

FADE IN

INT. MARY'S BEDROOM. MORNING

Mary is asleep upstairs in her bedroom. There are two wine glasses and a half a bottle of wine on the nightstand. Clothes are scattered all over the room. The bedroom is painted in peach color, and there are sketches of naked men and women on the walls.

Mary's dog (Ki-Ki) runs upstairs and jumps in bed with her. Mary wakes up, and reaches for her do.

MARY

Good morning Ki-Ki, time for your morning walk? Yes mommy will take you for your walk.

Mary gets out of bed, she gets dressed and takes the dog for a walk. She picks up the morning paper walking back to the townhouse.

INT. TOWNHOUSE. MORNING

Mary opens front door, she lets her dog in and walks to the kitchen. She puts the coffee pot on and jumps into the shower.

2 mins later

Mary gets out the shower, put her white dressing robe on and walk downstairs to the kitchen. She pours a cup of coffee, sits down at the kitchen table, opens up the morning paper, and drinks her coffee.

RING-RING (the doorbell)

Mary gets up from the table, she walks toward the front door.

MARY
Who is it?

2.

(Silence)

Mary opens door

BANG-BANG (sounds like gun shots)

Mary falls backward onto the floor in the hallway. The dog is barking very loudly.

The front door was slightly open. The dog slips out onto the front steps.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE. MORNING

Dog continues barking. Neighbor looks out window, sees dog in front of townhouse. She crosses the street and sees blood splatter on dog's white wool. She looks inside the house and saw Mary laying in the hallway in a pool of blood. She reaches inside her housecoat for her phone and calls 911.

INT. MARY'S LIVING ROOM

Enters paramedics, the police and forensic team. The neighbor was is all shaken up while she talks to the lead Det.

DETECTIVE

First of all thank you for doing this, I am Det. Briggs, could you please tell me your name?

NEIGHBOR

I am Lisa and I live across the street.

DETECTIVE

Well Lisa, I was told that you heard the dog barking from your house. Did you see anyone coming from the house?

LISA

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I heard the dog barking so I looked out my window, and there he was on the front steps. Mary never lets him out like that, unless she was with him, so I felt something wasn't right. I didn't see anyone, that's when I decided to check and see why he was outside by himself barking like that.

DETECTIVE

So were you friends with Mary?

LISA

I wouldn't say that, we say hello when I see her walking the dog, or when we see each other in the mall. I would come home from work and she would be coming home from the University where she teaches, and we would wave at each other. I was in her home last summer, she invited me to one of her parties. Not to speak ill of the dead but, Mary had lots of friends, people are always going in and out.

DETECTIVE

So she is a teacher at the University? Is it the University just up the road?

LISA

Yes

DETECTIVE

Well thank you very much Lisa. I will call on you if I have anymore questions.

Forensic checks the home for prints, and the paramedics takes her body out to the ambulance.

EXT. TOWNHOUSE. MORNING

All the neighbors are outside, they gather in front of the townhouse as the ambulance drives away. The premises is cordoned off now with yellow tapes.

A NEIGHBOR

She did not deserve to die like this?

People are whispering all around. Det. Briggs looks at his watch walks to his car. The crowds of people begin to disperse from in front the house now.

LATER

Det. Briggs calls Mary's parents. He reads through his notes. He phones the University.

INT. UNIVERSITY CAMPUS. AFTERNOON

The faculty of the History Department, and students all gathered in the Auditorium. The Dean of the University is also present. Det. Briggs walks out in front of the crowded room.

DETECTIVE

First let me say thank you all for coming. I am afraid I have some bad news, Mary Baker was murdered in her home this morning. We do not have any suspects at this time, so I am appealing to you if you know anything at all, please come forward or call your local precinct.

There is a show of a hand

TEACHER

How did she die?

DETECTIVE

She was shot in the head and that is all I am allowed to say at this time. I will be leaving my contact information with the Dean, so please call me if you have any information about this murder, thank you again for coming.

