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FADE IN:

I/E. NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION VAN - DAY

Blizzard blankets the road.

A NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS van houses men in orange prisoner attire.

One passenger (JASON NILES) stares straight ahead.

JASON (V.O.)
Christ. Twenty-five to life? Twenty-five to life! I WON'T MAKE IT!

Jason bites his lip.

JASON (V.O.)
TERMINAL! Yeah, they told us both. They did!

His bleak expression reflects on the glass.

JASON (V.O.)
Wonder how the jury would react in my shoes? Eh?

The van creeps through the blustery snow.

I/E. NEW YORK STATE SNOW PLOW - DAY

TWO MEN, heavily dressed, plow the icy highway.

SNOW PLOW DRIVER is squinting.

The ASSISTANT DRIVER is a nervous passenger.

SNOW PLOW DRIVER
WHOA! I can't see!

ASSISTANT DRIVER
Pull over!

Snow plow driver shakes his head.

SNOW PLOW DRIVER
Some idiot will hit us!

ASSISTANT DRIVER
They should close this stretch.

SNOW PLOW DRIVER
Hey as long as suckers like us plow, they'll keep it open.

ASSISTANT DRIVER
Want me to drive?

There's a sudden smash.

The snow plow rams the rear of a van.

Drivers quickly exit the plow.

The van's side reads: NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS.

The assistant driver dashes to call for assistance.

He grabs the plow phone.

ASSISTANT DRIVER
SEND HELP! A serious, serious accident
here! On exit 19...I think? Going
north!

He stammers.

ASSISTANT DRIVER
Our plow, our plow hit the rear end of a
van. A State Corrections van tipped,
tipped right over.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
Injuries?

ASSISTANT DRIVER
Ah...no idea.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
How many passengers?

ASSISTANT DRIVER
Uh...half, about half full.

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
Sit tight! State Police and medical
personnel are on the way.

ASSISTANT DRIVER
Who are they?

DISPATCHER (V.O.)
Inmates.

ASSISTANT DRIVER
Inmates! Remember lady. I drive a snow
plow. I ain't no guard!

INT. VAN - DAY

GUARD is knocked out.

NILES is in the back seat.

Searches the guard for keys.

He unlocks himself, crawls to front of the van, and escapes.

The New York State police and ambulances arrive.

EXT. CRASH SCENE - DAY

The state troopers count the inmates.

SNOW PLOW DRIVER
Christ, I never saw the van!

TROOPER HINES
This section of I-87 is closed.

ASSISTANT SNOW PLOW DRIVER
FINALLY!

TROOPER ZANIC
One prisoner missing. Fresh snow covers
his tracks.

LIEUTENANT MOSLEY addresses the plow drivers.

LIEUTENANT MOSLEY
How you guys doing?

SNOW PLOW DRIVER
Not injured.

LIEUTENANT MOSLEY
Good.

Mosley thoughtfully strokes his chin.

LIEUTENANT MOSLEY
I'll check on the escape.

Mosley is in the patrol car holding a microphone.

LIEUTENANT MOSLEY
About the fugitive?

POLICE DISPATCHER (V.O.)
JASON NILES!

LIEUTENANT MOSLEY
What do you have?

POLICE DISPATCHER (V.O.)
Sentenced from twenty-five years to life
for murder.

LIEUTENANT MOSLEY
The search team?

POLICE DISPATCHER (V.O.)
The weather makes visibly poor. Niles'
photo is being circulated.

A keyboard is heard.

POLICE DISPATCHER (V.O.)
Says here age twenty-eight. Beard. Long
black hair. Weighs 180 pounds. Stands
six feet. Light complexion. Oh, a
negligible limp.

LIEUTENANT MOSLEY
It's a start!

EXT. WOODS BY NORTHWAY- DAY

NILES runs through the snow-filled woods.

Darkness is setting in.

Niles spots a sign: NOW ENTERING BEAUTIFUL SARATOGA.

He steps on an animal trap.

JASON
JEEZUZ!

Niles separates the trap's jaws, removes his bleeding ankle,
and drags his foot.

A furry brown rabbit watches.

Niles wipes the bloody snow off his pants.

I/E. SARATOGA AREA - DAY

In Saratoga he notices a SALVATION ARMY CONTRIBUTION BIN.

Niles opens the bin, finding an assortment of used clothing,
including a wool ski mask.

He selects a wardrobe and discards his orange prison uniform.

The ankle is covered with blood.

Niles locates a small drug store.

He goes to the magazine section.

The counter phone rings.

The proprietor is involved in a conversation.

Niles maneuvers rapidly.

He takes a safety razor, soap, and flees before the proprietor completes the call.

I/E. GAS STATION - DAY

Niles proceeds to a nearby gas station.

He approaches a TEENAGE STATION ATTENDANT, wearing a shirt patch saying DON'S SERVICE STATION.

STATION ATTENDANT
What will it be?

JASON
Rest room keys, please.

Young attendant sees no vehicle.

STATION ATTENDANT
Yes, sir.

Niles shaves his beard and head.

He puts on the stolen glasses.

Leaves the keys in the door.

Attendant is busy filling customer's gas tank.

INT. GROCERY STORE - DAY

Niles notices a small store.

Inside there are no customers.

A MAN is filling the beer case.

Niles puts on the ski mask, stands hidden behind the storekeeper, and demands money from the register.

JASON
DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC!

Owner feels object in his back.

He empties register of cash.

Jason forces owner to lay face down.

JASON
Move, and you're a done deal.

STORE OWNER
PLEASE DON'T SHOOT!

Jason escapes.

The store owner calls the police.

He locks the doors, leans on register, and eagerly waits.

Three New York State Trooper cars respond, along with an unmarked Bureau of Criminal Investigation [BCI] unit, two New York State Police Detectives, and a POLICE DOG.

BCI detectives (STEVE CARR and ANDREW DENTON) query.

AGENT CARR
Recognize him?

STORE OWNER
No.

AGENT DENTON
Anything stand out?

STORE OWNER
He smelled.

AGENT DENTON
Smelled?

STORE OWNER
You know? That old clothes smell.

Agent Denton scans the store.

AGENT DENTON
What's stolen?

STORE OWNER
Roughly, one hundred and fifty dollars.

Denton faces Agent Carr.

AGENT DENTON
Smelly clothes to replace a prison
outfit?

I/E. GAS STATION - DAY

Denton goes to the gas station.

He approaches teen wearing a DON'S SERVICE STATION tag.

Denton displays his badge.

Teen excitedly drops an empty oil can.

AGENT DENTON
I'm Agent Denton from the New York State
Police. Noticed anyone unusual?

STATION ATTENDANT
Nope. Except tourists.

Hands the attendant a card.

AGENT DENTON
Here. Give us a call if a suspicious
character shows up.

Agent Denton begins to leave.

STATION ATTENDANT
Hold on sir. I remember a man using the
rest room. He had a beard and long hair.
Pretty seedy.

AGENT DENTON
Car?

STATION ATTENDANT
Wasn't driving!

AGENT DENTON
Anything else?

STATION ATTENDANT
A limp. I saw him walk.

AGENT DENTON
Which direction?

STATION ATTENDANT
Sorry, sir. He left the keys in the door
and split.

AGENT DENTON
The rest room keys please?

STATION ATTENDANT
Sure.

Teen attendant furnishes the keys.

Denton enters the rest room.

Inspects and takes samples of hair in the sink.

Locks the door.

Approaches the teen.

AGENT DENTON
The rest room is temporarily off-limits!

Denton returns to the detective car.

AGENT DENTON
It's Niles. The station attendant
described him.

Denton picks up the car phone.

AGENT DENTON
Send the lab crew to DON'S SERVICE
STATION in Saratoga.

EXT. I-87 NORTHWAY - DAY

Blood flows from Jason's ankle.

He struggles to climb the I-87 Northway guard railing and
approaches a MAN standing in back of a tow truck.

TOW TRUCK MAN
Nasty injury!

JASON
An animal trap!

TOW TRUCK MAN
You gotta be careful, man. Everything is
in season.

JASON
Where's the nearest emergency room?

TOW TRUCK MAN
Say, you'll never make it. Closest is
Saratoga Hospital. I'd better drive you.

INT. SARATOGA HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY

Niles approaches the Administration desk.

RECEPTIONIST
How can we help you?

JASON
Ah, I injured my ankle fixing my deck.

RECEPTIONIST
Insurance?

JASON
Cash.

RECEPTIONIST
Fill out these papers. The doctor will
be with you shortly.

Niles completes papers.

The doctor walks in reading the registration.

DR. WALKER
MR. JONES. I'm Dr. Walker. Your ankle?

JASON
Yeah. Loused it up.

Dr. Walker examines the wound.

DR. WALKER
Doesn't appear serious. I'll give you a
tetanus shot, and clean the cut.

JASON
NO NEEDLES. I HATE NEEDLES! I'll faint.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - DAY - **FLASHBACK**

Seven year old Jason is in the hospital.

DOCTOR
This lumbar puncture is nothing. Only
stings for a second.

Jason discerns a large needle heading for his back.

Tightens up his body.

First attempt by doctor fail.

Jason grimaces with pain.

DOCTOR
One more try, son.

Injected needle breaks off in Jason's spine.

Assorted instruments are used to remove the embedded needle.

Young Jason cries in pain.

DOCTOR
Almost. It's out!

Failed procedure begins again.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. SARATOGA HOSPITAL - DAY

DR. WALKER
Antibiotic pills, and a few stitches,
should do it. NO SHOTS! Watch for
redness or swelling.

