

Murder In Texarkana

By

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His Novella

INT.--JOHN CALEB HALVORSON'S ATTIC--DAY

GARY HALVORSON opens a trunk belonging to his grandfather, JOHN CALEB HALVORSON, three items in its proximity. A letter from World War II is one. He places another item inside.

GARY

Here we go!

This second item is a shoebox full of photos of his grandfather during his younger years and a man who strikingly resembles James Dean. It goes in the trunk.

GARY

Wait a minute...

Eyes the third item, which he has seen before, yet also has never truly paid attention to it directly. It is a document folded into thirds. Unfolding it, he widens his eyes.

GARY

...last will and testament?

Looking through it, Gary shakes his head, as if he has no idea what to think.

GARY

What?

Reads into more details of his grandfather's will, with the passage "I, John Caleb Halverson, of sound, mind, and body do hereby bequeath my detective agency to my grandson".

GARY

I don't know how to be a detective...

Shakes his head in disbelief.

GARY

...this has got to be some joke or a mixup...

INT.--JOHN CALEB HALVORSON'S ATTIC--DAY

On his cellphone, Gary is trying to sort all of this out, this legacy from his grandfather that has now landed in his lap all of a sudden. Something he did not ask for.

GARY

So you mean to tell me this detective agency's in Texarkana?

(CONTINUED)

Nods, as if he is getting instructions over the phone.

GARY

Okay...

Writes down some details with a pen and paper.

GARY

Yeah...right...

Writes some more.

GARY

Thank you...I'll be there real soon...

Hangs up the phone.

EXT.--AIRPORT--DAY

Carrying his luggage, Gary walks over to the flight attendant and hands him the ticket, which is now stubbed before he boards the plane. It now takes off after this.

INT.--AIRPLANE--DAY

Gary is seated and unfolding his grandfather's last will and testament once more. Another flight attendant comes up, and they briefly look into each other's eyes for a second.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

We'll be serving food soon...will you be eating?

Gary shrugs.

GARY

I don't know...maybe...

Smiles at the flight attendant.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT

Just let me know if or when you're hungry and we'll see what we can do...

Gary nods as she leaves.

EXT.--STREETS OF TEXARKANA--DAY

Driving in a rental car, Gary pulls up to a dilapidated section of the downtown area, getting out of the car to see the building housing his grandfather's old detective agency.

INT.--DETECTIVE AGENCY--DAY

Walking in from the streets, he moves through the hallway to see this place seemingly cruddy and abandoned. Yet he notices someone walking around inside the main office.

GARY

Hello?

INT.--MAIN OFFICE--DAY

Stepping through here, Gary sees ALEXIS WILLIAMS, an attractive African American woman in a power suit going through paperwork at an old desk and getting organized.

GARY

I've been named a beneficiary in my grandfather's will...is it true I'm supposed to inherit all of this?

Holds his arms out, illustrating this entire setting. An office straight out of the 1930's with a ceiling fan, old rotary phone, rolodex, and an old filing cabinet.

ALEXIS

So, you're the one I spoke with on the phone? Do you have a copy of your grandfather's will?

Extends her hand, upon which Gary shakes it before handing her his copy of his grandfather's will, which she looks over. Flipping through the pages, she nods with each one.

GARY

But I'm not a licensed private investigator!

ALEXIS

Don't worry...we can fix that!

Hands him a file.

ALEXIS

A private investigator who's working on this very matrimonial case can help you get started...

(CONTINUED)

Gary looks over this file for a brief second, noting that this couple's last name listed in the document is RAHIM.

ALEXIS

...they're a divorced couple
squabbling over property and
insurance settlements...

Gary looks through a bit more of the file.

ALEXIS

...you name it!

Widening his eyes at how extensive this file is, Gary looks up at Alexis.

GARY

...I'd say!

Flipping through the pages of this file.

ALEXIS

So...are you willing to go for it?

GARY

Sure!

ALEXIS

There's a few requirements for
getting an investigator's license
here in Texarkana...

Gary nods in response.

ALEXIS

...first, you'll need a license in
both Texas and Arkansas...which is
more than a bit complicated...

Takes a deep breath before continuing.

ALEXIS

...both states require you have
field experience under
a investigator for two years...

Waves her hands across and now separately in a cutting motion.

ALEXIS

...please understand that is the
only similarity these two
jurisdictions share...

GARY

Got it!

Nods at her.

ALEXIS

In Texas, a private investigator
needs a four year Bachelor's Degree
in criminal justice...

Holds up her index finger to make sure Gary understands this
point.

ALEXIS

...you also can't have a criminal
record in that state either.

GARY

Right.

ALEXIS

Arkansas, however, recognizes
procedures from Oklahoma state
law...

Gary listens without a flinch.

ALEXIS

...you only need to take a 16 hour
training course to keep that
license every few years...

Nods again.

ALEXIS

Are you sure you want to do this?

GARY

It's going to be a lot of hard
work, but I'm up for it!

Alexis smiles and nods at him in return.

EXT.--TEXARKANA ENERGY BUILDING--DAY

Gazing at this large office building through a pair of
binoculars, Gary peers into a top floor window seeing two
people arguing, MR. RAHIM and SENATOR WILLIAM B. HICKLEY.

THUGARO

See anything yet?

(CONTINUED)

Experienced private investigator LARRY THUGARO stands off to the side watching him observe these two.

GARY
They're pretty pissed with each other...

Thugaro chuckles a bit.

THUGARO
Well...no shit, I figured that...

Shrugs at his own comment.

THUGARO
...but what do you think they are arguing about?

Gary continues to focus on them through the binoculars.

GARY
Probably some business deal.

THUGARO
Well...that's a start...

Keeps his eye on Gary.

THUGARO
...but what kind of business deal? Why do you think they're arguing about it?

GARY
Maybe Mr. Rahim uncovered something in regards to The Senator handling some transaction behind his back.

Thugaro smiles over this suggestion.

THUGARO
Hmmm...not bad...

Nods at Gary, who still looks through a set of binoculars.

THUGARO
...but try to focus on their body language...

Makes his point further by extending his index finger at Gary.

THUGARO
...that's how you really start
finding out stuff!

Squints his eyes, gazes at the top floor.

THUGARO
What do you see now?

GARY
He's standing at the door, but The
Senator is moving over to his
desk...

Through the binoculars, Gary sees Mr. Rahim continuing to yell and argue with Senator William B. Hickley while grabbing at the doorknob. Hickley prepares to sit down.

GARY
...he's sitting down and wants him
to leave his office...

A seated William B. Hickley now motions with his index finger as Mr. Rahim storms out of his office.

THUGARO (O.S.)
Good...good...now what?

GARY
He's gone!

Lowers the binoculars and gazes at Thugaro.

THUGARO
You did a good job the first time
out, but you need to be a little
more descriptive...

Gary nods in response.

THUGARO
...like I said, body language is
the key!

Pats Gary on the shoulder.

GARY
Thanks!

THUGARO
No problem, just keep working on
paying attention to how they move!

GARY

Right.

THUGARO

Now let's head back

Gary gets in the passenger's seat of Thugaro's car.

THUGARO

...you did better than I thought
you would...

Gets in the driver's seat and holds onto the door handle.

THUGARO

...most young punks I work with get
lost almost immediately and have no
idea where to point the binoculars!

They both chuckle as he shuts the driver's side door.

INT.--MAIN OFFICE--DAY

Gary and Thugaro enter as the rotary phone and filing
cabinets are being removed while a cellphone and a laptop
are being installed. Alexis is transcribing old files.

