

Better Days

"Le Noir Detectives - Part Deux"

Season 2 Episode 3

Written by: Steven Cameron

Le Noir Detectives Deux

INT. BASEMENT - NIGHT

Kenny sits at a desk dressed in a pin striped suit wearing glasses and smoking a pipe. A few seconds go by when he looks in to the camera.

KENNY

Evening. I am Kenneth Private Dick and I have taken this time to say "Hello" and welcome to my office. It ain't much but it works.

He takes a swig from an open bottle of Brokeback Cola. Tears roll down his face as he does.

KENNY (CONT'D)

A year ago today, they killed my partner Jason. We had an argument about what movie was better "American Pie's Band Camp" or "American Pie's Naked Mile" and he went off and was murdered by Don Casey's understudy who has now taken over the underground... Don Paul.

Kenny takes a gun from a drawer and holds it up to his head. He cocks the hammer, closes his eyes and swallows.

KENNY (CONT'D)

This is it for me. My life ends and a bad man will live. Makes me sick to my stomach admitting it.

He pulls the trigger...

CLICK!

The gun doesn't go off. Kenny opens his eyes and checks the gun.

A stick shoots out of the end with a note on it. Kenny takes the note and unravels it.

KENNY (CONT'D)

(Reading)

Meet me in the bathroom when you're done with this selfish act... People need to be saved. Love Benny.

Kenny scratches his head. The far wall in the room falls down to reveal a bathroom set with BENNY WATERS, mid thirties very gruff and very naked as well smoking a cigar in a bubble bath. He lifts a rubber duckie in and out of the water making "quack" noises as he does.

BENNY

Fucking cheap sets. I thought this was the second season of a great show.

KENNY

Who told you that?

BENNY

The guys who hired me.

KENNY

Well, they lied.

Benny shifts his weight letting a large bubble breach the surface and push the bubbles aside.

KENNY (CONT'D)

Have you got a new assignment for me, Ben?

BENNY

Benny, Ben sounds so informal.

KENNY

It's formal.

BENNY

What did I tell you about correcting my poor English speaking skills?

KENNY

That you would "kick me in the balls" and "feed me to the aliens when they invade... again"

BENNY

Okay, lets move on.

Kenny looks into the camera.

SUPER ON: "1. being in accordance with the usual requirements, customs, etc.; conventional: to pay one's formal respects"

Kenny quickly looks back to Benny and smiles.

BENNY (CONT'D)

I got word that a famous celebrity has been kidnapped and you have been assigned to get him back.

KENNY

Who?

BENNY

I can't tell you who but it is a serious situation and you will need the big guns on this one.

KENNY

You mean the dream team reuniting for one last mission?

Benny nods.

BENNY

Don Paul has taken this "celebrity" hostage and will hang him in five days from last Friday if we don't pay him thirty million dollars in Euros...

KENNY

He requested me, didn't he?

BENNY

Yes. Kenneth, you and Barbie will infiltrate Don Paul's fortress with brute force and make your way to his main room where he holds our "celebrity" hostage at gunpoint or in a cage... who knows.

KENNY

Who is this celebrity and why are you avoiding saying his name?

BENNY

No way. Last time I told you whom you were saving you up and left town and the episode was over. They never released that episode because you walked out on us. They had to do a rerun a bad anime show.

KENNY

Sorry.

BENNY

This time, we will not reveal who it is until it's too late for you to walk out.

Benny checks his watch.

BENNY (CONT'D)

Go now. Barbie is waiting for you in the Convenience Store set.

Benny goes back to his swimming duckie. A few set personnel shuffle around to pick up the walls.

FADE OUT:

Opening Titles

FADE IN:

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

The world has now turned black and white.

Barbie stands at the counter paying with a brown bag in her hand.

Kenny walks in.

BARBIE (V.O.)

As he walked in the door, I could feel this strong aroma hitting me in the face but noticed it was that Clerk... he really needs a shower or some deodorant.

Barbie looks at The Clerk with a disgusted face.

BARBIE (V.O.) (CONT'D)

After our last assignment, I hated Kenny and couldn't face him so I left never to return but here I am. Why did I come back?

DIRECTOR (O.S.)

Because we're paying you a lot of money and hooking you up with a role on a much better series in "My Name is Earl."

BARBIE (V.O.)

The DVD boxset is available now, go check it out.

Barbie looks into the camera and winks. Kenny approaches her.

KENNY

Barbie, my favorite partner, how are you?

BARBIE

I was your only partner and I am fine.