An ankle bandage is applied.

Jason pays the receptionist cash.

EXT. OUTSIDE HOSPITAL - DAY

A limping Jason crosses the hospital parking lot.

The receptionist is proceeding toward her car.

Jason is limping.

RECEPTIONIST
Need help?

JASON
Don't believe so.

RECEPTIONIST
Where are you going?

JASON

Can you recommend a place to eat?

RECEPTIONIST

Several places. Nothing close. Guess it's safe to give a patient a ride.

JASON

Believe me! The only thing I want is food.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Sign reading MELLOW'S BAR AND RESTAURANT visible from Niles' table.

WAITRESS brings the order.

Watches TV news reporting of long haired, bearded killer in Saratoga vicinity.

Television news flashes older pictures.

He steps to the bar.

A CUSTOMER (RALPH) takes his drink.

Starts walking away.

Niles calls him back.

JASON

HEY BUDDY! YOUR CHANGE!

Customer checks the counter.

CUSTOMER

Thanks! Seventeen dollars is a large tip.

(picking up the money)

I'm RALPH PORTS. Buy you a drink?

Ralph is a thin, frail character, wearing horn rimmed glasses.

RALPH

C'mon? PLEASE!

Niles thinks for a moment.

JASON

I'm FRANK LOUIS. You're welcome to join me.

RALPH
Sure. Damn lonely eating by myself.

Steps to Niles' table.

RALPH
So Frank, what's your field?

JASON
Oh...COMPUTERS.

RALPH
Aha. Too complicated for me!

JASON
And you?

RALPH
A gift shop proprietor. That really means I sell trinkets.

Niles is gaping out the window.

JASON
Lousy weather.

RALPH
Nasty. Do you live near?

JASON
Just visiting the Adirondack region.

Niles sees the snow stopped.

JASON
Better shove off!

Niles places money on the table.

RALPH
(eagerly)
WANT A RIDE?

JASON
North?

RALPH
As far as Lake Placid.

JASON
That works.

Through the main window Niles spots three SARATOGA SHERIFF DEPARTMENT cars.

Lights are flashing.

Three officers enter the establishment.

Police placidly approach a MAN (FRANKO BURNS) at the bar.

OFFICER #1
Police! Are you FRANKO BURNS?

FRANKO
Yeah. Why?

OFFICER #2 flashes papers.

OFFICER #2
An arrest warrant!

FRANKO
What's the charge?

OFFICER #2
Narcotics.

FRANKO
Crazy!

OFFICER #3
Search him.

Police find a revolver, grass, powder substance, and bag of assorted pills.

Niles covers his face.

Patrons watch in amazement.

OFFICER #1
Read him his rights.

Franko is taken to a patrol car.

RALPH
Time to leave. Excitement raises my blood pressure.

JASON
I'm with you!

I/E. INSIDE SPORTS CAR - NIGHT

The two men are driving.

Ralph offers Niles a cigarette.

JASON
No, thanks.

Ralph lights up.

RALPH
Peculiar hat, Frank.

JASON
Covers the dome!

Niles and Ports drive on.

RALPH
We'll be passing Lake George shortly.

JASON
Lot of tourists?

RALPH
Especially in the summer.

Ralph holds up a smoke.

RALPH
Smoke?

JASON
Used to. Grass. Once in awhile.

RALPH
Me too. Want some now?

JASON
Sure. I can use it!

RALPH
Seldom without.

Ralph rolls a joint.

They light up and continue driving.

RALPH
Nothing like grass and sex.

JASON
True! As they say, A GOOD WOMAN IS HARD
TO FIND.

RALPH
For some of us, A GOOD MAN IS HARD TO
FIND.

Reefer droops from Jason's lips.

JASON
You mean...?

RALPH
Right! You shouldn't criticize, until
you've tried it. Have you ever made love
to another man?

Sign indicating Lake Placid 3 miles.

JASON
STOP THE CAR!

Ralph slows the car and Niles bolts out.

RALPH
But...

Niles slams the car door.

Ports delays.

He drives away.

Niles climbs over the highway rail.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Niles notices woman driver stopped on the side of the road.

He jumps in front on the passenger side.

A hand is in his pocket.

JASON
Drive, or I'll shoot!

FRIGHTENED WOMAN puts the car shift in drive.

A sleeping GERMAN SHEPHERD wakes in the back seat.

Leaps for Niles' neck.

Niles fights off the attacking dog.

He opens the passenger door.

He bounds out.

The car speeds away.

Niles sits on the roadside stunned.

The dog scratches at the back of the window.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Niles is sleeping in an empty sheltered barn.

Morning sun shines bright.

Gathers his possessions and promptly departs.

Wanders aimlessly through the forest.

JASON (V.O.)

Wonder if I'm going in circles?

Barely notices a figure on the ground.

Niles uncovers the remains of a body.

Finds a wallet and a brief case.

Opens the case which contains thousands of dollars in large bills.

JASON (V.O.)

Jesus H!

Niles buries the body and takes the dead man's loot and identification.

Examines the identification cards.

JASON (V.O.)

My new name is JAMES CAMPBELL.

I/E. BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE - DAY

Niles reads a sign: WELCOME TO BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE.

He goes into a grocery store and gathers bread, cold cuts, beer, and three Snickers candy bars.

Niles notices a free BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMUNITY NEWS.

Finds a potential job ad.

(INSERT)

JASON (V.O.)
 (reads)
 CAREGIVER, OUTSKIRTS OF BLUE MOUNTAIN
 LAKE, FREE ROOM AND BOARD IN EXCHANGE FOR
 ASSISTANCE TO STROKE VICTIM. CALL 554-
 756-----.

Niles calls.

A female voice answers.

ELLEN (V.O.)
 Hello.

JASON
 Yes, my name is Jim Campbell. I'm
 interested in the caregiver position. If
 it's still available?

ELLEN (V.O.)
 It is!

JASON
 Terrific!

ELLEN (V.O.)
 We had a cancellation this evening at
 seven. Can you make the interview
 instead?

JASON
 Sure!

ELLEN (V.O.)
 Let me give you directions.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - MORNING

Agents Carr and Denton have adjacent desks.

The outside area is filled with troopers and diverse
 equipment.

Agent Carr pours two cups of coffee.

Hands one cup to Agent Denton.

AGENT CARR
 The college kid arrested last night?

AGENT DENTON
Missed it!

AGENT CARR
A college freshman was running through
the COUNTY MALL, nude.

AGENT DENTON
Huh?

AGENT CARR
Try explaining him to your five year old
daughter!

AGENT DENTON
Touchhole!

AGENT CARR
Drunk touchhole.

AGENT DENTON
Must say, I never shopped in the nude.

AGENT CARR
TRY IT!

AGENT DENTON
I'll skip the intimacy!

Denton places both hands on his coffee cup.

AGENT DENTON
Any word on Niles?

AGENT CARR
Some. We have local, state, and federal
agencies on the case. We discovered an
orange inmate suit near a Salvation Army
bin in Saratoga.

Trooper hands Carr a paper.

AGENT CARR
Interesting. Niles cared for his ailing
father before he died of heart disease.

AGENT DENTON
Any DNA? Print results?

AGENT CARR
Yep. They confirm Niles identity.

I/E. RUSTIC HOUSE - NIGHT

Niles walks up a long and snow covered driveway.

He knocks.

The door is opened by an attractive female.

ELLEN
James Campbell?

JASON
Yes. And you're MS. GRIMES?

ELLEN
ELLEN! Ms. Grimes makes me feel over the hill.

Ellen invites Niles into the living room.

ELLEN
Irish?

Niles lustfully gawks at Ellen.

JASON
My parents were from Ireland. I was born in this country. They're dead.

ELLEN
Sorry.

JASON
After mom died, dad had a heart attack. I cared for him.

ELLEN
Where you from?

JASON
Originally, Missouri.

ELLEN
You've traveled?

JASON
Ah...my siblings are scattered. I wasn't married. And I wanted a change.

Running his hand over the piano.

His eyes lock on Ellen.

JASON
A real beauty. Do you play?

ELLEN
Sometimes.

JASON
Playing long?

ELLEN
Since childhood.

JASON
(eyeing Ellen)
A real beauty, indeed.

Niles goes to the fish tank.

He dwells on Ellen's reflection on the tank.

JASON
Quite a assortment of fish.

ELLEN
A hobby.

JASON
Expensive?

ELLEN
Not very.

Observing the fish.

JASON
MESMERIZING!

ELLEN
Low maintenance.

JASON
True. And when they die, you can grab a
bun and tartar sauce.

Ellen shoots him a stare.

JASON
Oh, sorry, that's not very funny!

Ellen chuckles.

ELLEN
Let's meet dad.

They move toward the study.

Jason slyly inspects Ellen's figure.

ELLEN
Ignore dad's grumpy nature.

JASON
Grumpiness shows spunk!

ELLEN
He's full of spunk!

FATHER (GEORGE GRIMES) is in the study.

He's in a wheelchair.

ELLEN
Dad slurs his words. But you can understand him.

George blows his nose.

ELLEN
Daddy, this is James Campbell.
Originally from Missouri.

Father scrutinizes Niles up and down.

GEORGE
(slurring)
BOY! Can you lift me?

Extends his arms.

JASON
I'M STRONG!

GEORGE
But can you can lift me?

JASON
You're smaller than my father. I lifted him.

GEORGE
DON'T WANNA A WEAKLING!

JASON
I'll guarantee your safety.

GEORGE
What's with the limp?