ALEXIS

So did you find out anything?

GARY

We saw Mr. Rahim arguing with that
Senator he works for...

ALEXIS

Senator Hickley is not even
supposed to have shares in that
company anymore...

Chuckles while shaking her head while continuing to dictate
old files from the rolodex and the filing cabinet.

ALEXIS

...conflict of interest!

Without even a flinch, she keeps going in spite of these
words.

ALEXIS

But that's one advantage you do
have over your grandfather...

Keeps going.

(CONTINUED)

ALEXIS
...you're at least willing to
investigate new or more recent
cases...

At last looks up at Gary.

ALEXIS
... 'til the day he died, he was
hung up on solving older cases
leftover from the 40's and 50's...

Has a document in her hand.

ALEXIS
...and that's how we ended up with
this...

Slams the document on her desk, it is revealed to a be a
bankruptcy filing.

ALEXIS
...your grandfather's fixation on
trying to solve old cases led to
him dying broke and penniless...

Gary picks up the document with his eyes widening over the
shock of this.

ALEXIS
...we have a huge mountain of debt
to pay off!

Shaking his head in disbelief, Gary hands it back to Alexis.

ALEXIS
You've taken the first step by
spying on Mr. Rahim and Senator
Hickley during their argument...

Shoots Gary a cold, matter of fact stare.

ALEXIS
...now you have to reach on the
inside.

Gary nods at her in return.

GARY
No problem...I just need the number
for Hickley's office at Texarkana
Energy.

Alexis types in a search on the laptop.

ALEXIS

Here...

Grabs a pen and writes the phone number down on the notepad before tearing it off and handing it to Gary.

GARY

Thanks!

Grabs the note and gets out his cellphone, on which he starts dialing.

GARY

Hi...I'd like to make an appointment to see Chairman Hickley...

With the cellphone to his ear, he waits for a response.

GARY

I'd like to discuss an oil lease for offshore drilling in The Pacific...

Alexis and Thugaro look at Gary with anticipation.

GARY

...I see...

Chews his fingernail.

GARY

...so you'll be able to squeeze me in at that hour?

Smiles.

GARY

Thank you...I really appreciate it...

Hangs up and pumps his arm in victory.

ALEXIS

So you got in?

INT.--TOP FLOOR--DAY

The elevator doors slide open and Gary steps , seeing those who work in this particular area of The Texarkana Energy Building. Finally, he walks over to the reception area.

(CONTINUED)

GARY

Excuse me...I have an appointment
to see your Chairman William B.
Hickley about an oil lease...

Looks at this female receptionist right in the eye.

GARY

...it pertains to some offshore
drilling in The Pacific...

The receptionist nods with a smile on her face.

RECEPTIONIST

Ah yes...I remember getting your
call...

Moving her finger along the appointments in a datebook.

RECEPTIONIST

...but unfortunately he has a
Senate hearing today...

Gazes at it to make sure she is right.

RECEPTIONIST

...you may have to re-schedule for
another time...

Gary nods at her.

GARY

I understand.

Offers a handshake, which she returns.

RECEPTIONIST

How does next Friday sound?

Gary turns his head and sees a few policemen walking in and
out of someone's office on this very floor.

RECEPTIONIST

Nine O'clock? Noon?

He sees them wheel out someone in a body bag.

RECEPTIONIST

Would that be alright?

Without thinking twice, Gary heads for this exact same
office to see what is going on.

(CONTINUED)

RECEPTIONIST (O.S.)
Sir? You can't go in there! Sir?

Despite this warning, Gary moves forward regardless.

INT.--MR. RAHIM'S OFFICE--DAY

Gary sees a few police officers collecting evidence and dusting Mr. Rahim's desk for fingerprints. He stands here speechless with absolutely no idea what to say whatsoever.

DEPUTY
Did you have an appointment with him today?

Shoots Gary a sarcastic smirk.

DEPUTY
Well...it won't be happening because he's been murdered!

Gary looks at this deputy's badge which reads BOWIE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT representing BOWIE COUNTY, TEXAS.

DEPUTY
Was this the first time you were going to meet the victim...or had you known him for awhile?

Gary shakes his head.

GARY
First time...although we had talked on the phone...

The deputy writes this with a pen on his notepad.

DEPUTY
How many phone conversations did you have?

GARY
Just one...to schedule this appointment...

The deputy also writes this down.

DEPUTY
I see...

Gary looks around at the other deputies continuing their jobs.

DEPUTY

...well, I'm sorry. I don't know what to tell you...

Gary sees another deputy walk by, displaying MILLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT on his badge, representing MILLER COUNTY, ARKANSAS before this other deputy walks out.

DEPUTY

...I'm afraid you'll have to clear out of here...

The second the deputy says this, he holds his hands up to clear him away. Gary notices a strange drink on Mr. Rahim's desk before he leaves, he cannot take his eyes off it

DEPUTY

Thank you!

INT.--TOP FLOOR--DAY

Gary walks out of Mr. Rahim's office, confronted by the receptionist almost immediately. Judging from the stern look on her face, it is more than apparent she is not pleased.

RECEPTIONIST

I told you not to go in there.

GARY

Oh, so I wouldn't find out one of Chairman Hickley's employees has been murdered?

Gets in the receptionist's face.

GARY

Do you plan to tell the press or are you keeping it hush hush?

The receptionist does not even say a word.

GARY

At least you have the good sense to allow these deputies to investigate...

Turns around and points at this murder scene with his index finger.

GARY

...oh, so they're going to be covering this mess up to keep Hickley out of trouble?

(CONTINUED)

Stepping back, the receptionist takes a few deep breaths.

RECEPTIONIST

I think it's best if you leave
right now.

Points toward the elevator with her index finger.

GARY

With pleasure...

Walks toward the elevator before turning back to face the
receptionist one last time.

GARY

...but remember, this is only the
first you'll hear from me...

Turns and walks into the elevator as the sliding doors open
and close in front of and behind him hereafter.

INT.--BOTTOM FLOOR--DAY

With the elevator doors opening, Gary steps out and walks
through this area of the Texarkana Energy Building. People
are coming in and going out, as Gary himself exits.

EXT.--TEXARKANA ENERGY BUILDING--DAY

Gary exhales furiously as he is both tired and angry as
Thugaro looks on, waiting to hear what his student
investigator has discovered while on the top floor.

THUGARO

Alright...tell me what happened...

Gary bends over trying to catch his breath.

GARY

He wasn't there...but...

Still breathing heavily.

THUGARO

But what?

Pats Gary on the back, allowing him to rise to his feet once
more.

(CONTINUED)

GARY

They wheeled Mr. Rahim's body out
of his office...he's been
murdered...

Thugaro widens his eyes.

THUGARO

What...what do you mean?

Gary now stands straight and seems more at ease, while
Thugaro has been reduced to being in shock.

GARY

The police had his office swarmed
and there was a drink laying
there...

THUGARO

What drink?

GARY

Some type of whiskey or bourbon in
a glass sitting on his desk.

THUGARO

Do you think he could have been...

GARY

...poisoned?

Thugaro nods.

GARY

I'm pretty sure he was...

THUGARO

And where was Hickley in all of
this?

GARY

His receptionist said he was at a
Senate hearing.

Thugaro balls up his fist and almost wants to punch in the
driver's side window of his very own car.

THUGARO

Damn! The guilty always know how to
get away!