She hands him the bag.

BARBIE (CONT'D)

Last time those kids ate all your cookies and I felt bad about that.

Kenny smiles and opens the bag. A dozen kids run up and take the cookies again leaving him with an empty bag.

Kenny sighs.

KENNY

What the hell is going on.

BARBIE

I don't know what to tell you.

The Clerk stares at the two talking in front of him.

CLERK

This is not an internet café. No chatting.

KENNY

We have an important case to solve anyway, cameo boy.

CLERK

The Clerk Strikes Back. I'm in every episode boy, we will have it out one of these days.

KENNY

Go jump off a building.

Kenny and Barbie walk out of the store before the Clerk can speak. The Clerk looks into the camera.

CLERK

You people just encourage them to annoy me week in and week out. I'm getting too old for this.

The Clerk groans loudly and walks offscreen.

EXT. STREET -

A Limo pulls up outside the cinema.

INT. LIMO -

Don Paul sits across from Nancy looking out at the cinema.

DON PAUL

My dear, I still feel his presence
all around me.

NANCY

That's because you took over
everything that was his, and this
is his limo and he is sitting
right beside you.

Casey's rotting corpse is propped up beside Paul. Paul hits him on the shoulder and smiles.

NANCY (CONT'D)

I think he went bad.

DON PAUL

I just wish things could have been
different. He wasn't a bad guy.

NANCY

He wanted you to avenge him. Those
Private Detectives are breathing
down our necks.

DON PAUL

I have all the pigs in my pocket
and a Private Detective has too
much pride to take bribes. Doesn't
make any sense.

NANCY

Fools pride.

DON PAUL

This sure takes away from my
operations, I'm trying to make
myself a villain here and they
take all the credit away from me.

NANCY

Us.

DON PAUL

That's what I said.

She glares at him. He smiles back.

DON PAUL (CONT'D)

I hired a really good contract killer to track down and vanish those private detectives. His name is Tiny Tim. Now last "Tiny" I knew was a large bear like man who was huge so I expect the same from this one.

NANCY

You don't know what he looks like?

DON PAUL

He comes highly recommended among crime bosses in other cities.

NANCY

That's good, means he's flying under the radar and our private detectives aren't ready for him.

The door opens and TINY TIM, a little person jumps up into the car holding a briefcase.

Don Paul and Nancy share a look.

TIM

I know what you're thinking. You expected Tiny Tim to be a huge guy but I enjoy the irony when I meet new people.

DON PAUL

Well, I do not see the irony in it. When I hired you, I wanted a large assassin.

TIM

Think of it this way, I can pop out of anywhere I want to when on an assignment.

NANCY

As long as you can get the job done, we won't have any problems, right honey?

DON PAUL

But he's a mi...

Nancy hits him.

DON PAUL (CONT'D)

Sorry.

TINY TIM

If you two are done. I have work to do.

DON PAUL

I will wire the money as soon as they're dead.

Tiny Tim exits the limo and closes the door behind.

EXT. BOATYARD -

Kenny and Barbie walk up to a crooked sign that says Alberton Boatyard. Kenny has an X Box 360 is in arms.

BARBIE

So, who is it exactly we're going to meet and why?

KENNY

A guy named Frenchie, he knows stuff he shouldn't know and is willing to tell us for a new X Box 360 available now at your local gaming boutique.

He looks into the camera and winks.

Dozens of boats line the yard sitting on dry land. Most of the boats are beat up and rusted.

BARBIE

Which one is his?

KENNY

Like I know. I just know he lives here.

FRENCHIE, a 22 year old black male dressed in an overcoat pokes his head out of a boat beside them and makes a clocking noise.

FRENCHIE

You got my X Box?

Kenny holds it up, Frenchie smiles and rubs his hands together.

FRENCHIE (CONT'D)

Come in and please wipe your feet.

Kenny and Barbie walk around to the front of the boat. Frenchie watches Barbie as she does.

INT. BOAT -

Kenny and Barbie sit across from Frenchie in the messy room of the boat.

KENNY

All we want to know is why was a celebrity taken hostage?

FRENCHIE

It is all a front to cover up the truth.

BARBIE

What is the truth?

FRENCHIE

I feel like we're in an episode of the X Files. You're Scully, he's Mulder and I'm the informant who gets killed in a later episode because I was an unimportant character.

BARBIE

Why do we always have to go through this?

Barbie flashes her bra, Frenchie focuses instantly.

FRENCHIE

Don Paul hired an assassin to kill you. A midget assassin named Tiny Tim.

