

Ink Red

by

M. Robert Fisher

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M. Robert Fisher
M.robfisher@gmail.com
(310) 956-0298

EXT. MANHATTAN - EVENING

A blue 1989 Honda Accord is taped off in police tape, inside of a crime scene. A group of police officers circle the crime scene. Bystanders surround the yellow caution tape, so close they nearly fall over it.

OFFICER MURPHY, pale, like he's seen a ghost, is approached by DETECTIVE SLAIN. Detective Slain(40's, rugged, on the job for years) walks with a seasoned strut, like he developed his walk after mimicking other detectives over the years.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

What have we got?

OFFICER MURPHY

It's not pretty, sir.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Well, no shit, that's what the yellow tape is for.

OFFICER MURPHY

Sir, I know, sir. I've just never seen anything so...

DETECTIVE SLAIN

What have we got?

OFFICER MURPHY

Homicide.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

What's special about this one?

Officer Murphy gestures toward the car. Murphy wants Slain to see for himself.

Slain approaches the vehicle slowly around the passenger side. The passenger door is wide open, with blood spatter on the inside panel.

Slain looks inside the vehicle. A MAN, sits with his head trapped in between the holes in the steering wheel. The back of his head has been beaten so badly with a foreign object that his brains have spilled out. Slain, muscles through his disgust.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Unbelievable.

Slain looks down at the passenger seat. Written in blood are the words "YOU CAN'T IGNORE ME FOREVER XOXO".

Slain looks at Murphy and shakes his head.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

The world we live in.

(a beat)

Get to work.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: TWO MONTHS EARLIER

RONALD O'DOYLE, mid thirties, facial stubble with spots of gray, sits in his home with tears in his eyes. The lights are all off. The television sprays spots of blue light into the room as the news plays in the background.

REPORTER

(from the television)

After a 6 year man hunt, the search for now what would have been 12 year old Timothy O'Doyle was brought to an end today and ruled a homicide. While the body has yet to be recovered, today Calvin Masser, better known as the Manhattan Maniac, admitted to abducting and torturing Timothy O'Doyle, six years ago.

In Ronald's home, on the mantle are photos of Ronald, cleanly shaven in police uniform, as well as photos with his ex-wife, SARAH and his son TIMOTHY as a young boy.

REPORTER

(from the television)

Masser has refused to tell police how or why he did it, along with the other 12 unsolved homicides he's been arrested for as well as refusing to tell police officials where the body of Timothy O'Doyle can be found. Masser simply assures police, that the boy is dead. Timothy O'Doyle being the only missing body of the victims of these heinous crimes.

Ronald continues to sit frozen, tears masking his blood shot eyes.

INT. DEN - NIGHT

The hands of an unknown figure, in latex gloves, prepare a writing area at the desk. The unknown figure takes out a box of small envelopes. Then they take out a ream of paper, still in it's plastic casing. The unknown figure carefully removes the plastic, then pulls out a red sharpie ultra fine point pen. They write.

Later, he puts the written letter into the envelope. He folds the paper fours ways to ensure it would fit in the envelope.

The unknown figure seals the envelope and places it in his desk.

EXT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - MORNING

Ronald slowly approaches the police department. He is still distraught, gingerly holds his brief case.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - LATER

Ronald enters the department. He goes straight to his desk and sits down. Ronald starts to work but looks at the picture of his son and ex-wife on his desk. This freezes him, he sits immobile.

Detective Saenez approaches from behind. Detective Saenez is a young detective, not on the job too long, Hispanic, in excellent shape.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

Ron.

Ronald doesn't flinch.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

Ron!

Ronald turns with a blank stare, emotionally vacant.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

You alright pal?

RONALD

(detached)

Yeah, I am.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Captain wants to see you.

INT. CAPTAIN LESLIE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

CAPTAIN LESLIE, an older man, in his 50's, eyes Ronald.

There is a long silence before anyone says anything. Captain Leslie continues to observe Ronald, as he looks for a sign or something.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
Look, with everything going on--

RONALD
I'm fine.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
If you're fine, you're not fine.
Voluntary leave. Take it.

RONALD
Just let me do my job. That's all
I want, is to do my job.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
Given the circumstances, I don't
have faith you can perform your job
up to department standards.

RONALD
What am I supposed to do?

CAPTAIN LESLIE
Ron, don't be an idiot. It's
either this or I suspend you.
Either way, you won't be coming in
for a while.

Ronald is frustrated. He sits in silence for a few moments. Then, he jumps up and places his gun and badge on the desk.

Captain Leslie clearly did not want to do this.

EXT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - LATER

Ronald leaves the department. He is clearly upset. From behind, Detective Saenez chases after to catch up.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Ron! What happened?

RONALD
I'm on temporary leave.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Probably for the best.

RONALD
No, it's not for the best. The only thing I had left is this job and now that's gone.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
It's temporary. You'll be back.

RONALD
Yeah, but what am I supposed to do in the mean time?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Look, between you and me, you need to see someone. You're a good cop and a stand up guy but do you honestly think the department has that much faith in you considering your situation? You need help.

RONALD
I don't need help!

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Oh, bullshit! I am sorry that this is happening to you. But you don't get to act like this isn't affecting you and then expect sympathy at the same time.

RONALD
I never asked for anything--

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Listen, this is your friend speaking, not your partner. You need to get help. Please, get help so you can get back to work as soon as possible.

Detective Saenez hands Ronald a business card. Ronald remains silent. He is ashamed.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Just call the number.

Ronald reluctantly accepts the card and nods his head. This is a broken man.

INT. DR. CARDONA'S OFFICE - DAY

Ronald sits across from DR. CARDONA, a woman in her 30's, very elegant, distinguished, with a note pad on her lap.

Ronald stares at the Doctor in silence. Ronald is very uncomfortable. Angry even.

DR. CARDONA

Ronald, why don't you tell me what you're doing here?

RONALD

My partner gave me your card.

DR. CARDONA

That's how you got here. Why are you here? What do you expect to get out of therapy?

RONALD

I have no expectations. I'm here because my C.O. thinks I am in too much of a volatile state to do my job within department parameters.

DR. CARDONA

And you don't agree with him?

RONALD

No, I don't.

DR. CARDONA

Why do you think he believes this to be true?

RONALD

I recently found out my son was abducted and most likely tortured to death by New York's most notorious serial killer in 20 years.

DR. CARDONA

The Manhattan Maniac.

RONALD

His name is Calvin Masser. I hate these fucking nicknames the media gives these sociopaths.

Dr. Cardona is interested. Intrigued.

DR. CARDONA

Why's that?

RONALD

It's like they are trying to dehumanize these psychos, like it in some way fictionalizes who they are.

DR. CARDONA

You don't think his actions were inhuman?

RONALD

I think they were done by human.

DR. CARDONA

What would you call them?

RONALD

People. People too stupid to understand the difference between right and wrong. People too stupid to summon up even the most basic level of empathy. The media gives them these names and it glamorizes them. The Manhattan Maniac, The Boston Strangler, The Night Stalker. They're movie titles not names. His name is Calvin Masser, and he abducted 13 people including my 6 year old son, and bashed their heads in so badly that their brains would spill out.

Dr. Cardona writes in her note pad.

DR. CARDONA

Tell me about your son.

Ronald's eyes go blood shot almost instantly. He fights back the tears.

RONALD

He was beautiful. A sweet kid.

Ronald closes his eyes to visualize.

RONALD

He had freckles, just like I did when I was a kid. He was such a sweet boy. He liked baseball. Actually, he loved it. His favorite player was Tino Martinez...

Ronald lets out a short bit of laughter. A tear trickles down his eye.

RONALD

... he had to be the only kid who's favorite player wasn't Derek Jeter or Roger Clemens. He was a special boy. At 6 years old he thought for himself. 6 years old and he was already his own man. Watching him grow up into that little man was the highlight of my life. He was very special.

Ronald opens his eyes. He wipes his tear filled eyes and masks his pain.

EXT. NEW YORK POST OFFICE BOX - DAY

New York City is busy, with thousands of people walking back and forth. A MAILMAN opens up the blue postal service mail box, removes the contents, then places it in his mail bin.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

The postal service vehicle drives down a New York street.

INT. POST OFFICE - DAY

The bin is thrown in with hundreds of other bins at the post office. Postal workers remove the contents of the bins and spread them out on rolling table.

EXT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - DAY

A MAILMAN places a handful of mail into a mail box. On the door it reads "O'Doyle". On top of the stack of mail is the envelope from earlier, with red ink on the front. The mailman closes the box and leaves.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - DAY

Ronald enters his home with his mail in hand. He throws his mail on the table then hangs his coat.

Ronald grabs a TV dinner from the freezer then puts it in the microwave. He turns the microwave on.

Ronald goes to his mail and starts to look through it. He stops on the small envelope with red ink. He looks suspiciously at it. Ronald notices there is no return address. He begins to open it, slowly. He starts to pull out the letter when--

KNOCK KNOCK--

The knock at Ronald's front door startles him. He puts the envelope down.

RONALD
Who is it?

Ronald gets no response.

RONALD
Who is it?!

Ronald cautiously opens his front door. Ronald opens then sighs in relief. TAD O'DOYLE stands in Ronald's doorway. He is a younger, unkempt, looks like a partier. He looks a bit like Ronald. Ronald is not happy to see him.

TAD
Hey bro.

Ronald re-enters his home with the door left open behind him. Tad follows in.

RONALD
You scared the shit out of me.

Tad appears anxious, possibly strung out.

TAD
I was afraid you wouldn't answer if I said anything.

RONALD
You were right.

Tad looks sad, guilty even.

RONALD
What are you doing here, Taddy?

TAD
Come on, Ron. I'm your brother. I took the first flight as soon as I heard.

Ronald takes a seat on the couch.

RONALD
That's sweet of you.

TAD
Come on, Ron. How long are you going to stay mad at me for?

RONALD
Don't do this. What are you doing here? You need money?

TAD
What? No, Ronny. I'm clean; 6 months.

Tad takes out his Narcotic Anonymous chip to show Ronald.

