

ETERNAL ECLIPSE OF THE CRIMINAL MIND

FADE IN:

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY / TANYA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

A phone rings in a hallway.

The door swings open and a guy, SAM (28) steps in with an arm full of DVD movies in cases. He slams the door shut then pops the DVDs on a table next to the phone.. He lifts a cordless phone receiver.

INTERCUT:

SAM

Hello?

On the other end of the phone line, in a hallway, is TANYA (27), Sam's girlfriend.

TANYA

Hi, babe. What took you so long?

SAM

I was outside when the phone started  
I was just coming back from the  
video store.

TANYA

What did you get?

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - LOUNGE / TANYA'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Sam walks into the lounge room. There's a large Sopranos poster up on the wall.

SAM

Reservoir Dogs, Scarface and The  
Godfather.

TANYA

Just for something different. Why  
don't you just buy them?

SAM

I like the ritual of borrowing  
them. So, what's up?

TANYA

Some friends of mine wanted to  
know if you could get them some  
ice.

SAM

How much do they want?

TANYA

Two points.

SAM

Yeah, not a problem.

TANYA

Oh you're so sweet. Can they pick it up tomorrow night?

SAM

Yeah, I'll bring it over. What are you doing? Do you want to go to the casino or something?

TANYA

Can't, the folks are coming over for tea. Why don't you come over here?

SAM

Why, so your dad can ignore me all night? Thanks, but no thanks.

Sam looks out the lounge room window.

Through the window, a car pulls up in his driveway.

He steps over to the window and peels back the curtains to get a better look.

SAM

Someone's here, gotta go.

TANYA

(joking)

Who is she?

SAM

(defensively)

Take it easy, it's just R.B.

TANYA

Oh, that creep! I think I'd prefer it was another girl.

SAM

Look don't start that shit again, he's alright!

TANYA

Look, selling a bit of dope on the side is fine, but getting mixed up with this guy... I don't know, I think your getting in way over your head.

SAM

Pah, turn it up! I'll see ya tomorrow.

END INTERCUT

Through the window Sam watches R.B. get out of a car and walk towards the front door.

There is a knock at the front door.

EXT. SAM'S HOUSE - DAY

A guy stands, fidgets at the front door, looks around sheepishly.

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Sam opens the door, the guy is R.B. (28) he stand there, smiles.

R.B.  
Hey, buds.

SAM  
(smiles)  
Hey R.B., come in.

Sam steps out of R.B.'s way to let him in. Sam shuts the door.

INT. SAM'S HOUSE - LOUNGE - DAY

Sam and R.B. ambles into the lounge room.

The walls are covered in various gangster movie and TV posters:

INSERT: The Sopranos Movie Poster.

INSERT: Heat Movie Poster.

INSERT: Carlito's Way Movie Poster.

R.B. glances at the movie posters for a moment then turns to Sam.

R.B.  
So how's business?

SAM  
Steady.

R.B.  
Good. Is anybody getting suspicious?

SAM  
Nah, everybody still thinks I'm a small timer, doing it to support my own habit.

R.B.  
Good, keep it that way. If people start thinking your making a quid, they'll lag ya'.

SAM  
Yeah, I hear ya'. So, what brings you down here? I thought we were gonna' hook up tomorrow?

R.B.

Yeah, that's still on, but I need you to do something for me today. I've got a couple of guys who say they'll buy kilos off me. Alfie thinks they're okay but you can never be sure. I want you to do the deal for me and check out if they're okay.

Sam ponders the proposition and shakes his head.

SAM

I don't know R.B. That's a lot of fucking product, which could mean a lot of fucking time.

R.B.

Mate, this is the business we chose. If you want to move forward and in your case up, you have to take risks. But hey, if your scared...

SAM

Kill that noise, my balls are as big as they come.. And Alfie says they're okay? Fuck it, I'm in!

R.B. smiles and nods.

R.B.

Cool. We'll just sell them a couple of ounces first and then take it from there.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Two guys, SASHA (early 30s) and VLAD (early 40s), are in a dimly lit office. Vlad sits at a desk. Sasha stands.

There's a knock at the door. Sasha opens it and the sun lights up the room. Sam step inside, he carries a bag. Sasha closes the door.

VLAD

(Russian accent)

Please to be seated.

Sam sits on the seat in front of the desk. Sasha stands in front of the doorway.

VLAD

So you have the stuff?

Sam throws his hands up in the air.

SAM

(to himself)

Have I got the stuff?

(to Vlad)

What the fuck are we doing? Of course I've got it.

Sam puts the bag on the desk. Vlad reaches over and picks it up, he opens the bag and gestures for Sasha to come over.