Kenny laughs for a few moments.

KENNY

These names are getting ridiculous.

BARBIE

You're telling me. I've been reduced to Mrs. Plastic Fantastic in my dream house.

FRENCHIE

I want to play some X Box now so please leave or stay but don't bother me while I play.

Kenny and Barbie leave. Frenchie digs into the box ripping it open.

A silenced pistol comes on screen pointing at his head.

TINY TIM

Why is it that you always spoil the plans of others you stupid inconsiderate french nigger.

FRENCHIE

Who are you calling french, midget?

TINY TIM

I am sorry you will never experience the power of your new gaming console but...

Tiny Tim fires a shot into the back of Frenchie's head killing him instantly.

TINY TIM (CONT'D)

The Nintendo Wii is better anyways.

He fires a shot into the X Box console.

EXT. STREET -

Kenny and Barbie are walking along when a phone rings from Kenny's pocket. He brings it out and flips it open.

Benny appears on the phone screen.

BENNY

Hello Angels.

BARBIE

Wrong movie Benny.

BENNY

Oh, sorry. The cheap ass sets and equipment should have given it away.

BARBIE

Yes.

KENNY

Stop making fun of the show, Especially when I'm here.

BENNY

Your contact has just been murdered by an unknown killer, be careful. I'm hiding my big ass somewhere a killer would never look.

KENNY

Where?

BENNY

I'm not telling you.

Benny hangs up and the screen goes blank.

BARBIE

Isn't he supposed to be our leader?

KENNY

I don't even know why he's here.

BARBIE

What should we do about this killer?

Kenny and Barbie walk by a long hedge of bushes, Kenny is grabbed and disappears inside without a noise. Barbie turns around.

BARBIE (CONT'D)

Kenny? Where did you go?

No answer.

BARBIE (CONT'D)

Great. This day just keeps getting better and better.

Barbie scoffs and walks away keeping an eye on the bushes.

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE -

Don Paul and Nancy are reading "Gun Magazine" off the rack. The Clerk keeps an ever close eye on them.

DON PAUL

You know what, I think hiring that Midget was a bad idea. He's good, a little too good.

NANCY

Call him up.

DON PAUL

I'll just pull out my magic phone number book and look for his.

Don Paul pretends he's looking through a book. He licks his finger before he turns each imaginary page.

NANCY

I get the point.

He continues and starts humming to himself.

NANCY (CONT'D)

This is your fault. Don't take your anger out on me or I won't dance for you.

Don Paul stops and sighs.

DON PAUL

I'm sorry baby, it's just how can I become an infamous villain if the only two protagonists are dead?

NANCY

I'll figure it out, babe.

The Clerk walks over with a broom.

CLERK

This is not a library, stop drooling over the girls.

Don Paul grabs the broom, snaps it over his knee. He then grabs The Clerk and throws him up against the wall.

DON PAUL

Shut up!

He throws him into a spinning post card rack knocking it over.

Don Paul and Nancy leave the store hand in hand.

INT. BASEMENT - LATER

Barbie is asleep at her desk. On the computer screen a scroll reads "Where is Jason?"

An envelope slides under the door. Barbie wakes up and sees it.

She walks over, picks it up and looks at the words "The Docks. Tonight. Don't be late!"

Barbie drops the envelope and exits the basement.

The wall falls down revealing Benny hiding in the bathtub.

BENNY

God damnit!

Benny throws the Rubber Duckie at the camera.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Kenny is tied to a chair in the middle of an empty room. A small hanging lightbulb is the only thing lighting the room.

TINY TIM

He awakes. He doesn't know where he is but knows it's nowhere good.

Kenny looks around.

KENNY

You killed Frenchie?

TINY TIM

He figured me out. I tremble with fear as I move my hand over a scalpel.

KENNY

What did he ever do to anyone?

Kenny struggles.

TINY TIM
That's the problem with the
French. They don't do anything.

Tiny Tim walks out of the darkness. Kenny starts laughing.

KENNY
A midget? Oh God, am I on Punk'd?

Tim pulls out the scalpel, twirls it in his hand as he walks over to the far wall in the darkness.

A pop song from the 80's begins playing. Tiny Tim dances from out of the darkness wearing a mask.

KENNY (CONT'D)
This is too much. I mean, this is
up there with giant chickens
boxing locals for money.

Tiny Tim crawls up Kenny onto his lap.

TINY TIM
I'm going to enjoy doing this.

Tim smiles through the mask. He stands up and leans in on Kenny face with the scalpel ready.