INT.--MAIN OFFICE--DAY

Alexis is still transcribing old files to the laptop. The rolodex is gone completely while at least half the files from the filing cabinet still need to be updated.

ALEXIS

You mean to tell me Senator Hickley may have been involved in the death of Mr. Rahim?

Looks up in disbelief.

GARY

He was most likely poisoned...

Shrugs at her.

GARY

...and the receptionist said he was busy at a Senate hearing during the time Mr. Rahim's body was found...

Alexis looks up from the old files.

ALEXIS

Not surprised...rich corporate executives and politicians love to cover their tracks!

Gary chuckles.

GARY

And deputies from both The Bowie County and Miller County Sheriff's Department were in his office...

Handing Alexis one of the old files to assist her.

GARY

...and I'm pretty sure they were covering Hickley's tracks under the guise of doing their "duty".

ALEXIS

But what makes you think he was poisoned?

GARY

There was this glass of either whiskey or bourbon sitting on his desk...

(CONTINUED)

Holds his hand outward on his grandfather's old desk to simulate the shape of Mr. Rahim's glass.

GARY

...the receptionist also admonished me for even going into Mr. Rahim's office in the first place...

Shakes his head.

GARY

...so I wouldn't put it past Hickley to have done something like this.

ALEXIS

Neither would I.

GARY

Is there any way you can dig up more dirt on Mr. Rahim and Senator Hickley?

ALEXIS

Here's the simplest and best way to do it....

Alexis returns to the laptop and types a search on Google before clicking and turning up results.

ALEXIS

...look I think we have something already...

Pulls up a website on William B. Hickley.

ALEXIS

It says here he helped bring over a couple from The Far East...

Scrolls down and reads more.

ALEXIS

...in fact, he sponsored them for several years...

Turns around the laptop to show Gary and Thugaro.

GARY

So he did this in exchange for some oil deal over there for Texarkana Energy...

Reading this off the screen of the laptop.

GARY
...he even got one of them a job
there!

Scrolls down with the mouse of the laptop to see a picture
of this individual.

GARY
...and sure enough.

The picture is of Mr. Rahim.

ALEXIS
That explains quite a bit...

THUGARO
But why would that be a reason to
kill him?

Both Gary and Thugaro gaze at Alexis.

ALEXIS
That's something we still need to
figure out for ourselves...

GARY
Can you find anything on today's
Senate hearing?

ALEXIS
Sure...just let me type in here...

Types in another search on the laptop.

ALEXIS
There's an article...

Points to it, showing Gary and Thugaro, with Hickley
speaking into a microphone at the Senator. Clicking on the
article, Alexis goes directly to it and starts scrolling.

ALEXIS
...and it talks about The Senate
hearing...believe it or not...it's
about illegal immigration...

The three of them have full view of Hickley's picture.

ALEXIS
...how ironic.

GARY

Anything on immigrants from The Far East?

ALEXIS

Just a brief mention and that's it.

GARY

What else is there about Hickley and The Rahims?

Alexis clicks the "Back" button on the browser and it returns to the website she found on Hickley. She also checks the documents on the case involving them at this moment.

ALEXIS

It says here The Rahims' divorce was due to a falling out over the oil deal they were involved in...

Reads more.

ALEXIS

...and apparently...there was also some tax shelters or offshore accounts...

THUGARO

You sure?

Alexis points to the screen with Thugaro reading.

THUGARO

Is this what the oil deal was for and why he smuggled them over here?

GARY

Did The Rahims ever become U.S. Citizens?

ALEXIS

Not that I recall...neither spouse discussed it...nor were any legal documents filed...

THUGARO

Hmmm...

Takes a closer look at the website discussing Hickley's activities.

GARY

Can you find any more on the possible tax shelter or offshore account?

ALEXIS

I'll have to dig through my files, but it could be done...

Holds up the remaining files belonging to his grandfather.

ALEXIS

...and we both know it'll be a long while before I'll be able to get to that...

GARY

Sure enough.

ALEXIS

But I'll get to it eventually.

Smiles at him.

GARY

Thanks.

Thugaro rises from the laptop.

THUGARO

Listen...I have a plan...

Waves Gary over in his direction.

GARY

What is it?

The two of them huddle up.

THUGARO

Alright, now you mentioned how your plan at Texarkana Energy kind of failed at the last minute, right?

GARY

Right.

Thugaro holds his hand outward to further express his intention.

THUGARO

Well, I have an idea...

Alexis transcribes more of the old files to the laptop.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO
...now listen carefully...

Moving his hand up and down, ready to reveal his plan.

THUGARO
This time around, I'll be going to
the top floor of Texarkana Energy
and checking things out...

Gary pays attention and does not say a word.

THUGARO
...this way by switching it around
and trying an approach that's a
little different, the results...

Shrugs at Gary.

THUGARO
...may indeed turnout different...

GARY
So what'll I be doing?

THUGARO
You'll be the lookout guy on the
outside...

Continuing to look at him.

THUGARO
...you see? By pulling a reverse
good cop bad cop routine, we'll be
able to find out more.

Gary cringes.

GARY
That might be the problem though...

Nods at Thugaro.

GARY
...I mostly played the good cop
already, before I went into Rahim's
office and saw what was going on...

Thugaro smiles.

THUGARO
No problem...

Shakes his head.

THUGARO
...I'll figure something out.

Nods back.

GARY
I sure as hell hope you do...

Face declines into an uneasy expression.

GARY
...or we're in deep shit!

Alexis overhears this yet keeps transcribing files to laptop without blinking an eye.

EXT.--TEXARKANA ENERGY BUILDING--DAY

Looking at the top floor of the building through a set of binoculars, Gary keeps an eye out while Thugaro heads for the front door of the building, and now walks inside.

INT.--BOTTOM FLOOR--DAY

Thugaro walks inside, looking left and right in quick succession, and looks left once more, heading for the nearest elevator. One he enters before it travels upward.

INT.--TOP FLOOR--DAY

The elevator doors open with Thugaro walking out, and heading for the receptionist's desk out here. He takes a seat and smiles at her, waiting for her to respond.

RECEPTIONIST
Do you have an appointment?

THUGARO
Not at the moment...no.

Gazes at her directly with a smile while quickly looking around at each of the offices on this floor. He sees the one that belonged to Mr. Rahim, which is taped and sealed off.

RECEPTIONIST
Would you like to schedule one?

Begins looking through her datebook with pen in hand.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO

I'd be more than happy to...

Nods and smiles.

RECEPTIONIST

And who would you like to see?

Still looking through her datebook.

THUGARO

Chairman Hickley.

The receptionist looks up with a pair of widened eyes.

RECEPTIONIST

I'm afraid that won't be possible
for a good while...

Looks around to see who is watching and listening before she gazes back at Thugaro.

RECEPTIONIST

...he's taking part in the latest
Senate hearings.

THUGARO

Oh yes...I've heard about his
tenure in The Senate...

Nods and smiles at her.

THUGARO

...all the while remaining Chairman
and CEO of this place...along with
continuing to hold stock.

The receptionist's eyes widen, unaware if she should answer.

RECEPTIONIST

Where did you hear that?

THUGARO

Hell, it's all over The Internet,
I'm sure a lot of the traditional
news media also knows...

The receptionist looks both ways again to make sure no one else is listening or watching.

RECEPTIONIST

Look...I don't know where you heard
of this, but...

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO
...but you know I'm capable of
exposing what goes on inside these
offices...

Smiles at her.

THUGARO
...and of course, there are also
Hickley's Senate activities...