TAD
See, this is my 6 month chip from N.A.

RONALD
What are you doing here then?

TAD
We're family. I didn't want you to go through this alone.

Ronald gets upset.

RONALD
Fuck! Why does everyone think I need help? Like you, of all people, could do anything for me even if I did.

TAD
I just thought I should be here, you know? If you had been able to forgive me.

Ronald turns his back to Tad.

TAD

I'm sorry, man. Not a day goes by
when I don't think about it.

(a beat)

I'm not a bad person.

Tad's eyes begin to well up with tears.

TAD

And I'm sorry and I never wanted to
hurt anyone. I know I fucked up
and for the rest of my life I'll
have a reminder of that but I don't
want one of us to die before you
forgive me. We're family. You're
the only family I've got. I'm
sorry.

Tad breaks down in tears.

TAD

I know I fucked up. I can't go
another day with you hating me. I
love you, bro. I know I can't make
up for what happened, but I got no
one. I know you don't owe me any
favors, but you know I'd never
intentionally hurt you. I know I
fucked up. I need you to forgive
me.

Ronald turns around, tears down his face.

TAD

I need you to forgive me. Don't go
through this alone because I fucked
up.

Ronald slowly approaches Tad. Ronald stares at Tad for a
moment. Ronald touches his head against his brothers. They
both cry.

DR. CARDONA (V.O.)

Why don't you tell me what
happened?

INT. DR. CARDONA'S OFFICE - DAY

Ronald sits across from Dr. Cardona, as she takes notes.
Ronald doesn't want to talk about this.

RONALD
What do you mean?

DR. CARDONA
What happened the day your son was
abducted?

Ronald hesitates.

RONALD
I was stuck in a 12 hour stand off.
Sarah was at her Mother's for the
week helping with her Dad's
funeral. We were supposed to fly
out the next day.

(a beat)

I called my brother, Taddy. He
said he could pick up Timmy from
school. I couldn't get away. I
had to work.

(a beat)

Taddy, was only 22 at the time.
He's a heroin addict. At the time
I didn't know. I don't know how I
could miss it.

(a beat)

So, when Timmy was let out of
school, his Father was stuck in a
stand off, his Mother was in
California, and his uncle was
passed out in his apartment with a
needle in his arm. He was alone.

DR. CARDONA
Have you forgiven you brother?

RONALD
I think part of me never blamed
him. I was just so angry. It's my
fault for not calling the school
and calling my junkie brother
instead. I should have known.

Dr. Cardona writes her notes.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Ronald and Tad sit at a table in an empty par. Ronald has a
scotch while his brother drinks water.

TAD
How's Sarah doing with all of this?

RONALD

She isn't returning my calls. Not that blame her.

TAD

What were you thinking?

RONALD

Oh, please. Of all people, I don't think you're in a position to judge what--

TAD

Listen to you. What I've done has nothing to do with it. I have made mistakes and I am paying for them.

Ronald looks guilty. He looks down shamefully.

RONALD

Sorry. You're right.

TAD

Why'd you do it?

RONALD

We had drifted apart. She blamed me. She never said anything but when she'd look at me I could see it. I reminded her of him and she pulled away. I just wanted to feel connected to someone. I think she forgot that I was going through it too.

TAD

I don't think she blamed you.

RONALD

Yeah? Then why?

TAD

I think like you sad, she saw him in you and it hurt. And just like you said you were going through it too, and I'm sure you weren't 100% present all the time. Women are instinctual, man. They sense things.

RONALD

Yeah, well that explains how she knew.

TAD

What do you mean?

RONALD

She never said anything. I knew when she left why, so she never told me how she knew. I think she just sensed it. She always knew when I was lying.

TAD

Maybe she found the condom wrapper in your pants. Maybe someone saw you.

RONALD

I should have went home after David's bachelor party.

TAD

Hindsight is 20/20. Both of you have gone through more than most go through in a life time. You did your best to hold it together. That's damn near impossible for anyone.

Ronald stares at Tad.

RONALD

I'm glad you're here.

TAD

Me too, bro. Me too.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - MORNING

Ronald wakes up with the sun beaming in face. He gets out of bed and enters the livingroom. His brother, Tad, is asleep on his couch.

Ronald walks into his kitchen. He notices the food he left in the microwave from the night before. He then remembers the suspicious letter he never read.

He rifles through his mail and finds the opened envelope. He takes the letter out and begins to read. Ronald's eyes grow big and start to tear up. Ronald sits down in the chair at the table, paralyzed.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - LATER

Tad wakes up. He yawns then looks over to see Ronald frozen in the exact same spot as before.

TAD
What are you doing?

Ronald doesn't respond, just continues to stare vacantly at nothing. Tad gets up.

TAD
Bro, are you okay?

Tad walks over to Ronald. Tad grows suspicious.

TAD
What's going on?

Ronald hands Tad the letter, still frozen.

TAD
(reading)
Dear Detective O'Doyle, I am writing you to let you know that an injustice has been made. Also, your son is alive and well. I just kissed him good night as a matter of fact. I hope to see you soon. Sincerely yours... you didn't think I was going to give you my name did you? XOXO.
(a beat)
Holy fuck.

Tad stands blown away.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - LATER

Ronald and Tad are in the police department. They see Detective Saenez and approach him with vigor. Detective Saenez is surprised.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Ron! Hey, Tad right?

Detective Saenez is taken off guard by Tad.

TAD
Yeah. Look, are you busy?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Kind of. What's going on?

RONALD
I need you to see something.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Detective Saenez looks over the letter. Ronald and Tad stand next him as they await his response. Detective Saenez finishes but does not appear concerned.

RONALD
So? What do you think?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
What do I think? I think some fuckin' quack is fucking with you by pulling this asshole move. Whoever it is a complete asshole but they haven't committed a crime. You know that, Ron.

RONALD
What if it's true?

Detective Saenez gets a look of pity in his eyes.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Ron, pal. It isn't true.

RONALD
Hear me out. What if Masser lied? He won't produce his body. Why would he withhold that information if he confessed to it? He's fucking with us because we got him and it's his last mind fuck to us.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Are you seeing that shrink?

RONALD
Don't do that. Don't fucking do that. Don't patronize me. We don't have the body, Masser takes credit for it, and the real abductor wants me to know he lied.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Why would Masser lie? He's killed
12 others that we know of. All of
their bodies were found.

TAD
Maybe there are others out there
you haven't found.

Detective Saenez glares at Tad.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Can you give us a minute, Tad?

TAD
Why?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Police business. Just stand
outside for a second.

Tad offended, exits the room.

RONALD
Look, I know it's a stretch but if
there's a chance--

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
What the fuck are you doing man?
Look at what you're doing to
yourself. This isn't healthy. I'm
not patronizing you, I am simply
telling you that you're wrong.

RONALD
You can't prove it.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
The proof is the confession of a
serial killer waiting on death row.
Which, by the way, is why he won't
tell us where to find the body. He
thinks it's a bargaining chip. He
wants to use your son's body as a
bargaining chip, man. The D.A.
isn't going to give that piece of
shit a deal to indulge some bizarre
notion that some nut with a letter
writing campaign has your kid.

(a beat)

I'm sorry and this is seriously
fucked up for someone to fuck with
you this way but it's nothing.

(MORE)

DETECTIVE SAENEZ (cont'd)
You're a cop man. Start thinking
like one.

Ronald is upset but knows Detective Saenez is right.

RONALD
I just-- I had lost all hope and I
got this--

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
I understand.

RONALD
Can you do me a favor?

Detective Saenez wants nothing to do with this already.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
No, come on--

RONALD
Just have the lab check it out.

Detective Saenez shakes his head. He is adamant.

RONALD
Look! If there's some asshole
sending me letters, fucking with
me, I want it to stop. I deserve
that much.

Detective Saenez comes around.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
I'll see what I can do.

Detective Saenez holds out his hand to get the letter and
envelope from Ronald.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
No one besides me, your brother,
and you have touched this?

RONALD
And postal workers most likely.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
We'll check it out, alright? If I
land anything, I'll let you know.

RONALD
Thanks. I appreciate it. I'm
sorry I yelled.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
No worries. I understand. Have
you seen the shrink?

RONALD
Yeah.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Good. I'll let the captain know
that. It'll help in regards to you
getting your shield back.

RONALD
I appreciate it.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Ron. Don't get your hopes up. We
probably won't get anything from
this and if we do, don't sit around
hoping your son is going to come up
on the other end of the line.

RONALD
I know. I'll feel better once I
know these letters will stop.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
I'll see what I can do.

Ronald nods then exits the room.

RONALD
Thanks.

Detective Saenez watches as Ronald and Tad exit the police
station. Once out of sight, Detective Saenez drops the
letter and envelope in the waste basket. He feels sorry for
Ronald.

DR. CARDONA (V.O.)
Tell me about your work.

INT. DR. CARDONA'S OFFICE - DAY

Dr. Cardona sits across from Ronald as she writes in her
notes.

RONALD
Tell you what?

DR. CARDONA
Do you like your work?

RONALD

I used to. When I was a rookie, on the beat I felt so powerful, invincible even.

DR. CARDONA

And now?

RONALD

And now I'm not sure. We carry a gun, we flash our shield, and we bully people into doing what we think is right. I wake up very morning feeling like a hypocrite. We do what we want when we want and everyone else is supposed to fall in line because of a badge and a gun. That's not rational. It's hostile. We are hostile sheep, propagating laws that we don't necessarily believe in to get convictions. That's not justice. We lie to ourselves everyday. We convince ourselves to go where the evidence is rather than trust our instinct and now innocent people are sitting in jail because of some fucked up karma and a system too close minded to believe in probabilities. Evidence is not always objective but we have managed to convince the world it is. We're bound by laws set up to protect the guilty and persecute the innocent. Each day I believe in it all a little bit less. That scares me. I feel even more powerless now than before I became a cop. How's that for irony?

Dr. Cardona writes in her notes.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Ronald and Tad barge into the police station and gun straight for Detective Saenez.

