

DAN LAWSON (39), has dark hair that is neatly trimmed. He holds files under his arm. He looks around the room and quickly looks over Marilyn.

DETECTIVE ORSON (45), has thinning blond hair and enters behind Dan. His eyes immediately go to Marilyn. He closes the door and leans against it.

Detective Orson stares at Marilyn and she quickly looks away from him and devotes her attention to Dan.

Marilyn stands up and walks around to the front of desk. Dan pulls out his badge and holds it in front of Marilyn.

DAN LAWSON  
Marilyn Rose, I am Detective  
Lawson.

Dan points to Orson with his left hand as he puts away his badge.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)  
And this is Detective Orson.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Do I need to show you my badge?

MARILYN  
Uh.. No. What is this about?

Dan sits in the chair in front of the desk.

DAN LAWSON  
We just have a few questions for  
you.

Dan pulls out a picture from one of the files he has in his hand. He passes it to Marilyn.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Do you know this woman?

Marilyn takes the picture from Dan.

The picture shows Laura smiling with her arms around a large golden retriever. Marilyn GASPS at the picture.

MARILYN  
Yes, she was one of my clients.  
Laura Rodgers. Did something happen  
to her?

Orson pulls out a pocket notebook from his back pocket and a pen from the front of his shirt and starts writing.

DAN LAWSON

When was the last time you saw Mrs. Rodgers?

Marilyn stares at the picture

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

Ms. Rose. When was the last time you saw Laura?

Marilyn looks at Detective Orson and then back at Dan. She walks to the other side of her desk and sits down. She takes another look at the picture.

MARILYN

Please, call me Marilyn. I saw Laura and her husband about seven months ago. It was my last session with them. Is she missing?

Detective Orson stops writing and looks up toward Marilyn

DETECTIVE ORSON

No she's dead.

MARILYN

How?

DAN LAWSON

Is there anyone that may have wanted her dead?

MARILYN

Her and her husband weren't on the greatest terms when they stopped counseling. She had some personal problems that she was trying to get over.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Did she say anything in her sessions that may have indicated that someone may have wanted to hurt her?

MARILYN

I can't really discuss anything about her sessions or her problems. There are la---

DETECTIVE ORSON

---I don't think that is relevant being that she dead!

Marilyn flinches. Dan notices and stands up.

DAN LAWSON

We're sorry to have bothered you.  
We just wanted to verify that she  
was a client here.

He reaches in his pocket and pulls out a card and hands it to Marilyn.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

Please call me if you can think of  
anything that may help us in this  
case.

He picks up the picture that Marilyn placed on the desk and puts it back in the file. He turns to walk out.

Detective Orson raises his eye at him.

Dan nods to the door and Orson shakes his head and opens the door and walks out.

MARILYN

I...I will call you if I think of  
anything. How did she die?

Dan turns around.

DAN LAWSON

I can't really discuss that.

Dan winks at Marilyn and walks out the door.

Marilyn frowns and stares at the closed door.

EXT. MARILYN'S HOME - DUSK

A black Acura drives through a suburban neighborhood. It turns and pulls in the driveway of a two story stucco home.

The nicely trimmed yard has a stone birdbath and a big oak tree in middle of the yard.

The car stops in front of the closed garage door.

The drivers door opens and Marilyn gets out. She walks to her mailbox and pulls out the mail.

She notices a Readers Digest and flips through the pages as she walks to the front of the house.

Marilyn's neighbor RYAN, (40) wears a jogging suit. He has short brunette hair and brown eyes.

Ryan walks his German shepherd. He passes Marilyn's house.

RYAN TRIGGS

Marilyn!

Marilyn stands at her front door and turns around to wave at Ryan with her free hand.

RYAN TRIGGS (CONT'D)

It's been awhile since I've seen you, which is strange since you live right next door. How's it going?

MARILYN

Busy! Been working a lot at the office. How's Megan and the baby?

Ryan's smile fades a little. He catches himself and returns his full smile to his face.

RYAN TRIGGS

They're both doing good. You know Megan, she has everything under control even with the colic, she's handling everything like a pro.

MARILYN

Tell her I said hi.

Marilyn unlocks her front door.

RYAN TRIGGS

You should tell her yourself! Drop by at anytime, we would love the company!

Marilyn unlocks the door and opens it up slightly. She turns back to Ryan.

MARILYN

I will! I promise to stop by some time later on this week.

She waves and Ryan waves back and walks down the block.

INT. MARILYN'S LIVING ROOM - DUSK

The organized home has motivational pictures and quotes hung on the walls.

A few pictures of her mother and brother sit on the mantle above her fireplace.

As she enters the house, she steps on an envelope. She looks at her hand that contains the mail and picks up the envelope without looking at it and places it on the bottom of the stack of mail in her hand.

She presses the speaker button on the phone sitting on the coffee table and dials some numbers.

PHONE (V.O.)

Please enter your password.

Marilyn sits on the couch and punches numbers on the phone.

PHONE (V.O.)

You have two new messages. First message...

BRIAN (V.O.)

Hey Mare, just wanted you to know that I'll be in town on Monday. I haven't seen you since mom di... since the funeral.

Marilyn gets up and walks to the fireplace and picks up a picture that shows her, Brian and their mother in a restaurant booth. They smile as Brian raises a burger in the air.

BRIAN (V.O.)(CONT'D)

I thought we should meet up while I'm here. No excuses this time. Talk to you soon.

The phone beeps. Marilyn puts the photo back and sits on the couch. She pushes a button on the phone.

PHONE (V.O.)

Message erased. Next message.

JILLIAN

Marilyn call me.

Marilyn smiles as she presses a button on the phone.

PHONE (V.O.)

Message erased. End of messages.

Marilyn presses the speaker button and the phone turns off. She lays on the couch and closes her eyes.



INT. PARK - DAY

Marilyn and Jillian walk around the lake at a busy park. They are both dressed down in jogging outfits.

JILLIAN

So Walter is like; I need to think about our relationship. He wants to think if it still worth pursuing.

She lowers her head and covers her eyes.

JILLIAN (CONT'D)

So what do you think is really up? You think he's seeing someone else?

MARILYN

Are you out here with me just to get free relationship advice? You do know this is my day off right?

JILLIAN

No, I'm a friend that needs a friend's advice on what to do. It's not my fault my friend happens to be a successful marriage counselor.

MARILYN

Well as a friend, I will tell you what I told you before. You can do much better. Let that man be.

JILLIAN

This coming from the woman that says she can fix any marriage.

MARILYN

Technically, you're not married and I'm trying to save you the trouble of being in a committed relationship that needs counseling.

Marilyn takes a deep breath.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Look at this situation as an answered prayer and an easy way out!

JILLIAN

That's not what I wanted you to say.

MARILYN

Well, I didn't get where I am by telling people what they want to hear.

JILLIAN

But he's so good looking!

MARILYN

And that's your problem. You can't date by looks alone.

JILLIAN

Says who?

MARILYN

Me, statistics, common sense. Oh and my mother, and she always gave good advice.

Jillian takes a drink from her water bottle.

JILLIAN

Okay fine lets change the subject. Who are you seeing now a days?

MARILYN

No one.

JILLIAN

Okay. So when are you going to start seeing somebody.

MARILYN

It's not the right time. There so much on my plate and now one of my clients turned up dead.

JILLIAN

What!? When? How? Hold on I need a break.

They walk over to a bench and sit. Jillian chugs down the last of her water.

MARILYN

Come on! We only walked around once. Walked! Not ran.

JILLIAN

Aww leave me alone! Now what happened?

MARILYN

Yesterday I guess. Some detectives came to my office and was asking me questions about her.

JILLIAN

Did the husband do it? Are they blaming you for not seeing the signs?

MARILYN

Shut up Jillian. They really didn't tell me much. Just that she was dead. I think they just wanted to confirm that she was a patient.

JILLIAN

So who was it?

MARILYN

Laura Rodgers.

JILLIAN

What! The lady that was bad mouthing you on the internet? Did you tell them about that?

Marilyn shakes her head and takes a drink of her water.

JILLIAN (CONT'D)

Then don't. You'll be their number one suspect. That's motive you know.

MARILYN

You watch too much Law and Order. I was too much in shock at the time and it didn't cross my mind.

JILLIAN

Still.

(beat)

Don't tell them. Oh and don't mention me either.

Her eyes widen and turns to face Marilyn.

MARILYN

Why would I mention you?

JILLIAN

I think I made a threatening comment about her when I saw the web site. Wasn't she a drunk? She probably fell out a window.

Marilyn laughs and shakes her head.

MARILYN

I doubt that I will see them again. They were just doing some routine background check.

She takes a card from her pocket and shows it to Jillian.

MARILYN (CONT'D (CONT'D)

They told me to call if I remembered anything that might help them.

Jillian takes the card and studies it.

JILLIAN

Detective Dan Lawson Phoenix PD. So you just carry around the card with you?

MARILYN

Just in case I think of something.

JILLIAN

For a person that keeps to her self, you sure draw a lot of excitement.

MARILYN

Well I can do without it.

Jillian leans in closer to Marilyn.

JILLIAN

(whispers)

Speaking of excitement, there's a guy to your left that has been eyeing you. He's not bad looking either.

MARILYN

Not interested.

JILLIAN

Come on Marilyn! You haven't even seen him.

MARILYN

You told me not to look.

JILLIAN

How are you going to tell other people about their relationships and you're scared to get in one yourself.

MARILYN

I'm not scared, just not interested. I don't have the time.

JILLIAN

He's coming.

A MAN in a jogging suit jogs over to the bench where Marilyn and Jillian sit.

MAN

Hi, I just wanted to say how beautiful you two are and I hope to see you again, maybe in a different setting.

He places a piece of note paper on the bench between the two ladies and jogs away.

JILLIAN

Um, who was he talking to?

Marilyn points to the man jogging off.

MARILYN

And that is why I am not interested. I'm thirty-seven, successful and don't need that problem.

Jillian picks up the paper and sees the man wrote his name and phone number on it. She slips the paper in her pocket.

Marilyn stares at her.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

You can't be serious.

JILLIAN

Hey, I may need a rebound after Walter.

They both laugh and look out at the lake.

EXT. KEN'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

The delivery person walks to a run down home. He reaches the front door and rings the bell.

INT. KEN'S FOYER - DAY

KEN, (30) overweight and unshaven, walks to the door with a beer bottle in his hand.