The receptionist stiffens and does not say a word.

THUGARO
...so how about it?

Leans toward the receptionist.

THUGARO
You tell me what I want to know,
and I'll be more than happy to
leave...

The receptionist remains frozen, having no idea what to say
or do.

RECEPTIONIST
We can schedule an appointment...

Resumes flipping through the datebook.

RECEPTIONIST
...let me see...

Flips some more, before finding a date at last.

RECEPTIONIST
...here we are...

Points to the date.

RECEPTIONIST
How about tomorrow at Nine O'clock?
Maybe Noon?

Shrugs her shoulders.

RECEPTIONIST
Are you sure your boss will have
enough time to see me with all
those Senate hearings?

RECEPTIONIST

Oh...I can make time for him...

Looks through the appointments in the datebook.

RECEPTIONIST

...he might be available at
Eleven...

Still looking.

RECEPTIONIST

...maybe during his lunch break...

Thugaro smiles over this.

RECEPTIONIST

...his Senate hearing does break
for a one hour recess before
Noon...

THUGARO

Okay...sounds good...

Gets up from his chair while the receptionist gets up from hers almost immediately and grabs him by the arm until something can be figured out and arranged between them.

RECEPTIONIST

Wait...

Pulls him back over to her desk.

RECEPTIONIST

...I can get you in sometime
between Nine and Noon...that's the
best I can do...

Looks desperately into his eyes.

RECEPTIONIST

...these Senate hearings are a
nightmare and wreak havoc with the
schedule here...

Shakes her head.

RECEPTIONIST

...these hearings can go on for
days and there are very few breaks
in between...

Claps her hands together, trying to plead with him.

(CONTINUED)

RECEPTIONIST

...just come back early tomorrow
morning and we'll try to work
something out.

Thugaro smiles as he rises from the chair once more.

THUGARO

Now that's what I like to hear...

Heds for the elevator and gets inside of it.

INT.--BOTTOM FLOOR--DAY

The elevator comes down and Thugaro emerges as the doors open. Looking around, he sees people coming in and out of this building. He quickly heads out the exit himself.

EXT.--TEXARKANA ENERGY BUILDING--DAY

Thugaro has this big smile on his face as he walks out of here. Gary lowers his binoculars, seeing this senior investigator come toward him as his grin gets wider.

THUGARO

Now THAT'S how you do it!

GARY

Just by talking to them and
smoothing it over?

THUGARO

Sometimes...

Walks over to the driver's side of his car.

THUGARO

...you might have gotten a little
impulsive...

Walks back over to Gary.

THUGARO

...you see by going directly to Mr.
Rahim's office you acted far too
soon. That turns them off...

Gary nods.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO

...you have to sweet talk them a bit, then go in for the kill, but don't exactly overdo it...

Holding out his hand, explaining this to Gary.

THUGARO

...on the first meeting all you need to do is set something up...

Walks back to his car and opens the passenger door for Gary.

THUGARO

...you have to, more or less, be very methodical...

Gary gets inside the passenger's seat.

THUGARO

...one thing at a time, alright?

Shuts the door behind Gary.

THUGARO

I think we got somewhere today, don't you?

Walks back to the driver's side of his car.

INT.--MAIN OFFICE--DAY

Alexis transcribes the few remaining files to the laptop, typing away. Gary and Thugaro arrive back from their trip to Texarkana Energy, watching her transcribe these same files.

GARY

He finally got an appointment with Hickley.

Points to Thugaro as she looks up in wide eyed shock.

ALEXIS

Are you serious?

Does not say a word beyond this.

THUGARO

Oh yeah...I muscled my way in...

Nods with a smile.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO
...he's apparently still busy with
his Senate hearings...

Shrugs.

THUGARO
...but that receptionist is going
to try to squeeze me between Nine
and Noon tomorrow.

ALEXIS
How did you manage to do that?

Both Gary and Alexis look at him with curiosity.

THUGARO
With my own personal touch...

Slides his fingers along the edge of the old desk.

THUGARO
...I just hope Hickley follows
through with it.

ALEXIS
Same here...

Alexis is down to transcribing the last file.

ALEXIS
...I just hope you don't get
screwed because of this. Or even
worse...killed!

Shrugs.

THUGARO
Me too.

Shakes his head.

EXT.--TEXARKANA ENERGY BUILDING--DAY

Gary and Thugaro stare at the building well aware of what
could be at stake here. Thugaro starts walking forward only
looking back at his junior investigator for a brief second.

THUGARO
Well...here goes nothing...

Shrugs and turns back toward the building.

INT.--BOTTOM FLOOR--DAY

Walking into the building, Thugaro sees people coming in and going out of this section. Without hesitation, he approaches the elevator as the doors slide open and he walks inside.

INT.--TOP FLOOR--DAY

The elevator doors open with Thugaro emerging and seeing the receptionist is not paying attention to her surroundings at all whatsoever. She is consumed with keeping appointments.

THUGARO

It's Nine A.M. I'm here like you
asked...

The receptionist nervously flips through her datebook.

RECEPTIONIST

He hasn't shown up yet...

Still flips through her datebook.

RECEPTIONIST

...I'm hoping he'll show up within
the next few hours.

Does not even look at Thugaro.

THUGARO

I guess I'll just have a seat.

Sits down in a nearby chair.

RECEPTIONIST

Suit yourself.

Still does not gaze up at him.

THUGARO

So how far is he into these Senate
hearings?

Checks his wristwatch.

RECEPTIONIST

I don't know...maybe a few days...

Remains focused on her datebook.

(CONTINUED)

RECEPTIONIST
...everything gets so crazy around
here whenever these hearings
happen...

Keeps flipping pages.

THUGARO
Oh...I'm sorry to hear that...

An hour later, Thugaro remains in his chair while the receptionist gets up and walks around a bit. The datebook just lays here on her desk unattended, if anything.

RECEPTIONIST
Want some?

Pours herself some coffee from the pot, extending it to Thugaro.

THUGARO
No...that's alright...

Shakes his head while waving his hand.

RECEPTIONIST
You're going to get awfully
irritable waiting for Chairman
Hickley without coffee...

Puts the pot back.

THUGARO
I'll take my chances.

EXT.--TEXARKANA ENERGY BUILDING--DAY

Gary looks into the top floor with a set of binoculars trying to see if there is any indication of where Thugaro might be. No sign of him so far whatsoever at this point.

GARY
Been standing here for over an
hour...I'm sweating and my legs are
killing me...

INT.--TOP FLOOR--DAY

Two hours later, Thugaro remains seated with the receptionist back at her desk working. Sifting through paperwork, she now checks the datebook once more.

RECEPTIONIST

Another hour and he still hasn't shown...you might as well pack it up...

Points toward the elevator with pen in hand.

THUGARO

No, that's fine...we've still got one more to go...

Points to his wristwatch.

EXT.--TEXARKANA ENERGY BUILDING--DAY

Still armed with the binoculars, Gary remains standing on his tired and numb feet, chafing at the legs and moving them around. He is almost whining over being in this position.

GARY

Hurry it up...or else I'm going to march in there and kick your ass!

INT.--TOP FLOOR--DAY

Three hours later, Thugaro remains seated, getting a bit antsy and tired while still waiting for Hickley to show up. Checking his wristwatch, it is getting close to Noon.

RECEPTIONIST

He's not going to show up...you might as well leave...

Thugaro is still checking his watch.

THUGARO

Yeah...thanks for putting up with me though...