Student approaches Det. In the halls

STUDENT

Det. Briggs, you might want to talk to Richard, he is a student in Mary's class. He had a huge crush on her last summer, she called the police and had him arrested. He did not show up today.

DETECTIVE

Thank you for the information. When you see him tell him to stop by, I need to talk to him.

INT. PRECINCT. EVENING

Richard walks into the precinct. He walks up to the Sergeant at the front counter.

SERGEANT

What can I help you with?

RICHARD

I am here to see Detective Briggs.

SERGEANT

What is your name?

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RICHARD
My name is Richard

The Sergeant motions to Richard to follow him
He takes him to the interview room

Detective Briggs walks in

DETECTIVE
Hello Richard, I am Detective Briggs. Thank you for coming in, guess you heard about Mary.

RICHARD
Yes I did

DETECTIVE
So, do you want to tell me about you and Mary last summer?

RICHARD
Oh it was nothing, it was a silly teacher student crush. A misunderstanding.

Richard (21) good looking

He is acting real nervous

He stares out the window for a bit

RICHARD

Well she would invite me to her house and we would talk for hours about stuff. I would work on her car, and sometimes I would mow the lawn for her. We would listen to music, she was thirty years old, but she looks like twenty five. That red hair and green eyes anyone would fall for her.

DETECTIVE

So what did you do?

RICHARD

Well that's it, nothing. One day she just told me that I should not come around anymore. So I would go by her house to talk to her, because I wanted to know what I did and that's when she called the police and had me arrested.

DETECTIVE

Ok, Richard you can go, but stay out of trouble.

INT. PRECINCT. MORNING

Mary's parents and older brother Jeremy, are waiting in Det. Briggs' Office.
Det. Briggs approaches family

DETECTIVE

Good morning, I am Detective Briggs. First of all my deepest condolences go out to your entire family.

MOTHER

(Fighting back the tears) Thank you Detective Briggs. So what happened to my little girl? When you called all you said was that she was killed, you did not say what happened.

DETECTIVE

I know, I wanted to wait for the medical examiner's report. This way I have enough information so I can talk to you as a family.

(Reading from the medical files on his desk)

Your daughter was shot twice in the head, apparently as she went to answer the door. Nothing was taken, so we have ruled out robbery. Her dog was there in there in the home, based on the blood splatter that was found on her.

BROTHER

What about suspects, do you have anyone in mind

DETECTIVE

We just finished interviewing the student and faculty of her University. There is much to be done, I will be keeping you up to speed on any new development to this case.

FATHER

Just like that. Someone just shoots her in the head, what the hell is going on Detective. I want you to find this son of a bitch.

BROTHER

Dad let the Detective do his job. We are all pissed off right now, but there are procedures that has to be followed.

DETECTIVE

Thank you for saying that. But you are right, there are protocol, I am just as pissed off as you are.

MOTHER

May I see my little girl now Detective

DETECTIVE

Absolutely, please follow me.

The leave the precinct and walk over to the morgue

INT. MORGUE. DAY

They followed Det. Briggs inside the morgue
Det. Briggs introduces the family

DETECTIVE

These are the Baker family, they are here to see Mary Baker, would you please?

Coroner acknowledges the family and then pulls out the drawer.
The family nods in the Coroner's direction.

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INT. PRECINCT. AFTERNOON

Back at the precinct, Det. Briggs gets a call

DETECTIVE

Detective Briggs, how may I help you?

CALLER

I know that girl that got shot in the head. We use to be dancers back in the day in New York City. I knew her as Olivia back there.

DETECTIVE

Can I meet with you somewhere?

CALLER

Meet me in front of the Jade movie house in chinatown.

Caller shows up and gets inside the Detective's car

DETECTIVE

Do you mind if I record this conversation?

CALLER

I don't mind at all, and you can call me Baby Doll, everyone calls me that. Anyway I met Olivia while I was waiting tables in this strip bar. Soon after we were stripping and waiting tables. Olivia was attending College and needed the money, so she hooked up with the owner and soon she was running drugs for him also.