KEN  
Who is it?

DELIVERY PERSON (O.S.)  
Delivery.

KEN  
I'm not expecting no damn package.

DELIVERY PERSON (O.S.)  
It's for a Mrs. Green.

KEN  
What did she order?

DELIVERY PERSON (O.S.)  
I don't know sir, I just deliver the packages.

KEN  
Just leave it at the door.

DELIVERY PERSON (O.S.)  
I need you to sign for it.

KEN  
Hold on.

Ken fumbles with the lock on the other side of the door. The door opens slightly then closes again. The bolt lock comes off.

EXT. KEN'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

Ken sees the package in the delivery persons hands and reaches to take it.

Before he can touch the package, the delivery person pulls a stun gun out and shocks Ken with it.

Ken falls back inside of the house and the delivery person steps in and closes the door.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

Marilyn walks down the street in jeans and a fitted T-shirt. She holds a department store bag in her hand. A purse hangs over her shoulder.

Dan walks the opposite direction dressed down in jeans and a T-shirt.

He sees Marilyn ahead of him. He smiles at her then squinches his eyes.

DAN LAWSON

Marilyn?

She walks up to him and then stands along side a store entrance.

MARILYN

Yeah?

She takes a good look at him.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Oh. Hi Detective, um, Lawrence?

DAN LAWSON

Uh no, Lawson. I must not have left a lasting oppression on you.

She blushes.

MARILYN

Sorry, I'm just having an off day. You do look less intimidating without the suit and badge.

DAN LAWSON

I look intimidating?

MARILYN

Well not as much as your partner. He's not with you is he?

DAN LAWSON

Naw. Orson cool, he just comes off a little strong.

Marilyn sits her bag down on the sidewalk and adjusts the purse strap on her shoulder..

MARILYN

Did you find out what happened to Laura?

Dan scratches his chin.

DAN LAWSON

No, it's really a complicated case.  
Sorry, I can't reveal much detail  
to you.

MARILYN

Yeah you made that clear.  
Counseling isn't that different as  
far as what you can and can't say.

DAN LAWSON

I read an article on you the other  
day and I have to say that you  
don't come off as the hard core  
counselor they make you out to be.

MARILYN

I tend to let my softer side out on  
my days off. So you've been  
checkin' up on me?

Dan smiles at her and she blushes again as she turns her head  
away.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Well I'm about to grab lunch and  
head back home.

Dan takes his cell phone out of his pocket, presses a button  
and looks at it.

DAN LAWSON

Mind if I join you? I could use a  
bite to eat about now.

Marilyn picks up her bags and stares up at the detective.

MARILYN

Um sure. I'm going to the cafe down  
the street.

DAN LAWSON

Sounds good to me. Lead the way.

He stretches out his hand and Marilyn walks past him. She  
glance back as he starts following her down the sidewalk.

EXT. CAFE - DAY

Marilyn and Dan sit across from each other at a table outside  
on the cafe patio.



Marilyn drinks a cup of coffee, a plate with a bagel sits on table in front of her.

Dan has a huge sandwich and fries and munches on his fries.

DAN LAWSON

So you must hear a lot of interesting things being a marriage counselor.

MARILYN

That's an understatement.

She takes a sip of her coffee.

DAN LAWSON

Well they say everyone has a story.

MARILYN

Yeah, some more interesting than others. What's yours?

DAN LAWSON

What do you mean?

MARILYN

You just said everyone has a story. So what's yours?

Dan chuckles, pauses for a moment, closes his eyes then opens them back up.

DAN LAWSON

You're not going to charge me for this are you?

Marilyn shakes her head.

MARILYN

This one's on me.

DAN LAWSON

Well I was married up to two years ago.

Marilyn takes a glance at his left hand. Dan does not wear a ring.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

We had a hard time conceiving but eventually my wife got pregnant. She had a good pregnancy and we had a beautiful baby girl.

He picks up his sandwich and takes a bite. Marilyn stares at him intensively.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

Two weeks later our little girl died unexpectedly. My wife had a nervous break down. I tried my best to be there for her but she pushed me away.

Dan looks down at his plate and cracks his knuckles.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

She wouldn't look at me. It was like in some way she blamed me. She sent me divorce papers and left to Michigan to stay with her parents.

MARILYN

Oh um.. I'm sorry.

DAN LAWSON

Not what you expected I guess. So do you want to analyze me?

Marilyn sips her coffee then looks him in the eyes.

MARILYN

No its not, but that's not how I work with my clients. Besides, I don't analyze anyone that I am interested....

She shuts her mouth, looks down at her plate and takes a bite out of her bagel.

Dan smiles at her. He picks up his drink

DAN LAWSON

Anyone that you're what?

Marilyn looks back up at Dan.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

I didn't take you as the quiet type.

MARILYN

I was going to say anyone that I'm interested in working with.

DAN LAWSON

Working with me? How so?

MARILYN

Well on the case. If I can help in any way, then I want to do what I can. And my story isn't as bright. My mom killed my dad.

Dan almost drops his cup and some of his drink spills on the table. He picks up a napkin and cleans it up. He looks back at Marilyn.

DAN LAWSON

What!?

MARILYN

Well I am pretty sure she did. And if she did kill my dad, she got away with it.

Dan stares at her for a moment. His face frowns up as he puts his right hand under his chin.

DAN LAWSON

When? Why do you think that you mom killed your dad?

MARILYN

I was only eight years old when it happened. My dad had heart problems and I believe my mom took advantage of that.

DAN LAWSON

How?

MARILYN

Rat poison.

She picks up the salt shaker and sprinkles it along the table.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

In his food.

She sets the salt shaker down then wipes the spilled salt onto the floor.

Dan watches her carefully and leans back in his seat.

DAN LAWSON

Why?

MARILYN

She figured with his heart problems, they wouldn't bother with an autopsy; and they didn't.

DAN LAWSON

No. Why would she kill him?

MARILYN

Oh. Because he was a horrible man. He would beat on my mom. My brother and I were terrified of him. Our lives got a lot better after he was gone.

Dan stares at her again. He tilts his head and squints his eye at her. She continues to look at him.

DAN LAWSON

You're serious. Aren't you?

Marilyn nods her head as she picks up her bagel and finishes it.

MARILYN

I found a small bottle of rat poison in the back of our cupboard after he died. We never had rats.

DAN LAWSON

Why are you telling me this?

MARILYN

Two reasons.

Marilyn pushes her plate to the side and looks back at the detective.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I tell my clients that with any relationship its best to be honest up front about who you are and what's in your background. I always practice what I preach.

DAN LAWSON

And the second reason?

MARILYN

My mom died two years ago so you can't investigate or arrest her if she did do it.

Marilyn smiles and Dan gives her a small smile back.

DAN LAWSON

This has got to be the strangest  
lunch conversation that I have ever  
had.

His phone RINGS and Marilyn drinks the rest of her coffee.  
Dan picks up his phone, looks at the screen.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

Excuse me, I have to take this.

MARILYN

Sure.

Dan stands up and walks a few steps from the table. He speaks  
in a low voice.

DAN LAWSON

Lawson. What's going on?

(beat)

Okay.

(beat)

Yeah, I can be there in a few. Bye.

He stands up and puts the phone in his pocket. He looks at  
Marilyn who looks back up at him.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

Looks like my day off is over. I  
have to do but I will see you  
later. You still have my card?

MARILYN

Yeah. I didn't scare you off did I?

DAN LAWSON

No, quite the opposite.

He takes out his wallet and pulls out a twenty dollar bill and  
places it on the table.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

Call me later tonight okay?

Marilyn nods at him and he starts to leave.

She watches as he walks away. Dan turns around and meets  
Marilyn's eyes for a second before he turns back and walks  
out of sight.

INT. KENS BEDROOM - DAY

Five police officers work inside the home. One stands over the body of Ken and takes pictures.

Ken lays on top of the bed, his body faces the television. He has been stabbed in the chest and blood is seen stained on the spread.

A box sits on the night stand. An officer stands near the box and examines it.

Dan, detective Orson and another officer talk at the doorway.

OFFICER 3

We got the call about an hour ago.  
A neighbor called, said she was  
suppose to pick the victims wife up  
at 2:00 for their weekly book club  
meeting.

The officer leads them inside and points to the television.

OFFICER 3 (CONT'D)

She didn't get an answer but could  
hear the television blaring from  
outside.

DAN LAWSON

So where's the wife?

OFFICER 3

She's being held in the kitchen.  
She claims she was running late  
from running errands. She just  
arrived ten minutes before you  
came.

DAN LAWSON

And it looks like it could be the  
same killer from the Rodger's case?

OFFICER 3

Yes, same wounds, body faced at the  
television and a box left near the  
body.

The officer at the night stand pulls out a glass container from the box, it contains Ken's heart.

Detective Orson walks off to the bed as Dan walks over to the officer with the glass box in his hand.

Dan reads the note attached.

DAN LAWSON

The heart is a house for love, this  
one has been evicted.

Detective Orson kneels beside the bed.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Dan! You might want to see this.

Dan leaves the officers side and walks around toward  
detective Orson.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)

I think we need to bring in that  
counselor for some more  
questioning.

Detective Orson hands Dan a card.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)

Found it on the floor between the  
bed.

Dan looks at the card and see's that it is Marilyn's business  
card.

INT. COUNSELING LOBBY - DAY

Marilyn walks in. She carries a laptop bag.

The secretary looks up from her magazine. She sees Marilyn  
and closes the magazine and slides it to the side.

SECRETARY

Oh! Hi Ms. Rose. Isn't it your day  
off?

MARILYN

Yeah, something came up and I need  
to do some research. I won't be  
taking any calls.

SECRETARY

Gotcha!

Marilyn smiles and walks off.

INT. COUNSELING HALLWAY - DAY

Marilyn walks down the hallway. She stops at the break room,  
looks in. The break room is empty. She walks to the last  
door, uses her key and walks in and closes the door.

INT. MARILYNS OFFICE -DAY

Marilyn walks to the file cabinet. She unlocks it and fingers through the files. She pulls one out and takes it to her desk.

Marilyn opens a drawer and takes out a file. She takes a small tape out of the file, places in the recorder and plays it.

MAN (V.O.)

I don't think I can do this. No, I don't want to do this anymore. I'm done.

MARILYN (V.O.)