EXT. WAREHOUSE -

Kenny's scream echoes into the night. A few dozen frightened birds scatter from the roof.

INT. WAREHOUSE -

Tim has Kenny's ear in his mouth and has resumed his dance disappearing in and out of the darkness.

TINY TIM
Are we having fun yet?

Blood covers the right side of Kenny's face and arm. His head sways back and forth going in and out of consciousness.

KENNY

Where's Jason?

TINY TIM

Who is he?

KENNY

My best friend.

TINY TIM

He must be dead or I would have found him.

KENNY

I remember this time back when we were younger...

Kenny's head falls back.

EXT. CINEMA - FLASHBACK

Jason and Kenny stand on the sidewalk in a line that moves slowly.

JASON

Do you think you would get the same amount of time for killing a midget?

KENNY

I don't think you should. Simply because they are so small, it's not like anybody is going to miss them.

JASON

The law doesn't say anything about height. Maybe they left it like that to protect them.

KENNY

Or they forgot and leave it to screw it all up.

JASON

Half a person, half the crime. Instead of life, they give you 30 years.

KENNY

Maybe. Why do you ask?

JASON

There's this guy who keeps hitting
on Danielle and I don't like it.

Kenny and Jason move up in the line.

INT. WAREHOUSE - BACK TO

Kenny has a blood filled grin on his face.

KENNY

Do what you will but please leave
my face in tact. For my mother.

TINY TIM

You are willing to die?

KENNY

I'm a private detective. It's a
job hazard.

Barbie sneaks into the room and hides behind a metal
container inside the door.

TINY TIM

This is getting old.

Tim raises the knife to stab Kenny when a bullet hits the
knife and knocks it out of his hand.

BARBIE

Put Your hands up, you're under
arrest.

Tim pulls out a gun and unloads his entire clip before
running off and hiding behind a wall across the room.

TINY TIM

You came to me, my dear.

Barbie fires a shot hitting the wall. Tim fires a few
shots and hits the metal box.

Barbie runs out from behind the container and fires cover
shots and hides behind a brick support.

She checks her gun and has only one bullet left.

Tim fires multiple shots at the support and reloads.

BARBIE

Are you ready to give up?

TINY TIM

How about I shoot Kenny or you
come out here and fight me without
all these weapons.

Barbie smiles.

Both walk out from there cover with guns aimed at the
other. Tim throws his gun away first, then Barbie follows
suit.

Tim gets into a karate pose. Barbie unveils her crane
stance.

They have a staredown when...

A gunshot pierces Tim's head; he falls dead.

Nancy walks between Barbie and Tim's body and places the
gun in her purse.

NANCY

We are really sorry about this. I
know nothing I can say will fix it
but we never meant for it to go
this far.

Nancy turns and exits the Warehouse.

Barbie walks over to Kenny and starts untying him.

KENNY

I knew you'd find me.

BARBIE

I'm glad one of us did. I was
worried.

She continues to untie him.

EXT. WAREHOUSE -

Barbie helps Kenny with his arm over her shoulder to a
waiting car.

She sits Kenny in the backseat.

Benny is in the passenger seat.

BENNY

You killed him? Good, I was getting worried that I would have to dust off the mitts and duke it out with a midget.

BARBIE

Yeah, thank Benny.

BENNY

No problem. Hey, you think I'll get any face time in later episodes?

BARBIE

I was written out of the series so... I couldn't care less.

KENNY

I'm bleeding here. Take me to the hospital.

BARBIE

Okay.

Barbie gets in the drivers seat and they pull off into the sunset.

INT. BASEMENT - NEXT DAY

Kenny, all bandaged up sits on the futon watching television. Barbie comes downstairs with a bowl of soup and sits beside Kenny.

KENNY

I'm waiting for the next episode to start.

BARBIE

How's that going?

KENNY

These commercials are killing me.

Kenny turns the television off. Takes the soup from Barbie and starts eating.

KENNY (CONT'D)

It feels like we're forgetting something. Like an entire plot that was forgotten or misplaced by bad writers.

BARBIE

It does, doesn't it?

KENNY

Oh well, couldn't be that
important if we forgot it.

Kenny goes back to his soup.

INT. DUNGEON -

CARROT TOP stands alone surrounded by bones.

CARROT TOP

Hello? Anybody out there? Look
this guy has a headache.

He picks up a skull with a crack in it.

CARROT TOP (CONT'D)

He's on crack. Get it?

He laughs at his own joke and continues looking around
for props.

FADE OUT.