JASON
Old car accident. No problem.

GEORGE
Don't wanna to be sued!

JASON
Not to worry.

ELLEN
You need to care for dad. Helping him
get up in the morning and getting him to
bed at night.

JASON
I've done it before!

ELLEN
In exchange, you'll earn free room and
board. I hope isolation doesn't bother
you?

JASON
Nope.

ELLEN
Dad's truck is available.

JASON
Nice of you.

GEORGE
Stop wasting time! If Ellen says yes,
it's a deal.

ELLEN
Fine. If James is interested?

JASON
YOU HAVE AN EMPLOYEE!

INT. STUDY ROOM - DAY

Niles places a food tray on George's lap.

Semi-paralyzed George is fed by Niles.

GEORGE
Small bites.

JASON
With your large mouth, bite size
shouldn't be a issue!

George laughs and coughs at the same time.

GEORGE
How you finding it here, kid?

JASON
Relaxing. Gives me a chance to think.

GEORGE
What on earth do you think about?

JASON
Anything and everything.

GEORGE
When you're as old as me, you'll think of
the stupid stuff you did.

JASON
Stupid stuff?

Niles spoons the desert.

GEORGE
Cripe, I brought a lot of misery!

JASON
It bothers you?

GEORGE
GODDAMN RIGHT! But then, regrets don't
change the past.

Wipes George's lips.

JASON
The past is the past.

INT. HOME OF MARGE LANGE - DAY

Ellen and FRIEND (MARGE LANGE) having coffee.

PINEAPPLE, the house cat, rubs against Ellen's leg.

MARGE
Been a while!

ELLEN
Too long.

MARGE
What happened in your life?

ELLEN
You know me. THE RECLUSE OF BLUE
MOUNTAIN LAKE.

Smile on Ellen's face.

ELLEN
We did hire a fellow.

MARGE
Well, what's he like?

ELLEN
Kind, gentle, and caring. About my age.
Handsome!

MARGE
Wait a minute. Is he there for your
father, or you?

ELLEN
Guess both of us.

MARGE
Sounds serious.

ELLEN
I'VE BEEN BURNED BEFORE!

MARGE
What's his name?

ELLEN
Jim, Jim Campbell.

MARGE
Jim Campbell may be the one.

ELLEN
Nah.

MARGE
By the way, I got myself a small gun for
protection. The last time we spoke, you
were considering a dog. Did you ever get
one?

ELLEN
No.

MARGE
You need protection!

ELLEN
There's dad and Jim.

MARGE
What if your dad can't help? What if
Jim's not home?

ELLEN
I'm in trouble!

Marge examines the gun in her hand.

MARGE
An old school friend talked me into
buying it.

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Jason and Ellen are close together.

Niles is scanning the newspaper headlines.

(INSERT HEADLINE)

TWO FEMALES MURDERED IN AREA.

Jason shows the headline to Ellen.

JASON
Doesn't this frighten you?

ELLEN
You bet! But you're my protection.

JASON
Pays to be well-thought of.

Ellen dotes.

ELLEN
Dad genuinely likes you. That's saying
something!

JASON
He's an original.

ELLEN
So are you!

JASON
Being here changed me.

ELLEN
What do you mean?

JASON
Damn. It's hard to say.

Niles nervously shuffles.

JASON
Christ. About us.

Points to her and to himself.

ELLEN
Jim, I've changed too.

Niles touches Ellen's hand.

Ellen strokes his face.

They passionately kiss and hug.

GEORGE (O.S.)
Jim!

I/E. GRIMES' HOUSE - DAY

Niles is repairing a screen door.

JASON (V.O.)
Wire Cutters?

He unsuccessfully searches throughout the house.

He goes to the basement.

Spots a shoe box exposed under a table.

Reads the correspondence enclosed.

Notices a tool belt.

Smear of blood covers the belt.

Leaves the basement.

EXT. FRONT PORCH - DAY

Niles is walking up the porch steps.

Paper delivery teenager (BILLY FINN) pulls his bike to the steps.

Hands Niles the newspaper.

Finn appears to be mentally disabled.

JASON
Got it!

BILLY
I KNOW YOU!

JASON
Me?

BILLY
You're the one they're looking for.

Boy reaches in his pocket.

BILLY
Want gum?

Billy chews a piece rapidly.

JASON
No. Lots of people say I look like a
movie star.

BILLY
Yeah.

JASON
Where did you see me?

BILLY
Television.

Billy chews his gum.

BILLY
Cherry? Tastes like cherry.

JASON
Bet it tastes yummy?

BILLY
Yeah.

JASON
Where on television?

BILLY
Forgot.

JASON
Tell you what. People always bother me.
They think I'm a television star.

BILLY
Yeah.

JASON
People bother me.

BILLY
Yeah.

JASON
So, I'll give you a ten dollar tip if you
never, ever, mention you saw me.

Billy's eyes widen.

BILLY
Ten dollars?

JASON
Ten dollars!

Feverishly chewing gum.

BILLY
WOW!

JASON
How does that sound?

BILLY
We can be friends too?

JASON
We are. Real friends keep secrets.

Niles hands Billy ten dollars.

BILLY
Cool. What's your name?

JASON
Jim. What's yours?

BILLY
Billy. Billy Finn.

JASON
Shake hands, Billy Finn, with your new
friend!

Billy, practically falling off his bike, reaches and shakes.

JASON
Friends keep secrets!

BILLY
Do you want gum? Cherry!

JASON
No thanks. Friends keep secrets! No
matter what! Don't forget.

BILLY
I won't.

Billy peddles away.

EXT. LAWN - DAY

Billy drives his bike on the grass.

Newspaper bag is almost empty.

Hands MR. HOSTER, a neighbor, a newspaper.

Mr. Hoster turns off his mower.

MR. HOSTER
How are you Billy?

BILLY
Fine.

MR. HOSTER
Good shine on the bike!

BILLY
I SAW YOU. YOU'RE THE MAN ON TELEVISION!

MR. HOSTER
I'm too old to be on television.

Billy takes another piece of gum from his pocket.

Throws it in his mouth.

Rides away.

I/E. HOUSE - NIGHT

INTRUDER parks car in the dark.

Rings bell dressed as POWER AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE.

Sports a baseball-type hat saying POWER AUTHORITY.

The person is wearing a standard Power Authority suit, gloves, and plastic ID tag.

Tool belt is filled.

A clipboard is under the arm.

Face is difficult to see because of dim lighting and angle.

TERRI SERRIN answers the door.

She's holding a huge growling dog.

INTRUDER

He's big. You must feel safe?

TERRI

I do. It's dark and desolate out here.

INTRUDER

Power Company. We're following-up complaints of a gas leak.

TERRI

Funny, I was just watching the news. I didn't hear anything.

INTRUDER

Company policy. No public announcement, unless a danger is confirmed.
(shrugs shoulders)
You guessed it. They sent me!

Dog magnifies growl.

TERRI

He goes in the cellar!

Terri pulls the dog by the collar.

She locks the cellar door.

TERRI

Generally he behaves. Probably upset because he hasn't eaten yet.

INTRUDER

Takes a minute.

Dog barks furiously in cellar.

Intruder pulls out a small meter.

INTRUDER

Air is clear of gas. Everything is tip-top.

TERRI

Splendid. How about a cup of coffee?

INTRUDER

If you don't mind. Chilly outside!

Terri reaches in lower shelf for coffee.

Intruder takes a large wrench from the belt, stands behind Terri, and continuously smashes her skull.

Terri falls motionless.

Dog tries to tear down the door.

Intruder wipes bloody wrench on Terri's blouse.

Intruder drives away into the night.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

CARR stands up.

AGENT CARR

Put on your mittens, ANDREW. We're heading north.

AGENT DENTON

What's up?

AGENT CARR

Two murders near Lake Placid. Another victim at Tupper Lake. Similar. Females, thirties, alone, no apparent connection.

AGENT DENTON

Niles is still on the run?

AGENT CARR

Yes. In fact, I checked this morning. No one spotted him.

AGENT DENTON

Until we get a solid lead, this prick is free.

INT. VICTIM'S KITCHEN - DAY

Police and reporters crowd the murder scene.

Lab personnel dust for prints, take photographs, and search for clues.

A body is removed. Blood covers the floors and walls.

Dog continues to bark.

AGENT DENTON
Anything?

LAB TECHNICIAN
For what it's worth, the dog's behavior suggests he saw the killer.

AGENT DENTON
IF ONLY HE COULD TALK!

Scanning crime scene.

AGENT CARR
A serial killer?

AGENT DENTON
Possibly.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Ellen holds her glass upright

ELLEN
Secluded enough?

JASON
Miracle the employees find the place!

WAITER takes the order.

ELLEN
The veal sounds delicious.

JASON
I'll have the spaghetti.

WAITER
Anything else?

JASON
Not now, thanks.

They touch wine glasses.

JASON
TO US! Two fortunate people.

ELLEN
Dignified.

Staring into each others eyes.

JASON
Delicious wine.

ELLEN
Gives me a warm feeling.

JASON
Me too.

ELLEN
Beats work!

JASON
Incidentally, how did you get involved
selling real estate?

ELLEN
Hours are flexible, money is good, and
friendships are temporary.

JASON
Don't you want close friendships?

ELLEN
I never owe anyone.

JASON
Ever get the urge for friends?

ELLEN
Oh, I have friends.

Waiter arrives carrying large tray.

JASON
A first-class feast.

ELLEN
Fit for a king and queen.

Spreads out the steaming food.

