

Innocent Sinners

By

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*The sound of a phone ringing...*

FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - DAY(11:23 AM)

It looks like a bomb went off in the living room of this upscale New York apartment.

littered on the ground are bottles upon bottles of liquor, clothes and other things that don't belong. The glass table that was once the center of the living room is now scattered into thousands of small pieces.

There is a Erie silence throughout. It's almost like a ghost town. Slight sounds of '**honking horns**' and '**feisty pedestrians**' are heard coming from the busy New York city streets.

Laid out on the couch is Lieutenant JAMES STOKES(late 30's). He looks like he should be living in a frat house, A few specs of Grey hair here and there.

He is passed out still clutching to a bottle of champagne. By now it has leaked all of it's contents on to his shirt. He still has on his gun holster but the pistol is missing.

*The phone continues to ring...*

Stokes is awakened from his sleep, though still unaware. He falls off the couch. He makes a few drunken sounds.

His lips dry and burned from a night of drinking. He hurls up some liquor.

Stokes takes a look around, he's in another world, just as many drunks are when waking up.

*The phone continues to ring...*

Stokes doesn't know what the sound is at first. It takes him a couple seconds to process that he is home and his phone is going off.

He struggles to open his eyes, it shutters open and shut.

Fighting a hangover, he wobbles to his feet, swaying back and forth trying his hardest to keep his balance.

Stokes takes a second to stretch. He lets out a huge moan. His shirt is stained with alcohol and puke.

(CONTINUED)

STOKES  
Somebody better be dead.

He stumbles almost losing his balance. He kicks over empty bottles along the way. He notices something on the floor.

Using his every ounce of hand eye coordination, Stokes picks it up...

INSERT - FAMILY PHOTO

A picture of Stokes, he is with his three kids, JUSTIN(9), BRYANT(6), and AMBER(2) and his wife KATHY(mid 30's)

Everyone looks so happy...

BACK TO SCENE

Stokes stares at the photo until the sound of the phone breaks him.

The brunt of the hangover seems to be gone now, he regains some of his senses.

STOKES  
Who the fuck is calling me?

He sets the picture down.

BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

A cell phone sits on the bathroom sink. Stokes has never seen it before. The phone never stops ringing. It's crying out to be answered.

Stokes cautiously picks it up.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Hello.

VOICE(V.O.)

.....

The voice on the other side makes no noise, it can only be heard breathing deeply. Like the sound of a lion when it watches its prey.

(CONTINUED)

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Hello, anyone there?

A beat.

VOICE(V.O.)  
Hello Lieutenant Stokes.

The voice is unrecognizable. Sounds like its being modified.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Yes hello, I think I found your  
phone last night. Maybe at the bar,  
I'm not to sure. I'm pretty fucked  
up right now...

VOICE(V.O.)  
March 29, 2003.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
What?

VOICE(V.O.)  
March 29, 2003.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Who the fuck is this?

VOICE(V.O.)  
What happened on March 29 detective  
Stokes?

STOKES  
(into phone)  
This some kind of joke?!?

VOICE(V.O.)  
On March 29, 2003 you took bribe  
money from the Mob. They paid you  
two million dollars, to have a key  
witness killed. The woman killed  
had two daughters. Those two  
daughters had no father. Now there  
separated. How does it feel? You  
turned them into orphans.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
I aint take no money from nobody!

(CONTINUED)

VOICE(V.O.)

But you did kill the witness, did you not?

STOKES

(into phone)

Go fuck your mother with a sphere.

VOICE(V.O.)

The life of a corrupt cop. You are worse than the shit that resides in my toilet.

STOKES

(into phone)

How about you give me an address so I can come an break your fucking neck.

VOICE(V.O.)

Tell me, how does one as filthy as yourself get Lieutenant?

STOKES

(into phone)

You need a big cock, and half a brain. Goodbye.

Stokes hangs up the phone. It takes maybe a millisecond for it to ring again.

STOKES

(into phone)

You really wanna play this game?!?

VOICE(V.O.)

December 24, 2008.

STOKES

(into phone)

Who is this?