Laura, do u feel the same way?

There is a moment of silence.

MARILYN (V.O.)

Laura?

LAURA (V.O.)

No. He's not going anywhere.

The office door opens and Marilyn shuts the recorder off.

In walks GARY DOTSON, (47) he wears a janitor uniform. He holds pulls a vacuum inside the office.

Gary notices Marilyn, freezes and takes a step back.

GARY DOTSON

Oh! Sorry uh um. I thought the office was empty.

MARILYN

Come on in. I just stopped in the gather a few things.

Marilyn stands up and gathers the file from her desk.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I'll be on my way out in a few minutes.

GARY DOTSON

No need to rush ma'am. In fact, I have another room to clean. I'll do that one first, then come back.

Gary backs out the office as he pulls the vacuum.



GARY DOTSON (CONT'D)

Have a good day.

MARILYN

You too.

Gary closes the door.

Marilyn continues to gather the items from her desk She places them in her bag.

INT. POLICE CAR - DAY

Dan and Detective Orson sit inside a police car.

Dan drives and Detective Orson sits on the passenger side and looks through some notes.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Female serial killer, it's rare but not impossible.

DAN LAWSON

I don't think she's the killer. She's connected somehow or may even be a target.... But not the killer.

Detective Orson looks at Dan.

DETECTIVE ORSON

What's with you man?

DAN LAWSON

Nothing. Why?

DETECTIVE ORSON

It's not like you to easily write off a suspect. Even when we first visited the counselor you were too easy on her.

DAN LAWSON

It's not like that. I trust my instincts and nothing about these murders point to her being the killer.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Except that the first victim was her former client and the second happened to have her business card in his room.

DAN LAWSON

Doesn't mean she killed them, just that there's a connection. Besides I had lunch with her today. In fact I was with her when you called.

DETECTIVE ORSON

What! You're dating the suspect!

DAN LAWSON

No, and she's not a suspect. I ran into her downtown and we stopped and ate lunch.

Detective Orson looks over at Dan and smirks.

DETECTIVE ORSON

A date.

DAN LAWSON

No.

DETECTIVE ORSON

You can't fall for her. We haven't cleared this case meaning we haven't cleared her. Come on man what are you doing?

DAN LAWSON

I'm not falling for her, it was just lunch. We didn't talk about the case, there were no lines crossed.

Orson stares out the window.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Well I guess we don't need to find her address. You have her number right? You could just call her.

DAN LAWSON

I didn't get her number.

Detective Orson glares at Dan.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

I didn't! She has mine. From the card I gave her when we visited her at her office.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Visit? It was suppose to be an interrogation.

Detective Orson smirks.

Dan glares at Orson who stares out the side window. He turns his head back and continues to drive.

EXT. MARILYNS HOME - DAY

Marilyn walks up to her mailbox.

Ryan Triggs walks his dog down the sidewalk. He looks down at the sidewalk and mumbles to himself.

Marilyn waves to Ryan as he gets near. Ryan does not seem to see her and walks past.

Marilyn stares after him then continues to the mailbox. The mailbox is empty. She goes to the front door and goes in.

INT. MARILYN'S LIVING ROOM

As Marilyn walks in she steps on a blank envelope. She looks down, removes her foot from it and picks it up.

Marilyn looks at the sealed envelope and turns it around in her hands. She looks up and quickly walks.

INT. MARILYN'S KITCHEN

Marilyn walks in and goes to the counter. She leafs through the stack of mail and finds the other blank envelope she found the other day.

Marilyn compares the two blank envelopes. She opens the first one and pulls out a single piece of paper.

On the paper reads "Remember Laura Rodgers"

Marilyn puts down the paper and stares at the second envelope in her hand. She walks out.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Officers and staff walk around busily.

A few people talk on the phone and the office buzzes with noise.

Detective Orson sits at his desk. His left hand covers his mouth while he studies something on the computer.

Dan leans back in his chair as he holds a phone to his ear. He looks from one crime scene photo to the other.

DAN LAWSON

Uh, yeah this is Detective Dan Lawson with the Phoenix PD.

(beat)

Yeah, I need a warrant for the security cameras at Fellowship Counseling Center on 3593 Henson Way.

He writes notes on the note pad on his desk.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

Okay. Soon as possible.

(beat)

Yeah, Thanks

Dan hangs the phone up.

Detective Orson suddenly starts typing on the computer, stops and studies the computer screen and starts scrolling down.

Detective Orson rubs his chin. He sees something and his eyes widen.

DETECTIVE ORSON

I got the connection.

DAN LAWSON

Which connection?

Orson continues to read something on the computer.

DETECTIVE ORSON

With the counselor and the victims. Sorry man but it doesn't look too good for your girl. I may have uncovered a motive.

Dan rolls himself in his chair over to detective Orson's desk. He looks at the screen on the computer.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)

This site was victim one's. She said some pretty nasty things about Marilyn's counseling abilities.

He points to a paragraph in the article.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)  
She blames Marilyn for her divorce.  
Says her husband left her after  
coming back from a solo session  
with Marilyn.

DAN LAWSON  
Seems more of a motive for her to  
kill Marilyn.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Yeah, but she's the one that ended  
up dead so maybe Marilyn had a  
grudge about her reputation being  
slandered.

DAN LAWSON  
Grudge, maybe. But one bad review  
wouldn't damage her career.

Dan rolls himself back to his desk.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Did you come across any other  
negative accusations against her?

Dan's eyes widen.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Don't tell me victim two also made  
some accusations!

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Nope. But take a look at this!

Detective Orson pulls up another screen on the computer.

Dan rolls back over to the desk and reads the article.

DAN LAWSON  
Shit.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Yep. It seems Ken Green had a run  
in with Marilyn after a few failed  
sessions. She even filed a  
restraining order against him last  
month.

Detective Orson pushes back the computer mouse and turns to  
face Dan.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)  
So we have two people dead in less than a week and both were once Marilyn's clients and they both had a problem with her.

Detective Orson raises a eyebrow at Dan, as he lowers his head then sits up in his chair.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)  
If we had questioned her like we should have, we may have known this already.

DAN LAWSON  
I'm not going to get into this with you. Let's talk to her.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
I think it may be better if we bring her in. Get her out of her comfort zone.

Detective Orson stands and grabs his keys.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)  
I got the address.

Dan rolls back to his desk. He picks up his keys and phone from the desk, stands and follows behind detective Orson.

INT. MARILYN'S KITCHEN - DUSK

Marilyn stands at the sink and dries the dishes. She takes glances at the other side of the counter where the two envelopes sit.

She puts away the cup that she holds in the cabinet and drops the dish towel on the counter.

Marilyn wipes her hands on her pants. She grabs her purse from the chair and pulls out Dan's business card.

Marilyn picks up her cell phone.

The DOORBELL RINGS. She looks at the microwave clock. It reads 6:52.

Marilyn puts down the cellphone and heads out.

INT. MARILYN'S LIVING ROOM - DUSK

Marilyn walks the front door. She takes a look out the peep hole and smiles.

She opens the door and enters Brian, (41) neatly trimmed and wears slacks and a button down dress shirt.

He stands at the door returning the smile.

As Brian walks in, he embraces Marilyn.

MARILYN

Oh my gosh Brian! I thought you weren't coming until tomorrow!

They let go of each other and Marilyn closes the door as Brian steps inside the house.

BRIAN

Of course I had to tell you that. I have to catch you off guard so you don't have a chance to run from me.

Marilyn leads him to the living room and he takes a seat on the love seat. Marilyn sits across from him on the sofa.

Brian looks around the room.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Your home still looks like a model home. So un-lived in.

MARILYN

Okay if I ever were avoiding you, it would be because of statements like that. I like my home. Its cozy.

BRIAN

There's no personality. It's like you took a page out of a magazine and photocopied it to your house.

Brian leans back and rests his arms behind his head.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

And if you don't avoid me, then why can't I ever reach you?

MARILYN

I'm just always busy with work and by the time I get home, I just have enough time to eat, rest and start back over again.

Marilyn grabs a throw pillow by the arm of the sofa and leans back.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

You act like we never communicate.

BRIAN

Well yeah we communicate, but it's not the same as seeing you in person.

MARILYN

No need to worry about me. I'm healthy and content with life.

BRIAN

Well you're the only family I have left. I have to look out for you, which is hard when I live three hundred miles away.

Brian takes off his shoes and lays across the love seat.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

In fact, that's what I came over to tell you. I'm moving here next month.

Marilyn sits up.

MARILYN

What! That would be great! When did you decide to move?

BRIAN

There's nothing going on for me in Albuquerque. I thought about moving up to Colorado, get out of the heat, but figured I'll move to hell instead to be closer to my sis.

MARILYN

The heat isn't that bad once you get use to it.



BRIAN

If I can make it that long. I've been up here a few times in the past week for the assignments and the heat has been a killer.

MARILYN

You'll be okay. It would make it a way better commute when your assignments come up.

BRIAN

No kidding. I've been in town a few days earlier just so I can rest before work.

MARILYN

And you said I was avoiding you. Why didn't you let me know when you got in?

BRIAN

Hey didn't we just end this argument ten seconds ago? Don't try to turn things around. Besides I was only here for a day at a time.

Marilyn laughs and throws the pillow she was laying on at him. Brian ducks and the pillow falls to the floor behind the couch.

MARILYN

You still could have let me know that you was in the area. Actually, I knew you was here, but I found out the hard way.

BRIAN

HOW?

The DOORBELL RINGS. Marilyn jumps a little and frowns.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

Oh were you expecting someone?

MARILYN

No. But I wasn't expecting you either, so I guess tonight's going to be filled with surprises for me.

Marilyn stands and starts to walk towards the door.

Brian stands quickly and blocks MARILYN.

BRIAN  
Wait, I'll get it.

MARILYN  
I can get my own door Brian. I've  
been doing it for the past fifteen  
years now.

BRIAN  
That's because I haven't been here.

MARILYN  
I'm gonna have to rethink about you  
moving to my city.

Brian turns his head to look at her.

BRIAN  
Who said you had a say?

He grins and turns to the door. The DOORBELL RINGS again. He  
unlocks the door and opens it

Dan and detective Orson stands at the door way.

Dan's eyes widen when he sees Brian. He looks down for a  
quick second and then back at Brian.

DAN LAWSON  
Excuse me, we are looking for  
Marilyn.