Ronald has another letter in his hands. Ronald and Tad come to an abrupt stop once they reach Detective Saenez. Detective Saenez looks up.

RONALD
I got another one.

INT. CAPTAIN LESLIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Ronald, Detective Saenez, and Captain Leslie go over the letter. Leslie reads. Tad waits out in the pen.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
(reading)
"I get the feeling you aren't taking me seriously Detective O'Doyle. Maybe your cop friends have told you to ignore it. I assure you, your son is alive. It wouldn't be smart for you to write me off so quickly. You have to wonder why the man sitting in jail for killing your son hasn't given you the body. Don't worry, your son is okay. For now. With Love, XOXO."

RONALD
That's the second letter this week.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
What am I supposed to do with this?

RONALD
(to Detective Saenez)
Did you get the forensics back on the first letter?

Detective Saenez looks at Captain Leslie. He does not want to answer.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
I don't know what you're talking about, Ron.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
You knew about this?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Absolutely not. I have no idea what he's talking about.

RONALD
You motherfucker. You're fucking lying! You're supposed to be my friend you fucking snake!

Ronald starts after Detective Saenez, but the Captain cuts him off and stops him.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
I am your friend, but I'm not going
to lie for you just so--

CAPTAIN LESLIE
Shut the fuck up! Detective
Saenez, wait outside.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Captain...

CAPTAIN LESLIE
Now.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Yes, sir.

Detective Saenez exits the office.

RONALD
Captain, he's lying. Ask my
Brother.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
That's not my concern.

Ronald is hit with a ton of bricks. He's shocked.

RONALD
What?

CAPTAIN LESLIE
Look, the D.A. wants this
conviction, we got the guy. These
letters will do nothing but cause
reasonable doubt in the minds of
the jury pool.

RONALD
My son might be alive! Does that
even resonate with you at all? How
can you be so glib about this?

CAPTAIN LESLIE
I'm not being glib, I'm being
realistic! We have in custody the
man that terrorized this city for
14 years, the man that admitted to
abducting and killing your son.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN LESLIE (cont'd)
Are you really willing to chance
letting him off to chase some pipe
dream that is probably some nut
trying to get under your skin?

RONALD
Captain--

CAPTAIN LESLIE
You have no proof that your son is
alive. You have no proof there is
any legitimacy to this. It is
hearsay, but more so, it is doubt
in the minds of the twelve jurors
that will be responsible for making
sure Calvin Masser gets the needle.
No one can know about these.

RONALD
What am I supposed to do? Sit
around and keep getting these
letters, let it keep fucking with
my head, just so you can sit
comfortably knowing some psycho
will get a lethal injection? Fuck
that!

CAPTAIN LESLIE
What did you just say? Don't
forget who you're talking to. I am
still your commanding officer.

RONALD
Oh, I know who I am talking to. A
fucking coward that would sell his
own people up the river to secure a
conviction.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
I'm going to let that slide
considering the circumstances.
Don't make me change my mind. If
you ever want your job back you
will listen and do as I say. Drop
this. Get out of my office, now.

Ronald has a stare off with the Captain. After a few moments
of tension. Ronald storms out with the letter and slams the
door on the way out.

EXT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Ronald, on a mission, exits the department with his Brother. Ronald is very angry. Tad is confused.

TAD
What's going on?

RONALD
They won't help.

TAD
What do you mean they won't help?
You got 2 letters this week.

RONALD
They said there is no proof.

TAD
So, what now?

Ronald stops.

RONALD
We get proof.
(a beat)
I need you to do something for me.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - LATER

Ronald calmly enters the police station. Detective Saenez gets up from his seat, surprised to see Ronald again.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Ron, I'm sorry about earlier--

RONALD
Save it.

Ronald heads straight for the Captain's office. He gently knocks on the door.

Captain Leslie on the phone gestures for Ronald to come in. Ronald enters.

INT. CAPTAIN LESLIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Ronald stands firmly as the Captain speaks on the phone. Ronald looks at his watch. He appears anxious.

CAPTAIN LESLIE

(on the phone)

Alright. Well, see if they can
rush the forensics on it. We need
that back ASAP.

(a beat)

Alright. Thanks.

The Captain hangs up the phone. He is not happy.

CAPTAIN LESLIE

I thought I told you--

RONALD

I just wanted to apologize for
earlier. I was out of line.

CAPTAIN LESLIE

Yes, you were.

RONALD

I guess I'm not handling things as
well as I thought. This has been
harder on me than I was allowing
myself to admit.

CAPTAIN LESLIE

Mike says you're seeing a shrink.

RONALD

Yeah, I am.

CAPTAIN LESLIE

Well, good. We miss having you
around. You're a good cop. Don't
let this ruin you.

RONALD

Yes, sir.

CAPTAIN LESLIE

Was that all?

RONALD

Yes, sir. I just wanted to
apologize for my previous behavior.

CAPTAIN LESLIE

Duly noted. You're excused.

RONALD

Yes, sir.

Ronald exits.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Ronald looks out in the station. No one notices him, as he creeps toward the back. He enters the rest room. The lock clicks behind him.

After a few moments, DARLENE, enters the pit of the station frantically.

DARLENE

We just got a bomb threat.
Everyone out. NOW!

Detective Saenez knocks on The Captain's door. The captain exits his office.

CAPTAIN LESLIE

What's going on?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

We just got word of a bomb in the
station. We're evacuating.

Captain Leslie does not hesitate.

CAPTAIN LESLIE

Alright! Everyone out. No one
panic. Come on, people!

Everyone starts to file out of the office. Once the station is empty, Ronald exits the bathroom. He looks around then hustles over to the door that reads RECORDS.

Ronald kicks the door in.

INT. RECORDS ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ronald searches through the files. He grabs a couple files from one file cabinet, a few more from another. His hands are full.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

Ronald exits the records room with an overwhelming stack of files. Ronald empties out a co-worker's briefcase and places the files inside. He closes up the briefcase, files inside and exits out the back.

EXT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - LATER

Ronald approaches Detective Saenez in a crowd of people outside the Police Department, across the street.

RONALD
What's going on?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Bomb threat.

RONALD
Really?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Yeah, probably a hoax but now we gotta wait for the bomb squad to come in a clear the building. Fucking kids.

RONALD
Yeah, some people just have no morals these days.
(a beat)
Well, I'm off back home. Good luck.

Ronald starts to walk away.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Hey, Ron!

RONALD
Yeah, Mike.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
I'm sorry about earlier.

Ronald smiles.

RONALD
Don't worry about it. I understand. I'll see ya.

Ronald hurries away.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - DAY

Ronald and Tad sit on the floor with dozens of files spread out across Ronald's floor.

TAD
So, what are these?

RONALD
These are our prime suspects.
People that might want to fuck with
me.

TAD
Who are thy?

RONALD
People, I've arrested over the
years. Others I have testified
against. People that just got out
of prison. People with a motive.

Ronald and Tad stand up. The files are spread out across
Ronald's entire floor, leading down the hallways, even into
his bedroom and bathroom. It's just a sea of police files
and photos.

RONALD
First, we cross out the possibility
of someone simply trying to fuck
with me.

TAD
Then what?

RONALD
We find the truth.

INT. CAR - DAY

Tad drives with Ronald in the passenger seat. Ronald looks
over a file in his lap.

TAD
Where we headed?

RONALD
Tribeca Hotel.

TAD
What's there?

RONALD
Arthur DeMila, the janitor. I
testified against him 8 years ago.
He spent a year in prison, got out
for good behavior.

TAD
Why do you think he would have done
this?

RONALD
Because of my testimony he lost his
6 figure job and now works as a
janitor.

Tad nods his head.

TAD
Alright.

INT. TRIBECA GRAND HOTEL - DAY

Ronald enters the lobby with Tad. They head straight for the front desk. The GIRL at the front desk greets them. Tad eyes her up provocatively. He finds her attractive.

GIRL
Hello. How may I help you today?

RONALD
I'm looking for Arthur.

The girl looks confused.

RONALD
The Janitor...

Now she knows who Ronald is talking about.

GIRL
Oh, Arty. Yeah, one minute. Just
take a seat and I'll see if I can't
get him down here for you.

TAD
(flirtatiously)
Thanks a lot. You've been very
helpful.

The girl smiles. Ronald and Tad take a seat. The girl gets on her phone.

RONALD
Not now.

TAD
What?

RONALD
This isn't Taddy's search for love.

TAD
What I can't be nice?

RONALD
You can be nice just don't be smarmy.

Tad shakes his head and sits as he looks over at the girl. Ronald stands as he waits.

ARTHUR DEMILA (O.C.)
What the fuck do you want?

ARTHUR DEMILA stands in his janitor uniform angry at the sight of Ronald. Ronald starts to approach. Tad gets up.

RONALD
Does this look familiar?

Ronald holds up the envelope with red ink on the cover. Arthur looks confused.

ARTHUR DEMILA
No. What is this about?

RONALD
You didn't write me this letter?
Nothing about my son? None of that rings any bells?

ARTHUR DEMILA
No, you ain't setting me up again. You know because of you my wife left me? I haven't seen my daughter in 8 years because of you!

RONALD
So, you thought you would get your revenge and start fucking with my head.

ARTHUR DEMILA
I don't know what you're talking about. I come to work everyday and then I go home to my new wife and baby in our shitty apartment and try and forget that you fucked up my life and my families life. You want to turn back up and fuck it up again?

(MORE)

ARTHUR DEMILA (cont'd)

(a beat)

I didn't send you no stinking
letters.

Ronald's anger turns to despair.

TAD

(to Ronald)

Come on.

Tad starts to drag Ronald away. Ronald stops.

RONALD

Hey, DeMila. I'm sorry.

Ronald exits. Arthur stand confused as he watches Ronald and
Tad leave.

INT. CAR - LATER

Tad drives. Ronald is distracted as he looks down at his
files.

TAD

What was that all about?

RONALD

I ruined his life and now God is
paying me back for the sins I have
committed.

TAD

What are you talking about?