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Olivia got pregnant and he wanted her to abort the baby, she told him she was keeping it. He beat her so bad, she lost the baby and spend a month in the hospital. He testimony put lots of people in prison. You might want to check this out. I gotta go, I will call you again, find this bastard ok.

Baby Doll gets out of the car and disappears down the crowded street.

INT. PRECINCT. EVENING

Det. Briggs is on the phone with Mary's parents.

MARY'S MOTHER

I thought I would call to let you know that we are leaving tomorrow morning. We are taking Mary home, Jeremy is staying back to put Mary's townhouse on the market. Detective Briggs, may I have Mary's dog? I would like to take him with us.

DETECTIVE

Sure thing, I will make the proper arrangement personally.

MARY'S MOTHER

Well thank you Detective, my husband says goodbye, please let us know how things a progressing, goodbye.

DETECTIVE

Bye

Detective Briggs hangs up the phone.

He puts his feet up on his desk and stares at the walls for while.

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INT. PRECINCT. NIGHT

Detective Briggs is waiting in his office for call from Baby Doll

He gets in his car and drove downtown to the Jade and waits for a while

A call comes over the police radio: "DEAD GIRL IN ALLEY WITH NEEDLE IN HER ARM."

Det. Briggs drove to the alley, a girl is laying in the alley . He gets a little closer, the girl is Baby Doll (she overdosed).

MONTH LATER

Jeremy (Mary's brother) comes to town. He stops by the precinct.

INT. PRECINCT. DAY

Jeremy is sitting with Det. Briggs in his office

JEREMY

I found this in Mary's belongings
(He hands Detective Briggs a diary)

DETECTIVE

Is that what I think it is?

JEREMY

I hope this becomes useful Detective. I am in town to close the deal on Mary's townhouse. Are there any leads?

DETECTIVE

Well I had a strong lead, but as it turned out she overdosed, she was a junkie. I will keep you informed, I promise.

Jeremy leaves the office

Detective Briggs rushes home. He pours himself a drink and began reading Mary's diary. In the diary, her dates were only written as initials. Mary last entry before she was murdered says: " I saw JB in the mall today, he didn't see me thank God."

Detective paces back and forth now.
He pours himself another drink

DETECTIVE

Who the hell is this JB person?

NEXT DAY

Detective goes back on Campus

EXT. CAMPUS. DAY

There are crowds of students going to and from different buildings. Everyone seem to be in a hurry. They all pile into the halls and disappear into classrooms.

Detective finds a bench and sits there awhile, people watching. The chatter and laughter gets louder as the students go by. They all seem so smart with their books and briefcases swinging from their arms.

INT. TEACHER'S LOUNGE. DAY

Inside the lounge teachers are relaxing, some are reading and others are having conversations with each other. Detective Briggs enters and apologizes for the intrusion.

DETECTIVE

Sorry to drop in like this unannounced. Some of you might remember me from my visit here last month. I am Det. Briggs (showing his badge) I am investigating the murder of Mary Baker. Mary's brother was in town recently and he gave me Mary's diary; now in her diary Mary has the names of her dates written only in initials. There is one initial that has caused me some concern, and it is the initials JB. Would anyone of you have any idea who JB could be?

TEACHER

I saw Mary getting into a silver or maybe gray Volvo a couple of times. As a matter of fact this took place mostly Wednesdays. I ran into her with the same fellow having coffee in the mall, a week before she died. Mary was a nice girl, a bit of a party girl you know what I mean.

DETECTIVE

What do you mean?

Someone tugs at her arm

TEACHER

Mary was quite the flirt. At our last Christmas Party she was caught in the back room with one of the teacher's husband. Nothing came of it of course, and we all laugh at it because we were all so drunk. I am just saying she made some enemy.

DETECTIVE

Does either of them have the initials JB ?