The receptionist does not even look at him.

RECEPTIONIST

I've honestly put up with a lot worse.

Thugaro rises from his seat.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO
Thanks for your time.

RECEPTIONIST
No problem..

Gets inside the elevator as the doors slide open.

INT.--BOTTOM FLOOR--DAY

The elevator door slides open as Thugaro gets out and roams amongst those who are coming in and going out of this building. He soon exits through one of the revolving doors.

EXT.--TEXARKANA ENERGY BUILDING--DAY

Walking out of this building, Thugaro lowers his head out of disappointment. While Gary shifts his legs around, as they hurt. It is apparent things did not go according to plan.

GARY
He didn't show up...did he?

Thugaro shakes his head.

THUGARO
No...he didn't...

Angry and frustrated, Gary punches Thugaro's arms.

GARY
And you made me stand out here for
three hours...

Thugaro winces and tries to shield himself from Gary.

GARY
How could you put me through that
and not succeed?

THUGARO
I don't know...

Thugaro shakes his head.

INT.--MAIN OFFICE--DAY

Alexis transcribes the last of this detective agency's old files. Gary and Thugaro are present, having failed at their attempts to encounter Hickley over the death of Mr. Rahim.

ALEXIS

So you didn't get a chance to see him?

THUGARO

No...the receptionist mentioned he was at a Senate hearing.

ALEXIS

Is it still going on?

Almost as quickly, she turns to the laptop and types in a search.

ALEXIS

It says here the hearing lasts until 5PM...

Gazes up at Gary and Thugaro.

ALEXIS

...you've still got time!

Thugaro scratches his head while Gary is now seated in a chair.

THUGARO

I don't know...

Shrugs.

THUGARO

...we spent three hours waiting for him at Texarkana Energy and nothing came of it...

Looks at Alexis.

THUGARO

...are you sure chasing after him on the Senate floor is even a good idea?

ALEXIS

It's worth a try.

Shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO

Wasting three hours of our time was bad enough, what if we wait there five hours and he's already gone?

ALEXIS

...then he's just hard to catch...and possibly guilty...

Nods her head, seeing Thugaro has a point.

ALEXIS

...but you need to follow every lead possible.

INT.--STATE SENATE BUILDING--DAY

Gary and Thugaro are seated as they hear a speaker make comments during the hearing. They are both in front of a pair of doors, not seeing what is going on behind them.

GARY

How long is this going to take?

Chews his fingernails.

THUGARO

Just relax and give it time...

Shrugs.

THUGARO

...I'm sure we'll get one chance to corner Hickley.

Gary looks at Thugaro.

THUGARO

Oh sure...and for all we know, he may leave before we have a chance to get in there...

THUGARO

Have faith my little friend...and be patient...

Smiles at Gary.

THUGARO

...hey, I'll tell you what...

Points toward the two doors.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO

...I distract the receptionist here
and you go in and eavesdrop...just
make sure no one sees you...

Gary shrugs and nods.

THUGARO

...get me everything you can and
don't leave anything out!

Gary nods once more.

GARY

Sounds like an idea.

THUGARO

Now let's get going and see what we
can come up with.

Gary gets up from his seat, sneaking through the Senate
doors. Thugaro heads over to the receptionist's desk,
smiling at her without yet saying a word to her.

INT.--SENATE FLOOR--DAY

Gary sneaks in through the doors and crouches down to avoid
being seen. Many Senators are seated around the main panel
listening as the speaker continues to illustrate his point.

SPEAKER

We need to settle this conflict
about offshore drilling in The
Pacific...

Gary looks on without saying a single word.

SPEAKER

...now before everyone gets arguing
again let's settle this as calmly
as we possibly can...

Gary leans up against the edge of one of the benches.

SPEAKER

...we need to keep regulating this
and avoid letting the big energy
companies have too much power...

Senator William B. Hickley rises to his feet.

(CONTINUED)

SPEAKER

Senator Hickley...you have the floor...

HICKLEY

I think we should let them proceed with the drilling as scheduled...

Gary sees Hickley for himself.

HICKLEY

Why should we let these left leaning environmentalists tell us how to drill?

Some Senate members cheer this suggestion.

HICKLEY

Why should we earmark our dollars for the middle class? This state has always been about capitalism...

The cheering gets even louder.

HICKLEY

...whoever gets hold of the almighty dollar and hangs onto it the longest wins...

Even more cheering while The Speaker slams his gavel.

SPEAKER

Keep it down...keep it down...

Slams the gavel once more as the rest of the floor gets quiet.

SPEAKER

...I will not tolerate any more of these outbursts...

Five hours later, the floor is dismissed. Many of The Senators now rise from their seats and head toward the various exits. Gary also rises from his hiding place.

GARY

Senator Hickley?

Sees Hickley from the back as he moves toward an exit.

VOICE

Oh no you don't...

Turns around and sees he is being grabbed by a security guard.

INT.--STATE SENATE BUILDING--DAY

Gary has now been thrown through the Senate doors. Lying on the floor he has being helped out by Thugaro who remains out here to find out dirt by means of this receptionist.

THUGARO

So, what did you find out about Hickley?

Brushes off Gary's clothes.

THUGARO

He wants them to continue offshore drilling in The Pacific while certain others are opposed to it.

Thugaro sits back down.

THUGARO

Was anything mentioned about The Rahims?

Shrugs.

THUGARO

Not that I would expect Hickley to do so in a Senate or anything, but...

Gary shakes his head.

GARY

No...just the offshore drilling...

THUGARO

Well, I wouldn't be surprised if it did involve The Rahims...

Nods at Gary.

THUGARO

...weren't they involved in some offshore accounts with Hickley?

Gary nods back.

(CONTINUED)

GARY

Right.

INT.--MAIN OFFICE--DAY

The files have been transcribed to the laptop while Alexis watches a few heating and air guys install a brand new air conditioner inside of the window, as Gary and Thugaro enter.

ALEXIS

So, did you find out anything at the Senate hearing?

GARY

Hickley preached how the energy executives should have access to all the offshore drilling...

Shakes his head.

GARY

...he doesn't want the government regulating it...

ALEXIS

You actually saw Hickley? Wow...

Widens her eyes in amazement.

GARY

I tried to get close to him as the Senate floor was dismissed, but a security guard threw me out...

ALEXIS

Tough break.

THUGARO

Has anyone noticed while chasing after Hickley over Mr. Rahim, we've forgotten someone?

Alexis and Gary look confused.

THUGARO

The ex-wife! We have ignored her completely!

Points to Alexis and the case file for The Rahims.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO

Where does Mrs. Rahim live? Does she work or have a job?

Alexis looks through the file.

ALEXIS

She has a home in Tulsa, and is basically living off her ex-husband's alimony...

THUGARO

Until his recent murder, that is...

ALEXIS

Well...yeah...

Does not know whether to laugh or be disgusted at Thugaro's wisecrack. Now follows with her own brand of sarcasm.

ALEXIS

...I can clearly see that...

Still looks through the file.

ALEXIS

But she lives in Tulsa...another jurisdiction separate from Texarkana...

Thugaro pulls some folded documents out of his pocket.

THUGARO

Lucky for you...I happen to be licensed in all three states.

Hands the documents to Alexis, who unfolds them and sees these are indeed private investigator licenses in the states of Texas, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Thugaro smiles at her.

ALEXIS

Well...that's...good...

Does not know whether to be surprised.

ALEXIS

...so at least you have legal clearance to investigate Mrs. Rahim...