VLAD

Sasha.

Sasha tramps over, Vlad offers him the bag.

Sasha sticks his finger into the bag, pulls it out, white powder stuck to his finger and he tastes some of the ice.

VLAD

(to Sasha)

Dah...

Sasha smiles, tries to put his finger back in the bag but Vlad slaps it away and waves him back to the door.

VLAD

(to Sam)

Your boss says this will be four thousand dollars. Is that right?

SAM

He told me five.

Vlad gives Sam a fishy look, which quickly evaporates.

VLAD

Sure, this is nothing. What I want to buy is kilos. I can do this, yes?

SAM

I don't see why not?

Vlad smiles and nods. He pulls out an envelope filled with money and hands it to Sam.

Sam takes the envelope filled with money. Suddenly Vlad jumps up and points a gun at Sam.

VLAD

(yells in an  
Australian accent)

Hands up, your under a arrest!

Sam freezes, he has a confused look on his face.

VLAD

(yells)

Hands up, now!

Sam puts his hands up.

SAM

(to himself)

Good on ya', Alfie.

Sasha steps up behind Sam and pats him for a concealed weapon, he finds a gun inside his jacket and slowly lifts it out for all to see.

Vlad smiles.

VLAD

(smiles)

Oh, possession of a prohibited fire arm, on top of trafficking. It just keeps getting better. Sit down Sam.

SAM

How come you know my name?

VLAD

It's called surveillance. Now sit!.

Sam sits down.

VLAD

You'd be surprised by what we know. Sam Butler of 53 Elm Grove, Jacana. We know you've got a few priors and that this bust is going to mean serious jail time for you. We also know you work for R.B.

SAM

I'm not saying anything...

VLAD

Until I speak to my lawyer. Yeah, that's good Sam, very staunch. But, your lawyer is going to tell you that you've been caught red handed and you should throw yourself at the mercy of the court.

Vlad looks over to Sasha.

VLAD

And how do you think he'll go, detective Armani? Oh Sorry, I forgot my manners, Sam, this is detective Armani and I'm detective Ellis.

ELLIS

Considering ice is all the rage in the media at the moment, and the powers that be have vowed to crack down on anyone producing it or selling, I reckon they might make an example of young Sam and probably give him about... 8 years.

Detective Ellis shakes his head and whistles at the enormity of the sentence.

Sam smirks.

SAM  
Oh, I'm pissing in my pants.

ELLIS  
You bet your arse you are.

SAM  
Well, if you guys are so sure that I'm gone. What do you need me to co-operate for?

ELLIS  
I hate to burst your bubble, Sam, I really do. But in the scheme of things your a big heap of nothing. R.B.'s the one we want. If you can help us all convict him, I can guarantee you'll walk.

SAM  
(to himself)  
Yeah, straight into a bullet.

Sam looks at Ellis.

SAM  
Like I said, I've got nothing to say. I don't even now who this R.B. is?

Ellis smiles and tosses a bunch of photographs to Sam.

Sam glances down at the pictures, shuffles through them.

Various shots of Black and white surveillance photos of Sam and R.B. talking at the front of Sam's house.

Sam looks up from the pictures and then looks away. He knows he's screwed.

Ellis notices Sam being distant as he stares out of the window.

ELLIS  
Oh come on Sam, what about that little piece of fluff of yours.

Ellis looks at Armani.

ELLIS  
(to Armani)  
What's her name?

ARMANI  
Tanya Robinson.

Sam turns away from the window, quickly glances at Armani and then back at Ellis.

Ellis bends down to Sam's eye-line.



ELLIS

(grins)

Surveillance. Now, do you think she'd be willing to wait 8 years for you?

Sam remains silent. Ellis glances to Armani

ELLIS

(to Armani)

Go get the car, mate.

Armani opens the door and steps out, sunlight briefly shines into the room through the open door, then the door closes; bathes the room in half-light and half-shadows.

ELLIS

(to Sam)

You have a choice, Sam. In the time it takes him to get the car and come back, you need to decide if you want to make a deal or phone that lawyer of yours.

SAM

What's the deal?

ELLIS

You testify against R.B. and you'll receive immunity from all the crimes you've committed.

SAM

Look man, R.B.'s a heavy fucking guy! If I testify I'm gonna' need witness protection.

ELLIS

Well, if the information you give us is juicy enough, that can be arranged.

Ellis and Sam look at each other for a moment.

ELLIS

So, what do you say Sam? Do we have a deal?

SAM

(mutters)

Yeah.

ELLIS

What's that, I didn't quite catch it?