RONALD

He was just a kid right out of law
school working for this attorney we
suspected for a murder. We found
coke in his office and told him if
he told us his boss wasn't there
the night of the crime we suspected
him for, we would let it slide. He
refused to tell us so we had narco
take him in on possession. We got
him arrested for telling the truth.

Ronald's eyes well up.

RONALD

God is teaching me a lesson.

TAD
I don't think that's how God works,
bro.

Ronald isn't listening. He just stares at his files.

TAD
Where to next?

RONALD
Home.

TAD
You sure?

RONALD
Yeah, I'm done looking today.

Tad continues to drive as Ronald tilts his head back and rests his eyes.

INT. RONALD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ronald sits on the edge of his bed with his phone beside him. He looks at a picture of his family. He is clearly very distraught. He picks up the phone and dials a number. He holds the receiver to his ear.

RONALD
(on the phone)
Hey Sarah, it's me, Ron. I'm not sure why I am calling like this. It's gotta be 1 in the morning over there. I was just thinking about you, well, us. I was thinking that I never said I was sorry. I should have. With everything going on and everything that was happening and everything that wasn't happening I never stopped to say I was sorry. I'm sorry I let you down. Not a day goes by when I don't wish I could take back everything that's happened. I don't blame you for not returning my calls. I'm not sure I wouldn't do the same thing in your position. I guess I just wanted you to know that and that I'm going to do right by you. I promise. I miss you baby and I love you.

(MORE)

RONALD (cont'd)
(a beat)
Good night, Sarah.

Ronald hangs up the phone.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - MORNING

Ronald enters the livingroom. He throws a shirt at Tad to wake him up. Tad is startled as he tries to wake himself up.

RONALD
Get up.

TAD
What? What's going on?

RONALD
Let's go, I'll explain on the way.

INT. CAR - DAY

Ronald drives as Tad, half asleep, sits in the passenger seat. Ronald is motivated, energized even.

RONALD
Lenny Bosco abducted and killed 6 children back in 99 and 2000, but we could never prove it. We knew it was him but he was methodical. Not one trace of evidence found at any of the crime scenes or his home. Anyway, back in 2003 we started getting calls from the victims family about him harassing them.

TAD
How so?

RONALD
He wrote the families letters, in red ink expressing his quote unquote apologies and condolences for the victim's families. We couldn't prove it was him then either, but we knew.

TAD
So, you think he took Timmy?

RONALD

I don't know, but it's possible that he wants me to know that he took him or he just wants to fuck with me because he gets off on fucking with the victim's families.

TAD

Why didn't you arrest him for the harassment?

RONALD

Because it's not illegal to send your condolences. It's the ultimate fuck you to both the police, me, and the families of his victims.

TAD

Where is he?

RONALD

He works in the meat packing district in a slaughter house. This is him, I can feel it.

INT. SLAUGHTER HOUSE. DAY

Ronald and Tad walk through the slaughter house. Slabs of meat hang from hooks as they walk through.

They enter a back room. Ronald looks around and sees LENNY BOSCO, an ugly motherfucker. Bald, bad teeth, oddly shaped head, pale, just hideous. Lenny is hard at work in the plant.

RONALD

Lenny!

Lenny looks up and sees Ronald and Tad. He squints his eyes and recognizes Ronald.

LENNY

Yeah?

RONALD

Can I have a word with you?

LENNY

Yeah, just let me finish up here--

Lenny makes a run for it. He runs through the plant toward the back exit. Ronald and Tad start to run after him.

RONALD
Son of a bitch. STOP!

Ronald and Tad maneuver around all of the equipment, which slows them down. Lenny knows his way around a bit better and reaches the exit. He kicks the door open. Ronald and Tad continue the chase. Lenny leaves.

EXT. MEATPACKING DISTRICT - DAY

Lenny runs his heart out down the back alley toward the street. Ronald and Tad burst through the exit and see Lenny just as he turns the corner around the building. They chase after him.

RONALD
Come on.

TAD
I'm running out of air.

RONALD
Come on!

Lenny runs through a crowd of people, ducking and weaving, while Ronald and Tad give chase. Tad falls behind, too exhausted to keep up. Ronald sprints even faster, colliding with people in route toward Lenny.

Lenny cuts into a bar. Ronald gives chase.

INT. BAR - MOMENTS LATER

Ronald enters the empty establishment and gives a look around. He can't see Lenny anywhere. Ronald sees the exit through the back and runs for it. Just as he reaches the exit he hears Lenny's footsteps. Lenny comes out from hiding and runs for the front door again. Ronald gives chase. Lenny exits out the front.

EXT. MEATPACKING DISTRICT - MOMENTS LATER

Lenny runs down the street. He stops a car and pulls the driver out and throws them to the ground. Just as he gets behind the wheel, Tad runs in out of nowhere and put his foot on the brake, preventing Lenny from driving. Lenny elbows Tad in the face a few times and pushes him off. He hits the gas but nothing. He looks at Tad on the ground.

Tad waves the keys at him. Lenny jumps out of the car and is tackled by Ronald moments later. Ronald points his gun at him.

RONALD
Don't you fucking move.

Ronald looks at Tad out of breath. Tad has a bloody lip.

RONALD
You okay?

TAD
Yeah, I think so.

Ronald looks back at Lenny, gun pointed directly at him.

RONALD
Get up.

Ronald takes Lenny by his shirt collar and walks him to an alley. He throws him against the wall. Lenny sits on the ground while they all catch their breath. Ronald gestures to Tad.

RONALD
Pick him up.

Tad stands up Lenny. Lenny seems a little slow, stupid even.

LENNY
What do you want? I... I didn't do nothing.

RONALD
Why'd you run then?

LENNY
Cause you guys already came after me once.

RONALD
You abducted and killed six children.

LENNY
No! I never hurt them! I love children. Why would I hurt them?

RONALD
Because you're a psychopath.

LENNY

No! No, no, no. I'm a good person.

RONALD

A good person doesn't kill children.

LENNY

I didn't hurt em!

Ronald pulls out the envelope.

RONALD

Didn't send their families letters either I presume.

LENNY

No, that I did. I felt sorry for them.

Lenny smiles.

LENNY

I sent them my condole--
condolences.

RONALD

You sent this too.

Ronald shows the envelope. Lenny grows terrified.

LENNY

No! No! I didn't do it! I didn't do anything! I didn't! Don't take my hands! Don't take my hands!

TAD

What's he talking about?

Lenny starts to cry. Ronald shrugs.

LENNY

I didn't! I didn't! Don't take my hands!

RONALD

Shut up!

TAD

What's wrong with him?

RONALD

He's messing with us.

LENNY
Don't take my hands!

RONALD
We're not going to take your hands.
What are you talking about?

LENNY
The cop. He said if he saw me
again he'd take my hands.

Lenny removes his work gloves. His thumbs are missing.

LENNY
Right after he cut off my thumbs.

Ronald is disappointed. This makes him both angry and
confused.

TAD
Holy shit!

Ronald starts to walk away. He stops.

RONALD
What cop Lenny?

LENNY
I don't know. He said if he saw me
anywhere near a child or even
thought about one, he'd know and
he'd cut off my hands. And then my
toes. Then my feet. Then--

RONALD
Yeah, I got it.

Ronald paces for a moment.

RONALD
FUCK!

Lenny is startled. Tad stares on.

RONALD
Go on Lenny.

Lenny gets up and runs like the Devil is chasing him. Ronald
watches him run for a moment.

RONALD
FUCK!

Ronald kicks some trash on the ground. He then starts to walk back to the car. Tad follows.

INT. CAR - LATER

Tad drives now. Ronald, sits in the passenger seat, broken after another disappointing day.

TAD
Is that what cops do?

RONALD
No.

TAD
But he said--

RONALD
A cop didn't do that.

TAD
How do you know?

RONALD
Cause a cop would have killed him.

Tad surprised looks at the street and doesn't say another word.

EXT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - NIGHT

Ronald and Tad arrive at Ronald's home. Ronald hesitates before he checks his mail. He opens. Only one piece. An envelope with red ink on the cover. Ronald slams the mail box door shut.

RONALD
GOD DAMMIT!

Ronald walks up to his front door. Tad grabs the letter and follows behind him.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - LATER

Ronald and Tad sit at the table, looking at the letter.

TAD
Want me to open it?

RONALD

No.

TAD

You gotta see.

RONALD

That's what he wants.

Ronald sits for a moment and then opens the letter. He pauses before unfolding the envelope.

Ronald reads the letter aloud.

RONALD

(reading)

Detective, Detective. I am sure by now you have seen what I did for you and your fellow police officers. If not, pay a visit to Lenny Bosco, be sure to shake his hand--

Ronald can't read any further. He throws the letter on the table. Tad, concerned picks up the letter.

TAD

(reads)

He won't be writing any letters anytime soon. Your son woke up in the middle of the night crying for his Mommy. I held him for an hour. He fell asleep in my arms. Children are so precious, aren't they detective? XOXO.

Tad sets the letter down.

TAD

Who the fuck is this guy?

Ronald looks up at Tad, totally perplexed.

RONALD

I have no idea.

Ronald is very confused. Very distraught.

INT. DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Ronald walks up to the DA's door and knocks. MARK LEVENS opens the door to Ronald. Mark Levens, is in his 40's, handsome, strong jaw.

INT. MARK LEVENS OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Ronald sits across from Mark Levens. Ronald appears very determined.

MARK LEVENS

What do I owe this pleasure detective?

RONALD

I need a favor.

MARK LEVENS

Detective, I sympathize, I really do, but if I offer this man a deal I will get crucified out there.

RONALD

I understand that. That's not what I am asking?

MARK LEVENS

I'm sorry, then what are you asking?

Ronald looks up at Mark Levens' eyes.

INT. PRISON VISITATION ROOM - DAY

Ronald sits with Mark Levens. Ronald has a determined look on his face. CALVIN MASSER enters with his ATTORNEY, MR. RYAN. Calvin Masser is balding, wears big thick bottle glasses, with black frames. He looks remarkably normal for a serial killer. Calvin Masser chuckles when he sees Ronald.

Calvin Masser takes a seat.

CALVIN MASSER

Hello, Detective. And to what occasion do I attribute to this visit?