ELLEN

In fact, my best friend Marge is divorced. No children. Her former husband paid through the nose. He deserves it! And more.

JASON

What did he do?

ELLEN

Unfaithful jerk!

JASON

Do you think he deserved losing his lifestyle over a bone head mistake?

ELLEN

The bible says 'an eye for an eye.'

JASON

A stupid judgement.

ELLEN

Hey, a stupid judgement is no excuse. You have to be trustworthy, or pay the price.

JASON

Harsh!

ELLEN

He ruined her life.

JASON

Forgiveness? Compassion?

ELLEN

Words, words, words. Words used to cover-up guilt.

JASON

Would you forgive?

ELLEN

Hell no! Forgiveness, compassion, and all that crap. It doesn't erase the hurt.

JASON

Glad you're not judging me!

Niles suddenly feels uncomfortable.

JASON

Maybe things were unbearable at home?
Falling in love is not impossible. It
happens!

ELLEN

Agreed.

JASON

Why not accept the situation?

ELLEN

The issue is being secretly deceitful,
deceptive, cheating, and dishonest.
That's unforgivable!

JASON

Unforgivable?

ELLEN

Cruelty is living in a false
relationship. Pretending a marriage is
working.

INT. GEORGE'S STUDY - DAY

George is watching television.

Each few minutes he dozes off.

A loud news bulletin wakes him.

An obscure picture of Jason Niles is flashed on the
television screen.

George listens intently.

NEWS PERSON

... the search for escaped killer Jason
Niles continues. The latest police
photo, shown on your screen, was taken
several years ago. However, his limp and
facial features may be enough to identify
him. In other news...

There's a knock on the door.

George immediately turns off the television.

GEORGE

Come in!

JASON
Wanted to check on you.

George conveys a disturbed glare.

GEORGE
WHO ARE YOU?

Jason does a double take.

JASON
James Campbell.

GEORGE
Cut the shit!

JASON
What?

GEORGE
Try Jason Niles!

JASON
Jason who?

GEORGE
You heard me. You're Niles. The
murderer!

Jason is astounded.

JASON
How did you find out?

GEORGE
Television! The picture only slightly
resembled you. But when they mentioned a
limp, I knew.

JASON
What's next?

George wheels to the phone.

GEORGE
THE COPS!

JASON
Don't!

Jason grabs a pillow.

George struggles for the phone.

Jason comes from behind.

Places the pillow on George's face.

One hears the horrific sounds of smothering.

George slumps over in his chair.

INT. KITCHEN - DAY

Niles mopes into the kitchen.

JASON
Ellen, your father is dead.

ELLEN
What? What did you say?

Ellen starts for her father's room.

Jason holds her.

JASON
He's gone.

Jason embraces Ellen.

JASON
George died in his sleep.

ELLEN
(weeping)
He's my father...HE IS!

INT. RALPH PORTS' WOOD SCULPTURE - DAY

Ports is holding the phone.

TROOPER HINES
TROOPER HINES, can I help you?

RALPH (V.O.)
May I speak to the person in charge of
the Jason Niles case.

TROOPER HINES
Hold on.

Receiver picked up.

AGENT DENTON (V.O.)
Hello, Agent Denton. What can I do for
you?

RALPH

I may have information on this fellow,
Niles.

AGENT DENTON (V.O.)

Go ahead.

RALPH

The escape took place two months ago?

AGENT DENTON (V.O.)

Yes.

RALPH

On the very day, I gave a man a ride from
Saratoga to Lake Placid.

AGENT DENTON (V.O.)

Why didn't you call earlier?

RALPH

Well, I saw the photographs in the media.
He wore a ski hat and glasses. The
photos didn't show those items.

AGENT DENTON (V.O.)

What made you call?

RALPH

Facial similarities. And the news said
he limps. So did this guy!

AGENT DENTON (V.O.)

Anything else?

Ralph

Another thing. No baggage.

AGENT DENTON (V.O.)

Did you get a name or destination?

RALPH

He said his name is Frank Louis.
Traveling north.

AGENT DENTON (V.O.)

Anything else?

RALPH

Oh, he smelled musty.

INT. SUITE OF SEAN MORTON - DAY

MAN (ANTHONY GRIT) seated in front of desk.

ANTHONY

Sad to hear. Your kid's murder. Sick
fuck! Sick, sick, sick.

SEAN

Precisely why you're here.

SEAN MORTON rises pouring a drink.

SEAN

You can find her killer. A drink, MR.
GRIT?

ANTHONY

Not for me. Bad liver.

SEAN

The proposal is simple. Find Jim
Campbell. Of the \$100,000 ransom,
you're paid \$50,000.

ANTHONY

After I find him?

SEAN

Bring him to me.

ANTHONY

Is Campbell the man?

SEAN

Police suspected him for a long time.
Trouble is, they can't find him.

ANTHONY

How can I?

SEAN

You'll have time, information, no red
tape, and a reward motive.

Morton sips his drink.

SEAN

He's someplace near Lake Placid. Friends
in the police department tipped me
off...at a price.

ANTHONY
Find him. Then, deliver him to you?

SEAN
Alive.

ANTHONY
\$50,000?

SEAN
\$50,000.

EXT. SEAN MORTON'S BALCONY - DAY

SEAN
Rather easy money.

Morton leans against balcony wall.

SEAN
Well?

ANTHONY
Man, let's shake on it.

Morton reaches for Grit's hand.

Grit grabs Morton's arm and pants seat.

Flings him over the side.

One hears a diminishing scream.

Grit grins.

ANTHONY takes a leisurely drink.

The family cat strolls on the balcony.

ANTHONY
Hey cat. Looks like your owner requires
medical attention. Ha, ha.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Warm weather melts the snow and softens the ground.

FIRST HIKER
Finally. A week break. Thought we'd
never get out!

SECOND HIKER

I was going stir crazy in that college
prison.

A hiker trips over a mud hole.

FIRST HIKER

Cripe, mucky ground.

THIRD HIKER

All that snow, rain, and thaw.

FIRST HIKER

Beats classes!

SECOND HIKER

Ain't that the truth.

First hiker shifts conversation.

They continue waking.

FIRST HIKER

Dreamt of my old friend Bill last night.
I was thinking of the time he came to my
house, laughing uncontrollably.

THIRD HIKER

Why?

FIRST HIKER

Get this. Bill, who lives thirty miles
away, drove the express doing seventy.
He stopped at the shopping mall.

THIRD HIKER

Yeah.

FIRST HIKER

The day before Christmas! People waved
as he drove into the parking lot.
'People are extra friendly during the
Christmas season,' he thought.

Noticeably smiling.

FIRST HIKER

When he stepped out, he saw his cat on
the car roof, holding on for dear life.

First hiker stares ahead.

FIRST HIKER
Boy, I miss Bill!

SECOND HIKER
WATCH OUT! Another hole.

FIRST HIKE.
We should take a break

SECOND HIKER
Good idea.

FIRST HIKER
My legs are sore.

First hiker points to a tree.

FIRST HIKER
What's that?

Hikers see two shoes sticking out.

They uncover the dirt.

In front of them are clothes and bones.

SECOND HIKER
Yo man, a dead person!

FIRST HIKER
Let's fly.

SECOND HIKER
WAIT! We've got to report it.

FIRST HIKER
NO WAY! Cops ask questions.

THIRD HIKER
Cops are funny. If it's not reported, we
could be screwed!

SECOND HIKER
Okay. Okay.

FIRST HIKER
Yeah. But if it ruins our hiking trip, I
told you so.

INT. ELLEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Ellen and Jason completing act of love. Roll over on their
backs.

JASON
I worry. You being alone when I'm
working for MR. JEFFERS.

ELLEN
I'll be all right.

JASON
What about a watch dog?

ELLEN
Or a handgun?

JASON
A gun?

ELLEN
Yep. You recall my friend, Marge Lange?

JASON
Yes.

ELLEN
She bought one.

JASON
Not a bad idea.

ELLEN
You agree?

JASON
Agreed!

Ellen glows with excitement.

JASON
What are you thinking?

ELLEN
Nothing.

JASON
C'mon.

ELLEN
Well...

JASON
Well, what?

ELLEN
Jim, what do you say we marry?

Jason steps back.

JASON
Huh?

ELLEN
Marriage. US.

JASON
Marriage?

ELLEN
Why not?

JASON
WHEW!

ELLEN
We love each other. Don't we?

JASON
Sure.

ELLEN
And you're the best security a woman can
ask for!

JASON (v.o.)
Uh...

ELLEN
Then...? I swore never to marry again.
Before I met you.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Agent Carr puts the phone down.

AGENT CARR
More leads on Niles!

AGENT DENTON
What do you have?

AGENT CARR
DNA reveals a male. His named is James
Campbell.

AGENT DENTON
How is Campbell connected?

AGENT CARR

Campbell is a major suspect in kidnapping the child of the deceased Sean D. Morton. Morton paid the ransom, without notifying police.

AGENT DENTON

Say, I recall the incident.

AGENT CARR

The daughter was found dead.

AGENT DENTON

What's your take?

AGENT CARR

Interesting. The report states Campbell's death shows no foul play. However, someone found the body, took the money, and his identification.

AGENT DENTON

The killer?

AGENT CARR

Possibly.

EXT. GAS STATION - DAY

The service attendant comes out of the garage.

Niles is driving George's truck.

He pulls the nozzle from the gas pump.

SERVICE ATTENDANT

Howdy. How much, buddy?

JASON

Fill her up.

Service attendant cleans the front window.