TEACHER

No they do not

DETECTIVE

Well thank you for your co-operation, and if you think of anything else feel free to call me. (He hands out his card)

Calls are still coming in from the Tip Line
(most of them are false)

INT. PRECINCT. LATE AFTERNOON

The phone rings in his office
He answers the phone

DETECTIVE

Hello, Detective Briggs

CALLER

I know who murdered Mary Baker

DETECTIVE

Can we get together and talk about this?

CALLER

Yes, but I am being watched. Let me get back to you, I will call you later.

Caller hangs up

Detective Briggs sits back in his chair
(hoping this lead is for real)

He waits

15 MINS LATER

Phone rings, he picks it up

DETECTIVE

Hello

CALLER

I am afraid, I think someone is following me. I will meet you in your office in ten minutes.

10 MINUTES LATER

Woman walks into the precinct wearing real dark sunglasses. She goes up to the front desk.

CALLER

I am here to see Detective Briggs please.

She was shown to the office

DETECTIVE

I am Detective Briggs, please have a seat.

She sits down

DETECTIVE (cont.)

Before we begin, may I have your name please?

CALLER

Please call me TJ

DETECTIVE

Ok TJ, how did you come to know Mary, when did you first meet her?

TJ

Mary and I were lovers, we would get together mostly when my husband would be out of town. We dined out quite a lot, we went to the movies, plays but for the most part we would relax at her place. My husband is a very powerful man and I can't afford for him to find out.

DETECTIVE

So how did you meet her?

TJ

We met at a club called Max, we both worked as strippers back in the day.

She hands Detective Briggs an envelope:

Inside are explicit photos of her and Mary in compromising positions, and a note which reads: " I want \$500,000 in two days or your husband gets copies. NO COPS OR YOU DIE LIKE YOUR FRIEND."

DETECTIVE

This is very serious stuff. Does your husband know about you and Mary?

TJ

I am very sure he does not, and then again nothing is impossible. It's one thing to scare me but it's his money, so what's the point. No, I don't think so, this envelope came while my husband was at home; it was deposited through the mail slot in the front door.

DETECTIVE

How did you meet your husband? You mentioned he was powerful, I take it that he was very rich.

TJ

That is correct. He came to the club and saw me dance, and he just kept coming back. He finally asked me to quit and come travel with him and I did. I get to shop all over the world.

DETECTIVE

Was Mary still working there when you finally quit?

TJ

Yes she was seeing the owner at the time and paying her way through college. We both slept with women and men. I ran into her two years ago and we just continued where we left off. Detective you find this blackmailer, and you find the killer.

TJ exits the office and Detective Brigg goes over his notes.

Detective Briggs goes to his favorite bar and had a few drinks. It's dark out, he gets home and went to bed.

INT. PRECINCT. MORNING

Detective is in his office, he opens the morning paper.

There is a picture of a woman, he recognizes the face, below it reads: "VICTIM OF HIT AND RUN."

" Mrs. Tracey Jackman, wife of Andrew Jackman was involved in a hit and run accident last night while crossing the street. Some say she was deliberately ran down."

She is in the hospital in a coma.

INT. HOSPITAL. AFTERNOON

Detective Briggs met with Mr. Jackman at the hospital. He is sitting at his wife's bedside.

DETECTIVE

Good morning sir, I am Detective Briggs, I am so sorry about your wife's situation.

MR. JACKMAN

Thank you Detective, and thanks for coming. Do you have any leads on this?

DETECTIVE

We have quite a few officers assigned to the case, and they are all out in forces knocking on doors right now. I know this is not a good time for you, but I must ask you where you were last night sir.

MR. JACKMAN

I understand Detective, well I was on an aircraft flying over Washington when all this took place, according to the timeline.

DETECTIVE

Again I apologize, we have to ask these questions so we can eliminate you as a suspect sir.

MR. JACKMAN

I know you are only doing your job Detective, but I came home last night to crowds of reporters in front of my home, only to learn that my wife was ran down by some insane driver while crossing the street. I have been here all night.