RONALD

You say you killed my son.

CALVIN MASSER
I did kill your son.

RONALD
Are you sure about that?

Calvin Masser laughs.

CALVIN MASSER
Am I sure?
(a beat)
Well, I beat his head in with a
tire iron. Am I sure? No. I'm
not sure I killed him. I thought I
did.

RONALD
You think you're funny you piece of
shit?

CALVIN MASSER
I think I'm a little funny. What I
find even funnier is you asking me
stupid questions about whether or
not I am sure that I bashed your
sons head in so bad that his brain
started leaking out after the
second shot. I hit him about 5 or
6 more times after that. He ruined
my favorite shirt, the little
prick.

Ronald contains his anger.

RONALD
How can you not care?

CALVIN MASSER
Well, my therapist tells me it's
because Mommy never hugged me. But
what does he know? He's not even a
real doctor.

RONALD
Where's the body?

CALVIN MASSER
Ah-uh! No quarter no gumball. I
see light at the end of the tunnel
or your boy fades away into
oblivion. Literally.

MARK LEVENS

Not gonna happen, Calvin. I'll settle for nothing less than seeing that needle injected into your arm and watching you die myself.

RONALD

You know someone out there is taking credit for taking my son. He says he's still alive.

Calvin doesn't like this.

CALVIN MASSER

Well, if some psycho wants to mess with your families head, far be it from me to deny him the satisfaction.

Ronald starts to laugh. His laughter grows. Calvin Masser does not like this.

CALVIN MASSER

What's so funny? Why is he laughing?

RONALD

The irony of you calling someone a psycho, is all. And how pathetic you are for taking credit of someone else's work.

CALVIN MASSER

I'm not psychotic. And they are the pathetic one.

RONALD

Maybe, maybe not. You can't prove it.

CALVIN MASSER

How about a mental imagine of his pretty dirty blond hair drenched in blood and brain.

Ronald holds back his anger.

RONALD

That's not proof.

CALVIN MASSER

How about how he cried for his Mommy?

(MORE)

CALVIN MASSER (cont'd)
He warned me his Daddy was a cop.
Imagine his disappointment. Do you
think his last thought before he
died was how his Daddy didn't save
him?

RONALD
I'm done here.

Ronald gets up to exit.

CALVIN MASSER
Oh, come on. We're just starting
to have fun!

RONALD
I don't think it's you anymore.
You can't help me.

CALVIN MASSER
Your mistake. I still know where
his body is.

Ronald stops at the door.

RONALD
No, you don't.

Ronald exits. Masser is extremely annoyed by this.

EXT. PRISON - DAY

Ronald exits the prison with Mark Levens. Tad sits on the
hood of the car as he waits.

MARK LEVENS
I'm sorry I couldn't help more.

RONALD
He told me what I wanted to get out
of him.

MARK LEVENS
Well, I'm sorry I couldn't help
more.

Ronald shakes Mark's hand. Mark leaves for his car. Tad
hops off the hood.

TAD
So, how'd it go?

RONALD

Not well.

TAD

Is he the guy?

RONALD

I don't know. I did realize something though.

TAD

What's that?

They open the car doors.

RONALD

Whoever this is wants my attention.
He's not going to like being ignored.

EXT. MANHATTAN - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: ONE MONTH LATER

A car pulls down a suspicious ally way. It's the same car from the crime scene. The car slows down. A unknown figure gets in the passenger side. In a hat, trench coat, black gloves. Completely hidden.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - DAY

There is a knock at Ronald's door. Ronald walks to the front door. To side is a stack up unopened envelopes. Ronald opens the door. Detective Saenez and Detective Slain stand on his door step. Ronald is surprised to see them.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

We need to talk.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Ronald sits at the desk of Detective Saenez with photos of the crime scene in front of him. Ronald stays focused on the photo with the writing in blood "YOU CAN'T IGNORE ME FOREVER XOXO."

Ronald is particularly cold to Detective Saenez. Ambivelant about Slain.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
What do you think?

RONALD
I think he's pissed off I'm
ignoring him. This message was
meant for me.

DETECTIVE SLAIN
Someone want to fill me in on
what's going on here?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
O'Doyle got letters from someone
saying they had his son a month
ago. They signed them the same way
as what we have here.

DETECTIVE SLAIN
But Masser killed your son.

RONALD
He says he did.

DETECTIVE SLAIN
Same M.O.

RONALD
Yeah, but we know Masser is the
Maniac. We know that for a fact
right?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Yeah.

RONALD
What if someone is helping him?
Trying to cause reasonable doubt.

DETECTIVE SLAIN
No, can't be.

RONALD
Why?

DETECTIVE SLAIN
Masser never left a note or puzzle
pieces at his crime scene. And
this was done with a hammer, not a
tire iron.

RONALD

He also never made much of an effort to hide the bodies of his victims. Other than--

Ronald doesn't talking about his son this way.

RONALD

He only hid one body. He wanted us to find the others.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

We need you help, Ron.

RONALD

I'm not helping you.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

Why not?

RONALD

I don't trust you.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

Well you should. You think I don't know it was you that called in the bomb threat and stole those files? Your files were the only ones missing.

RONALD

Maybe. Can't prove it. And it doesn't change the fact you betrayed me.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

Ron, do you still have the letters he sent you?

RONALD

About a dozen of them unopened.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

We need to look at them.

RONALD

Sure, now you want to run forensics. I came in a month ago you wrote me off--

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

That was before someone turned up dead. Are you going to fixate on that or you going to help us?

Ronald stands up.

RONALD

Fine, you can have the letters. But I'm not helping you.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

Are you serious?

RONALD

Serious as a heart attack.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

Ron--

RONALD

I won't start this up again only to get nowhere and no help with it.

(a beat)

The letters are at my house. Tad will give them to you.

Ronald exits. Detective Saenez feels guilty.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

That guy needs to see someone.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Ronald sits at the bar. He's drunk. Music plays in the background of a full bar. Ronald stares into his drink and his drink only.

Tad enters the bar and sees Ronald sitting alone at the bar.

TAD

Hey. The cops came and took the envelopes.

RONALD

Yeah, I know.

TAD

You could have told me they were coming.

RONALD

Sorry.

TAD

You're not feeling guilty are you?

RONALD

Any more guilty than usual, you mean?

TAD

Well, sure.

RONALD

Someone is dead because I didn't play some asshole's game.

TAD

Ron, you gotta stop personalizing this shit. Someone is dead because some psycho needs a new hobby.

RONALD

Yeah. My friends didn't want to listen to me back then, and it's my fault. They were right. I was too emotional. I wasn't being objective.

TAD

Alright, you're done drinking.

RONALD

Everyone leaves me in the end.

TAD

I'm here.

Tad tries to drag a drunken Ronald out of the bar.

TAD

A little help, bro.

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Tad walks Ronald out of the bar. Ronald can hardly stand let alone walk.

The unknown figure watches them from across the street. He hides in the dark. Just a lit cigarette and an outline of hit hat and trench coat are visible. And the smoke he breathes.

Tad sets Ronald in his car. Tad gets in the drivers side and drives off.

The unknown figure just watches this but doesn't budge.

INT. RONALD'S BEDROOM - MORNING

Ronald's phone rings. Ronald, hung over, struggles to pick up the phone. He finally gets to it.

RONALD

Hello?

(a beat)

What? What do you have?

(a beat)

I'll be right in.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Ronald enters the police station with force. He looks determined, curious. Something big has been found and he knows it.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

O'Doyle.

RONALD

No time.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Hold on one minute.

Ron stops.

RONALD

What did they find?

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Do you know anyone that would have taken your son or would have wanted to?

RONALD

No. What, now you guys don't think it's Masser?

DETECTIVE SLAIN

We're not sure. You didn't read any of the letters this month?

RONALD
No, I refused to play his fucked up
little game.

DETECTIVE SLAIN
You pissed him off.

RONALD
What do you know?!

Detective Slain hesitates. He gestures for Ronald to follow him.

DETECTIVE SLAIN
Follow me.

Ronald follows Detective Slain.

INT. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S ROOM - LATER

DONNA, the medical examiner, stops what she's doing.
Detective Saenez is already in the room.

Ronald enters with Detective Slain.

RONALD
Alright, what's going on?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Ron, why don't you sit?

RONALD
What the fuck is he doing here?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Oh, would you please stop! Just
sit.

RONALD
I'm not going to sit. What the
fuck is going on?!

DONNA
There was a hair. He says it
belonged to your son.

RONALD
So, did you test it?

DONNA
We found a partial match.

RONALD
To what?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
You.

Donna puts up the DNA films for everyone to view.

DONNA
This is the DNA off the hair we
received.

Ronald doesn't know what's going on. Donna puts up another
film.

DONNA
This is your DNA from the blood
sample you gave 2 years ago when
you thought you'd been nicked by
that drug dealers needle.

The films are shown side by side.

DONNA
See this, that's the Y chromosome.

RONALD
It looks the same.

DONNA
It is. It's a match. This is your
son's DNA.

Ronald is shocked. He nearly collapses.

DONNA
It's definitely your son.

Ronald takes a seat.

RONALD
He might... he might be alive?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
We don't know. We need your help.

Ronald is struggling with this information.

RONALD
He might be alive?

DONNA

It's possible. Masser said he killed him. A hair only proves whoever this is, has your son's hair.

Ronald loses it. He starts to cry right there. He attempts to compose himself.

RONALD

So, what now? What are the forensics on the letters? The envelopes. There has to be something.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

Sorry. We need your help.

Ronald gives in.

RONALD

Alright.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

I need you to think. Think hard. Who would want to take your son? Or who would want you to believe your son is alive?

RONALD

I don't know.
(a beat)
I need to talk to the DA.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Whoa! You can't go to him with this.

RONALD

Why not?

DETECTIVE SLAIN

He'll be forced to tell Masser's attorney. We've managed to keep this under wraps, but you can't chance Masser going free on a technicality. As of right now we're looking at this as a copycat killing.

RONALD

What does the Captain say?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

Captain says no way. You need to think. Who would want to do this to you?