VOICE(V.O.)

Raping your wife in front of your children, on Christmas eve. Even the deepest places in hell wouldn't welcome such a monster.

Stokes cant respond, how could he. His heart now beats like a slow drummer. For a brief second his mind escapes, it wanders back to that dreadful night...

FLASHBACK - (DECEMBER 24, 2008)

INT. HOUSE - NIGHT

It's just about five minutes to Christmas.

Kathy sits in the living room waiting patiently for Stokes to return home.

The door burst open. Stokes returns with a can of beer in his hand. His eyes are bloodshot red.

KATHY

James for Christ sake--you said you were coming back in a hour.

STOKES

What? I was out hanging with the guys.

KATHY

It's Christmas--and you can't even spend the night home with your family.

Kathy starts to walk away in disgust.

STOKES

Hey, don't talk to me like that. I pay the bills in here! I put this roof over your head, this Italian marble floor under your feet. This air you breath--it's cause of me. So don't give me your bullshit...

KATHY

Your drunk just go to bed.

He tosses the beer at her, it whizzes by.

STOKES

I aint drunk.

KATHY

Stop--stop it, you'll wake the kids.

(she begins to tear)

I don't care anymore just do what you want.

Justin and Bryant, sneak to the stairs. They hide in the shadows listening to the argument.

(CONTINUED)

STOKES

You damn right I do what I want. I run this city.

KATHY

I want a divorce you asshole.

Kathy starts coming upstairs. Justin and Bryant retreat to their bedroom before she sees them.

STOKES

What you just say? You little bitch.

KATHY

Fuck you!

Those words angers Stokes, he makes his way up the stairs. Every step he takes sounds like thunder on a hot summer day.

Kathy quickly moves towards the bedroom.

UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

She jumps in the bedroom before he can reach her.

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

She bolts the door down.

She goes into her closet and pulls out his extra handgun. Checks to see if it has bullets...**1 left.**

OTHER SIDE OF DOOR - CONTINUOUS

Stokes aggressively knocks on the door.

STOKES

Open the door.

KATHY(O.S.)

No! you bastard. NO!

STOKES

Jenny I said open the door.

Jenny?!?--who the fuck??

(CONTINUED)

KATHY(O.S.)

You don't even know who I am anymore. Cause your always fucking high--Or drunk. I'm not one of your dirty whores, I'm your wife dammit!

STOKES

I know, I know. I love you baby.

(beat)

Now open this fucking door!

It's clear by now that he has been doing a little more than drinking.(even if you hate your wife...you never call her the wrong name)

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

KATHY

Just take your shit and go. Take all your shit and leave. Please--please just go.

Silence, Stokes can no longer be heard. Kathy places her head close to the door...

Then bang!

His hand plunges through the door. It connects with Kathy's face.

KATHY

(weeping)

No. Please stop!Please.

THE KIDS ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The boys both sit close to each other crying, they don't fully understand whats going.

BRYANT

Mama. He's hurting mama.

Bryant can't control his tears. It flows down his cheeks like a waterfall.

JUSTIN

Shh. Don't let him hear us.

BRYANT

He is go--gonna--kill--kill mommy.

(stuttering)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



BRYANT (cont'd)  
Do som--something.

Justin looks around.

JUSTIN  
Stay right here, alright.

He hands his little brother a plastic bat.

JUSTIN  
Hit him with this if he comes.

BRYANT  
Where are you going?

JUSTIN  
I'm gonna call uncle Percy to save  
us. Stay right here.

Justin exits the room, sneaking past his dad.

He makes it down stairs.

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kathy has the gun aimed at the door.

She is ready to shoot.

KATHY  
I will fucking kill you. Don't come  
in here James.

STOKES(O.S.)  
I'm coming in.

OTHER SIDE OF DOOR - CONTINUOUS

He rams his shoulder into the door. At this point he is only  
seconds away.

BACK DOWN STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Justin grabs the phone. He dials...

JUSTIN  
Come on. Please. Please God don't  
let my mommy die.

He gets the answering machine.