SAM

(annoyed)

I said alright! I'll testify!

The door to the office swings opens and the bright sunlight pours into the room. Ellis looks past Sam.

ELLIS  
(smiling)  
He says he's willing to testify.

Sam turns around to see who Ellis is talking to and when he does he closes his eyes and drops his head.

EXT. PARK - DAY

Lush green trees grows all around, small pathways snake through the park, a small lake to one side, birds wade in the water.

Sam walks through the deserted park.

Silence.

A cell phone rings.

INTERCUT:

Tanya treks along a path through the park, she comes from the opposite direction.

TANYA  
Hello?

SAM  
Hi, babe.

TANYA  
Where were you? I've been calling  
all day!

At the side of the path is a park bench, close to a lake, Sam still in conversation on a cell phone, he sits down.

SAM  
Look, the shifts gone down. I've  
been busted and I'm gonna' have to  
go into witness protection to get  
out of it.

Tanya tramps along a path across the park, still in a phone conversation, she looks for Sam.

TANYA  
What happened?

SAM  
Look, I'll explain it to you in  
person. Meet me at Queen's Park.  
You know, our secret place.

TANYA  
By the lake?

SAM  
Yeah, that'll do.

Sam sits on a park bench near the lake, he switches off the cell phone, bundles it into his pocket.

END INTERCUT

Tanya walks up to Sam. He rises from the park bench, approaches her. Tanya appears concerned.

TANYA

What's going on?

SAM

Some cops busted me, trying to move some gear for R.B. They said I'd do 8 years unless I testified against him.

TANYA

So, why did they let you go?

SAM

Because I said I'd do it.

TANYA

What about us?

SAM

That's the thing. I was gonna' ask if you wanted to come with me?

TANYA

What, go into witness protection?

SAM

Yep.

TANYA

What about my family? My job? My friends?

SAM

Look, it's no use lying. If you come with me, your gonna' have to leave your life behind you. It's as simple as that.

TANYA

You call that simple.

SAM

I said it was simple, not easy.

TANYA

So, if I come with you, what do I do next?

SAM

For now, you just go back home until the details are sorted. So what am I hearing, do you wanna' come with me or what?

TANYA

Well, we've talked about spending the rest of our lives together, of course I want to come with you. I just don't know what I'll say to my parents.

Sam smiles and hugs Tanya.

SAM

I'm really sorry about messing things up like this and I know I've said it before, but I promise you, this the last time. This will be a whole new beginning for us.

They kiss.

TANYA

You're cold.

SAM

Yeah? I can't feel anything. I think I'm still in shock.

Sam looks past Tanya, he sees something in the distance.

A car slowly stops, parks at the front of the park.

Sam turns his gaze back towards Tanya.

SAM

Anyway, like I said, there are still a few more details to be sorted, so you head on home and I'll be in touch.

TANYA

Okay.

They gently and lovingly squeeze each others hands then kiss. They gaze into each others eyes for a moment.

SAM

Go, we'll have plenty of time to talk later.

Tanya lets go of Sam's hands, turns and walks away.

She walks about 10 feet, stops and turns around.

TANYA

By the way...

She stops talking and looks.

An empty park bench, Sam is nowhere to be seen.

She looks momentarily puzzled then continues to trek along a path towards the edge of the park and a street ahead.

She approaches the end of the path. The car parked at the front of the park, its front doors open and the cops Ellis and Armani steps out.

Tanya stops in her tracks, stares nervously at the two cops.

ELLIS

It's alright, we're police officers.

Ellis and Armani flash their badges.

TANYA

Can I help you, officers?

ARMANI

We understand that you're the girlfriend of a Samuel James Butler.

TANYA

Yeah, Sam's my boyfriend.

ELLIS

Well, it's really bad news. Unfortunately, we think that Sam's been involved in an accident, a fatal accident. And as he has no next of kin, we need you to come and help identify the body.

TANYA

But I only just...

Tanya quickly turns around, glances back toward the park and then spins around back to the two police officers. Armani motions to Tanya.

ARMANI

If you could just come with us, Tanya.

Armani ushers Tanya towards the car and opens the back door, she gets in. Armani and Ellis jump in the front doors. As the car pulls away from the curb, Tanya stares out the rear-passenger window, a lost look on her face.

SAM (V.O.)

Look, it's no use lying. If you come with me, your gonna' have to leave your life behind you. It's as simple as that.

The car drives up the street, shifting focus slowly to the empty park, down the empty path and down to towards the empty park bench and an empty lake in the near distance. The only sounds are the trees which rustle and creak in a calm breeze.

FADE OUT:

THE END