Ronald is perplexed.

RONALD

I don't know. I checked out a few guys I thought might hold a grudge and fit the time line of everything, but they checked out.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

What about people who's time line fits the letters?

RONALD

God? I don't know.

Ronald feels ill. He buries his head between his legs.

RONALD

I don't know.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Well, we'll run down these letters. Maybe we can see where they are coming from. Narrow things down.

(a beat)

Ron. You need to start reading the letters again.

RONALD

What? No. I can't.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

This guy is looking for attention. Better your attention through a note than getting your attention through another victim.

Ronald realizes he's right.

RONALD

Yeah, okay.

Detective Saenez hands Ronald a box.

RONALD

What's this?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
The letters.

Ronald nods.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Ronald enters with the box in hand. He sets it on the table.
A new letter sits on his table.

RONALD
Tad!

Tad yells out from the bathroom.

TAD (O.S.)
Yeah?

RONALD
Did you check the mail today?

TAD (O.S.)
I don't think so!

Tad exits the rest room as the toilet flushes.

TAD
Why?

RONALD
There's a new letter.

TAD
It's gotta be old.

RONALD
No, it's not. I would remember.

Ronald looks at his door. No signs of breaking or entering.
Ronald has an epiphany. He's angry.

RONALD
He delivered it himself.

TAD
When?!

RONALD
I don't know but he wanted me to
know that he could. He broke into
my fucking house!

Ronald throws the box of letters up against the wall.

Ronald walks sternly to his room.

TAD
What are you doing?

Ronald walks out with a gun. He opens a cabinet in the kitchen and puts bullets in the gun. He loads the gun. He holds it up to Tad's face and demonstrates--

RONALD
This is the safety. See?

TAD
Ron, come on.

RONALD
Would you fucking pay attention?!

Tad is worried.

TAD
Yeah, alright. Sorry.

RONALD
So, if the red shows, it's live, okay?

TAD
Yeah.

RONALD
You know how to load a gun?

TAD
Yeah.

Ronald puts the safety on.

RONALD
You keep this gun on you at all times. You understand me?

TAD
Yeah, I do.

Ronald hands Tad the gun. Tad looks over it then tucks it into his pants from behind.

TAD
What about you?

Ronald pulls a gun out from behind him.

RONALD
Don't worry about me.

Ronald sets the box of bullets on the table. He takes a seat. He pulls out a stack of letters.

RONALD
Sit.

Tad sits.

RONALD
Start reading.

TAD
What am I looking for?

RONALD
Anything personal. Anything that sounds like there's more behind what he's actually saying. We're going to read every single one of these. He had to slip up somewhere.

TAD
What's going on Ron? What'd they say?

RONALD
He sent a hair that matched Timmy.

TAD
Holy shit.

RONALD
It could just be a random hair from anywhere or it can mean more. We don't know but now they think I know this prick somehow. So, start reading.

Ronald and Tad start to read through the letters. The new letter remains untouched.

MONTAGE--

TAD SHOWS RONALD A PART IN ONE OF THE LETTERS. RONALD SHAKES IT OFF.

LATER, RONALD HIGHLIGHTS PORTIONS FROM A LETTER. TAD DOES THE SAME.

THE STACK OF READ ENVELOPES GROWS BIGGER AND BIGGER.

RONALD POURS HIMSELF ANOTHER DRINK. THE BOTTLE OF WHISKEY IS ALMOST GONE. THEY CONTINUE TO READ.

TAD AS FALLEN ASLEEP WITH A LETTER IN HIS HAND. RONALD THROWS THE LAST LETTER DOWN. NOW ONLY THE UNOPENED LETTER REMAINS. RONALD STARES AT IT.

END MONTAGE

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - MORNING

There is a knock at the door. Ronald and Tad wake up at the table with the letters in front of them.

KNOCK KNOCK--

Ronald pulls out his gun as he approaches the door.

RONALD
Who is it?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ (O.C.)
It's Mike.

Ronald puts the gun down. Ronald opens the door. Detective Saenez enters Ronald's home.

RONALD
Find anything?

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
I was about to ask the same thing.

Ronald drops his head in disappointment.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
Nothing, huh?

RONALD
No, there's something.

Ronald angrily grabs the envelopes.

RONALD

A bunch of fucking gibberish! A bunch of shitty poetry designed to fuck with my head! It's one fucking giant lark filled with cryptic phrases and nonsense!

Ronald throws the letters in the box angrily.

RONALD

This guy is fucking with me and has no intention of slipping up. He's not going to lead me to him. He doesn't want to meet, he wants to fuck with my head.

Tad tries to speak up. He's timid and quiet.

TAD

Ron.

RONALD

And you don't give a shit.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ

What are you saying?

RONALD

I'm saying you only started caring once he killed someone. You could have prevented this but you along with everyone else were to concerned with making sure some asshole got the death penalty in a state that hasn't killed anyone in I don't even know how long.

TAD

Ron!

Ronald cools off.

RONALD

Yeah, Taddy.

TAD

What you said about him not wanting to meet you isn't true.

RONALD

What do you mean?

TAD
The first letter, the one we gave
this guy...

Ronald glares at Detective Saenez as he tries to avoid eye contact.

TAD
Remember? It said "I hope to see
you soon."

RONALD
So, what?

TAD
Add to that he broke in at some
point and left this letter.

Tad holds up the letter from the day before, still unopened.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
He broke in?

TAD
He's been watching.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
We could set up surveillance.

RONALD
No, if he sees all of you here
he'll run.

DETECTIVE SAENEZ
We don't have to be here. You're
still a cop.

EXT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - DAY

It's a cold, frosty morning. A UPS truck pulls up in front of Ronald's home. Two UPS WORKERS get out and pull out 3 boxes. They walk them up to Ronald's doorstep. They ring the bell.

Ronald opens the door.

UPS WORKER #1
Delivery for Ronald O'Doyle.

RONALD
Yeah, that's me.

The UPS WORKER pulls out a clip board.

UPS WORKER #1
Sign here, sir.

Ronald signs.

UPS Worker #1 gestures to have the other worker bring the packages inside. Tad cuts him off at the door.

TAD
We got 'em from here.

They hand of the packages to Ronald and Tad. They leave.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - NIGHT

Ronald and Tad appear to have finished setting up the cameras. Ronald grabs the remote and walks to the TV. Tad watches.

RONALD
Let's see if this is working.

Ronald clicks to a channel.

ON THE TV: A VIEW OF THE STREET AND SIDE WALK

Ronald clicks to another channel.

ON THE TV: A DIFFERENT VIEW.

Ronald clicks through 5 different channels.

RONALD
Alright, each channel is being recorded to a DVD. That's 5 channels. Channels 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are east, west, south, and west views as well as a broad view from the roof. They are run to an FTP on the computer, just click the link to view all pictures as well. It's a locked FTP so no one without a password can view it.

TAD
Alright.

RONALD

If you see anything suspicious then let me know. Write down the times and dates of any suspicious characters, and a description. At this point we'll take anything.

TAD

Got it. So, now what?

RONALD

We wait.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - MORNING

Ronald sits behind the computer. He looks through the footage. Ronald has not been to sleep. He just looks through the footage.

Tad enters.

TAD

Christ, Bro. Have you slept?

RONALD

No.

TAD

Aren't you tired?

RONALD

No.

TAD

Look at me.

Ronald takes a moment before he looks. Ronald turns to Tad after a few moments. Ronald's eyes are blood shot red.

TAD

Jesus, bro. You need to get some rest.

RONALD

I can't.

TAD

Yes, you can.

Ronald snaps.

RONALD
No, I can't!

Tad is taken back. Ronald looks down, ashamed.

RONALD
Sorry. I just can't.

Ronald turns back to the computer. Tad shakes his head then walks into the kitchen.

TAD
You want some coffee?

RONALD
Yes.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - NIGHT

Ronald is asleep on the couch with a letter on his chest. Tad watches the surveillance footage on the computer.

Tad looks over at his brother. He pities his brother.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Ronald sits at Detective Saenez's desk. Detective Saenez is not there. Detective Slain approaches.

DETECTIVE SLAIN
Getting an early start on the day?

Ronald has not been getting much sleep.

RONALD
What?

DETECTIVE SLAIN
It's early.

RONALD
Oh, yeah. I know. I was just stopping by to see if you had learned anything new.

DETECTIVE SLAIN
No, sorry.

Slain's cell phone rings. He answers.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Slain.

(a beat)

Yeah. Shit. Where?

(a beat)

I'll be right there.

Slain hangs up his phone.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Shit.

RONALD

What's wrong?

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Come on.

Ronald gets up and follows Detective Slain out.

EXT. MANHATTAN - MORNING

Ronald and Slain pull up to the crime scene in Slain's car. They get out and walk through the sea of people that surround the crime scene. The crime scene is taped off with only two PATROL MEN there controlling the scene.

The approach a man who's head was chained to a street light post with the back of his head bashed in. The victims skull was not broken through.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Jesus Christ.

Ronald approaches the victim slowly.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

He was interrupted.

RONALD

I don't think so.

Ronald points to the ground. In written in blood next to the body "CHEESE XOXO".

RONALD

He knows we're watching. Where's Mike?

DETECTIVE SLAIN

I have no idea. I'll try calling again.

Ronald does not look well. All of this had started to really get to him.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - DAY

Ronald rushes through the door. Tad is startled. Ronald grabs the unopened letter.

TAD
What's going on?

Ronald hands him to the unopened letter.

RONALD
Open it.

TAD
You haven't read this yet.

RONALD
What's the point? They're fucking riddles without answers.

TAD
Then why now?

RONALD
I don't know.

Tad opens the letter. He starts to read.

TAD
You sure?

Ronald nods his head.

TAD
(reading)
I feel you getting close. Our day is coming. I'm glad I could get your attention again. You had me worried. I was beginning to think that you didn't trust me. Trust is so important in any relationship, don't you think Detective? I need you trust that you're alive because I haven't killed you. I need you to trust that I can get to you at anytime if I wanted to. I need you to trust that I have your son. Trust, Detective. XOXO.