DETECTIVE

Is there someone I could call to give you a break sir, like a relative maybe?

MR. JACKMAN

Thanks but my secretary made all the relevant calls already. Her parents and siblings are flying in today. Detective Briggs, find me this driver.

Mr. Jackman posted a reward for \$100,000 for any information about this hit and run driver. Again the phone calls are pouring in

LATER

INT. PRECINCT. AFTERNOON

Briggs gets a call from Mr. Jackman

MR. JACKMAN

Detective Briggs I need to see you at my home right away, can you be there?

DETECTIVE

I will be there right away sir.

Detective Briggs at the JACKMAN'S home.

Mr. Jackman hands the Detective an envelope. Detective opens envelope and there is Mary and his wife Tracey having sex (Briggs pretended seeing pictures for the first time).

MR. JACKMAN

This was in my mailbox, and this person is demanding \$1,000,000 in a couple of days or these pictures will be on every porn site. Briggs, how do we approach this, he did say no cops.

DETECTIVE

Ok I know he said no cops, but sir, he won't even know we are present. Let us handle this sir.

MR. JACKMAN

These are my instructions, he wants me to go inside the church around the corner and leave the money on the seat, the third row from the back against the wall. After the drop I am suppose to return home and wait, someone will drop the negatives off at me home.

EXT. CHURCH. LATE AFTERNOON

Mr. Jackman approaches church, opens church door and walks inside.

INT. CHURCH. AFTERNOON

Detective Briggs is inside church (dressed as a Priest), kneeling in front the alter.

An old lady walks in, kneels in front the alter, makes the sign of the cross.

Old lady is wearing army issued boots under ankle length dress. She walks over to where the money is, (realizing that she has been made) she runs out of the church.

Detective Briggs gave chase, she jumps over a fence and got away. Detective Briggs retrieve the money and return to the Jackman's home.

INT. JACKMAN'S HOME. LATE AFTERNOON

Mr. Jackman is sitting in his office having a drink.

Detective Briggs approaches

MR. JACKMAN

So what's the good news, did we get the son of a bitch?

DETECTIVE

Sorry, he got away, but I have the money.

RING-RING (phone ringing)

Mr. Jackman picks up phone

MR. JACKMAN

Andrew Jackman speaking

BLACKMAILER

I said NO COPS!! How would you like for me to turn these pictures over to the media right now? (very upset)

MR. JACKMAN

No don't do that

BLACKMAILER

Ask your Cop friend where your wife was coming from the night she got run down.

MR. JACKMAN

What are you talking about?

BLACKMAILER

Just ask the Cop, and by the way the price just went up to \$2,000,000 , will call you with time and location, goodbye.

Mr. Jackman hangs up the phone (he is livid)

MR. JACKMAN

Detective Briggs, were you with my wife before she was run down?

Detective Briggs looks like he just saw a ghost

DETECTIVE

I was, but let me explain. Your wife came to the precinct because she thought she was being followed. She showed me an envelope with the same pictures and told me this guy wanted money or else.

MR. JACKMAN

Briggs, you are off the case!! I will be calling the Chief about your conduct.

DETECTIVE

Sir give me a chance to fix this. Everything happened so quickly, I was not aware that she was in that hit and run until I open up the papers this morning. I am investigating the murder of the girl in the picture with your wife sir. We believe that this blackmailer is the killer, these are your wife's wishes sir, she did not want you to find out; she loves you very much.

MR. JACKMAN

Did she actually say she loved me?

DETECTIVE

Yes she did say that sir

MR. JACKMAN

Ok, I give you another crack at it, this time you fix this. What's the plan?

DETECTIVE

This time we are going to be very patient. We will wait for as long as it takes before we make our move.

LATER

RING-RING (telephone)

Mr. Jackman picks up phone

MR. JACKMAN

Hello

BLACKMAILER

Drop money off in the dumpster at the seven eleven at Alexander and Lenox.