BRIAN  
Yeah. Who are you?

Detective Orson takes a step ahead of Dan, and then another  
step that puts him inside the front door and forces Brian to  
back up a step.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Detective Orson and Dan. Where's  
Marilyn?

Brian frowns up moves to the center of the door in front of  
detective Orson.

Marilyn comes up behind Brian and pushes him to the side.

MARILYN  
It's okay Brian. Come in  
detectives.

She looks to Brian.

MARILYN (CONT'D)  
They're investigating a case  
involving one of my former clients.

Brian looks at Orson and then at Dan. He turns and walks back to the living room.

Dan stands his post by the front door. Detective Orson steps closer to Marilyn.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Actually Marilyn we need you to  
come down to the station for  
questioning.

MARILYN  
Why can't I answer them here?

Marilyn looks past detective Orson to Dan. He looks back at her and gives her a weak smile.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
We actually need to take a  
statement down from you which  
requires your presence at the  
station.

Marilyn looks towards Brian who stares back at them.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)  
We can explain more details to you  
when we get downtown.

Marilyn looks back at Orson.

MARILYN  
Let me grab my purse and I'll be  
right with you.

INT. MARILYN'S KITCHEN - DUSK

Marilyn grabs her keys from the table.

Brian walks in and stands in the doorway. He watches Marilyn.

BRIAN  
Marilyn, what's going on?

MARILYN  
It's okay, they want some  
information about a client. I was  
just about to tell you.

She stops and looks at a mirror that hangs on the wall. She fixes her hair.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

The detectives came by to ask me some questions. Now they need me to go down and make a statement.

BRIAN

Are you a suspect?

MARILYN

No, just involved since she was my client. Things like this happens. This is my first but it happens. Don't worry. I'll be back soon.

Marilyn picks up her purse, starts to walk out and turns around. She goes to the counter, grabs the envelopes and puts them in her purse.

Brian watches her intently.

BRIAN

Why don't you ever tell me anything?

MARILYN

It's not as bad as it sounds.

She gets to the doorway and turns to face Brian.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I'm sorry that I have to leave. I'm not avoiding you!

She laughs. Brian just looks at her.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

The law just calls me to duty.

She salutes to Brian.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I'll be back in no time. There's some lasagna in the fridge. Help yourself to anything and make yourself comfortable.

BRIAN

Are you sure everything is okay?

MARILYN

Positive.

INT. MARILYN'S LIVING ROOM - DUSK

She smiles and heads to the door. Brian follows behind her.

Marilyn and the detectives walk down the driveway.

Brian stands at the doorway and watches them leave. He glares at the detectives and shuts the front door.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Marilyn sits alone on a metal chair. A long metal table with a white plastic topper stands in front of her.

Two identical metal chairs are on the other side of the table. The dim room contains no windows or two way mirror.

She looks around the small empty room. She fidgets in the chair and pulls herself closer to the table. She yawns when the door opens.

Detectives Orson and Dan walk through the door. They walk to the two empty chairs and sit down.

Detective Orson puts the two files he was holding on the table.

Marilyn yawns

MARILYN

Sorry, its been a long day for me.

Dan hands Marilyn a paper cup filled with coffee.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Thanks.

She takes a sip and places the cup down.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Not as good as the cafe's but it will do!

DAN LAWSON

Ms. Rose, we came across some new information and need to ask you a few more questions.

MARILYN

Sure. Is it okay if you call me Marilyn? The word Ms. just makes me feel old.

Both detectives are quiet. Marilyn looks at them both.

DAN LAWSON

We found a web site ran by Laura Rodgers and most of the content on it was focused on your counseling skills. Were you aware of the site?

Marilyn stares at Dan. She picks up her cup and takes a sip.

MARILYN

Yes, I am aware of the site. Laura was upset about her divorce and chose to put all the blame on me.

Marilyn places her cup down and looks back at the detectives.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

The website was just a scapegoat for her anger.

DETECTIVE ORSON

So how long has this feud between you and Laura been going on?

Marilyn glares at detective Orson.

MARILYN

It wasn't a feud! Laura vented her anger about me on her site and I never responded to her or even took knowledge that I knew she had the site.

DAN LAWSON

Who told you about the site?

MARILYN

A friend came across it and told me about it.

DAN LAWSON

A friend? Would that happen to be the friend that was at your house tonight?

Marilyn looks at Dan and narrows her eyes.

MARILYN

No.

Detective Orson clears his throat and Marilyn looks away from Dan and focuses her attention to Orson.

DAN LAWSON

So the guy at your house, who is he?

Marilyn looks again at Dan and opens her mouth to answer but detective Orson jumps out of his chair and startles Marilyn.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Dan, outside!

Detective Orson walks to the door. Dan stands and follows Orson out the door as Marilyn watches them leave.

INT. POLICE STATION HALLWAY - NIGHT

Detective Orson and Dan stand outside the interrogation room.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Really!

Detective Orson throws his arms up and then covers his eyes with his hand. He removes his hand and puts his attention back to Dan.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)

What are you? Five? We brought her for questioning. This isn't some school yard gathering.

DAN LAWSON

I wanted to find out who he was, he maybe someone we need to question.

DETECTIVE ORSON

I'm not in the mood Dan. I'll handle the rest of this. You... stay out here till I'm finished.

DAN LAWSON

What!?

Detective Orson opens the interrogation room door, walks in and closes it behind him.

Dan goes to the door than takes a seat on the ground.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

Detective Orson sits back in the chair by the files on the table.

Marilyn looks back at the door and then to detective Orson.

DETECTIVE ORSON

So you didn't feel that Laura's site would damage your career?

MARILYN

No. It didn't cross my mind.

She looks again at the door. She turns back around and meets detective Orson's eyes.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I have far more positive reviews and articles that are circulated in more public venues. She wasn't a threat to me.

She leans in closer to detective Orson.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

The few readers that do read her little blog wouldn't be any threat to my reputation.

DETECTIVE ORSON

So Laura never confronted you in person, and you never confronted her about the site?

MARILYN

No. There was no need too. I didn't kill her for voicing her opinion.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Well Marilyn, I wasn't asking if you killed Laura.

MARILYN

You may as well. I am a counselor, it's my job to read between the lines.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Marilyn.

Marilyn balls up her hands. She closes her eyes and takes a breath.

MARILYN

No, I'm sorry but I thought I was here to help with informatoion but you're treating me as if I'm a suspect!



DETECTIVE ORSON  
You are helping. We need to know  
everything we can about these  
victims and how they both..

MARILYN  
Victims? There's another victim?

Detective Orson pulls the file from the bottom of the  
folders.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Ken Green.

Marilyn GASPS.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)  
I guess there's no need to ask if  
you know who he is.

Detective Orson opens the file and takes a picture of Ken  
and puts it on the table in front of Marilyn.

MARILYN  
He's dead?

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Found dead this evening in his  
home. Two victims dead within two  
days and so far you're the main  
connection!

Marilyn puts her purse up on the counter and unzips it.

Orson takes out two small zip lock bags that contain Marilyn's  
business card and slams them on the table.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)  
And these were found at both the  
crime scenes!

MARILYN  
Well yeah, they were both clients,  
all my clients have my business  
card.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
And both victims had something to  
do with your career. Laura was  
slandering your name

He takes some papers from the other file and slams them on  
the table in front of Marilyn.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)

And Ken was a physical threat to you. So much that you took out a restraining order.

MARILYN

Ken was a drunk.

DETECTIVE ORSON

I don't care what he was. I find it funny that two of your clients were found dead within a week.

Detective Orson quiets down and leans back in his chair.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)

So yes Ms. Rose, I am treating you like a suspect until I rule you out. Where were you on April 9th around eight am?

Marilyn keeps her eyes on detective Orson's. Her eyebrows narrow and her eyes water.

Marilyn zips her purse back and sits it on the floor.

MARILYN

I was at work. I arrived around 7:15 in order to be prepared for my first session which was at 8:00. My secretary was also there and can confirm it.

DAN LAWSON

Thank you. I will be confirming your story.

Marilyn's frown deepens.

MARILYN

Have you even been looking at anyone else? Have you checked with Laura's husband or Ken's wife?

DETECTIVE ORSON

What about today between eleven and one PM?

MARILYN

I met up with my friend Jillian at the park, shopped at Macy's and had lunch with Dan Lawson.

She looks back at the door.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Or Detective Lawson. You can  
confirm that part right away if you  
like. Am I free to go?

Detective Orson picks up the picture of Kathy and places it  
in the top file.

He grabs the zip lock bags and puts them away.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)  
Is there anyone you know who is  
connected to both Laura and Ken?

MARILYN  
No.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Anything at all that may help us  
find this guy.  
(beat)  
Or woman.

MARILYN  
No.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Well thank you Marilyn, you have  
been so helpful in this case.

Marilyn pushes back the chair, stands and goes out the door.

INT. POLICE STATION HALLWAY - NIGHT

Marilyn walks out the interrogation room and sees Dan as he  
leans against the wall across from the room.

Dan pushes himself from the wall and walks towards Marilyn.  
He sees the tears in her eyes.

MARILYN  
So I was a suspect this whole time?

She does not wait for Dan to answer. She walks pass him and  
continues down the hall.

Dan does not follow her but watches as leaves.

Detective Orson comes out the interrogation room with the  
files under his arm.

He looks at Dan and shakes his head and walks in the opposite  
direction of Marilyn.

EXT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Marilyn stands outside the police station by the interior door. It is lightly raining outside. She talks on the phone.

MARILYN

Do me a huge favor please.

(beat)

Come get me from the police station downtown.

(beat)

Apparently, I'm a suspect for two murders.

INT. JILLIAN'S CAR - NIGHT

Marilyn sits in the passengers seat of a small sedan. She faces the side window.

Her arms sit on her lap as she stares outside watching the buildings pass by.

MARILYN

Thanks for picking me up.

In the drivers seat, Jillian, wears pajamas. She smirks and takes a quick look at Marilyn.

JILLIAN

No problem jail bird.

She turns back and watches the road. Marilyn doesn't move.

MARILYN

I wasn't behind bars.

JILLIAN

I know that you're pretty down right now, so I really hate to say this.

(beat)

I told you so. That website was a classic motive. And the cops find everything out in their investigations. You can't keep anything from them.

Marilyn turns to Jillian and smiles at her.