Ted looks at Ronald. Ronald, eyes blood shot, appears vacant. He's losing it.

Ronald's phone rings. He answers.

RONALD

Yeah?

Ronald grows concerned.

RONALD

What?

(a beat)

Where is he?

(a beat)

Alright, thanks.

Tad is concerned by Ronald's tone and look.

TAD

What's going on?

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - DAY

Ronald and Tad walk through the ICU. They reach Detective Slain.

RONALD

What the hell happened?

DETECTIVE SLAIN

He was stabbed three times. He's lucky to be alive.

RONALD

When?

DETECTIVE SLAIN

Last night taking out his trash. He laid in the street bleeding for 6 hours.

RONALD

Can I see him?

DETECTIVE SLAIN

He's resting right now.

(a beat)

Ron, he said it your guy.

RONALD

How? I mean, how does he know?

DETECTIVE SLAIN

After he stabbed him he left this.

Slain shows a blood soaked letter and envelope.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

You can't read much because the red ink was covered by Mike's blood.

Slain hands Ronald the letter. Ronald looks at the letter. It is covered in blood. Only the bottom is legible. It reads "XCXO" and only parts of it.

RONALD

Can't forensics fix it?

DETECTIVE SLAIN

I was just about to take it to them.

Ronald hands back the letter. Slain places it in a plastic evidence bag.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

I wanted to stick until you got here.

Ronald's eyes well.

RONALD

Shit!

TAD

This isn't your fault, bro.

RONALD

SHIT!

Ronald loses it. He walks off.

TAD

He hasn't been sleeping much.

DETECTIVE SLAIN

I don't blame him. Who wouldn't?

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - DAY

Ronald enters his home. Ronald is on a mission. Tad stands back. Ronald grabs every letter. He throws them back in the box. Ronald exits his home with box.

EXT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - DAY

Ronald takes the box to the street. He sets it on the ground. Tad stands in the doorway. Ronald walks back inside. After a few moments he walks out with lighter fluid a box of matches.

He grabs on of the letters. He squirts lighter fluid in the box. Ronald yells out.

RONALD

Are you watching this?! I'm done
playing your games you fucking
prick! Are you watching?

Ronald lights the letter. He throws the lit letter in the box. The box instantly is engulfed in flames.

RONALD

Come on you motherfucker!

People on the street stop and stare.

RONALD

Come on you piece of shit! Come on
you chicken shit! You want me come
get me! I'm right here. YOU WANT
ME COME AND GET ME!

Tad walks up beside Ronald as they watches the flames grow. Ronald's eyes are filled with tears. The flames spray off their faces.

EXT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - LATER

Ronald and Tad stand over nothing but ashes. The ashes speckle away in the breeze. It starts to rain.

TAD

Ready?

Ronald hasn't moved a muscle. His eyes frozen in the same spot.

TAD

Come on.

Tad puts his arm around Ronald. They walk back into the house.

INT. HOSPITAL ICU - DAY

Ronald sits by Detective Saenez's bed side. Saenez is asleep, bandaged up. He obviously does not look well. Ronald starts to speak to him.

RONALD

I don't know if you can hear me.
Maybe you can't. I'm going to find
this guy.

(growing introspective)

I must have been an asshole in
another lifetime. That or I have
fucked up karma in this one. I'm
sorry about all of this.
Everything I touch turns to shit.
I'm sorry my fucked up luck rubbed
off on you. I'll make it right
though. I promise. I'm sorry.

After a while, Saenez starts to flat line.

Ronald jumps up frantically.

RONALD

Nurse! Someone!

Ronald runs out into the walkway.

RONALD

Someone help!

Two nurses run toward Saenez. DOCTOR STEVENS in scrubs runs along with them.

DR. STEVENS

What happened?

RONALD

I don't know, I was just sitting
here and--

They run to Saenez and start to work on him. Ronald watches them anxiously.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - LATER

Ronald returns home, wet from the rain. Tad reads on the couch. Tad can see something is very wrong. Tad stands up, concerned.

TAD
Hey.

RONALD
Mike's dead.

TAD
What? I'm sorry, bro.

RONALD
He's dead and it's my fault.

Tad approaches Ronald. He hugs him. Ronald doesn't even lift his arms. Ronald breaks down into tears.

TAD
I'm so sorry, man.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

A typical police funeral for Detective Mike Saenez. His picture on a stand next his coffin. People cry, people grieve. Ronald stands in his uniform with Detective Slain and Captain Leslie. Tad sits amongst the bereaved. Ronald looks up as storm clouds move in over head.

EXT. CEMETARY - LATER

Ronald speaks with Captain Leslie.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
How you holding up?

RONALD
I've been better.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
Do you think you'll be ready to
come back anytime soon?

RONALD
I don't know.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
Whenever you're ready, just let me
know.

Captain Leslie hands Ronald a manila envelope. Ronald looks inside to see his badge and gun.

RONALD
I appreciate it Captain.

Leslie walks away. Ronald stands deep in thought.

EXT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - NIGHT

It pours down rain as Ronald and Tad pull up to Ronald's home.

They walk up to the front door. Ronald opens it. Tad notices the interior light is still on inside of the car.

TAD
Shit. I left the light on.

RONALD
Don't worry, I'll get it. Put some coffee on?

TAD
Yeah, no problem, bro.

Ronald walks toward the car in the rain.

INT. CAR - MOMENTS LATER

Ronald jumps inside the driver's side of the car. He reaches to turn the light off. He looks to see a new letter on the passenger side seat.

Ronald grabs his gun out of the manila envelope, which is inside of glove compartment. Ronald folds the letter up and puts it in his pocket.

EXT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Ronald gets out of his car and looks around suspiciously, gun in hand. It's very dark. He starts to back towards his front door. He turns around to approach his home. He believes the coast is clear and puts his gun in his waist line.

A random car drives by which casts a shadow of someone behind Ronald, about to stab him. Ronald turns around just as the unknown figure, in a hat, black trench, and gloves, tries to stab him.

RONALD
Shit!

Ronald just moves out of the way. Ronald tries to reach his gun. The unknown figure swipes it away. He tries to stab Ronald again. Ronald block the knife with his forearm but gets stabbed badly in his forearm.

RONALD

Fuck!

They wrestle on the ground. The unknown figure takes the knife out of Ronald's arm. He raises his arm. Ronald is defenseless. The knife comes down. Ronald's leg gets cut.

Out of nowhere, Tad tackles the unknown figure. They roll across the ground.

TAD

Asshole piece of--

Tad swings and connects once in the unknown figures face. Tad goes to swing again but suddenly stops. The unknown figure pushes Tad off and runs. Ronald can barely see as the rain comes down very hard and it's very dark.

RONALD

Taddy! You okay?

Tad lays on the ground clutching his stomach.

RONALD

Taddy!

Ronald crawls frantically over to Tad, who lies on his back in a puddle of mud.

RONALD

Taddy! You okay, buddy?

Tad's stomach spews blood. Ronald puts pressure on the wound.

RONALD

You'll be okay. Alright? You'll be fine.

TAD

Ron?

RONALD

Yeah, buddy.

Tad gasps for breath to speak the words.

TAD

Do you think God will forgive me
for my sins?

RONALD

No, no, no. You're not going to
die.

TAD

I hope he'll forgive me.

The life starts to leave Tad's eyes.

RONALD

No! Stay with me. Help! Help!

Ronald stays by his brother's side as he stops breathing.
The rain pours on top of them.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - MORNING

Ronald walks through the front door. His wounds bandaged up.
Blood and mud all over his clothes. The same clothes as the
night before. Ronald looks like a ghost.

INT. RONALD'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Ronald enters his bedroom. He starts to undress. He wades
through every action, completely void of any life to anything
he does.

INT. SHOWER - LATER

Ronald stands under the shower faucet but doesn't move. He
lets the water hit his face.

INT. RONALD'S BEDROOM - LATER

Ronald exits the bathroom into his bedroom. He wears shorts
and a plain T-shirt.

Ronald stops in his steps and ponders for a moment.

He hurries to his pants and pulls out a now wrinkled, damp
letter. He opens it and reads to himself.

RONALD (V.O.)

If you're reading this I guess this
means goodbye.

(MORE)

RONALD (V.O.) (cont'd)
It means I have failed. I've
enjoyed our time together
Detective. I'll be sure to take
good care of your boy. Don't
worry, he's in good hands. XOXO.

Ronald stops for a moment. Suddenly, he punches a hole in
the wall. He throws the letter aside.

INT. RONALD'S BEDROOM - LATER

Ronald lays in bed, unable to sleep. His phone suddenly
rings. He looks cautiously at his phone before he picks up.
He answers.

RONALD
Hello.

SARAH
(through the phone)
Ron?

Sarah, Ronald's ex-wife speaks through the phone.

RONALD
Sarah?

SARAH
How are you?

RONALD
Not good.

SARAH
What's wrong?

RONALD
Everything.

SARAH
Is this a bad time?

RONALD
No, no. I'm just surprised to hear
from you is all.

SARAH
Well, I wasn't sure what to say if
I did call. I'm calling now
because I want you to know I am
sorry and that I forgive you.

Ronald is choked up.

RONALD

Oh, you have no idea how much I needed to hear that.

SARAH

And to let you know I am getting re-married.

This saddens Ronald more so.

RONALD

Really?

SARAH

Yes. I wasn't sure if I should tell you but I decided you deserve to know.

Ronald remains quiet as he holds back his tears.

SARAH

Ronald? Are you there?

RONALD

Yeah, sorry. That's great, Sarah. You more than anyone deserve to be happy. I'm sorry I couldn't hold us together.

SARAH

It's not your fault.

RONALD

It is partly and I'm sorry for that.

SARAH

Well, that's all I had to say. I should probably let you go.

RONALD

Yeah.

SARAH

Goodbye Ronald.

RONALD

Bye Sarah.

(a beat)

Wait, Sarah?

SARAH

Yeah, Ron?

RONALD
How did you know?

SARAH
Know what?

RONALD
About the affair.

SARAH
Ron, why?