SERVICE ATTENDANT

You're familiar?

His forehead perspires.

JASON

I'm not surprised. I've got the 'familiar' appearance.

Sheriff's car drives to nearby gas pump.

SHERIFF DEPUTY

Fill it!

Sheriff glances at Niles.

SERVICE ATTENDANT

That's \$20.75.

Jason eagerly reaches for his cash.

JASON

Here you go.

He jumps in the truck.

Hastily drives away.

INT. OFFICE - DAY

Niles is talking on the phone as he drinks a soda.

JASON

Could be a loose belt.

MRS. JOYCE TURNER (V.O.)

The squeaking is annoying.

JASON

Can you bring it in tomorrow morning?

MRS. JOYCE TURNER (V.O.)

Works for me.

JASON

See you then.

Niles puts down the receiver.

Mr. Jeffers knocks.

JASON

Come in.

MR. JEFFERS

Got a minute?

Mr. Jeffers closes the door.

JASON

What's up?

MR. JEFFERS
I know!

JASON
Know what?

MR. JEFFERS
You're Jason Niles.

JASON
Jason Niles who?

MR. JEFFERS
Stop playing games.

JASON
You're confused.

MR. JEFFERS
A con can smell a con.

Niles leans back.

JASON
How did you find out?

MR. JEFFERS
Pictures.

JASON
Turning me in?

MR. JEFFERS
No. Bad for business. Look, if I can identify you, eventually someone else will.

Mr. Jeffers expresses puzzlement.

MR. JEFFERS
Why stick around. I don't understand.

JASON
Actually, it's safer for me to be active in the community.

MR. JEFFERS
For a con, you're pretty dumb.

JASON
Dumb?

MR. JEFFERS
Screw the community! They'll find you.
Why not wear a sign?

JASON
Trust me. I've got it figured out.

MR. JEFFERS
Respectability?

JASON
Respectability. And a secure hiding
place.

Jason tightens his tie and brushes his jacket.

MR. JEFFERS
A thickheaded gamble!

Mr. Jeffers starts tapping his pen.

JASON
Where from here?

MR. JEFFERS
The job is still yours. Should you get
caught, I NEVER KNEW ANYTHING!

JASON
Why? Why not turn me in?

MR. JEFFERS
Simple. I spent five years behind bars.
Understand?

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Ellen and Jason are on the floor.

They listen to classical music with drinks.

They're holding each other.

JASON (V.O.)
I want to tell her. It's now or never.

ELLEN
I'm so happy.

JASON
The feeling is mutual. But...I haven't
been honest with you.

Squirming on the floor.

JASON
My past! I wanted to tell you before we
married. I'm afraid of losing you.

ELLEN
What is it?

JASON
My real name is Jason Niles. An escapee.

ELLEN
Your name is not Jim Campbell?

JASON
No. I'm Jason Niles.

Ellen takes a stiff posture.

ELLEN
Indeed, Mr. Niles, how do you expect me
to react? You're convicted of killing
your wife!

JASON
Whoa! It's not what you think! She
pleaded to end her misery.

ELLEN
A mercy killing?

JASON
Unfortunately, the autopsy revealed no
cancer.

ELLEN
Courts understand?

JASON
Not so! Instead, they gave me twenty-
five to life.

ELLEN
How did you escape?

JASON
Luck. The van transporting me was hit by
a plow.

ELLEN
Why didn't you tell me sooner?

Ellen's anger elevates.

ELLEN

Our marriage started on a deceptive foundation.

JASON

Christ, I was confused. Forgive me!

INT. JEFFERS AUTO SHOWROOM - DAY

An attractive FEMALE (NORMA) admiring the new cars.

Jason roams over.

His eyes are glued on her.

JASON

Which one?

NORMA

Wish I could afford them!

JASON

Jim Campbell. What can I do for you?

NORMA

NORMA TRIM. I have an older car in my barn. Dead as a door nail!

Niles visually probes her body.

JASON

When was the last time it ran?

NORMA

Two months.

JASON

If you want, I'll be glad to check it. Have to warn you, I'm not a skilled mechanic.

NORMA

Neither am I.

JASON

Tomorrow night at seven, okay?

NORMA

Marvellous.

I/E. HOME OF NORMA TRIM - NIGHT

Niles rings the doorbell.

A dog barks.

The dog calms down.

She invites him in.

Norma is wearing leather slacks and a tight sweater.

The fireplace is lit.

Music is playing.

Jason is speechless as he gawks at Norma.

NORMA

Glad you found the place, Jim.

Norma swings her sexy body.

NORMA

A drink? Wine, mixed drink, beer?

JASON

Wine is great.

NORMA

Red or white?

JASON

Red, please.

Norma brings in two glasses.

NORMA

California's best.

They brush glasses.

NORMA

Why this dismal area?

JASON

Heard it was quiet and friendly. And you?

NORMA

I visited my boyfriend and never left. Fifteen years ago.

JASON
Your husband?

NORMA
Never married.

Observing the wall clock.

JASON
It's late. I'd better start.

INT. NORMA'S BARN - NIGHT

Niles' head is inside the engine.

Norma bewitchingly peers over his shoulder.

JASON
The carburetor needs repair.

NORMA
What should I do?

JASON
Rebuild it!

NORMA
How long?

JASON
Couple days.

NORMA
Are carburetors involved?

JASON
I learned of carburetors in a peculiar way.

NORMA
How's that?

JASON
At fifteen, dad's car wouldn't start. So I decided to fix it. When you're fifteen, you're an expert!

Norma alluringly leans on the car.

JASON
I opened the carburetor and noticed the flap move. Don't ask me why, but I glued it. Real stupid! Dad freaked out!

NORMA
Are you carrying any glue?

INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Ellen and Jason are drinking coffee.

ELLEN
Working late?

JASON
Everything is immediate. How was your day?

ELLEN
I sold a home.

JASON
Congratulations!

ELLEN
I'm happy.

JASON
I'd be too!

ELLEN
Incidentally, the office is asking me to attend a Real Estate Conference in New York City.

JASON
For what?

ELLEN
Final credits for my realtor's license.

JASON
Go.

ELLEN
Our first separation.

JASON
It'll be awfully lonely without you.
But, career opportunities don't wait.

ELLEN
Suppose not.

I/E. NORMA TRIM HOUSE - NIGHT

Niles holds the rebuilt carburetor.

JASON

The car should start when this is installed.

NORMA

What a relief.

JASON

My wife is in New York City for a conference. I SUDDENLY FEEL LIBERATED.

NORMA

Freedom?

JASON

Free, and strangely detached.

Norma maneuvers closer.

NORMA

You're welcome to talk with me, anytime.

JASON

Time together spells trouble.

NORMA

What do you mean?

JASON

I admit. I was attracted before we formally met.

NORMA

Attracted?

JASON

You looked at cars. I looked at you.

NORMA

I wasn't looking at the cars.

They start to kiss.

He unbuttons her blouse.

I/E. BAR - NIGHT

The bar is in a secluded location.

Country western music is playing.

Norma and Jason gaze at each other.

NORMA
Here you're free to enter the singles
world.

JASON
I need a change!

Norma reaches out her arm.

NORMA
Dance?

JASON
Limp and all. I'm ready!

NORMA
Well then...

They step onto the dance floor.

NORMA
Do you feel guilty?

JASON
Guilt?

NORMA
Guilt! Your wife?

JASON
No.

NORMA
On some emotional level?

JASON
It's time to dance, not talk.

A ballad comes on.

JASON
Besides, it's reality!

Shrugs her shoulders.

They slow dance.

INT. NORMA'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Niles prepares coffee.

The couple is half dressed.

JASON
Last night was wonderful.

NORMA
Better than wonderful. The coffee is hot.

JASON
Wish every night was like that!

NORMA
Happiness is temporary.

JASON
I'm off today. What about a drive to Vermont?

NORMA
I'll buy that!

I/E. CAR - DAY

Sign reads WELCOME TO VERMONT.

They stop at a diner for lunch.

They check out the menu.

WAITRESS appears.

JASON
BLT on rye.

NORMA
I'll go with ham and cheese.

JASON
And two coffees?

Waitress writes the order.

Two VERMONT STATE TROOPERS come in.

One trooper scrutinizes Jason.

A trooper approaches their table.

VERMONT STATE TROOPER
Do either of you own the 2006 Taurus?

NORMA
Yes. I do.

VERMONT STATE TROOPER
The motor vehicle inspection sticker is expired.

NORMA
Expired?

VERMONT STATE TROOPER
Yep. I'll write you a warning. Get it inspected within ten days, and the ticket is waived.

Trooper completes the forms.

He returns to the counter.

Niles breathes a sigh of relief.

JASON
I'll inspect it tomorrow.

NORMA
Worried me for a second.

JASON (V.O.)
Yea. Me too.

INT. NORMA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Norma and Jason are in bed.

NORMA
Tuesday already! Our last night together.

JASON
Christ, I can't just stop seeing you.

NORMA
Jim. Get real! If your wife found out, your marriage would be over.

JASON
I'll see you when Ellen is working!

NORMA
How long would it last? Word spreads. Are you willing to take a chance?

JASON
With you? YES!

INT. DINING ROOM - AFTERNOON

Ellen seated with three other participants.

She opens the program stating:

(INSERT)

CLOSING SPEAKER, MR. RAYMOND FINN, PRESIDENT OF REALTORS ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Finn's voice is heard in background.

Ellen leans over to a male REAL ESTATE PERSON (PRESTON).

ELLEN

A long road is nearly ended.