(CONTINUED)

PERCY(V.O.)  
(answering machine)  
Hello you have reached officer  
Percy. I am not available to take  
your call. Please leave your name  
and number and I will try to get  
back to you.

Justin hangs up. He thinks for a second... He dials another  
number...

JUSTIN  
(frantically)  
Please. please...

PERCY(V.O.)  
(half a sleep)  
Hello.

JUSTIN  
Uncle Percy?

PERCY(V.O.)  
Justin...merry Christmas to you to  
little guy.

JUSTIN  
(crying)  
Uncle Percy...

PERCY(V.O.)  
Whats the matter.

JUSTIN  
He's trying to kill her.

PERCY(V.O.)  
What are you talking about? Who's  
trying to kill who...

JUSTIN  
It's dad, he's trying to kill  
mommy.

PERCY(V.O.)  
What! I'm coming right now.

JUSTIN  
Should I call the police?

PERCY(V.O.)  
No. Go get a knife and stay with  
your brother. Go now.

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kathy stands holding the gun, it's pointed directly at Stokes who at this point has dismantled the door. Just a few inches stand between them.

STOKES

That is one mighty big cannon your holding. Bet you don't know how to fire that thing.

He takes a step forward...

She cocks the hammer...

KATHY

Stay--I said stay.

STOKES

You gonna shoot me, In front of the kids?

KATHY

I'll do whatever it takes to protect my kids.

Stokes takes his shirt off. Under his shirt was a steel plated Kevlar. He removes that also.

STOKES

Shoot if you got the balls.

He takes another step forward.

KATHY

James, don't.

She now grips the gun with fury. One more step and he is a goner.

STOKES

You gonna shoot me? Kill me? You know what they do to cop killers?!? regardless if your my wife or your a drug dealer. A cop killer, is a cop killer. You kill me--they kill you, then who's gonna protect those kids?

She slowly starts to put her guard down.

A beat, then...

*A deafening slap!*

Kathy is laid out on the bed unconscious.

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Stokes is raping Kathy on the bed. He does not see that his youngest son is standing right behind him.

UPSTAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Justin races back up stairs, he can only watch as his mother is being assaulted. He races into the room, blazing pass his younger brother. Bryant barley moves, the situation is surreal to him.

Violent screamns can be heard coming from Kathy, Stokes says nothing, his hips just thrust back and forth, Fucking Kathy as hard as he can.

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

JUSTIN

Get off! your hurting her. Get off!

With one hand he launches Justin. Sending him flying into the wall.

KATHY

That's your son. You hit him.

Stokes looks possessed.

PERCY(O.S.)

James! Open the door.

Stokes is broken from his trans. He looks down at Kathy; her face is bruised, she curls up into a ball. Still weeping, the tears come silently now.

He looks at his kids; Justin is laid unconscious on the floor. Bryant stands emotionless.

STOKES

Bryant. Come here son.

Bryant steps back.

PERCY(O.S.)

James!

Different houses on the block start to become alarmed. Lights flicker on one by one.

(CONTINUED)

Stokes grabs his shirt from the floor and retreats.

END FLASHBACK:

BACK TO SCENE

Stokes sits emotionless, no soul left in his body.

VOICE(V.O.)

Are you there Lieutenant Stokes?

He doesn't respond, his conscious is eating him from the inside.

VOICE(V.O.)

Stokes...

The Voice is taunting him, he knows he hit a weak spot.

VOICE(V.O.)

I need you to hear something  
Lieutenant Stokes.

Screams can be heard in the background. Stokes starts to listen in.

VOICE(V.O.)

When was the last time you called  
your wife?

STOKES

(into phone)

What?

VOICE(V.O.)

The last time you held your  
children? Little Amber, she is so  
cute. It's a shame she was  
conceived in such a...sinful way.

Stokes hears a baby's innocent cry.

STOKES

(into phone)

Amber?

He hear screams coming from the background.

KATHY(V.O.)

James...

(CONTINUED)

STOKES  
Kathy, Are you OK?

KATHY(V.O.)  
I'm sorry...

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Where are you?