RONALD
I don't know.

SARAH
I sensed it at first. I thought I
was going crazy. Until, I received
anonymous letter.

Ronald is blown away by this revelation.

SARAH
I didn't want to believe it but I
just knew it was true. When you
never asked I knew then for sure.
(a beat)
Ron?

RONALD
Do you remember what color the ink
was?

SARAH
What?

RONALD
The ink. Do you remember what
color it was?

SARAH
Red, I think. Why?

RONALD
Sarah, I gotta go.

SARAH
Ron--

Ronald hands up the phone in a hurry.

EXT. NEW YORK COUNTRY SIDE - AFTERNOON

Ronald drives along a beautiful scenic road.

EXT. DAVID AND SUSAN'S HOME - AFTERNOON

Ronald pulls up in the drive way of a beautiful home. Ronald gets out of the car and knocks on the door. DAVID, a man in his late 30's opens the door.

DAVID

Ronny? Oh my God, is that you?

David embraces Ronald. Ronald hugs back.

DAVID

Holy shit. What are you doing here?

(yells into the house)

Honey! Guess who's here?

INT. DAVID AND SUSAN'S HOME - LATER

SUSAN, in her early 30's, pours coffee in a mug for Ronald. She then sits down next to David, across from Ronald.

DAVID

This is quit a surprise.

RONALD

Yeah, I know. How are you guys doing?

SUSAN

We've been really great. David's book is about to be published.

RONALD

Oh, congratulations.

DAVID

Thanks man. Hey, we heard about what happened. We're so sorry about that.

SUSAN

I told David we should call but he thought it may be best to let some time pass.

RONALD
Yeah, thanks. Everyday is a
challenge.

Ronald takes a sip of the coffee.

DAVID
So, how long has it been? Since
the wedding right?

RONALD
Yeah, actually that's why I'm here.

DAVID
What do you mean?

RONALD
There was a woman there, blonde
hair, name was Tara I think.

SUSAN
Oh, yes, Tara.

Susan and David appear sad for a moment.

RONALD
I was wondering if you had anyway
of contacting her, or could give me
her last name.

SUSAN
Oh...

Susan looks at David.

RONALD
What?

DAVID
Tara died in a car accident about 2
years ago.

RONALD
Oh my God.

SUSAN
Yeah, she wasn't wearing a seat
belt. Which is odd, because she
was so cautious about everything it
seemed.

RONALD
That's terrible.

Ronald is overcome with grief.

DAVID

Yeah, her husband Frank watched her die right in front of him.

Ronald's eyes grow big. This is news.

RONALD

She was married?

SUSAN

Yeah, for nearly 7 years. Oh, it was just awful after struggling so long to get pregnant and then finally having her baby a few months before.

DAVID

And now he's raising that kid all by himself.

SUSAN

Just terrible.

Ronald has hardly paid attention since he heard she had a husband.

DAVID

Why? What's this about?

Ronald is out of it. It takes a while for him to answer.

RONALD

Oh, at your reception we kind of hit it off. I just thought I'd get in touch with her.

SUSAN

Oh. Not seeing anyone? You know I have a few friends that are single if you're interested.

Ronald ignores this.

RONALD

Hey, do you have his phone number by chance?

DAVID

Yeah, I think so. What for?

RONALD

I just feel terrible. I'd like to
send my condolences.

David and Susan are touched by Ronald's supposed kindness.

DAVID

Yeah. Let me go check.

SUSAN

That's really so nice of you,
Ronald. Considering what you've
been through to still care about
the well-being of others.

Susan is truly touched. Ronald stops David.

RONALD

Do you have the address too? I'd
like to send them some of Timmy's
old toys.

David smiles. They are so proud of Ronald.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Ronald drives. He's on a mission.

EXT. FRANK GENTRY'S HOME - NIGHT

Ronald parked down the street. He creeps slowly up to his
enemies home. A few lights are on.

He sneaks into the back yard. He goes to the sliding glass
door. It's unlocked. He quietly enters.

INT. FRANK GENTRY'S HOME - CONTINUOUS

Ronald creeps throughout the house. Ronald stops at a family
photo, very similar to his photos with his wife and son.
FRANK GENTRY looks normal.

Ronald looks into the den. He sees the same envelopes, red
pens, and paper.

Ronald continues to creep throughout the house, gun in hand.
He can hear murmurs coming from one of the rooms. A sliver
of light shoots out from under the door.

Ronald slowly opens. He sees FRANK GENTRY, a regular guy in his mid 30's. Frank reads a kids book.

FRANK

I will not eat green eggs and ham.
I will not eat them Sam I am.

Frank calmly looks up at Ronald. Frank puts his index finger to his mouth to "SHH" him.

FRANK

(whispers)
He's sleeping.

Ronald looks in to see a little boy asleep with his back to him. Ronald's eyes well up.

FRANK

(whispers)
We should talk.

Ronald is shocked. Frank puts his hands up. Ronald keeps the gun pointed on Frank. Frank walks by him. He turns the light on in the living room. With a gun point to the back of his head, Frank leads Ronald to the living room.

Frank takes a seat. He gestures for Ronald to sit.

RONALD

I'll stand.

FRANK

Alright.

There is a long silence.

RONALD

Why?

FRANK

I envisioned this moment, you know?
I never thought it would happen,
but I thought about it a lot.
Every time you asked the same thing
first: 'Why?'

Ronald's finger is on the trigger.

FRANK

That's how I knew you wouldn't
shoot me. Too many questions
racing around in that head of
yours.

RONALD

Why?

FRANK

Why? Because you ruined my life.

RONALD

How?

Frank has a very serious stare.

FRANK

You fucked my wife.

RONALD

She never told me she was married.

FRANK

And that somehow makes it okay?
You knew you were married, right,
Detective?

RONALD

Yeah, I fucked up. I never killed
anyone.

FRANK

Sure you have. Everyone I've
killed, their blood is on your
hands.

Ronald shakes his head.

RONALD

Christ, you're insane.

FRANK

I'm insane? I'm insane?! My life
gets stripped away from me by some
asshole cop that thinks he can do
whatever he wants, and I'm insane?

RONALD

I don't even know you.

FRANK

Well, you do now.

RONALD

How'd you get Timothy's hair?

Franks starts to laugh.

FRANK
You still don't get it?

RONALD
Get what?

FRANK
It wasn't Timmy's hair.

Ronald realizes the truth. The boy in the other room is his son.

FRANK
Now, I'm stuck raising your child,
from his whore of a Mother. She
really thought I'd never figure it
out. Too bad for her I'm sterile,
huh?

Frank gets angry and throws a knife out of nowhere knocking the gun out of Ronald's hands. They both go for the gun. Ronald cuts Frank off and punches him. He takes him to the ground. Ronald is on top of him. Frank smiles.

FRANK
This is how I killed your drug
addict brother.

Frank has another knife somehow. He plunges it into Ronald's stomach.

Ronald falls off. Frank backs away and watches Ronald look down at the knife, stuck in his stomach. Ronald is on his knees. Ronald wraps his hands around the knife. Frank smiles.

FRANK
Any last words?

Ronald pulls out the knife.

RONALD
X-O-X-O.

Frank grows concerned. There's now blood on the knife and the tip is bent. Frank reaches for the gun just as Ronald lunges forward with the knife.

Just as Frank points the gun, Ronald stabs him in the chest. Frank looks surprised.

RONALD
They're not just bulletproof you
know.

Ronald exposes the bulletproof vest he has on.

Ronald stands up and kicks the knifer deeper into Frank's chest.

Frank falls back. He's dead.

Ronald stands over Franks body.

EXT. FRANK GENTRY'S HOME - MORNING

Ronald speaks with the police in front of the house. He gives his statement. A body bag is wheeled out of Frank's home. Ronald for the first time show's signs of relief.

INT. MANHATTAN POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

Ronald enters the police station. Everyone stops what they are doing and gives him a round of applause. Ronald's eyes well up.

INT. CAPTAIN LESLIE'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Captain Leslie stand in front of Ronald. He appears surprised but supportive.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
You're sure about this?

RONALD
More sure about this than anything
in a long time.

On the Captain's desk is Ronald's badge and gun.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
What are you going to do?

RONALD
I don't know. But I feel good
about it.

CAPTAIN LESLIE
Alright. Well, good luck.

RONALD
Thank you. Sir.

Ronald winks. He exits.

INT. RONALD O'DOYLE'S HOME - DAY

Ronald sits on his couch. There is a knock at the door.

Ronald gets up to open it.

He opens the door to a SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT. She holds the hand of little BOBBY. A 3 year old boy, that looks a lot like Ronald.

RONALD
Hey. How's it going?

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT
Good and you?

RONALD
I'm pretty great.

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT
Alright, Bobby. Say 'hi.'

BOBBY
Hi.

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT
Well, here's his stuff.

She hands Ronald a bag.

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT
And the rest of his stuff will be sent over in a few weeks.

RONALD
Okay, great.

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT
Okay, he's all yours.

She leads Bobby's hand inside Ronald's home.

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT
Bye Bobby.

BOBBY
Bye.

Little Bobby waves bye. She smiles.

SOCIAL SERVICES AGENT
Okay, bye.

RONALD
Thanks. Bye.

Ronald closes the door. He and Bobby walk into the living room.

RONALD
So, Bobby... What do you like?

BOBBY
I don't know.

Bobby is very shy around this new person.

RONALD
You like toys?

BOBBY
Yes.

Ronald pulls out a box of toys.

RONALD
Well, I got a bunch of toys. You want to play with them with me.

Bobby smiles.

BOBBY
Yeah.

Ronald and Bobby sit down on the floor. Ronald dumps out all of the toys. They start to go through them. They start to play.

TAD (O.C.)
Did you guys start playing with the toys without me?!

Ronald and Bobby look up at Tad in a wheelchair. He wheels himself forward.

RONALD
We were just starting.

TAD
Well, make some room for roller man!

Bobby laughs.

Ronald looks up at his brother and smiles. They all play, smile, laugh, etc. Like a happy family.

FADE TO BLACK.