THUGARO

That is if Hickley hasn't gotten to her first...

Shrugs.

EXT.--STREETS OF TULSA, OKLAHOMA--DAY

Thugaro and Gary are driving around as their car enters a residential neighborhood that looks somewhat suburban in scale. Gary looks at the case file, moving his finger on it.

THUGARO
Nice neighborhood...are you sure
this is the right address?

Pulls the car to a stop, as Gary hands him the case file.

THUGARO
Yep.

Gazes at it and nods.

THUGARO
Now let's find out what we can on
her...

Both get out of the car.

THUGARO
...she knows how to keep house...

Nods while admiring Mrs. Rahim's front yard from across the street. Thugaro and Gary both cross the street after looking left, right, and now left again when they reach her house.

EXT.--MRS. RAHIM'S HOUSE--DAY

Slowly, Thugaro and Gary walk up the steps of the porch with his own index finger reaching out to ring the doorbell. Yet before he can, he and Gary hear yelling in this area.

MRS. RAHIM (O.S.)
How come I'm being used as the
scapegoat for that tax shelter?

Thugaro pushes Gary away from the door, where they now crouch down and hide behind a wall.

HICKLEY (O.S.)
It's just until we get the
government off our backs...

Both Thugaro and Gary do not know whether to wince at all of this screaming. Or be shocked at the mere presence of Hickley's voice. The two just remain quiet where they are.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. RAHIM

First, my ex-husband turns up dead
and now you're harassing me...

Thugaro and Gary hide while still paying attention.

MRS. RAHIM

...does this have something to do
with the offshore drilling you're
involved with in The Pacific?

HICKLEY

I'm only trying to look out for
you!

MRS. RAHIM

Yeah...like how you looked out for
my husband...

Gary chews his fingernails.

MRS. RAHIM

...is that what you mean?

HICKLEY

Listen...you're getting all
paranoid for nothing...

Hickley comes toward the screen door.

HICKLEY

...take a few days to relax and get
over yourself...and we'll talk
about this when you feel better...

Heads out the door while Mrs. Rahim comes after him with a
shotgun.

MRS. RAHIM

Don't ever come here again...or I
promise I'll kill you...

Shotgun still in hand, Mrs. Rahim gazes into Hickley's eyes
without a single drop of fear in her own. While he steps off
the porch and leaves, shaking his head in disbelief.

MRS. RAHIM

Son of a bitch!

Both Thugaro and Gary look on as she walks back through her
front door carrying her shotgun.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO
Man...she's tough!

Whispers this while staying down.

GARY
Should we question her about
Hickley and her ex-husband?

Thugaro shakes his head.

THUGARO
You should follow your targets as
closely as you can...but she's in
too much of a bad mood..

Shrugs.

THUGARO
Why should a private investigator
ever question an angry woman with a
shotgun?

Gary slowly shakes his head out of fear.

THUGARO
I think we better just get out of
here before we get blown to bits!

GARY
Sure...that sounds like a plan...

Both get up slightly and start to tiptoe off the porch.
Their footsteps are heading there and all of a sudden, the
screen door opens with Mrs. Rahim's own feet stepping out.

THUGARO
Shhh...

Places his index finger on his lips.

MRS. RAHIM
Who's out there?

Turns every which direction, armed with her shotgun.

MRS. RAHIM
Come out...show yourself...

Now stands straight in a steady pace.

THUGARO

Wait...

Whispers this to Gary.

MRS. RAHIM

Whoever you are...get off my
property...

Both Thugaro and Gary remain very quiet and very still while
once again crouching down.

THUGARO

...don't say a word!

Mrs. Rahim goes back inside.

THUGARO

Now let's try to get out of here
before she comes back out.

Crawls to the edge of the porch and slides down the steps.

THUGARO

Come on...

Holds out his hand for Gary to reach.

THUGARO

...hurry...

Gary reaches out.

THUGARO

...let's go!

All of a sudden, the door creaks open.

THUGARO

Now...

Grabs Gary and pulls him down.

MRS. RAHIM

Who's out there?

Stands at the screen door, shotgun in hand.

THUGARO

We don't have much time!

Whispers this while helping Gary crawl down the steps of
this porch.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. RAHIM
I want to see the look in your eyes
when I shoot you!

Moves to another side of the porch.

GARY
Oh damn!

He and Thugaro hide behind the porch.

MRS. RAHIM
Where are you?

Both slide away from the grass to avoid Mrs. Rahim seeing them.

MRS. RAHIM
Hey!

Sees Thugaro and Gary as they get up and are hurrying out of her yard, firing a gunshot at them. They wince as a result and start running for their lives without question.

THUGARO
Shit!

INT.--MAIN OFFICE--DAY

Thugaro and Gary return here breathing a deep sigh of relief as they see a modern and working air conditioner has at last been installed. Yet Alexis sees they are a tad disheveled.

ALEXIS
What's wrong?

GARY
We went to Mrs. Rahim's house in
Tulsa...she was arguing Hickley...

ALEXIS
What? Are you sure?

GARY
Oh yes...we could hear them arguing
after we snuck on her front porch!

Thugaro backhand slaps Gary on his arm.

ALEXIS
You mean to tell me you actually
trespassed onto her property?

(CONTINUED)

Thugaro is embarrassed, having no idea what to say. He is even stumbling for the right words at this very moment.

THUGARO
She had a shotgun!

Alexis' eyes widen.

ALEXIS
You can't be serious!

THUGARO
We couldn't investigate or question a woman like that!

GARY
She did yell about tax shelters and offshore drilling in The Pacific during the argument with Hickley...

Shrugs.

GARY
Can you look into those files and see if Hickley or The Rahims were involved in any such things?

ALEXIS
You mean the tax shelter and offshore drilling?

Nods his head.

ALEXIS
Sure.

Types in a search on the laptop.

ALEXIS
Let's see here...

Looks closer.

ALEXIS
...Texarkana Energy bought shares of Marrakesh Industries at three dollars apiece...

Still looking.

ALEXIS
...this was how he first encountered The Rahims.

THUGARO

So Hickley must've brought them here as apart of the deal...illegal immigrants or not.

Alexis looks at more details on this website.

ALEXIS

Oh, believe me...it gets more illegal...

Scrolls down using the laptop's mouse.

ALEXIS

...he also sold these same shares of Marrakesh Industries to a smaller energy company...

Types something up.

ALEXIS

...one located on an island in The Pacific...and also sold them at three dollars apiece...

Shrugs.

ALEXIS

...meaning Hickley had no taxes to pay on these deals whatsoever.

GARY

Who owned this other company?

Alexis scrolls some more.

ALEXIS

The owners are listed here as The Rahims.

Shakes her head in disbelief, shocked but not surprised.

THUGARO

Why would anyone in The Far East start or buy a company out in The Pacific?

Pacing around the room, confused.

ALEXIS

They could have been partners investing with Hickley...or he put the company in their name...

(CONTINUED)

Checks a detail on the website to make sure what she reads is indeed accurate.

GARY

What about their involvement in offshore drilling?

ALEXIS

Apparently, Texarkana Energy and the smaller company in the Pacific jointly used an offshore oil rig...

Looks closer.

ALEXIS

...one just off the coast of Santa Barbara, California.

THUGARO

That about sums it up for me.

Acts as if there is nothing left for him to do here, walks around the office.

GARY

There's still the matter of Mr. Rahim and the dispute Hickley had with his ex-wife...

Shrugs.

GARY

...and the current Senate hearings he's taking part in...