MARILYN

Yeah, I have to admit that your crazy talk ended up being right but that's not what's really bothering me.

Marilyn stares ahead through the front window.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

This detective. Somehow I thought we had this connection, but I must have been reading him wrong.

JILLIAN

(mumbles)

Okay there's a man that you're actually interested in and you told me nothing about this. Go on.

MARILYN

Okay, look that's not the biggest issue. I have. My clients are being killed!

Jillian laughs loudly and tries to muffle it.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

How are you finding this funny?

JILLIAN

I'm sorry, it's just that your life is straight out of a book.

MARILYN

My client list is dropping. When it gets out that another one of my clients was murdered, my career is through.

Marilyn sighs and turns back to look out the side window.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Then they come to my home. I'm thinking I'm helping them with their investigation and I end up looking like a fool when I found out that I was just a suspect.

JILLIAN

Don't worry about it. They'll rule you out, he will apologize saying he was just doing his job and you can go on from there.

MARILYN

Yeah. Sure.

JILLIAN

You didn't listen to me before. You might want to listen to me now.

MARILYN

I don't think you're going to get that lucky to hit two in a row.

Marilyn takes out the envelopes from her purse.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

The killer knows where I live.

Jillian looks over at Marilyn. She pulls the car over to the side of the road and parks.

JILLIAN

How do you know?

MARILYN

These two envelopes where slipped under my front door. They list the names of the victims.

JILLIAN

What did the police say?

MARILYN

I didn't tell them.

JILLIAN

Why not!?

MARILYN

I was getting ready to and then he started pointing his fingers at me like I did something wrong.

Marilyn puts the envelope back in the purse.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I didn't want to give them another reason to connect me to the murders.

JILLIAN

Why are you having me take you back to your house? He could be sitting there waiting for you.

MARILYN

I doubt it. I need to put all this together. It has to be someone I've came in contact with before.

JILLIAN

That's a given.

MARILYN

Besides Brian is at the house.

Jillian pulls off. They sit in silence .

The car drives up Marilyn's dark empty driveway.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Now where could he be?

JILLIAN

Who?

MARILYN

Brian. I left him here, told him that I would be back.

She looks at her house. No lights are on inside.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I tried calling him at the police station and didn't get an answer. I thought he might have been in the shower or something.

JILLIAN

He just went out. You'll probably find a note inside. Do you want me to stay with you?

Marilyn unbuckles her seat belt and opens the door.

MARILYN

No, I'm fine. Go back home and get some rest. I'm going to do the same.

JILLIAN

I'll call you tomorrow. Be careful. Call me if you need anything else.

Marilyn gets out the car and bends down to look at Jillian.

MARILYN

Bye Jill.

She closes the car door and walks to the front door.

INT. MARILYN'S HOME - NIGHT

Marilyn opens the front door and walks inside the house. No lights are on.

She pulls up the switch next to the door. Lights come on in the living room.

She closes the door and locks it and puts on the dead bolt. She walks around the room then walks out.

INT. MARILYN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Marilyn walks in and turns on the lights. She looks around.

Marilyn puts her purse down on one of the chairs. She opens the fridge and moves around some items on the middle self. She closes the fridge door.

Turning around she sees something on the kitchen cabinet.

Walking towards the other end of the kitchen she notices a cell phone.

She picks it up and about to press a button on it when the DOORBELL RINGS.

She puts the phone down and walks out of the kitchen. She gets to the front door and peeks out the peep hole. The BELL RINGS again.

BRIAN

Mer!! It's me!

Marilyn takes off the dead bolt, unlocks the door and opens it.

Brian steps inside. He holds a fast food bag in his hands.

MARILYN

You, scared me. Why did you leave?

Brian heads to the kitchen and Marilyn follows him.

BRIAN

Sorry Mer, but you have to up your cooking skills.

He holds up the fast food bag to Marilyn.



BRIAN (CONT'D)

I had to get something to eat. I was going back to the hotel and noticed that I left my phone. Good thing you're back.

He heads to the kitchen.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

How was playing cop?

He walks in, grabs the cell phone from the cabinet and sticks it in his pocket.

Marilyn takes a seat at the table and Brian sit across from her, opens the brown bag and takes out a burger.

MARILYN

I wasn't playing cop. Just answering some questions. Another client was killed.

BRIAN

Yeah?

MARILYN

I can't have my clients dying so close together.

BRIAN

They're blaming you?

MARILYN

It's not as bad as it sounds.

BRIAN

Says the blond in the horror flick before she gets hacked to pieces.

Marilyn sighs and takes one of Brian's fries from his bag.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

That's the second time you've told me it's not as bad as it sounds. What are the police doing?

MARILYN

They're investigating and whatever else they do with these things.

BRIAN

But what about you? What evidence do they have?

MARILYN

All they have is my business card  
at both the houses, which means  
nothing.

Marilyn puts her head down on the table.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I just want to go to sleep, wake  
up, work and have things go back to  
normal.

BRIAN

Well you didn't do anything so you  
shouldn't have anything to worry  
about. What's your alibi?

He finishes off his burger. Marilyn tilts her head to look at  
him.

MARILYN

Who's playing cop now?

BRIAN

I'm serious, you need to be  
careful. This is why I need to be  
around more.

Marilyn sits up.

MARILYN

I don't need a safety lecture.  
Besides, this isn't my fault.

BRIAN

Apparently you do. And you should  
always be prepared. I'm staying  
over tonight.

MARILYN

Oh no you're not! What are you  
going to do, follow me everywhere I  
go, guard my office while I'm at  
work?

BRIAN

Well I am looking for a job, if  
you're hiring...

Marilyn stands up and pushes his head. Brian gets up and  
throws his trash away.

MARILYN

I'm going to be careful, but I just need to get some sleep. It's been a long day.

BRIAN

Are you kicking me out?

MARILYN

Yes.

BRIAN

Can I at least grab a drink to take with me? I forgot to order one.

Marilyn waves her hand toward the fridge.

MARILYN

Take all the drinks you want.

Brian opens the fridge and grabs two cans of sodas. He closes the fridge door and kisses Marilyn on the forehead.

BRIAN

Thanks. I'm leaving. Keep track of your surroundings.

They both walk to the front door. They hug then Marilyn slaps him on the back.

MARILYN

I will. You be safe out there too.

Brian opens the door and walks out. Marilyn closes the door and re-bolts the lock and locks the door.

INT. MARILYN'S BEDROOM - DAY

Marilyn lay sleep in her bed. The thin curtains allow the sun to shine in the room.

A faint KNOCK

Marilyn turns in her sleep.

The DOORBELL RINGS three times. Marilyn slowly opens her eyes and sees the clock that reads 7:45.

She MOANS as she gets out of bed and puts on her slippers. She walks out the door.

INT. MARILYN'S LIVING ROOM - DAY

The DOORBELL RINGS twice.

Marilyn walks to the front door and looks out the peep hole. She pulls away, unbolts the lock and opens the door.

Standing in the doorway is BRENDA TRIGGS. She holds a young baby in her arms. She has makeup running down her face.

BRENDA TRIGGS

Marilyn. Hey I'm sorry to be intruding like this. I just needed to talk to somebody.

Marilyn leads her inside and closes the door.

MARILYN

Come in. Take a seat.

Brenda sits on the sofa. She hugs the baby to her.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

You want anything to drink?

BRENDA TRIGGS

No. No Thank you

Marilyn walks over and sits across from her.

BRENDA TRIGGS (CONT'D)

I know we don't talk much. We've lived next door for over a year and-

MARILYN

-It's okay Brenda. What's going on?

BRENDA TRIGGS

Ryan has always talked highly of you. I'm not sure how much you two have talked.

Brenda moves her eyes from her baby to Marilyn.

BRENDA TRIGGS (CONT'D)

Has he said anything to you? Anything about our marriage or him wanting to leave?

MARILYN

No. We haven't really had a discussion. A greeting every now and then when I see him on his walks.

BRENDA TRIGGS

He hasn't been the same since the baby was born. He's alienates himself. And when he is around me, he gets mad over the smallest things.

Marilyn pulls a few tissues from the box on the end table and hands them to Brenda.

BRENDA TRIGGS (CONT'D)

Thanks. We had a big argument and he left.

She breaks down.

BRENDA TRIGGS (CONT'D)

What if he leaves me and Alisa?  
What am I suppose to do?

MARILYN

I'm so sorry. I had no idea. The last time I saw him, he said everything was fine. He did mention the baby having colic. He could just be stressed.

BRENDA TRIGGS

Stressed? I don't understand. I handle everything around the house.

MARILYN

If I wasn't so occupied with so many things this week, I might have recognized that something was wrong.

Marilyn stands and takes the baby from Brenda.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Why don't you clean up and I'll we'll go over to the park and talk.

BRENDA TRIGGS

I can use the fresh air. Thank you Marilyn. I hope, I'm not imposing to much.

Brenda stands and Marilyn points down the hall.

MARILYN

Not at all. I just need to make a call.

Brenda heads down the hall. Marilyn walks and picks up the phone from the table. The door CLOSES from the hallway.

Marilyn dials and puts the phone to his ear.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Hey, I need to cancel.

(beat)

No, I have a reason. My neighbor came to me for help, she's in bad shape.

(beat)

Her husband.

(beat)

Yeah. I'll come by the hotel later and pick you up. We may have to talk.

(beat)

Whatever. Bye Brian.

Marilyn hangs up the phone and puts it back on the table. She smiles at the baby as she gently bounces her up and down.

The door opens from the hallway. Brenda enters the living room and takes the baby from Marilyn.

BRENDA TRIGGS

Thank you again. My mind is in a thousand places.

MARILYN

It's not a problem.

Marilyn grabs her keys and leads Brenda to the front door.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Dan sits at his desk on the computer.

An officer stops by his desk and hands him a stack of papers. He takes them and the officer walks away. He looks through the stack.

Detective Orson walks in and flops down at his desk.

Dan looks up from the papers.

DAN LAWSON

Where have you been?

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Went to check out some thing.  
You'll be happy to know that  
Marilyn's alibi checks out.

DAN LAWSON  
So am I not going along with you  
when you question anyone now?

DETECTIVE ORSON  
You can now. After last night I  
thought it would be better if I  
checked things out myself.

DAN LAWSON  
Well while you was proving what I  
instinctively already knew.

He points to the middle of his forehead.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)  
I found us another suspect.