Detective has his Officer staked out all over the area.

EXT. SEVEN ELEVEN. PARKING LOT. EVENING

Mr. Jackman approaches dumpster in parking lot, looks around.

Lifts lid of dumpster, drops bag inside, closes lid and walks away.

Homeless person pushing a shopping cart approaches parking lot.

He walks up to dumpster, lifts lid and takes bag out, places bag in shopping cart.

He closes lid of dumpster and pushes shopping cart onto pavement, he continues back up Alexander Avenue.

After a few blocks, homeless person stops beside a parked black colored truck. The driver rolls the window down, he puts the bag into the open window.

The truck drives away, the driver was apprehended down the street without incident. There were police officers everywhere.

Blackmailer is booked and jailed. (he was not Mary's killer, just a pervert)
The homeless person is released (blackmailer paid him \$20 to retrieve bag)
The money is returned to Mr. Jackman.

INT. MARY'S NEIGHBORHOOD. DAY

Detective Briggs visits neighborhood
Detective Briggs pays Lisa a visit

DETECTIVE

I am at a dead end here Lisa, I am overlooking something but what could it be. I know it's over a month, but is there anything that you may have forgotten to tell me? Sometimes it's the slightest detail that turns out to be the case breaker.

LISA

Funny, now that I reflect back to that morning, I remember a white van parked just down from the townhouse. It was a delivery van, I have seen it before, it delivers flowers to the neighborhood. I remember looking at the time, it was 7:30 and I was thinking who gets flowers delivered this early.

DETECTIVE

Lisa I think we might have something here. Do you know where that flower shop is?

LISA

They are in the mall, they service the entire neighborhood.

DETECTIVE

Thank you very much Lisa, you been very helpful

INT. MALL. DAY

Detective Briggs enters mall. He locates flower shop, he radios in for backup.

He walks up to the man behind the counter

DETECTIVE

I am Detective Briggs (shows his badge) and I am investigating the murder of girl who I suspect was one of your customers. She lived in one of those townhouse nt too far from here.

MAN

Oh yes, Mary, we all heard about it. She was a very good customer, she gets all her flowers from us. I am the owner, my name is Sammy.

DETECTIVE

Well Sammy, did you make a delivery to Mary's home around 7:30 am a month ago?

OWNER

Are you sure about the time? We do not start our delivery before 10:00 am.

DETECTIVE

One of your delivery trucks were seen parked on the same street where Mary lives. What is the name of your driver?

OWNER

His name is Jason.....Jason Barnes. Why is there something I should know?

DETECTIVE

He is a person of interest, let's put it that way.

OWNER

As a matter of fact here he comes now....Jason!!

Jason Barnes (JB) that's it

Jason takes off running, Detective chases after him

The chase continues through the mall

The Police shows up now, Jason is cornered

He climbs on top of the Parking Arcade

Detective motions to the Police to stand back. The paramedics and fire chief were brought in.

DETECTIVE

Jason let's talk, come down son. No one is going to hurt you.

JASON

Stay back or I will jump.....I mean it....STAY BACK!!

DETECTIVE

Jason did you kill Mary? Let me help you, let's talk.

JASON

She was bad news, she lied to me. She said she loved me but she lied. Did you know she sleeps with girls? I saw them with my own eyes, and when I asked her about it she just laugh and told me to grow up.

DETECTIVE

Did you shoot Mary?

JASON

Yes I did, she was pure evil.....no good!! I had to don't you see.

DETECTIVE

Come down son, let's talk about it some more. You don't want to do this; we will get you all the help you need.

JASON

You can't help me.....no one can. Say goodbye to my sister for me, tell her I love her. I can't go to jail...

JASON BARNES jumps to his death.

TRACEY JACKMAN came out of her coma she (moves to South Africa with her husband)

DETECTIVE LAWRENCE BRIGGS calls Mary's family.

THE END

FADE OUT