THUGARO

Yeah...

Nods at both Gary and Alexis.

THUGARO

...how long do these hearings last anyway?

Alexis types a search on the laptop.

ALEXIS

For several days at least...

Types another search.

ALEXIS
...it's scheduled to end sometime
later this month...

Shrugs.

ALEXIS
...but with this ongoing debate on
offshore drilling, these hearings
can go on longer than expected...

THUGARO
True.

GARY
But something remains
unresolved...just a feeling...I
don't know...

EXT.--MRS. RAHIM'S HOUSE--DAY

Mrs. Rahim is once again standing outside her screen door
with the shotgun still in her hand. She is confronted by a
man wearing a suit with black gloves over his hands.

MRS. RAHIM
Don't you come near me!

Points the shotgun at him.

MAN IN SUIT
Ma'am, if you would let me come
inside, we can discuss this calmly
and rationally...

Mrs. Rahim does not waver from her stance, despite this man
holding his hands in midair and trying to assure her.

MRS. RAHIM
You were sent here to kill me...

Looks right into his eyes.

MRS. RAHIM

...I know you were!

Shakes his head.

MAN IN SUIT
I'm not going to hurt you!

Takes a step toward her, yet she remains guarded.

(CONTINUED)

MAN IN SUIT
If you'd just invite me into your
home...we can just sit down and
talk...I promise...

Takes another step.

MAN IN SUIT
...please...let's go inside...

Holds his hand out for her to enter.

MAN IN SUIT
...after you...

Mrs. Rahim holds the gun steady, not trusting this man.

MAN IN SUIT
...I won't hurt you...

Waves his hands toward her.

MAN IN SUIT
...now put the gun down and I'll
follow you through this door...

Places his hand over his heart.

MAN IN SUIT
...you have my solemn word!

INT.--MAIN OFFICE--DAY

Thugaro and Alexis stand here as it appears some strange feeling has hit Gary and he cannot express it for some reason. The two of them have no idea what to think.

THUGARO
What do you mean?

GARY
I think we should go back to Mrs.
Rahim's house in Tulsa and check it
out further...

Thugaro's eyes widen in fear.

GARY
...something there is just wrong
and I can't shake it!

Thugaro shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO
I don't think we should.

GARY
Why not? At least we'd be doing the
right thing...

Looks right into Thugaro's eyes.

GARY
...for The Rahims!

THUGARO
Don't you remember? She nearly
killed us with a shotgun!

GARY
Yeah, but don't you think she might
be acting like that for a reason?

Thugaro shrugs.

THUGARO
Yeah...maybe you're right...

Motions to Gary with his index finger, seeing his trainee
has a point.

THUGARO
...alright...let's go...

ALEXIS
Call me if anything develops!

Walks out the door with Gary in tow, who pulls his cellphone
out of his pocket and holds it in midair to acknowledge her.

GARY
Will do.

Alexis watches them leave, a look of concern on her face.

EXT.--MRS. RAHIM'S HOUSE--DAY

Mrs. Rahim lowers her shotgun and begins walking through the
front door when all of a sudden this man grabs ahold of her
and throttles her into the house almost immediately!

MRS. RAHIM
You...

Subdued on the floor, she still has hold of the shotgun
while he steps on it and holds it in place.

(CONTINUED)

MRS. RAHIM
...you promised you weren't going
to hurt me...

He gazes down at her with a big smile on his face.

MAN IN SUIT
Oh, that's right...I'm not going to
hurt you...

Wrestles the shotgun away from her grasp.

MAN IN SUIT
... but I am going to kill you!

MRS. RAHIM
No...please don't...

Holds hands up, begging for her life.

MRS. RAHIM
...don't shoot...

This man shoves both barrels of the shotgun in her face.

MRS. RAHIM
...please!

Without even blinking an eye, he shoots her right in the
face. She dies instantly.

MAN IN SUIT
Well, it looks like my work here is
done...

Throws down the shotgun on the floor and dials his cellphone
after pulling it out of his pocket.

MAN IN SUIT
Senator Hickley...she's been taken
care of...

HICKLEY (O.S.)
Good...

A large smile spreads across this man's face.

HICKLEY
...make sure there is absolutely no
trace of your fingerprints at the
crime scene...

EXT.--STREETS OF TULSA, OKLAHOMA--DAY

Thugaro and Gary drive through this area in an attempt to return to Mrs. Rahim's house before anything terrible happens. Thugaro is behind the wheel, focused on the road.

THUGARO

How did that feeling hit you? And why did it tell you that we should come here?

Gary shrugs.

GARY

I don't know...just in the gut...I guess...

Thugaro keeps his eyes on the road.

THUGARO

Hunches and feelings like that can be good, but this is a profession based around facts and evidence.

Gary nods.

GARY

Understood.

Thugaro makes a turn with his car and enters a residential area.

THUGARO

Well, The Tulsa P.D. already seems to be here...

Squinting his eyes, as he finds this strange, he steps out of the car and shuts the door behind him. Raising his hand in midair as a signal for Gary to remain seated where he is.

THUGARO

...wait a minute!

Walks over to the street where Mrs. Rahim lives, someone is being carried out on a stretcher in a body bag. It is now being loaded into an ambulance. He sees patrol cars here.

THUGARO

That can't be Mrs. Rahim, can it?

Walks over to an officer from The Tulsa Police Department.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO
Doesn't a middle aged Muslim woman
live here?

POLICE OFFICER
Not anymore...

Shakes his head.

THUGARO
So he did get to her after all...

Walks back to the car and motions with his index finger for
Gary to get out.

EXT.--MRS. RAHIM'S HOUSE--DAY

Thugaro and Gary see yellow "DO NOT CROSS" tape surrounding
the house. A chalk outline has been made at the front door
where Mrs. Rahim's body was found right here.

THUGARO
Let's get in and look around, but
make sure no one spots us.

Gary nods.

GARY
Right.

They both walk through the door, examining this place with
their eyes.

THUGARO
Start going through anything you
can...see what you find...

Gary starts going through drawers almost immediately, while
Thugaro finds some mail Mrs. Rahim left laying around.

THUGARO
Bills...bills...bills...

Keeps going through each piece of mail.

THUGARO
...you got anything there?

Gary rummages through some old documents in a drawer.

GARY

There's some paperwork here...

Pulls them out of the drawer.

GARY

...just her copy of the divorce papers from the looks of it.

Flips through them.

THUGARO

Let me see...

Holds his hand out and Gary gives him the divorce papers.

THUGARO

...well...this is...

Examining the top document before laying it down.

THUGARO

...this one is a copy of the deal between Marrakesh Industries and Texarkana Energy...

Lays it down.

THUGARO

...and this is a copy of the deal between Texarkana Energy and that small company in The Pacific...

GARY

What was that company even called?

THUGARO

Isn't it obvious?

Turns the paperwork around, showing Gary the company's name was "Pacific Energy", they both laugh.

THUGARO

Anything else?

Gary looks through more documents.

GARY

Five year old work visas, but no proof of U.S. Citizenship or anything...

THUGARO

Hmmm...

Looks at the documents as Gary hands them over.

THUGARO

...I guess they lived up to being
illegal immigrants.

GARY

Until they were murdered, that
is...

THUGARO

That's for sure...

Gary goes through more of Mrs. Rahim's personal items.

THUGARO

Find anything pertaining to the
offshore drilling just outside of
Santa Barbara, California.

Gary flips through more of the documents he found and gazes
up at Thugaro with a shrug.