Dan pulls up his computer screen and starts to type.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)  
This is footage from the counseling  
centers security camera two days  
before the first murder.

On the monitor, a janitor walks into Marilyn's office, pulls  
out a key and unlocks the file cabinet.

The janitor flips through the files. He pulls one out and  
walks out of the camera's view.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Now watch this.

Dan fast-forwards the video and plays it.

The janitor comes into camera view. He holds the folder in  
his hands, replaces it in the file cabinet and locks it back  
up.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Is there anyway to zoom in on the  
file to see which one he was  
looking at?

DAN LAWSON  
No, this one is going to require a  
field trip.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Okay. Let's go.

They both stand at the same time. Dan grabs his keys and walks past Detective Orson.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)

You may want to keep in mind since Marilyn isn't a suspect she could be a potential target.

Dan looks back at Detective Orson

DAN LAWSON

We should warn her.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Not until we have some solid evidence. Shes a sharp one, its probably already has crossed her mind.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Marilyn and Brenda sit on a bench by the lake.

Brenda rocks her baby.

BRENDA TRIGGS

She goes to sleep easily good when I take her out. I think she likes the fresh air.

MARILYN

Fresh air is always good for the soul. I come here everyday. It reminds me of the park my mom use to take me to when I was younger.

She faces Brenda who stares down at her baby.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

You know, sometimes men have a harder time expressing their feelings. Ryan may just be stressing with the changes.

BRENDA TRIGGS

This is the first time he has taken things this far. He usually doesn't stress easily.



MARILYN

Is there anything else that causing you alarm?

Brenda look at Marilyn then quickly looks away.

BRENDA TRIGGS

He hit me.

MARILYN

What?

BRENDA TRIGGS

He's never done it before. I think it's the stress. Either way, I just need to give him some space.

MARILYN

Brenda, you can't take this lightly.

BRENDA TRIGGS

I'm not. I'm going to my parents house tonight. I'll stay though the weekend.

MARILYN

Have you tried calling him?

Brenda shakes her head.

BRENDA TRIGGS

I'm afraid to. Not to talk to him. Just afraid he may not answer.

MARILYN

Well go to your parents. You really need to take time apart so you can think about the situation. When you come back, it will be easier for you.

Brenda takes out her cellphone and begins to text.

BRENDA TRIGGS

Yeah. I'm going to let him know that I'll be gone.

MARILYN

I'll take you back and help you with Alisa while you pack.

BRENDA TRIGGS

Thanks Marilyn.

INT. COUNSELING LOBBY - DAY

Two couples sit in the chairs against the wall.

The secretary sits behind a large desk. She talks on the phone scheduling appointments.

Ryan Triggs stands at the desk waiting.

Dan and detective Orson walk in the front door and walk toward the front desk.

The secretary finishes the call.

SECRETARY

How can I help you!

RYAN TRIGGS

Is Marilyn Rose available anytime today?

SECRETARY

Sorry, she's not in today. Are you a client?

RYAN TRIGGS

Uh no, That's okay. I'll come back another time.

Ryan turns to leave and almost runs in to Detective Orson.

RYAN TRIGGS (CONT'D)

Sorry man.

Ryan hurries off. The detectives pay him no mind and approach the secretary.

DETECTIVE ORSON

We're here to see Marilyn.

SECRETARY

I'm sorry, Marilyn isn't in today.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Is she usually off work n a Thursday?

SECRETARY

Well her cliental dropped since-

She leans in closer to the detectives.

SECRETARY (CONT'D)

(whispers)

You know, since the murders. But her brother came in town the other day and she's out with him today.

Dan smirks at Detective Orson.

DAN LAWSON

Ah! Her brother!

Detective Orson elbows Dan in his side.

Dan loses the smirk and puts his attention back to the secretary.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

Um, maybe you can help us.

Dan pulls a print out from his folder and shows it to the secretary.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

Do you know this man?

The secretary takes the paper from Dan, glances at it and hands it back to him.

SECRETARY

Yeah, that's Gary Dotson. He's the night janitor. He usually comes in around seven.

Dan puts away the paper. The detectives turn away from the front desk.

DAN LAWSON

We could wait for him tonight, but I think we should look him up and get him as soon as we can.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Let's get on it then shall we.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Brenda's phone BEEPS. She picks it up and reads. She looks over at Marilyn with a slight smile.

BRENDA TRIGGS

He says he's sorry he left and wants to talk. He's coming home.

MARILYN

Let him know you're at the park and will meet him there.

Brenda texts on the phone.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

This is your chance to be open with him and let him know and feel it's okay for him to be open with you.

Brenda puts away her phone.

BRENDA TRIGGS

Okay. I just don't want to mess anything up. I don't want him to leave again.

MARILYN

Put away those fears. Let him begin the conversation. Just hear him out, don't be judgemental to anything he has to say and make sure you let him know how you feel.

They get up from the bench and start walking. Marilyn gives Brenda a business card.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Feel free to call me or you know where I live.

BRENDA TRIGGS

Thanks Marilyn!

EXT. TILLMAN'S HOME - DAY

The neighborhood has a gated entrance.

A ranch level home sits on the corner. The yard has a tricycle and a large ball on the front lawn.

The delivery person walks to the front door and RINGS the bell.

Footsteps run from inside the home. A CLICK and the door knob turns.

ANGIE (6) stands in the doorway. She looks up at the delivery person and smiles.

ANGIE

Hi!

The delivery person takes a step back from the door, pauses then runs off around the corner.

The girl closes the front door.

ANGIE (CONT'D)

Mom!

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Detective Orson and Dan sit on one side of the table.

Gary Dotson sits on the other side. He holds his hands together.

DETECTIVE ORSON

When did you start working at Fellowship Counseling?

GARY DOTSON

Aaah, about two months ago. I use to be up at ah, at uh um the school, but I switched over two months ago.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Did you know a Laura Rodgers?

GARY DOTSON

No.

DAN LAWSON

How about a Ken Green?

GARY DOTSON

No.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Well do you know any of the clients that see the counselors at Fellowship?

GARY DOTSON

Uh how should I know?

Dan picks up a remote from the table and plays a tape on the TV in the upper right corner.

The tape shows the janitor going into the file cabinet.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Well you seem pretty interested in somebody's file.

GARY DOTSON

Okay, okay. It's not what you think.

DAN LAWSON

Well you said that you didn't know anyone attending the center.

He points to the video surveillance.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

This tape makes me think otherwise. Maybe you paid one of these clients a visit at their residence?

GARY DOTSON

Whoa, no, no. It's my wife. That's it.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Your wife?

GARY DOTSON

Yeah. She started seeing one of the counselors there.

(beat)

A marriage counselor but she went alone. Doesn't that seem odd?

DAN LAWSON

So why were you going through the files?

GARY DOTSON

I just wanted to find out what she was talking about. She doesn't talk to me, I didn't know what was going on.

DAN LAWSON

So how did you get the key Gary?

GARY DOTSON

The counselor let it on her desk one night. It was like a sign for me to go ahead and look.

Gary leans in closer to the detectives.

GARY DOTSON (CONT'D)

The center had an opening. I applied and when I had a chance, I checked out the file. It was just that one time. Just the one time.

Dan smiles at Gary. Detective Orson puts in another video tape.

GARY DOTSON (CONT'D)  
It was nothing. Just a quick look.

DAN LAWSON  
Just that one time?

Gary nods his head while he watches detective Orson. Sweat forms on his forehead.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Well it's funny because a guy that looks just like you was seen a couple of days later going through that same file cabinet.

GARY DOTSON  
I didn't hurt no one.

DAN LAWSON  
Gary, you're going to have to start talking. Time is clicking.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Yeah Gary, if we don't get answers, you're going down for two counts of first degree murder.

Sweat runs down Gary's forehead.

GARY DOTSON  
I started getting these letters.

DAN LAWSON  
From who?

GARY DOTSON  
I...I don't know. They would be in a blank envelope. They would always be on the windshield of my truck.

DAN LAWSON  
And what would these letters say?

GARY DOTSON  
The first one came with the file key. It had a name and I was to write down the address and phone numbers and leave it on the other side of my windshield.

DAN LAWSON

And you never saw who the person was that was leaving and taking the information?

GARY DOTSON

No. I didn't want to know.

DETECTIVE ORSON

So you get a letter asking for somebody's personal information and you just automatically do it?

Detective Orson laughs and leans in closer to Gary.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)

How much?

Gary lowers his head.

GARY DOTSON

Five hundred.

DAN LAWSON

What? I didn't hear you?

GARY DOTSON

I got five hundred dollars for each name.

A KNOCK at the door.

Detective Orson gets up and opens the door. A officer stands on the other side and talks to detective Orson.

The officer leaves and detective Orson closes the door back. He walks back to the table.

Dan lays a pad in front of Gary.

DAN LAWSON

I want you to write everything down that you just said.

GARY DOTSON

Then can I go?

DETECTIVE ORSON

A officer will be with you shortly.

Dan stands and looks at detective Orson.



DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)  
Our killer tried to strike again.  
He got away but the good news is no  
one was hurt and now we have a  
description. Come on.

INT. TILLMAN'S HOME - DAY

MRS. TILLMAN (29) sits on the sofa in the living room. She  
talks to one of the police officers in the room.

Angie sits on a recliner on the other side of the room and  
talks to another police officer.

Dan and detective Orson walk into the room.

The officer by Mrs. Tillman looks up and acknowledges the  
detectives. He closes his note pad and walks off as the  
detectives approach.

DAN LAWSON  
Mrs. Tillman. I'm Dan Lawson, this  
is detective Orson. We understand a  
man with a package showed up to  
your door.

MRS. TILLMAN  
Yes. The bell rung and my daughter  
ran and answered the door. I taught  
her never to open the door.

She looks at her daughter.

MRS. TILLMAN (CONT'D)  
Never open the door unless I tell  
you it's okay!

Angie looks at her mother with tears in her eyes. Mrs.  
Tillman looks back at the detectives.

MRS. TILLMAN (CONT'D)  
She said the man looked at her and  
then left. I called the police  
because it seemed a little off that  
he just left and didn't even leave  
the package.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Do you mind if we ask your daughter  
a couple of questions?

MRS. TILLMAN

Of course not. Oh, after Angie called me when the man left. I looked out the window and saw a tan delivery truck leaving the street.