KATHY(V.O.)  
I don't know. He took us. He burnt  
the house down--Everything is gone.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Who is he? Tell me!

KATHY(V.O.)  
I don't know. He was wearing a  
mask.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Are the boys alright.

KATHY(V.O.)  
...

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Kathy talk to me, where are my  
boys?

KATHY(V.O.)  
...I don't know.

Stokes falls to his knees. A sharp pain hits him from  
within. He knows how the situation will unfold.

VOICE(V.O.)  
Now that you know...

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Where are my boys? Tell me.

VOICE(V.O.)  
The boys are fine.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
What is it that you want? You want  
money, one million, how much? I'll  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STOKES (cont'd)  
do whatever. Whatever it takes,  
just leave my family alone.

VOICE(V.O.)  
Don't worry, Your family will be  
fine just as long as you follow  
orders.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
What do you want?

A beat.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Tell me--just tell me. I'll give  
you anything.

VOICE(V.O.)  
That's what I want. You will give  
me your all, or else I'm killing  
all of them, they are your burden.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
You motherfucker!

VOICE(V.O.)  
This is what I want from you, A  
life in exchange for a life.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Why can't you do this shit  
yourself? why you need me to do  
your dirty work?

VOICE(V.O.)  
You've been doing dirty work for  
everyone. The MOB, the Jews, the  
Blacks. You even do the mayors  
dirty work. Your like that girl--  
that girl in school who fucks all  
the cool guys, while the nerds  
stand and watch. Well now it's my  
turn to fuck. And I'm gonna fuck  
you good and hard.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Punk bitch!

(CONTINUED)

VOICE(V.O.)

Once you have completed everything,  
I will let your wife and kids go.  
But each target must be terminated  
or else...

STOKES

(into phone)

Or else what?

**BOOM!** Sounds like a Desert Eagle went off. Stokes can only listen and wince at the sound.

VOICE(V.O.)

It's up to you.

Stokes paces back and forth rubbing his head. What a shitty day he's having.

VOICE(V.O.)

First things first. Find the body.

STOKES

(into phone)

What?

VOICE(V.O.)

Find the body.

STOKES

(into phone)

What the fuck are you talking  
about--what body?

VOICE(V.O.)

The dead one that's rotting  
somewhere in your fancy condo.

Stokes notices there is a trail of blood leading into the shower.

STOKES

(into phone)

Who's body?

VOICE(V.O.)

Mrs. Vaughn.

STOKES

(into phone)

The cleaning lady?

(CONTINUED)



VOICE(V.O.)

Yes, you probably don't remember  
but she made a visit to your room  
early this morning.

STOKES

(into phone)

That's impossible I was out cold  
early this morning. No way I let  
anyone inside.

VOICE(V.O.)

Not you, it was me. I let her in.  
Then I killed the bitch.

STOKES

(into phone)

You were here? Why didn't you just  
kill me while I slept.

VOICE(V.O.)

Then who would be left to fuck  
with. All the good bad guys are  
dead, in jail. You are the last ray  
of hope for this city. And I'll be  
damned if I let you slip away. See  
you don't know this but, I love you  
Lieutenant, more than anything in  
this world.

(takes a beat)

I love the way you aimlessly drink  
your life away every Friday night.

(beat)

I love how you snort coke off the  
ass of a hooker.

(beat)

The way water drips off your skin  
when you shower...

Amber can be heard crying in the background. Kathy screams.

STOKES

(into phone)

OK enough. That's enough.

Stokes gets closer to the shower, there is blood stains on  
his shower glass. The body must be in there...

*...He slowly pulls the glass back to reveal...*

The shower is as clean as a whistle. No blood, no body.

(CONTINUED)

STOKES  
(into phone)  
I see you cleaned my shower.

VOICE(V.O.)  
I never said it was in the shower.  
Keep looking.

Stokes exits the bathroom.

LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

He searches for his gun.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
Hey you wouldn't happen to know  
where my gun is?

VOICE(V.O.)  
...Check next to the fish tank.

Stokes spots his weapon laying next to the fish tank. He  
grabs it, checks for bullets. Turns off the safety.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
So why didn't you just take the  
body with you? why did you leave it  
with me.