PRESTON

At last.

Mr. Finn is holding the podium.

MR. FINN

...remember. Sell yourself first, before expecting to sell a piece of property. Thank you.

PRESTON

IT'S OVER! When does your flight leave?

ELLEN

Late tonight.

PRESTON

Splendid! I'm leaving in the morning. If you like, we can have a farewell drink in my room.

Ellen considers the offer.

ELLEN

Lovely idea,

PRESTON

Does seven o'clock work?

ELLEN

See you then.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Ellen and Preston drinking and listening to music.

Preston finagles close to Ellen.

He puts his arm on her shoulders.

ELLEN
What are you doing?

PRESTON
Enjoying the evening!

ELLEN
I'm married!

PRESTON
So am I! You know the rules!

ELLEN
What rules?

PRESTON
Once you're away, you can play.

ELLEN
THAT'S ASININE!

PRESTON
My wife is surely doing it. Do you
think your husband is playing bingo?

ELLEN
Better speak to your wife. You don't
know my husband!

PRESTON
Come on...ease up.

ELLEN
A celebration drink. That's it!

PRESTON
It our secret.

ELLEN
Forget it!

Preston is unrelenting.

Begins kissing Ellen.

Tries to fondle her breasts.

PRESTON
Loosen up, babe.

ELLEN
I'M OUT OF HERE!

PRESTON
Hold on! I'm not finished.

Ellen grabs her jacket.

ELLEN
YES YOU ARE!

Ellen goes for the door.

Preston grabs her blouse.

He rips it half off.

Ellen struggles to escape.

She knees Preston.

Opens the door in rage.

She runs down the hallway.

INT. GRIMES' HOUSE - DAY

Front door opens.

Ellen is carrying in her luggage.

JASON
How was it?

ELLEN
Very glad to be back!

She gives Jason a peck.

Flops down in the chair.

JASON
Sounds miserable?

ELLEN
I'd like to forget.

Niles rests on the floor.

JASON
Missed you!

ELLEN
Same here.

JASON
We're together now.

Ellen gets up, removes her coat, and starts unpacking.

ELLEN
What did you do?

JASON
What else? Work, work, and work. Monday
and Tuesday were busy.

INT. GRIMES HOUSE - DAY

Ellen straightening out the curtains. Phone rings.

ELLEN
Hello.

MR. JEFFERS (V.O.)
Hi Ellen. Paul Jeffers here. Is Jim in?

ELLEN
He left for your place three hours ago.

MR. JEFFERS (V.O.)
Hasn't arrived. I called to ask if he's
working?

ELLEN
Probably feeling the effects of Monday
and Tuesday.

Slight hesitation.

MR. JEFFERS (V.O.)
What do you mean?

ELLEN
Feeling the effects of Monday and
Tuesday?

MR. JEFFERS (V.O.)
Ellen, I haven't seen Jim since last week
when he rebuilt a carburetor for Ms.
Trim.

ELLEN
Oh!

Ellen hangs up irate, suspicious, and red faced.

INT. GRIMES HOUSE - NIGHT

Entrance door opens.

ELLEN
How was work today?

JASON
Hectic.

ELLEN
After Monday and Tuesday, you must be
tired?

JASON
People are car fanatics.

ELLEN
Didn't fix a big supper.

JASON
I planned to call. We got so busy.

EXT. NORMA TRIM'S HOUSE - DAY

Ellen follows Niles.

She ends up in front of Norma Trim's house.

Ellen watches as Niles is greeted by Norma with an intense
kiss.

Ellen spins away.

INT. NORMA TRIM'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Norma is seated watching television.

It's pouring rain outside.

An intruder pries open the back storm door.

The dog barks.

NORMA
Shhh...you're going into the kitchen.

Norma locks the dog in kitchen.

Returns to the couch.

The dog barks loudly.

Intruder (WE NEVER SEE INTRUDER'S FACE) sneaks up behind Norma.

Uses a pipe to repeatedly strike Norma's head.

Norma's limber body falls.

Intruder walks out.

Dog scratches frantically at the kitchen door.

INT. GRIMES' HOUSE - MORNING

Ellen and Jason are having breakfast.

Niles opens the newspaper.

Headline reads:

(INSERT)

NORMA TRIM MURDERED; FOURTH LOCAL SERIAL KILLING?

Niles face becomes white.

His jaw drops.

ELLEN

What's wrong, honey?

JASON

A female customer was murdered last night.

ELLEN

Scary! Did you know her?

JASON

Nope. I recognize the name.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

AGENT CARR

Be classy! Toss out the old man eye glasses. Splurge. Buy contacts!

AGENT DENTON

Someday.

AGENT CARR

Get with the times!

Denton removes the glasses.

AGENT DENTON
Another murder. Same locale. Female, no witnesses, no forced entry, no prints, and no suspects.

AGENT CARR
Sounds familiar!

AGENT DENTON
We managed to isolate clear tire marks.

Denton chews antacid tablets.

AGENT DENTON
This case ain't helping my ulcer.

AGENT CARR
Somehow, the murders tie into James Campbell.

AGENT DENTON
Police officers are showing Niles' photo, and asking questions. We're focusing on the Lake Placid area.

I/E. FOOD STAND - DAY

Denton hands Carr a tray of food.

He sorts the food inside the car.

AGENT DENTON
Can't beat burned hot dogs!

AGENT CARR
Wait until you taste the coffee.
Guaranteed to give you the shits.

Carr eats his fries.

AGENT CARR
How can fries cool so fast?

AGENT DENTON
Genuine fast food!

AGENT CARR
This daily trip north is tiring.

AGENT DENTON

When I was young, my father took the family, and Benny the dog, to Toronto. Ate a lot of fast food. I said, several times, I was getting sick. Parents don't take kids seriously. Mistake! I threw-up. Completely covering the dog. Our relationship changed. BENNY acted aloof.

Agent Carr spills his coffee chuckling.

AGENT CARR

Is Benny alive?

AGENT DENTON

No. Doggie heaven!

AGENT CARR

When my two-year-old throws up, I immediately call my wife.

AGENT DENTON

Typical father.

AGENT CARR

Wait! Once you have kids, I'll be snickering at you.

AGENT DENTON

I don't want to be chained down by a wife and kids. Variety, my man, variety. It's hard talking to a woman!

AGENT CARR

Nonsense. I totally comprehend my wife...at least when I listen.

AGENT DENTON

So that's communication?

AGENT CARR

Hey, I talk when necessary...press my shirt, get supper, or, it's time for a quickie.'

AGENT DENTON

I'm eating hot dogs with a chauvinist pig.

AGENT CARR

THAT'S COMMUNICATION!

AGENT DENTON
You're heading for divorce court!

Andrew bites his fries while Steve takes a drink of coffee.

AGENT DENTON
Things have changed since we started.
The press screws us. Juries don't even
believe the lies we tell anymore. WHAT'S
HAPPENING?

AGENT CARR
A changed world.

AGENT DENTON
We bust our balls to capture a killer.
Later, he's freed on a technicality.

AGENT CARR
It's us against them!

AGENT DENTON
Police against the public.

AGENT CARR
How we supposed to eradicate scumbags?

AGENT DENTON
Here's my idea. A stick of dynamite is
put up the killer's ass and detonated.

AGENT CARR
Hellish!

AGENT DENTON
Hellish indeed.

AGENT CARR
It's called 'justice.'

Carr gathers plates, napkins, and cups.

AGENT CARR
We better start rolling.

AGENT DENTON
There's a mustard stain on your shirt!

AGENT CARR
I'll eat it later!

INT. GRIMES' HOUSE - NIGHT

Jason and Ellen are gaping at the ceiling from their bed.

Ellen's arms are crossed.

ELLEN

Did you know Norma Trim?

JASON

You already asked.

ELLEN

I'm asking again. Were you having an affair?

JASON

I said...

ELLEN

Bullshit. Bullshit. YOU HAD AN AFFAIR!

JASON

Absurd!

ELLEN

I followed you! You lied about work.

Jason raises his right hand.

JASON

I swear. I didn't kill her!

ELLEN

TRAITOR!

Jason is taken aback.

ELLEN

Why? Why would you cheat on me?

JASON

Okay. It happened!

ELLEN

Without considering me? True love?

Ellen abruptly rolls over sobbing.

ELLEN

My entire life, I've been betrayed.
Starting with my father.

JASON

George?

ELLEN

Harmless old George! 'If you love daddy, you'll make him happy. It'll be our secret.' Christ, I was only seven!

INT. ELLEN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT - **FLASHBACK**

Footsteps heard by seven-year-old Ellen.

The bedroom is dark.

GEORGE

Hi baby. It's daddy.

ELLEN

Time for school?

GEORGE

Not yet baby. I want you to do something. You love daddy. Don't you?

George stumbles in a drunken stupor.

GEORGE

And you'll do anything for him. Won't you?

ELLEN

Yes, daddy.

GEORGE

Baby, let me under the covers.

END OF FLASHBACK

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

JASON

Why didn't you tell me?

ELLEN

You cheated on me. You're as bad as my father. He physically raped me, and you emotionally do it. Hell, why should I be truthful? BASTARD! Get out of my house!

JASON

The fling was stupid. For whatever reason, Norma didn't deserve to die.

ELLEN

What I'm saying is the beginning of my story.

JASON

What else?

ELLEN

My parents separated. Mom died in a mental institution. Also, my prior marriage.

JASON

I know.

ELLEN

How?

JASON

Letters. Downstairs.

ELLEN

Snooping?