DETECTIVE ORSON

You didn't happen to catch the license plate?

MRS. TILLMAN

No, it was too far away.

DAN LAWSON

Thank you. That will be helpful in the investigation.

Mrs. Tillman stands and looks back at her daughter.

MRS. TILLMAN

Angie! Come over here! These men want to ask you some questions.

She turns to the detectives.

MRS. TILLMAN (CONT'D)

Would you like anything to drink?

DETECTIVE ORSON

I'm good.

DAN LAWSON

No, thank you.

MRS. TILLMAN

I'm going to pour me another cup.

She picks up a coffee mug from the table and walks toward the kitchen.

Angie slowly walks up between the detectives and sits where her mother had sat.

DAN LAWSON

Hi Angie.

ANGIE

Hi.

DAN LAWSON

I'm Dan Lawson. Can I ask you a question so you can help us?

Angie looks up at him and nods.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

When, you opened the door, did you see what the man looked like?

ANGIE

Kind of.

DAN LAWSON

What do you remember?

ANGIE

He was tall. He had a black hat. I couldn't see his eyes.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Did he say anything to you?

Angie shakes her head.

DAN LAWSON

Did you see any pictures or shapes drawn on his body.

ANGIE

No.

DAN LAWSON

Thank you Angie. You've been a big help.

Angie smiles. She gets up from the couch and runs to find her mom.

DETECTIVE ORSON

So our guy may work for one of the delivery companies.

DAN LAWSON

That's big. We can start by finding out what companies use a tan or brown truck.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Better yet, cameras may come in handy again.

He takes out his keys from his pocket.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)

I need to find out if any of these stores near here have outside cameras, they may have captured the truck coming in.

Dan stands and they both head out the house.

DAN LAWSON

Drop me back off at the station, I  
need to make some calls.

EXT. HOTEL - DUSK

Marilyn parks at a nice hotel. She takes out her phone and  
makes a call.

MARILYN

Come on Brian.

Marilyn closes the phone and turns off the engine. She takes  
her belt off and gets out the car.

INT. HOTEL LOBBY - DUSK

Inside the hotel is bright and luxurious.

Marilyn pushes a button and waits for the elevator.

Another person comes up and waits with her. She smiles and  
the other person smiles back.

The elevator opens and she enters. The other person pushes  
for the second floor and Marilyn pushes the sixth floor. The  
elevator door closes.

INT. HOTEL SIXTH FLOOR - DUSK

The elevator door opens and Marilyn steps out. She turns to  
her left and walks down the hall until she gets the door that  
reads "607".

Marilyn KNOCKS on the door and waits. She knocks harder.

MARILYN

Brian!

Marilyn sighs and gets her phone out. She makes a call and  
waits.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Brian, I'm here at the hotel. You  
owe me gas money. I'm headed back.  
I need you to meet me at the house  
next door. 2283. Come as soon as  
you get this.

Marilyn hangs up the phone. The phone lets out a long BEEP.

MARILYN (CONT'D)  
No, don't die on me.

The phone shuts down.

MARILYN (CONT'D)  
Ugh!

Marilyn walks down the hall toward the elevator.

INT. POLICE OFFICE - DUSK

Dan walks in. A WOMAN in a police uniform stops him.

WOMAN  
A Brice William called about an hour ago. Says he sent over a surveillance file. It should be in the e-mail that you gave him.

DAN LAWSON  
Thanks.

WOMAN  
No problem.

Dan walks to his desk and turns on his computer. He opens his top drawer and pulls out a candy bar, opens it and starts to eat it.

He opens up an e-mail program and types in his user name and password. He clicks under an e-mail and on a file.

A video pops up and he starts to play through it. He finishes his candy and throws the wrapper in the trash.

When he looks back at the computer something catches his eye. He leans in closer to the screen.

Dan reaches for his phone and dials a number.

DAN LAWSON  
Damn it!

He starts writing on a tablet and tears the paper off.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)  
Marilyn. If you're home stay there.  
I'm coming over.

He hangs up the phone and rushes out.

EXT. MARILYN'S HOME - NIGHT

A black Lincoln pulls up to the curb in front of the house. The car is turned off and the lights turn off.

The driver's door opens. Dan jumps out the car and rushes to the front door.

A loud ruffle of leaves is heard to his left and he comes to a stop. He looks to his left and nothing is seen or heard. He slowly continues to move toward the front door.

He gets to the door and keeping his back against the door he rings the bell. He turns to his side.

DAN LAWSON

Marilyn! It's me, Detective Lawson.  
Please open the door! It's  
important!

He RINGS the bell two more times. He hears footsteps coming from in the house.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Marilyn. I wanted to  
talk to you sooner  
(beat)  
I just didn't know what to say.

The sound of the bolt lock coming off and the lock turns.

The door opens up and Dan steps in.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

Marilyn, where's your...

A arm stretches from behind the door. There are black gloves worn on the hand holding a stun gun.

The stun gun is placed on the back of Dan's neck as he comes through the door and he is shocked. He blacks-out.

INT. MARILYN'S CAR - NIGHT

Marilyn drives while talking on her cell phone. The phone charges from the cigarette outlet.

MARILYN

It's been a long night Jillian. I  
just want to go home, draw me a  
bath and call it a day.

As she pulls up to her house she sees the Lincoln parked on the street.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Nooo, now what?

(beat)

He's at my house.

(beat)

The detective. I'll call you tomorrow.

She hangs the phone up and as she passes the car she notices that it is empty. She pulls in her driveway and parks the car.

Marilyn takes a look around then picks up her phone and dials.

INT. DAN LAWSON'S CAR - NIGHT

Dan's phone sits on the passenger seat. The PHONE RINGS.

The screen LIGHTS up and Marilyn's name and number shows up.

The PHONE RINGS two more times.

INT. MARILYN'S CAR

Marilyn sits with the phone to her ear.

DAN LAWSON (V.O.)

You've reached Detective Lawson.

Sorry I missed your call...

Marilyn hangs up phone. She looks around before opening the front door.

MARILYN

Detective Lawson?

(beat)

Dan!? Dan? Are you out here?

She gets out the car, closes the door and rushes to her front door where she unlocks the door and goes inside.

INT. MARILYN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Walking inside, Marilyn quickly closes the door and puts on the bolt lock.

The house is dark and she turns on the living room light. She walks around checking the out the windows and closing the open curtains.

Marilyn walks to the table and pulls grabs her cordless phone. She re-dials, listens for a few seconds then hangs up the phone.

She goes to put the phone down then lifts it back, dials some numbers and puts the phone to her ear.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Detective Orson enters the room. The place is empty. He walks over to Dan's desk and rambles through the papers sitting on top.

He opens the drawers and closes them back.

The phone on the desk RINGS. Detective Orson closes the last drawer and picks it up after the second RING.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
DAN LAWSON's desk, This is  
detective Orson.

INT. MARILYN'S HOME - NIGHT

Marilyn is on the phone. She paces in the living room then stops.

MARILYN  
Detective Orson! This is Marilyn.  
Dan's... DAN LAWSON's car is parked  
outside my house, but he's nowhere  
around. Do you know what's going  
on?

The DOORBELL RINGS. Marilyn looks toward the door.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Detective Orson shakes the mouse of the computer. The computer screen's light comes on.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
I'm trying to figure that out now.  
I tried calling him, he ran off and  
didn't say anything.



MARILYN (V.O.)  
Someone's at the door.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Wait. Make sure you check who it  
is. If it's anyone except Lawson,  
don't answer it.

INT. MARILYN'S HOME - NIGHT

The DOORBELL RINGS twice.

BRIAN (V.O.)  
Marilyn! It's me, open the door.

Marilyn takes the phone from her ear and walks toward the door.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Detective Orson scrolls down on the computer. A picture from a traffic camera comes into view.

The picture shows Brian in the driver's seat of a delivery truck.

MARILYN (V.O.)  
It's okay, it's just my brother.  
I'll call you back in a minute.

The phone goes dead.

DETECTIVE ORSON  
Marilyn no . Hello? Marilyn?

He slams down the phone on the base.

DETECTIVE ORSON (CONT'D)  
Shit!

He picks up the phone and dials. The phone rings.

INT. MARILYN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Marilyn unlocks the door and takes off the bolt lock. Her phone rings.

As she opens the door, Brian rushes in almost knocking her down.

Brian closes the door and puts on the bolt lock. He looks to the phone in Marilyn's hand ringing.

BRIAN  
Who is that?

MARILYN  
I think it's detective Orson  
calling me back. Hold on just a  
minute.

She lifts the phone and Brian grabs it out of her hand and tosses it on the couch.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Detective Orson holds the phone to his ear. It rings four times.

MARILYN (V.O.)  
Leave a message and I'll get back  
to you as soon as I can.

Detective Orson slams down the phone and rushes out the office.

INT. MARILYN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

MARILYN  
Why did you do that? What's wrong?

Brian does not answer. He walks down the hall. Marilyn follows behind him.

INT. MARILYN'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

Brian opens some drawers and pulls out hand towels and places them on the counter.

MARILYN  
Brian!

Brian stops and looks at Marilyn.

BRIAN  
What did he say?

MARILYN  
Who?

BRIAN  
The detective.

MARILYN  
Nothing. I called him. Dan's car is out front, but I have no idea where he is. Neither does detective Orson.

Marilyn watches Brian carefully.

MARILYN (CONT'D)  
I need to find out what he knows. I think Dan found out something but didn't tell him.

BRIAN  
Dan?

MARILYN  
Detective Lawson.

BRIAN  
When did you start calling him by his first name?

MARILYN  
Why aren't you telling me what you're doing? We need to settle something next door, it's a personal favor.

BRIAN  
Marilyn, I messed up. Damn it, I messed up!

Marilyn walks over to Brian and touches his shoulder.

MARILYN  
What happened? It can't be that bad, nothing we can't fix right?

Brian turns and goes to the refrigerator. He opens the door and takes out a can, opens it and takes a drink. He keeps his back to Marilyn.

BRIAN  
You was right. Too much at one time. I rushed things.

MARILYN  
Brian.

BRIAN

I'm sorry.

He turns around and looks Marilyn in her eyes.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You're gonna have to be cool with this.

MARILYN

Okay Brian. I'm listening.

Brian grabs her hand. Picks up the towels from the counter and leads her out.

BRIAN

Come on.

INT. MARILYN'S BACK DOOR.