GARY

It's not here.

Thugaro looks through the remaining documents in his hand,
seeing a drilling permit through the remaining paperwork.

THUGARO

Ah ha...I had it all along!

Shows it to Gary, who now gets up and looks at it.

GARY

So we've got everything?

THUGARO

Pretty much...

Looks out the door and sees some officers from The Tulsa
Police Department heading back this way.

THUGARO

...now we better get out of here
before The Tulsa P.D. finds out
we've been tampering!

The two of them head through Mrs. Rahim's kitchen and out
the back door.

INT.--MAIN OFFICE--DAY

Thugaro and Gary return with a handful of items they swiped from the crime scene. Alexis appears shocked and is reading an article on Mrs. Rahim's murder on the laptop.

ALEXIS

Did you hear about...

Thugaro nods.

THUGARO

Yeah.

Thugaro and Gary lay all of the items they found at Mrs. Rahim's on the desk.

ALEXIS

Did you find all of this at the crime scene?

GARY

Exactly.

Alexis looks through every single bit of it.

ALEXIS

You did a good job and everything, but do you realize you would've been arrested if you got caught?

Looks up at them with concern.

THUGARO

Well...

Thugaro shrugs.

ALEXIS

But it does prove one thing...

Holds up her index finger in midair while shooting both of them a stern look.

ALEXIS

...it proves that William B. Hickley did have something to do with The Rahims being murdered.

GARY

I think we should give tracking him down one last shot...

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO
Get hold of The Sheriff's
Departments in both Bowie and
Miller Counties...

Counts each point of this plan on his fingers, starting with his index finger.

THUGARO
...let them know we intend to nab
Hickley and go to Texarkana Energy
to find out where he is...

Counts this on his middle finger and raises both fingers to his head, as if he is forgetting something.

THUGARO
...oh yeah...along with those two
Sheriff's Departments...don't
forget to notify The Tulsa P.D.

Thugaro and Gary both leave as Alexis starts dialing her cellphone.

EXT.--TEXARKANA ENERGY BUILDING--DAY

Thugaro and Gary walk toward this structure since it is now crunch time and Hickley needs to be confronted over his crimes. Without stopping, they are determined to catch him.

INT.--BOTTOM FLOOR--DAY

Entering the building, they both walk amongst those who are coming in and going out. The elevator doors now slide open and they enter as the doors close and the elevator goes up.

INT.--TOP FLOOR--DAY

The elevator doors slide open with Thugaro and Gary exiting and meeting the receptionist out here. Neither one of them are pleased and her eyes widen upon their arrival.

THUGARO
Excuse me, is Chairman Hickley at
his Senate hearing, today?

The receptionist shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

RECEPTIONIST
No, he's driving to the airport.

THUGARO
You mean Texarkana Regional
Airport?

RECEPTIONIST
Yes.

Focuses on her work and does not even look at them.

THUGARO
Well...he's getting away with
murder...

The receptionist looks up when he says this.

RECEPTIONIST
WHAT?

Before she has a chance to get up, Thugaro and Gary enter the sliding doors of the elevator and leave this floor.

INT.--BOTTOM FLOOR--DAY

Without time to waste, Thugaro and Gary exit the elevator and head out of this building as quickly as they can. If they are to catch Hickley and prevent him from getting away.

EXT.--TEXARKANA ENERGY BUILDING--DAY

The two of them at last make it out of this building with Thugaro pulling his cellphone out of his pocket. He now starts dialing Alexis and waits for her to pick up.

THUGARO
Tell the police to meet us
Texarkana Regional Airport
Hickley's there trying to escape...

ALEXIS (O.S.)
I'll get right on it...

EXT.--TEXARKANA REGIONAL AIRPORT--DAY

Thugaro and Gary lead the charge on the tarmac of this airport. They are accompanied by deputies and officers who see Hickley boarding a helicopter from a distance.

(CONTINUED)

OFFICER

Freeze!

Many of the officers and deputies present have their guns raised, ready to fire the second Hickley tries to make a move. Several other deputies and officers confront them.

HICKLEY

I'm afraid it's just too late for
all of you...

Smiles as he enters the helicopter, one officer from The Tulsa Police Department raises his gun while another on Hickley's payroll raises his own gun in return.

HICKLEY'S OFFICER

Not so fast!

These two officers stare at each other as Hickley's helicopter takes off.

GARY

Damn...

Watches the helicopter reach sky high levels.

GARY

...he actually got away...

Both he and Thugaro look on.

THUGARO

The worst always do...

Shakes his head.

THUGARO

...because they're so rich and
powerful...

Officers and deputies on both sides look on with a sense of accomplishment on one and disbelief on the other.

GARY

Where in the hell do we go from
here?

THUGARO

You have no idea how many times I
have asked that question myself...

Turns to Gary, looking him right in the eye.

(CONTINUED)

THUGARO
...and I still ask myself this same
question almost every single day...

INT.--MAIN OFFICE--DAY

Thugaro and Gary walk in defeated and disappointed by what they have just experienced. Alexis sees these expressions herself and indeed displays a frown on her very own face.

ALEXIS
He got away...I heard on the
news...

The three of them stand here not even able to look at each other.

THUGARO
We'll get him...

Looks up.

THUGARO
...one day...we'll get him...

Now looks over at Gary.

THUGARO
...but right now you need to
concentrate on getting your private
investigator's license...

Gary nods.

THUGARO
...that's what your grandfather
would've wanted...

Nods at him in return.

THUGARO
...you may have to pay off quite a
few debts here at this agency and
meet a few requirements...

Gary still gazes at him, not saying a word.

THUGARO
...with enough years of education,
training, and experience, you're
going to do great things...

(CONTINUED)

GARY

Thanks.

THUGARO

Just don't get stuck on this case
or any other cases with corrupt
politicians...

Cracks a smile and chuckles.

THUGARO

...that's how your grandfather sent
this place into bankruptcy, chasing
after old cases...

EXT.--THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS--DAY

After all he has been through, Gary now walks up the steps
of this campus with his head held high. A seemingly bright future
ahead since he now takes the right steps to achieve this.

THUGARO (O.S.)

...I'll help you diversify and
we'll investigate as many different
cases as we possibly can...

Walks up the steps bit more.

INT.--TRAINING FACILITY--DAY

In a T-Shirt and windbreaker sweatpants, Gary is encountered
by a simulated attacker from behind who holds a gun on him.
Without hesitation, Gary grabs and throws him to the ground.

THUGARO

...it may be a harsh few years, but
I get the feeling you're the kind
who can take it...

Gary stands here with his foot crushing the attacker's arm,
who still holds the gun in one hand. He extends the other
toward Gary with a smile and a nod, who now helps him up.

ATTACKER

Good job!

The attacker, an instructor at this training facility, pats
Gary on the shoulder.

EXT.--THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS--DAY

Walking up the steps of this campus further, he takes two photos out of his pocket. One is of his grandfather, John Caleb Halvorson, the other is of William B. Hickley.

THUGARO

Just remember...a lot of the work
you'll have to do yourself...but
I'm always here if you need help...

Gary looks at the photo of his grandfather.

GARY

Even though you left me with a
mountain load of debt, I promise to
do right by you...

Now stares at the photo of Hickley.

GARY

...and I promise I'll find you
someday...

His stare does not waver.

GARY

...no matter what it takes...

Putting the photos of both his grandfather and Hickley back into his pocket, Gary heads up these last few steps, taking another in getting his private investigator's license.