JASON

Hold on. I wasn't snooping. I was trying to find wire cutters.

ELLEN

Are private letters wire cutters?

JASON

Okay. It was not my business. I planned to tell you.

Ellen perturbed.

ELLEN

Caught my first husband servicing three lovers.

JASON

How can you compare him to me?

ELLEN

I trusted you. I trusted him. And I trusted my father. And you all betrayed me.

JASON

I didn't realize...

ELLEN

But I still trust you on one thing. You didn't kill Norma. Do you want to know how I know, Jason?

JASON

Yes.

Ellen has a maniacal look

ELLEN

Because I did. And my former husband's lovers. They're dead. Surprised?

JASON

God, Ellen!

ELLEN

I'm sick of being used. Sick of lies.

JASON

We can get help!

ELLEN

Too late. I butchered four women. Either it's jail, or a mental institution. I'LL KILL MYSELF FIRST.

JASON

They'll classify you as mentally ill. Not responsible.

ELLEN

They screwed you! A 'mercy' killing became a murder.

JASON

What I said is partially true.

ELLEN

Something else?

Ellen moves closer.

JASON

Sharon's cancer was in remission. I demanded she make a tape.

ELLEN

Why?

JASON

Sharon suffered no pain. She felt healthy. However, she found out I was seeing a woman.

Jason puts his eyes to the floor.

JASON

We married on paper. There was no love. Sharon bitterly fought the divorce.

Eyes straight ahead.

JASON

I shot her in the head. I thought the tape would convince the jury.

ELLEN

A MURDERER? Why didn't you say something?

Jason's eye twitches.

ELLEN

Not you! Not the person I loved. THE FACT IS YOU CAN'T BE TRUSTED. Period!

JASON

I should've told you earlier.

ELLEN

You're a murderer! Another worthless liar!

JASON

The big difference between us...I stopped killing!

ELLEN

Body count doesn't matter. One? Ten? Or one hundred. Murder is murder.

JASON

I couldn't kill again.

Ellen briefly cries.

ELLEN

What about us? A marriage of convenience for two killers!

JASON

We need to forgive each other. Promise me. No more killings. No matter what! I promise you!

ELLEN

No matter what?

INT. HOWIES VARIETY STORE - DAY

A STORE SALESMAN (HOWIE) is smoking a pipe behind the register.

His foot is up on a box.

A MALE (ANTHONY GRIT) appears wearing a long coat, brim hat, sunglasses, and gold jewelry.

HOWIE

Can I help you, sir?

ANTHONY

Are you familiar with residents in the area?

HOWIE

A few.

ANTHONY

I'm trying to look up an old Army friend of mine. I heard he might be in the region. Can you help me?

HOWIE

What's his name?

ANTHONY

James Campbell.

HOWIE

Heard the name.

Howie places his body in a thinking mode.

HOWIE

Nope. Don't recall where. Check the post office.

ANTHONY

Thanks for the suggestion.

INT. POST OFFICE - DAY

Elderly FEMALE POSTAL CLERK is behind the mail table.

Another POSTAL EMPLOYEE sorts the mail.

ANTHONY

Pardon me ma'am. I'm seeking a dear Army friend.

Puffs on his pipe.

ANTHONY

Marriage. Children. Profession. Soon I lost the connection.

POSTAL CLERK

Boy, do I understand! My husband and I met when he was in the Army. The Korean War broke out. And we lost touch!

ANTHONY

You're together?

POSTAL CLERK

Fate! Three years later. He appeared at my door.

ANTHONY

Beautiful story. Guess you appreciate my situation.

POSTAL CLERK

Surely. What's his name?

ANTHONY

James Campbell.

POSTAL CLERK

Don't recognize the name. Wait! Come to think of it, Ellen Grimes recently came in to give us her new married name, Ellen Grimes Campbell. Never gave her husband's first name.

ANTHONY

I'll try Ellen Campbell.

Postal worker writes the address.

POSTAL CLERK

Good luck!

INT. ELLEN'S HOME - DAY

Ellen is reclining when the phone rings.

Picks up the phone.

MARGE (V.O.)
Hi Ellen.

ELLEN
Marge!

MARGE (V.O.)
Checking to see how you and Jim are?

ELLEN
Everything is at the trial and error stage.

MARGE (V.O.)
What does that mean?

ELLEN
You never realize what you're getting, until it's too late.

MARGE (V.O.)
Are you speaking of Jim?

ELLEN
Partly. I've been continuously frustrated by selfish people.

MARGE (V.O.)
True.

ELLEN
I'm fed up.

MARGE (V.O.)
I try hard to eliminate individuals causing grief. Works for me!

ELLEN
Seems when I eliminate one problem, another crops up.

MARGE (V.O.)
Feeling bad is no solution.

ELLEN
Would you do me a favor?

MARGE (V.O.)
Absolutely!

ELLEN
It's kinda strange.

MARGE (V.O.)
So what?

ELLEN
Would you call my house tomorrow night?

MARGE (V.O.)
Okay.

ELLEN
If no one answers, call the police.

MARGE (V.O.)
Does sound strange!

ELLEN
Promise. You'll understand everything
later.

I/E. GRIMES' HOUSE - DAY

Ellen, disheveled, plays the piano.

Piano keys are slammed harder and harder.

A handgun is on the end table.

There's a cup of coffee on the floor.

The sound of footsteps are heard.

Ellen moves close to the handgun.

Jim walks into living room.

JASON
Why so dark?

ELLEN
Didn't notice.

JASON
Flick on a light!

ELLEN
Won't make a difference.

JASON
What's wrong?

ELLEN
What's right?

JASON
You're acting odd!

ELLEN
Being myself. A guppy in a tank of sharks.

Ellen turns on a small lamp.

JASON
Do you have something to say?

ELLEN
Yes. DEATH. Death is preferable to life.

JASON
Jesus, Ellen. You're talking nonsense!

ELLEN
I never told you. I tried to kill myself twice before.

JASON
What?

ELLEN
Once I cut my wrists as a teen. Then an overdose of pills when my husband left. Close to death, but not close enough. The second time they evaluated and released me from the mental hospital. CURED!

JASON
There's professional treatment. Please!

ELLEN
No! I've made up my mind.

Jason reaches to grab the handgun.

Ellen snatches it first.

Ellen
If it's not the gun, I'll find another way. I died a long time ago.

She's fixated on the light.

ELLEN

Leave! Once they find my body, they'll
come for you.

JASON

We promised. No more murders.

ELLEN

It won't be murder. It'll be suicide.
I'll finally be free.

Ellen places the gun to her temple.

She fires.

Handgun falls to the floor.

Jason screams helplessly.

He slumps over.

I/E. GRIMES' HOUSE - LATE DAY

Niles quickly climbs the stairs to bedroom.

He packs his luggage case with the hidden money.

Dashes down the stairs.

He takes a last glance at Ellen.

Gags at the sight.

He begins toward the door.

The door bell rings continuously.

Niles answers.

There stands a tall man wearing a long coat, glasses, and
brim hat.

ANTHONY

Hello. James Campbell?

Niles attempts to make the conversation short.

JASON

Who are you?

ANTHONY
I'm MR. FLANDER, from SEASON INSURANCE
COMPANY. I've been searching for days
trying to find a James Campbell.

JASON
What did he do?

Niles places his luggage on the chair.

ANTHONY
Absolutely nothing! However, I do have a
hefty check for him in the amount of
\$55,000.

Anthony flashes an envelope.

ANTHONY
From a car accident settlement recently
finalized by the courts.

JASON
I'm James Campbell. I can show you
identification!

ANTHONY
Never thought I'd find you. If I can
step in, signing and verifying takes a
minute.

Jason is careful to avoid the living room.

Grit enters.

Grit reaches for his gun.

ANTHONY
So you're James Campbell? How could
you murder a little kid?

JASON
What?

ANTHONY
Cut the shit! Where's the ransom
money?

Jason is staring at the gun.

JASON
Oh, I see. You think I'm James Campbell.
I'm not!

I found Campbell's body in the woods. He had identification and money. I took it! I swear!

ANTHONY
Campbell or whoever. I don't care...I want the fucking money.

The pistol is shoved in Niles face.

Phone rings.

ANTHONY
Don't answer it! Where's the money?

Phone rings several more times.

JASON
In the suitcase.

Niles glances at the chair.

ANTHONY
Get it!

Niles gets the suitcase.

ANTHONY
Open it!

Niles opens the suitcase.

JASON
I only spent \$5000.

Grit empties everything.

Packs the money into the suitcase.

ANTHONY
We're taking a ride!

JASON
I'm the wrong person!

ANTHONY
Please, don't take me for a fool.

He points the gun at Niles.

They head outside to Anthony's car.

As they drive away, sirens and red lights advance toward the house.

I/E. GRIT'S CAR - LATER DAY

Niles is driving.

Grit is holding a gun on Niles.

JASON
Where we going?

ANTHONY
Eyes on the road!

JASON
I'm the wrong guy!

ANTHONY
Shut up. Drive! I take pleasure in
snuffing out a child killer.

JASON
I ain't the one!

ANTHONY
Drive!

They come to a small wooden bridge.

Niles sharply turns the steering wheel.

Anthony is jarred enough to release his weapon.

The car goes through the rail.

It drops into the lake.

The water is shallow.

The car is partially covered.

A fight between the two men ensues underwater.

Each pulls, swings, and punches.

Grit bangs his head on the steering wheel.

Niles breaks free and smashes the driver's side window.

He swims a few feet to shore.

Niles rests for a minute.

JASON (V.O.)
The money! I left the money.

He jumps back in.

Returns to the car and sees Grit slumped over motionless under water.

He reaches for the luggage.

Niles swims back to shore.

INT. POST OFFICE - DAY

Agents Denton and Carr come in.

AGENT CARR

I'm Agent Carr. This is Agent Denton.
We're from the BCI unit of the New York
State Police.

They display their badges.

POSTAL CLERK

Yes. How can I help you?

AGENT DENTON

We're trying to locate a James Campbell.

POSTAL CLERK

As I told the other man...

AGENT DENTON

WHAT MAN?

POSTAL CLERK

The tall gentleman, trying to find his
friend, James Campbell. A military
buddy. That's how I met my husband.

AGENT CARR

Did you ever see Campbell?

POSTAL CLERK

No. It's a fairly common name. I'll
write down his wife's address.

AGENT CARR

Appreciate it!

AGENT DENTON

Incidentally, does James Campbell receive
mail?

POSTAL CLERK
None that I've seen.

EXT. OUTSIDE GRIMES HOUSE - NIGHT

Red and blue lights blinking.

A body is placed in coroner's vehicle.

Police and lab personnel seek clues.

LIEUTENANT JERRY MIRE, Agents Carr and Denton stand together.

LIEUTENANT MIRE
The blood is fresh.

AGENT DENTON
Any evidence?

LIEUTENANT MIRE
The dead female is Ellen Grimes Campbell.
Her husband is gone.

AGENT DENTON
What about the body found in the lake?

LIEUTENANT MIRE
Puzzling?

AGENT DENTON
Who is he?

LIEUTENANT MIRE
Identification states his name is ANTHONY
'THE SCORPION' GRIT, from New York City.

AGENT CARR
Who killed who?

LIEUTENANT MIRE
First impression is Ellen Grimes Campbell
committed suicide. Powder burns, angle
of bullet, and where the weapon fell.

AGENT CARR
And Grit?

LIEUTENANT MIRE
His body was discovered in a submerged
car.

Denton writes on his note pad.

AGENT DENTON

Did the lab boys come up with anything unusual?

LIEUTENANT MIRE

We're doing routine ballistics, DNA, prints, photographs, fibers, and so on. They're taking tire molds, and removing dirt samples from Ellen Grime's car tires.

AGENT DENTON

Why?

LIEUTENANT MIRE

On the chance her car was at the serial killing sites. A hunch!

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Niles bolts in the direction of the I-87 Northway with a suitcase.

He trudges through the mud, fallen limbs, and hidden pot holes.

The sound of a helicopter is heard in the distance.

Niles looks to the sky and picks up speed.

He observes I-87 Northway from distance.

Climbs the guard rail and ambles though the rest area.

Cases potential drivers for a ride north.

Spots a TEENAGER starting his car.

Niles raps on the side glass.

The male teen opens the window.

TEENAGER

What's up?

JASON

My car broke down. It's my daughter's birthday today. I promised to be there. I've been waiting for a tow forever. I'm already late.

TEENAGER

Where you going, man?

JASON
Plattsburg.

TEENAGER
I drive past it.

JASON
Fantastic. I'll call the tow truck once
I arrive. It means a lot. KIDS!

TEENAGER
Jump in. You can throw your suitcase in
the back.

JASON
My lap is fine. I'm JOE KING.

TEENAGER
I'm BILLY FRANZE. Visiting the folks
outside Ontario.

Car approaches sign: PLATTSBURG NEXT RIGHT.

TEENAGER
I don't mind driving into town.

JASON
Let me off here. Thanks anyway.

Niles jumps over the guard rail.

He scurries toward Plattsburg.

INT. COMFORT MOTEL DESK - MORNING

Niles rings the bell.

MOTEL OWNER comes to the desk.

MOTEL OWNER
How can I help you, son?

JASON
A room for a week.

Motel owner swivels sign-in book.

MOTEL OWNER
Write the information on top and sign.
Six nights and seven days comes to \$400.
Parking in front of your room. Number
221.

Niles completes the registration.

Motel owner examines the registration book.

MOTEL OWNER

Call if you have a problem, Mr. King.

Niles carries his luggage.

INT. MOTEL DESK - DAY

Motel owner dials the phone as he watches the television news.

MOTEL OWNER

Hello, officer?

INT. MOTEL ROOM 221 - DAY

Niles is peering out the window.

Watches a beer delivery truck.

The delivery truck has Canadian plates.

Niles packs his suitcase.

He goes out to the delivery truck.

JASON (V.O.)

I'll never cross the Canadian border
lacking identification.

Niles trashes his old ID.

Sizes up the delivery truck.

JASON (V.O.)

The trailer? That's it!

Jason crawls between beer cases.

He lays flat until the DRIVER returns.

Driver leans on the truck.

He takes out a cigar, lights it, and puffs away.

Niles witnesses police cars speeding up the road.

Police surround his former room.

They break in the motel door.

The delivery truck pulls away.

JASON (V.O.)

WHEW!

EXT. DELIVERY TRUCK - DAY

Truck speedily passes cars going north.

Niles shivers.

It's a bumpy ride.

He rubs his hands.

Wraps an old blanket tightly across his chest.

Driver turns off the ramp.

Parks in front of LOU'S COUNTRY DINER.

Niles spots a fast food place.

A minute later, Niles returns.

The truck is gone.

I/E. NEAR LOU'S DINER - AFTERNOON

Niles rests in a wooded lot.

He notices a male leaving the rear of diner.

The CUSTOMER checks his front left tire.

Niles comes from behind.

He places the end of a tree limb in customer's back.

The customer follows directions.

JASON

Your wallet and keys! Any shit, I'll
kill you.

CUSTOMER

Okay! Okay! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME.

JASON (V.O.)

I can't leave him!

JASON

Rope or tape?

CUSTOMER

No rope. But I've got duct tape.

Opens the trunk.

Hands Niles a large roll of duct tape.

JASON

Listen carefully. You'll be in the trunk. Any noise, any at all, and you die.

Niles binds the victim's hands, feet, and mouth.

He pushes the customer into the car trunk.

Takes a small file from the tool box.

Closes the trunk.

He enters the driver seat.

Unfolds the wallet and removes the New York State driver's license.

Niles scratches the photo until it's blurred.

He drives north.

Passenger in the trunk is silent.

I/E. CANADIAN BORDER - DAY

Vehicles lined up for clearance into Canada.

Niles sights a number of vehicles pulled to the side for inspection.

The car creeps closer to booths.

JASON

LORD. JUST THIS ONCE!

Two cars ahead.

JASON

Both passed!

Niles approaches the customs check booth.

CUSTOMS GUARD #1

Good day. Destination?

JASON
Montreal, sir.

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
Identification, please?

JASON
Certainly.

Opens wallet

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
Your front tire is low.

JASON
Thanks. I'll fill it at the next
station.

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
There's air pumps near the rest rooms.

JASON
No thanks. I'll fill it later.

CUSTOM GUARD #1 carefully reads Nile's proof.

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
Why is the license photo smeared?

JASON
My son, Timmy. Seven years old. He's
into everything.

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
Get a new license.

JASON
I plan to.

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
Got kids of my own. They can be little
devils.

CUSTOM GUARD #2 comes to the booth.

CUSTOMS GUARD #2
GEORGE. How much sugar?

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
One. Watching my weight.

Customs Guard #2 recognizes Niles.

He draws his weapon.

Orders Niles out of the car.

CUSTOMS GUARD #2
Jason Niles, sought by New York State
police for months. We have a wanted
poster.

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
Almost had me.

Custom guards at his sides.

JASON
Niles? You're holding an innocent man.

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
We'll see. Bring him to the office.
Search the car. And contact the state
police.

JASON (V.O.)
I'm screwed!

Customs Agent #2 escorts Niles to the office at gunpoint.

INT. CANADIAN BORDER OFFICE- DAY

Small office housing a desk, computer, files, and chairs.

Custom Guard #1 stands close to Jason.

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
If you're not Niles, who are you?

JASON
Check my wallet.

CUSTOMS GUARD #1
Have it your way!

Custom Guard #2 enters office.

CUSTOMS GUARD #2
Put the cuffs on him. We searched the
car. Thousands of American dollars. And
there's a body in the trunk.

JASON
I intended to release him.

CUSTOMS GUARD #2
He's dead!

Niles eyes are wide open.

JASON
HE CAN'T BE DEAD!

CUSTOMS GUARD #2
He's taped up, and stone cold.

JASON
Why would I take time to tape him, if he
was dead?

CUSTOMS GUARD #2
That's for the coroner.

Three New York State troopers, and two BCI cars, show up.

AGENT CARR
Jason Niles?

AGENT DENTON
Hope you enjoyed your freedom.

Denton grabs Niles.

AGENT DENTON
Do you recall Ellen Grimes?

JASON
I WANT A LAWYER!

AGENT DENTON
You'll need one!

Agent Carr reads his rights.

Troopers put the prisoner in a police car.

I/E. NEW YORK STATE CORRECTIONS VAN - DAY

Wind, snow and dense fog produce poor driving conditions.

Inside New York Department of Corrections van is Jason Niles.

His hands and ankles are chained.

Two other occupants are uniformed officers.

JASON (V.O.)
Hell. It's not fair.

Niles again gazes blankly out the side window of a dimly lit van.

He crosses his arms.

Bites his lip.

JASON (V.O.)
OHMIGOD! Death by lethal injection? A
needle!

The highway begins to clear.

The van accelerates.

FADE OUT

END