Brian walks to the door that leads to the porch outside. Marilyn follows him.

Brian pushes back the curtain and unlocks the door. He opens the door and steps out. Marilyn follows him out on the porch.

EXT. MARILYN'S BACKYARD - NIGHT

The yard is fenced in. A large porch is attached to the lower portion of the house.

A grill and a outdoor table and chairs are located on the porch.

Moans are coming from the right side. Marilyn stops and looks in the direction of the moans.

MARILYN

What?

Brian steps further up and the sensor lights are triggered on.

Dan sits on one of the outdoor chairs. His arms and legs are bounded to the chair with box tape.

He is slouched over and can't hold his head up. His mouth has a thick piece of box tape over it.

Blood is running down from the back of his head and circling to the front of his neck.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

Oh my gosh Brian! What did you do?

Marilyn makes her way to the detective and Brian rushes in front of her and holds her back.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

No. This is not part of the plan

BRIAN

He is now. The plans are off the tracks right now.

Dan opens his eyes slightly. He moans. Marilyn looks over at him the back at Brian.

MARILYN

No Brian, not him. He hasn't done anything wrong.

Brian laughs. Startled Marilyn takes a few steps back from him. Brian sits at one of the chairs.

BRIAN

I didn't plan this Mer. But he caught on to me.

MARILYN

How? What happened?

Brian's laugh slows then stops. He scratches his head.

BRIAN

I went to take care of Kathy's husband. A kid answered the door. She wasn't suppose to be there. I panicked.

Marilyn steps back and sits on the ground. Her eyes are wide and watery. She shakes her head.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I left, but the girl got a look at me.

MARILYN

No, no.

BRIAN

I came back and the police were already there questioning the kid. I followed the detectives to find out what the had.

MARILYN

This was bound to happen. I should have put a stop to this.

BRIAN

I knew he was going to figure it out. So I came back to the house. I figured he would come here first.

He takes black gloves out of his pockets and place them on his lap.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You have to understand that we have to take care of this.

Brian closes his eyes and shakes his head.

MARILYN

I understand. Still there has to be something else we can do.

Marilyn looks over at Dan. He tries to move, stops and his eyes close again.

BRIAN

It's been so easy, but that kid messed me up. She wasn't suppose to be there.

He sits up and points over to Dan.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

It's gotta be done.

MARILYN

There's got to be another way. Detective Orson is going to eventually find out and he'll be here too.

BRIAN

You're too meek Mer. You have to remember the big picture. We've helped so many people. We can't let one person end the work we have done.

Brian pounds his fist on the table.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You are in the perfect position to put people in their place.

(MORE)

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You can screen out the people who shouldn't be here. The cheaters, the abusers, the alcoholics.

MARILYN

Stop! I know what I do and why. But if we start harming innocent people, then we're crossing the line Brian.

Dan opens his eyes.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

What are we gonna do? Are we going on a shoot-out? You kill a cop and we are screwed.

BRIAN

Like we aren't screwed now.

Brian puts on the gloves and walks toward the end of the porch. His back is to Marilyn.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

We'll leave. Go and get pack up what you can. When I'm done here, we'll disappear.

MARILYN

This has gone far enough. You're not thinking clearly. You're not an experienced killer, you can't think this all out.

BRIAN

Mer. I've been in this since dad. You remember how I took care of dad?

MARILYN

You? No... You were only twelve! It was mom. I found the poison in the cabinet.

BRIAN

Mom would have never done it. I had to step in. Be the man. In her heart she knew, she never said anything, but she knew.

Marilyn back at Brian who has tears in his eyes.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

She was happy. She showed me her appreciation by enjoying the rest of her life. Why does it matter who did it?

Marilyn lets out a nervous laugh.

MARILYN

So you've been doing this since you were twelve. I always thought it was mom who influenced you to do this.

BRIAN

And when you got in your position, you provided a way to help me rid of the trash. Make others happy by getting rid of their burden. It's almost like God's work.

Brian pulls out a box cutter from his back pocket and walks toward Marilyn.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

I have to finish this.

Brian approaches her with his arms extended.

MARILYN

Brian, I love you.

Marilyn nods her head as she takes a step towards Brian.

MARILYN (CONT'D)

I was wrong. I shouldn't have gotten involved with this. It's time to stop.

Marilyn hugs Brian. Brian hugs her back.

BRIAN

I'm going to need some money.

MARILYN

No, I need help Brian and so do you.

She quickly turns and grabs the box cutter from his hand.

Marilyn runs over to Dan. She starts cutting away the tape on his left arm.



BRIAN

Did you hear anything that I said  
to you? Or do you just not care  
anymore?

Marilyn bends down and cuts the tape binding Lawson's legs.  
Dan tries to help with his free hand.

His movements are slow.

Marilyn looks up at the detective with tears in her eyes.

MARILYN

I'm so sorry. I meant for you to  
get hurt.

Brian reaches under the chair he was sitting in and pulls out  
Dan's holster.

He takes the gun out and points it at the detectives left  
side as Marilyn works on freeing his right arm.

Dan sees the gun and his eyes widen. He makes a frantic groan  
and tries to push Marilyn away.

Marilyn faces Brian just as he pulls the trigger.

There is a loud GUNSHOT.

Marilyn gathers herself and jumps to push Dan over. The  
bullet hits her in the back and she goes down.

Dan drastically tears at the last of the tape on his arm.

Brian drops the gun and runs to Marilyn.

BRIAN

Mer!

He gets to her and turns her over. She is breathing heavily.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

What were you thinking? Look at me!  
Don't you die on me.

He takes off his coat and puts it under Marilyn against her  
wound.

Faint sirens are heard.

Dan frees his arm and pulls the tape from his mouth. He looks  
down at Marilyn.

DAN LAWSON

Marilyn!

Marilyn turns her head to the detective. Her mouth opens and she goes unconscious.

Brian cries. He puts his head up as the SIRENS get louder.

BRIAN

Damn it Marilyn!

He looks at Dan who pulls himself from the chair. Brian gently lowers Marilyn's head to the ground.

BRIAN (CONT'D)

You take care of her. She had nothing to do with this.

Brian gets up and runs back in the house. Dan drops to his knees and drags himself to Marilyn. He puts his fingers to her neck.

DAN LAWSON

Stay with me. Help is coming. Do you hear me?

The sirens are loud. There are FOOTSTEPS toward the front of the house.

INT. MARILYN'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Brian runs through the living room to the front door. He opens the door.

EXT. MARILYNS HOME - NIGHT.

Detective Orson grabs Brian as he runs out the house. Brian struggles and they both fall to the ground.

Detective Orson overpowers Brian and cuffs him.

DAN LAWSON (O.S.)

Hey! We're in the back. Hurry!

Detective Orson stands while he pulls Brian up. He pushes Brian to a nearby officer.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Take him.

Detective Orson rushes through the fence around the house.

EXT. MARILYN'S BACK YARD - NIGHT

Detective Orson comes from around the corner with his gun drawn. He pushes the gate open and carefully approaches.

DAN LAWSON

Marilyn.

He points to the house.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

He ran inside..

DETECTIVE ORSON

We got him coming out the house.  
Just take it easy.

DAN LAWSON

Call the paramedics. Hurry

Dan coughs.

DETECTIVE ORSON

Hold on Dan, they're coming.

DAN LAWSON

Not for me. I'm fine just a little  
dizzy

Dan lays down besides Marilyn and closes his eyes.

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Marilyn lays asleep in a hospital bed. She slowly opens her eyes and turns her head.

MARILYN

What are you doing here?

Across the room, Jillian sits with a book in her hands. She puts the book down.

JILLIAN

Well hello to you too? Not the  
greeting I was looking for but I'll  
take it because I happy to see you  
awake.

Marilyn tries to move.

MARILYN

Ouch! My body hurts so bad!

JILLIAN  
Yeah. You've been shot. You're  
lucky to feel that hurt.

MARILYN  
What happened?

JILLIAN  
I came hoping you would tell me.

There is a KNOCK at the door. The door opens and Dan walks  
in. He holds a vase of flowers in one hand.

DAN LAWSON  
Hi.

Marilyn smiles. Jillian looks back at the detective and then  
back at Marilyn.

JILLIAN  
Oh. I see now. Wow you're changing.  
Blowing me off for a man.

Jillian wipes a fake tear from her eyes.

JILLIAN (CONT'D)  
I am so proud of you.

Jillian goes over to Marilyn and kisses her on the cheek.

JILLIAN (CONT'D)  
I'll be back to check on you  
tomorrow. You have a lot of  
explaining to do!

Jillian leaves and Dan stares at Marilyn.

MARILYN  
You're alive.

Dan walks into the room and sits down on the chair next to  
the hospital bed.

DAN LAWSON  
Thanks to you, I'm alive.

He sets the flowers on the end table.

MARILYN  
I'm sorry.

DAN LAWSON

You're sorry that I'm alive?  
Because the way you blocked that  
bullet kinda of looked like you  
wanted me to live.

Marilyn tries to laugh but winches in pain.

MARILYN

No, for my brother. I-

DAN LAWSON

-No need Marilyn. He confessed  
everything. He told us how he got  
the janitor to get information from  
your office.

Dan leans down in front of Marilyn.

DAN LAWSON (CONT'D)

You didn't know anything about what  
he was doing. He's now going to get  
the help that he needs.

Marilyn tears up. Dan grabs her hand.

MARILYN

But, I..

DAN LAWSON

It's okay. Hey when you get out of  
here, you want to try dinner this  
time?

Marilyn nods her head as her and Dan hug.

EXT. CEMETERY - DUSK (FLASHBACK)

Marilyn, (8) wears a laced black dress. She looks at the dark  
clouds in the sky.

MARILYN (V.O.)

My mom never told me there is a way  
to balance a relationship and my  
career.

She looks at the pastor. The pastor closes the bible and bows  
his head in prayer.

MARILYN (V.O.)

But then again, I don't think she  
knew that you could.

She looks at her mother who has bowed her head.

MARILYN (V.O.)

She should have taught me not let  
my guard down when it came to  
family.

She looks at her brother. He looks down at his lap and plays  
with his fingers. Marilyn closes her eyes and bows her head.

MARILYN (V.O.)

Because sometimes the people that  
are closest to you can be your  
biggest fall.

Brian slowly rises his head. His mouth forms into a smile.

FADE TO BLACK.