VOICE(V.O.)  
You were the one who killed her.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
No I didn't. The fuck you talking  
about?!?

VOICE(V.O.)  
Well your holding the murder  
weapon, there is evidence all  
around your apartment, places you  
wouldn't believe. Even if you can  
get rid of the gun, the cops will  
find some clue.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
I am the cops. You think they gonna  
believe you.

(CONTINUED)

VOICE(V.O.)

Not today, today you are but a  
slave in my game of life.

Stokes now checks his bedroom...

BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

To his surprise it's empty.

Under the bed...empty.

In the closet...empty.

STOKES

(into phone)

Where is it? I don't see it.

VOICE(V.O.)

Keep looking.

STOKES

(into phone)

Gimmie something here--work with  
me. I need a clue.

VOICE(V.O.)

...Mrs.Vaughn was a piece of trash  
wasn't she. She use to buy coke  
from you. She had two kids. Both of  
which will be glad they no longer  
have to deal with that piece of  
garbage.

Stokes thinks for a second...The trash can?

He checks the trash can in his bedroom...nothing to be  
found.

KITCHEN AREA - CONTINUOUS

There is a black garbage bag the size of a human body laying  
on the kitchen floor. He quickly rips it open... Nothing.

STOKES

What the...

The only place left is the small garbage can sitting next to  
the fridge. There's no way a human body could fit in there.  
And seeing as Mrs.Vaughn was almost twice the size of a  
normal woman that cant possibly be the place.

(CONTINUED)

He walks over to it...Takes a look inside.

INSERT - A Decapitated head. Other body parts lay underneath.

Stokes throws up. The smell, the blood, the eyes are still wide open.

STOKES

(into phone)

You sick fuck! You sick  
motherfucker! That bitch has kids  
man.

VOICE(V.O.)

Took you long enough. Now take the  
body and leave the apartment now.

STOKES

(into phone)

Why do I have to take it?

VOICE(V.O.)

Take it with you wherever you go.  
Never let it leave your side.  
That's my way of keeping tabs on  
you. There is a tracking device  
implanted in her skull. If I loose  
the signal, I loose you. If I loose  
you, you loose them. Do you  
understand?

STOKES

(into phone)

I understand?

VOICE(V.O.)

You don't sound like a man who  
wants to save his family. I sense a  
level of uncertainty in your voice.

STOKES

(into phone)

I'm gonna save my family--I'm gonna  
make things right. I promise--then  
I'm going to find you and rip your  
heart from your chest.

What has Stokes got himself in to. He bangs his head against the fridge in anger.

A knock on the door. Stokes is thrown off, the sound is almost foreign to him. The first time all day he will make contact with anyone.

(CONTINUED)

FRENCHY(O.S.)  
(Spanish accent)  
Senoir Stokes. Is Mrs.Vaughn in  
there. Tell her no more sexy time.  
She is not getting paid for this.  
If she wants to suck dick, let her  
do it on her own time.

FRENCHY(50s, bald, small gut).

Stokes looks in the garbage can where the remains for  
Mrs.Vaughn can be found.

STOKES  
(into phone)  
What do I tell him?

VOICE(V.O.)  
Check your pocket.

STOKES  
For what?

He digs into his pocket, there he finds a syringe.

Stokes goes to the door, he unbolts it half way with only  
the safety chain still attached.

Frenchy tries to stick his head in as much as possible.  
Stokes steps into his view.

STOKES  
She aint in here.

FRENCHY  
Then where the fuck is she.

STOKES  
I have no clue, check that Jamaican  
guys room. I think that's...

FRENCHY  
301A OK, I'll check, but if she's  
in there.  
(Starts screaming)  
TELL HER SHE IS THIS CLOSE TO BEING  
FIRED!

STOKES  
Goodbye.

He shuts the door. He sweats profusely.

(CONTINUED)

STOKES

(into phone)

What exactly will he find in 301?

VOICE(V.O.)

The rest of the body. I couldn't  
fit it all into the garbage.

FADE OUT: