

BEFORE SHE DIED

written by

John Stone

Kiki Carruthers

Before She Died by John Stone (c) 2023

FADE IN:

EXT. ISLA VERDE BEACH. PUERTO RICO - DAY

Dressed in bathing wear and sunglasses, off duty DS KIKI CARRUTHERS 31 and widower NANCY BURROWS 31 sunbathe under a clear blue skyline, before they get up and run into the soft wetness of the sea.

They splash each other joyfully and soak up the aesthetic of that much warranted holiday feeling.

EXT. BEACH RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Dressed for the evening they sit at a candlelit table and share a bottle of wine as they eat Mofongo and shredded shrimp.

NANCY

It's so beautiful and relaxing here. I'm really not looking forward to going home, are you?

KIKI

I'm trying not to think about it, Nancy. It's time to think of a new start for both of us. You still have your job at the ice cream shack. And I still have mine, just about.

NANCY

I'm just struggling to adjust to him not being around.

(drinks)

Especially at night time. That's when I miss him most of all. We didn't even need to speak to one another. Just having Shane there was enough for me. I miss him so much.

KIKI

Well, I'm here for you. And you're always welcome to stay with me.

NANCY

I know. You've been so kind to me since Shane was killed. I don't think I'll ever be able to repay you.

KIKI

Oh, rubbish. Just being with you is repayment. I enjoy your company.

They look into each others eyes with sincerity from across the table.

NANCY

Thank you, Kiki. You've saved me from my miserable self. Without you to help me through this I'd probably be suicidal.

KIKI

Well, we're here. So enjoy the here and now.

NANCY

Carpe Diem.

KIKI

Yeah. Carpe Diem.

They clink their wine glasses and chuckle.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

It's eerily quiet and dimly lit as twenty-two year old hostess BEA SPENCE kicks her heels towards home.

She wears a long coat, knee length black boots and a black beret.

She reaches her apartment then climbs the wrought iron staircase leading up to her front door. She searches her bag then slips the key into the lock before she enters.

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A gloved hand comes from behind her and grabs her around the neck. She struggles to fight off the HOODED ATTACKER as he uses his foot to slam the door shut behind him.

He then punches her in the head and forces her into-

BEDROOM

He forces her down upon the bed. Her beret falls off as she struggles to free herself.

Her long blonde hair drops over her tiny shoulders as he pulls her head back with his free hand.

BEA

(terrified)

Please don't hurt me, I beg you!
I'll give you what you want, just
don't hurt me, please...

He produces a LONG KNIFE from inside his coat then slashes her throat from ear to ear, before he drags her bloodied body onto the carpeted floor where he and goes berserk with his knife in hand as he slashes her continuously.

When he stops he wipes his knife on her blouse then disappears.

CU: She lies in the prone position with her throat cut and covered in blood.

Beat.

Her leather clad partner DARYL 28 cautiously enters clutching his GUITAR HARDCASE. He places it down inside the door and searches the flat.

DARYL

Bea? Bea, are you in? The door's
been left open.

He looks inside the sitting room, then the kitchen.

DARYL /

Bea, are you in?

He enters the-

BEDROOM

He spots her and covers his mouth with his hand, then kneels down beside her and cradles her in his arms.

DARYL /

(mumbles)

My baby. What did they do to you?

After a short while he gently lies her head down when he notices a transparent envelope sticking out of her coat.

He takes the envelope filled with cash and slips it inside his inner jacket pocket.

PRELAP:

OPERATOR O.S

Which service?

DARYL O.S

(on phone)

Police, please-

OPERATOR O.S

One moment.

(short pause)

Putting you through.

DARYL O.S

(nervously)

Is that the police-?

POLICE OPERATOR O.S

*Police emergency. How can I help-
?*

DARYL

I'd like to report a murder.

EXT/INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

BLUE LIGHTS flash at the scene where Daryle stands smoking a cigarette.

DS Kiki Carruthers exits from the passenger side of an unmarked vehicle then marches towards the sealed off apartment.

Beat.

BEDROOM

UNIFORM stand outside the door when she enters. She stares down in utter shock at the BODY and the amount of BLOOD SPATTER everywhere.

KIKI

*Right. Who found her and called
it in?*

UNIFORM

Her boyfriend, Daryl Grimes. He's downstairs talking to uniform.

KIKI

OK. Do we know who she is?

UNIFORM

Bea Spence.

She exits.

Beat.

She approaches Daryl as she descends the staircase.

KIKI

You must be Daryl, right?

DARYL

(shivering)

Yeah, that's right.

KIKI

You called it in I understand.

DARYL

Yeah.

KIKI

What time did you find her?

DARYL

Just after one.

KIKI

Is that the usual time you get home?

DARYL

Give or take a few minutes, yeah.

KIKI

And where were you last night?

DARYL

The Blue Nun. It's a pub in Kentish Town.

KIKI

What were you doing there?

DARYL

I'm a musician. I work there - in house.

KIKI

So what's your relationship to the deceased?

DARYL

Partner.

KIKI

How long have you been together?

DARYL

About six months, roughly.

KIKI

Is there anything I should know that may help us to catch who did that to her?

DARYL

Well, the door was unlocked when I reached home.

KIKI

Is that normal?

DARYL

No. Bea always kept the door locked. She was security conscious.

KIKI

I see. Anything else?

DARYL

She worked as a hostess in the west end.

KIKI

Where exactly?

DARYL

Harry's Club - It's in Mayfair.

KIKI

Harry's Club.

(jots down)

Did she ever bring clients home?

DARYL

No, no. She would never do that.
She wasn't a prostitute.

KIKI

OK. I wasn't insinuating that she
was.

(pauses)

Did she ever go back to client's
hotels, or residence's, d'you
know?

DARYL

No. She was a hostess, that's
all.

KIKI

Daryl, is there anyone that you
can think of that might've wanted
to harm her? Anyone in particular
that she might've mentioned
during a casual conversation
about work?

DARYL

(ruminates)

There was a guy she mentioned a
few times. I guy called Ali. He
worked at the club. She said he
kept harassing her to date rich
friends of his.

KIKI

Did she mention his role at
Harry's Club?

DARYL

She said he was an arse licker.

KIKI

And his name is Ali, right?

DARYL

Yeah.

KIKI

OK. Scene of Crimes will be here shortly, along with a pathologist. Have you got anywhere you can stay tonight? Your apartment is a crime scene. You won't be let back inside until investigators have given the all clear.

DARYL

Yeah. I can stay at my mum's.
(pauses)
How long will it take, d'you think?

KIKI

Maybe a week or so. No longer than that I should imagine.

DARYL

Can I just get my guitar and some things to see me over?

KIKI

I'll have a word with uniform, but be careful not to touch anything, unless you're absolutely sure it belongs to you.

DARYL

Sure.

KIKI

I'll need to talk to you again, so give me your contact details before I go off.

DARYL

OK.

INT. INCIDENT ROOM - DAY

South African DCI MILLIE NUNN approaches Kiki as she sits at her desk sifting through photographs of the dead victim.

DCI NUNN

Sorry to throw you straight into the mire, Kiki. Senior Detectives are in high demand at the moment.

KIKI
(looks up)
No problem.

DCI NUNN
So how was Puerto Rico?

KIKI
Lovely.

DCI NUNN
You've caught a lovely colour.

KIKI
Thanks.

DCI NUNN
It wasn't a pretty sight, so I
hear.

KIKI
No. It was horrible. Her head was
almost severed completely, and
there was blood all over the
place.

Kiki picks up a more glamorous photograph of the victim and
shows it her.

DCI NUNN
She was pretty. Lovely fair hair
and big blue eyes.
(chews biltong)
Anything positive to go on, early
doors?

KIKI
I'm just waiting for Harry's Club
to open. There's somebody who
works there called Ali that I
need to speak to. Apparently...
according to her boyfriend Daryl,
he was harassing her.

DCI NUNN
That sounds promising. What about
the weapon - any luck there?

KIKI

No trace, just yet. It's likely he took it with him when he left the scene.

(sighs)

We could be looking for an opportunistic killer. She may have been followed home from work.

(pauses)

I've got the team looking at CCTV in and around the immediate area.

DCI NUNN

I'll get uniform knocking on doors. See if anyone heard or saw anything unusual.

KIKI

Great. Thanks.

DCI NUNN

What's the boyfriend had to say for himself?

KIKI

Not much really. He found her. His story checks out. He was performing at The Blue Nun Public House in Kentish Town last night.

DCI NUNN

What time did he leave there?

KIKI

Just after midnight, according to the landlord.

DCI NUNN

And approximate time of death?

KIKI

Gina's given 12.45 to 1 A.M.

DCI NUNN

I wouldn't rule him out just yet, Kiki. He still had time to kill her and get a change of clothes before he called it in.

KIKI

Well, there was no force of entry. And nothing was out of place, or touched. Her killer knew exactly what he was doing.

DCI NUNN

Then that leaves two possibilities - Either she was pounced upon when she entered the property, or she knew her attacker and let him in.

(chews biltong)

My guess is the latter.

She goes to walk off.

KIKI

Oh, Millie, I will need a vehicle. My car's still off the road. They're waiting for a part.

DCI Nunn turns and nods her head in approval.

INT. HARRY'S CLUB - DAY

The club is empty of customers when Kiki and two JUNIOR DETECTIVES enter.

They approach the bar and are promptly met by a punky female BARTENDER.

BARTENDER

(consciously)

We're closed. We're not open yet.

KIKI

Yeah, I can see that for myself.

BARTENDER

Can I help you then?

Kiki produces her BADGE. The Bartender's jaw drops as she gives her a blank stare.

KIKI

Who's in charge?

BARTENDER

Gareth, but he's not in yet. He's the manager.

KIKI

So what time does he get in?

BARTENDER

Usually, not till around six. But I can call him if you like?

KIKI

Is there anyone else around that I might be able to speak to, apart from you?

BARTENDER

Ali's upstairs. I'll just go and fetch him.

KIKI

(grins)

Thanks.

Bartender disappears. Kiki looks about the cosy looking place filled with candlelit tables, red velvet wallpaper and soft furnishings.

Beat.

Bartender returns with ALI BOLSOVER 30's. He's a dark pigmented, curly haired guy with an infectious smile and laughing green eyes.

ALI

Hi. What can I do for you?

KIKI

Can you tell me where you were between midnight and 1 a.m this morning, for starters?

ALI

Can I see your credentials first?

She flashes her badge at him.

ALI /

OK. I was here working. What's the problem?

KIKI

Is there anyone who can vouch for that?

ALI

Only about a half-a-dozen people.
What's going on?

KIKI

(to bartender)

What about you? Can you vouch for
him?

BARTENDER

No, I'm sorry. I wasn't working
last night. It was my night off.

ALI

That's right. I think you better
tell me what this is all about,
Detective?

KIKI

It's regarding the murder of Bea
Spence. I have information that
she worked here as a hostess. Was
she here last night?

ALI

(aback)

Murdered?

KIKI

That's right. Stabbed to death.

ALI

Yeah, she was here.

KIKI

And what time did she leave?

ALI

No idea. You'll have to ask the
doormen. They'll be able to tell
you that.

KIKI

What nights did she work?

ALI

Thursday, Friday, Saturday... and
sometimes if we're busy Gareth
might ask her to come in.

KIKI

We'd like to look at your CCTV.

ALI

That's fine. Kirsty'll show you where it is. But it's not working upstairs at the moment.

KIKI

Who mentioned anything about upstairs?

ALI

Well, if you want to know where I was, I was upstairs working. That's what I'm trying to explain to you.

KIKI

Doing what?

ALI

We're refurbishing the casino.

KIKI

You and who else?

ALI

Gareth.

KIKI

Are you telling me the casino doesn't have CCTV?

ALI

It does, but it's off.

The Bartender shows the Detectives where the CCTV Monitors are kept.

KIKI

I want you to come down to the station to answer some further questions.

ALI

What! Now?

KIKI

Yes. Now.

ALI

Am I being charged with her murder, then?

KIKI

I'm not charging you with anything at the moment. I just need to speak to you in depth, regarding her murder.

ALI

But I can't leave the barstaff on their own.

KIKI

Call someone who can fill in while you're gone.

ALI

But why me?

KIKI

Just getcha coat and stop complaining, or I'll arrest you for resisting.

ALI

Fuck sake! You people know how to make enemies!

INT. BEDROOM - DAY

Daryle lies on a single bed and speaks on his mobile phone.

DARYL

(distressed)

It's me, Daryl. Can you tell George that I won't be in for a few days- No, I'm not feeling very well- Cheers babe.

He ends the call and lies down in the fetal position.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM 1 - DAY

Seated at the table: Kiki and DCI Millie Nunn.

Ali sits opposite, next to his dark pigmented LAWYER.

Kiki slides a photo image of Bea Spence across the table. She has her throat cut.

ALI

(turns away)

Oh, Jesus!

DCI NUNN

Exactly.

KIKI

She was murdered in her own home.

ALI

But why would I want to kill her?
I wouldn't hurt her. I liked her,
a lot.

KIKI

We know you were harassing her?

ALI

I was not!

KIKI

According to her partner you
were. She told him that you were
trying to get her to sleep with
other men for money. Friends of
yours.

ALI

That's not true! She approached
me and asked me if I could set
her up with rich clients.

KIKI

To the contrary. She said you
were harassing her. She even told
her partner.

ALI

Is that what this is all about?
Look, she was game. She appears
in porn videos for fuck sake.
Just put her name into Pornhub.
She's a pornstar for heaven's
sake.

KIKI

Is that why you killed her, because she wouldn't screw your clients? Are you a pimp, Ali? Did she burst your credibility bubble because she kept refusing to sleep with your mates?

ALI

(defiantly)

OK. I'm not saying another word until I speak to my solicitor here.

KIKI

If we find DNA on her to the contrary, you will be our prime suspect.

ALI

You will. I had sex with her last night.

DCI NUNN

You what?

KIKI

Why didn't you mention that at the club?

ALI

Because I'll lose my job if Gareth finds out I'm screwing the hostess's. For fuck sake, man.

KIKI

What is your job at the club, exactly.

ALI

Customer liaison, or PR.

KIKI

When your not refurbishing the casino, right?

ALI

Yeah.

KIKI

How many girls have you supplied to clients?

ALI

Only if they come to me first. I never force any of them to do anything they don't want to do.

KIKI

What about Bea?

ALI

I never forced her to do anything, I swear to it.

KIKI

So why would she let you take advantage of her? What did you have over her?

ALI

Nothing!

KIKI

OK. No more questions for now. This interview is over. You're free to go.

They get to their feet.

ALI

Look, I don't know how important this is, but I heard from one of the other girls that she was sacked by Gareth. She was working out her notice.

KIKI

What for?

ALI

It's against club policy for any of the hostess's to do sex videos, unless Gareth authorizes it first. He sees it as damaging to the club's reputation.

KIKI

OK. Thanks. That'll be all. You can go.

They get up and exit the room. Kiki and DCI NUNN stay.

DCI NUNN

Bring her boyfriend in for a chat. I'd like to speak to him.

KIKI

OK.

INT. KIKI'S HOME - NIGHT

She sits at a table and studies CCTV footage on her tablet from a tube station the night before. People exit and enter the station.

Beat.

Nancy appears in the room with two cups of coffee. She sits quietly at the table.

She switches off her tablet and smiles at her.

NANCY

(brightly)

Any luck?

KIKI

No, nothing. I'm not even sure she took the tube.

NANCY

She might have got a cab.

KIKI

What, a black cab you think?

NANCY

Maybe. Or an Uber. Why don't you ask the manager if she ever took a cab home?

KIKI

I didn't think of that. Thanks Nancy. You're a natural.

NANCY

It's a possibility, I reckon.

KIKI

Well, I need to speak to this Gareth - he's the manager.

NANCY

I can drive you over there if you like?

KIKI

Would you?

NANCY

Yeah. I've got nothing to do.

KIKI

In that case, I'll treat you to a nice curry afterwards.

NANCY

Aw. I haven't been out for a curry in ages.

They drink up then get their coats and exit.

INT. HARRY'S CLUB FOYER - NIGHT

Kiki is met by the tall, slick looking GARETH 50's.

GARETH

I heard the terrible news.

KIKI

Is it true you fired her for appearing in a porn video?

GARETH

I did. She left me no choice. She broke the golden rule.

KIKI

How did you find out?

GARETH

Ali was hosting a personal viewing of her acting talents when I arrived early for work one day.

KIKI

Shouldn't you have sacked him?

GARETH

He has been suspended.

KIKI

Since when?

GARETH

Since this evening, after I heard what happened.

KIKI

Did you see him last night, between midnight and one a.m?

GARETH

He was upstairs. I saw him around twelve-fifteenish, and then again at around one-thirty. He's helping with the installation of our new card tables.

KIKI

Were you aware that he was supplying girls to clients?

GARETH

I heard a rumour to that effect. But I never witnessed it myself, otherwise he would have been toast. I won't have that at my club.

KIKI

Were you ever made aware that Bea Spence had concerns about him?

GARETH

How'd you mean?

KIKI

For instance, she told her boyfriend that she was being pressured by him to sleep with rich friends of his.

GARETH

Actually, now you mention it there was something she wanted to tell me, but I wasn't interested. I thought it would be just some trivial matter to do with one of the girls. A girlie spat. It goes on all the time here.

KIKI

That helps considerably. Thank you, Gareth.

GARETH

No problem. And I am very sorry to hear of her untimely death. She was a very sweet girl you know.

KIKI

Actually, what was she like, in a professional sense?

GARETH

Like I said, she was a sweet, bubbly, polite young lady from Austria. Her English was very good, and she had a lovely nature about her. She knew a lot for her age.

KIKI

Great. Thanks.

She returns to Nancy who waits inside her vehicle.

KIKI /

Right. Let's go to Dishoom. I really fancy a chicken ruby and gunpowder potatoes. My treat.

NANCY

Yum yum.

They chuckle.

INT. DISHOOM RESTAURANT - NIGHT

They have a window seat as they eat and drink.

KIKI

There's something I've been meaning to ask you.

NANCY

Oh. What's that?

KIKI

Once we get closure with this case, I was thinking of popping over to see my dad in Paris. It's his birthday in four weeks, so I'd like to be there to celebrate it with him. He'll be eighty-one.

NANCY

Wow! D'you see him much?

KIKI

Not as often as I'd like. I have a job that dictates, as you know. It's all hands to the pump when a murder case is suddenly sprung upon us.

NANCY

So what'd you wanna ask me?

She picks up a glass of water and drinks.

KIKI

I was going to ask if you'd like to come to Paris?

NANCY

Yeah, I'd love to.

KIKI

Brilliant!

They clink glasses and chuckle.

NANCY

I'll see if I can get someone to cover my shifts.

KIKI

I'll give you plenty of notice.

A protracted silence as they eat and drink.

NANCY

I couldn't do your job. You must be as strong as an ox.

KIKI

Says the woman who can devour a chicken ruby in two minutes flat and not flinch an eyelid.

They laugh aloud.

NANCY

Oh, I've just got a strong digestive system, that's all.

KIKI

You can say that again.

Further laughter as they clink glasses.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - LIT

Daryl sits opposite Kiki and DCI Millie Nunn. He taps his foot uncontrollably as he clenches his fist.

DCI NUNN

Daryle, can you explain to me the first thing that you saw when you entered the flat that night in question?

DARYL

(dismayed)

I don't understand. What'd you mean?

DCI NUNN

Well, for example, did you notice blood spatter on the tiles, or walls?

DARYL

I didn't notice anything.

DCI NUNN

Not even when you switched on the light?

DARYL

No. I was too concerned about Bea not being there.

DCI NUNN

OK. So how did you react to seeing her lying there?

DARYL

I just blacked out. I remember holding her in my arms.

DCI NUNN

Wasn't you worried, or scared
that her killer could have still
been inside the property?

DARYL

No. Like I said I just blacked
out at the sight of her injuries.

DCI NUNN

So how long would you say it was
before you decided to call the
police?

DARYL

Five minutes. I can't remember.

DCI NUNN

The landlord of The Blue Nun says
he remembered you leaving the pub
just after midnight.

DARYL

That's right. That's the time I
usually leave.

DCI NUNN

But you don't always go straight
home, do you?

DARYL

How'd you mean?

DCI NUNN

The landlord reckons that you
sometimes pull a bit of skirt -
as he put it to my officer.

DARYL

It goes with the territory. It's
just a bit of fun, that's all.

KIKI

I don't reckon Bea would have
seen that way, do you?

DARYL

She couldn't say anything. She
worked as a hostess. She gets
chatted up all the time.

A short silence.

DCI NUNN

So how long would you say it takes to drive from Kentish Town to Leytonstone?

DARYL

About half-an-hour, I dunno, I've never timed it.

DCI NUNN

I had one of my officers drive that route at the same time that you left the pub and it took him just twenty minutes. That would mean that you must have reached home before twelve-thirty that night.

DARYL

I never drove straight home that night. I had a flat tyre when I left the pub. It took me a good half an hour to change it. I reached home just before 1 a.m.

DCI NUNN

How do you know that for sure?

DARYL

Because the one o'clock news was just starting before I turned off the engine.

DCI NUNN

So if I looked inside your boot, I'll see that punctured tyre, will I?

DARYL

Yeah. I can show you it.

DCI NUNN

OK. I'll get one of my officers to take a look at it.

He sits back in his seat and folds his arms.

DARYL

Will that be all? Can I go now?

KIKI

I've got a quick question I'd like to ask you, Daryl.

DARYL

Fire away.

KIKI

Did you and Bea ever fight and argue?

DARYL

Not really. We had a good relationship.

KIKI

That's not what your neighbour told us. He says that he heard you and Bea fighting that same afternoon. So what was that over?

DARYL

I can't remember. Something trivial probably.

DCI NUNN

OK. I'll just get that tyre checked then you can go.

INT. FORENSICS LAB - DAY

Bea Spence's cadaver lies on the slab. Kiki wears a white coat and surgical gloves as she approaches GINA - the mature female pathologist.

KIKI

Morning Gina. How are you?

GINA

Morning Kiki. I'm good actually. Have you located the knife yet?

She leads Kiki towards the body.

KIKI

No, we haven't, unfortunately.

GINA

Well, we know she was attacked from behind by a left handed person wearing black gloves. We found fibres on her blouse. She has some bruising to her nape.

(lifts sheet)

The knife was approximately nine inches in length, and very sharp. As you can see for yourself she has lacerations to her face, legs and chest area, as well as the neck.

(pauses)

Her attacker used her blouse to wipe the blade. I'd say it was a kitchen knife - Thin and flat bladed

KIKI

DNA?

GINA

We did find traces of semen inside her vagina, but not a match for her partner. Also a strand of pubic hair was picked up inside her knickers. Her assailant also left synthetic fibres on her coat. But there is no sign that she was raped. I couldn't find any contusions to suggest a sexual attack of any kind.

KIKI

Excellent work, Gina.

GINA

I'm afraid we found no matches in the system.

KIKI

Appreciate it. It gives me something to work with at least.

GINA

Regarding the pubic hair I mentioned. I would hazard a guess it belongs to an IC4 Male.

KIKI

Got it. Thanks.

She takes off the gloves then exits.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HARRY'S CLUB - NIGHT

Ali smiles and waves to Bea from the stairs that lead up to the casino. She looks up at him and smiles, before she climbs the stairs.

CASINO.

ALI

Quick. Come on.

He ushers her inside a small room used as an-

OFFICE

Once inside, he grabs her and begins to kiss her neck. She rejects him when she pushes him off.

BEA

(playfully)

Get off me! What'd you think you're doing?

ALI

(tormented)

Oh, c'mon babe. I want you. My balls are bursting. You're beautiful, Bea.

BEA

Stop it.

ALI

Dontcha want to make some extra money?

BEA

What?

ALI

I can make you thousands if you really want.

BEA

How?

ALI

Are you honestly saying you don't know?

BEA

Yes I am.

ALI

You mean you haven't spoken to the other girls about the Egyptian billionaire?

BEA

No.

ALI

OK. Look, I have many rich Egyptian friends who will pay thousands to fuck you.

BEA

But I have a boyfriend.

ALI

Don't be silly, Bea. You are a beautiful young girl. You will make a shit load if you escort these friends of mine.

BEA

Let me think about it. But I'm not a slag like the others.

ALI

I'll give you a hundred pounds right now to suck my cock.

She thinks about it and caves in.

BEA

Alright then. But be quick.

ALI

C'mon. I might need to fuck you as well.

BEA

Get it out then.

He pays her. She sucks him off, before she bends over the table and he fucks her.

Beat.

She brushes herself down as he does up his fly.

BEA

Next time get a prostitute.

She retreats.

ALI

OK. But think about what I said.
It's no different to porn videos,
except you'll get richer quicker.

She descends the stairs.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. LAURA'S HOUSE - DAY

Daryl's mother LAURA 55 enters and closes the door behind her. She carries a bag of groceries.

LAURA

Daryl, are you in?

She enters-

KITCHEN

She empties the bag of groceries then exits and walks to-

SPARE BEDROOM

She opens the door and stands in deep shock, agape as she spots her son rolled on his side upon the bed.

His eyes wide open and blank as blood drips like a leaky tap from his slashed wrists to form a puddle on the carpet.

CU: An empty bottle of VODKA and a cut-throat RAZOR lies discarded on the floor.

LAURA / -

Oh Daryl, you silly, silly boy...
what have you done?!

She exits and runs back to-

KITCHEN

She sobs as she searches inside her bag for her phone before she calls the emergency services.

EXT/INT. PLAYBOY CASINO - NIGHT

Two unmarked POLICE CARS race to a stop outside.

Kiki and two JUNIOR DETECTIVES rush towards the entrance.

Two more UNIFORMED OFFICERS remain inside the second vehicle.

Beat.

Ali sits disconcerted at the bar. He stares blankly into a glass of whiskey.

Kiki appears and taps him on the shoulder. He turns to face her as she stands with her colleagues.

ALI

(irked)

What the fuck are you doing here?
You cost me my job you fucking
bitch!

KIKI

Bullshit. You cost yourself your
job.

ALI

That's bollocks!

He climbs off the stall in a threatening manner.

KIKI

Ali Bolsover, I am arresting you
for the murder of Bea Spence on
the night of the 2nd of February.
You do not have to say anything.
But it may harm your defence if
you do not mention when
questioned something which you
later rely on in Court. Anything
you do say may be given in
evidence.

ALI

Oh, get lost!

CARRUTHERS

(to colleagues)

Cuff him.

ALI

Fuck off!

She steps back as her Colleagues move in to cuff him. He headbutts the first Detective, causing him to back off. Then smashes the second over the head with his whiskey glass.

Kiki is shoved to the floor as he brushes past her and legs it out of the building with the two bloodied Detectives on his heels.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Ali crashes through the open doors and spins to his left as he attempts his getaway.

Uniform exit their vehicle and give chase, along with the two Detectives.

INT. PLAYBOY CASINO

CU: Kiki grimaces as she looks up from the floor.

EXT. PLAYBOY CASINO

She exits and look both ways along the busy street as the flash of headlights blind her vision. She throws up her arms in despair.

KIKI

Shit! Shit! Shit!

BACK TO:

STREET

Ali races down the steps to-

SUBWAY

Uniform still on his tail. Two Detectives too far behind so give up.

He jumps onto a packed TUBE TRAIN, before it pulls out of the station.

When Uniform finally reach the platform, he's gone.

INT. INCIDENT ROOM - NIGHT

Kiki studies CCTV footage from inside Harry's Club.

Her POV:: An Espanic HOSTESS 20's sits at a table with a tall, broad shouldered ARAB. He has his arm around her like he owns her. There's a Champagne bottle and two glasses on the table.

Moments later they get up and exit the club.

She switches the CCTV over to street vision.

Her POV: The Hostess is ushered into the back of a Rolls Royce, before the Arab climbs in next to her. The Rolls Royce then drives off.

BACK TO SCENE.

Kiki waves to a COLLEAGUE. He approaches.

KIKI

Go down to Harry's Club and see if you can identify who this guy is.

She shows him the image of the Arab.

COLLEAGUE

Sure.

KIKI

Do it straight away. I want his name and address.

DCI Millie Nunn approaches.

DCI NUNN

Kiki, have you had a chance to look at the CCTV from the tube station?

KIKI

Yes... hours of it. She doesn't walk home. I think she may have been driven.

DCI NUNN

Well, your suspect Ali Bolsover has just walked into a police station in West London with his lawyer. He's asking for you. So you better get over there asap.

She quickly grabs her coat.

KIKI

I'm on my way. Which nick?

DCI NUNN

Chiswick.

KIKI -

Bastard.

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. HARRY'S CLUB - NIGHT

Bea sits at a table with the Arab all over her like a rash.

ARAB

You come with me to my apartment, eh?

BEA

I'm sorry, not tonight.

ARAB

I will make it worth your while. I pay well.

BEA

But I can't.

ARAB

Why not? You are a hostess, no?

BEA

Yes but I have a boyfriend.

ARAB

So you think I can just spend three-thousand pounds on two bottles of Champagne and not get to take you to my bed?

BEA

That's not my fault. You need to speak to Gareth. He sets the prices.

ARAB

And the girls also?

BEA

I'm sorry but I'm not for sale.

ARAB

What if I offer you one-thousand pounds to spend the night with me?

She thinks about it.

BEA

OK. You can take me home then.

(nervous pause)

I'll get my coat.

She gets up to collect her coat. The Arab settles his bill.

END FLASHBACK.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT

Kiki sits at a table. Opposite Ali Bolsover and his bespectacled Lawyer.

KIKI

OK. Let's start with what you know.

ALI

I never murdered Bea. But yes you are right, it is my fault.

KIKI

Why'd you say that?

ALI

Because I set her up with the Egyptian. He's a friend of a friend.

KIKI

A fiend of a fiend more like.

ALI

Look, all I am trying to do is help.

KIKI

Is that why you assaulted my colleagues?

ALI

I was drunk. I apologize.

KIKI

So who is this Egyptian then?

ALI

Omar Fayin. He owns an apartment in Knightsbridge - Princes Court.

KIKI

Did he kill her?

ALI

I don't know. But he said she stole from him.

KIKI

What did she steal, exactly?

ALI

Twenty-five K. He threatened to kill me too.

KIKI

Why would he threaten you?

ALI

Because I recommended her.

KIKI

You better not be bullshitting me, Ali. I'll come down on you like a tone of bricks, I swear.

ALI

I'm not bullshitting you.

KIKI

OK.

INT. PRINCES COURT - EARLY HOURS

Kiki and SFO prepare to burst inside the apartment.

KIKI

GO! GO! GO!

They smash the door in with a BATTERING RAM, then enter with their firearm's at the ready.

KIKI /

NOBODY BLOODY MOVE!

They search each room. It's empty. She screams out her frustration.

KIKI

Bollocks! Somebody must've got to him before we arrived. Shit!

(on phone)

He's gone. Check with every airline and get back to me if you find out anything.

She looks around the apartment for clues, before her phone rings.

KIKI /

(on phone)

I'm on my way! Do not let it take off.

She flies out of the door.

INT. ARAB EMIRATES AIRCRAFT - DAY

OMAR FAYIN 50's sits comfortably in his seat as the plane sits on the runway with its engine running and preparing for take off.

OMAR

(to stewardess)

What is the problem? Why are we waiting?

STEWARDESS

The pilot is just waiting for clearance. Please relax, sir.

OMAR

No! You relax!

Beat.

Kiki and her team board the aircraft and march straight towards him as PASSENGERS look on in dismay.

He spots them and attempts to fight them off, without success as they drag him screaming off the plane.

OMAR

I AM INNOCENT! I AM INNOCENT!

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. PRINCES COURT - NIGHT

Inside the sheets Bea sits on top of him and rides him to his conclusion, then gets up and goes to the bathroom.

He sits up and lights a fat cigar.

She reenters and gets dressed. He watches her with a keen eye.

BEA

I'm going home.

OMAR

But the night is still young my dear. There is much more sex for us to do.

BEA

I need to go home.

OMAR

What do you mean? It's still early.

BEA

OK. I will get the tube, then.

OMAR

OK. OK. You win. Let me get washed and I will drive you.

He stubs out his cigar then climbs out of bed and goes to the bathroom.

She opens a side cabinet draw and spots a transparent envelope. It is filled with FIFTIES.

She takes the envelope, then quietly exits.

Beat.

He returns from the bathroom and spots the cabinet drawer ajar. He looks inside and snarls.

OMAR

(on phone)

Ali, you will pay for this if I don't get my money back-! She stole my money-! Twenty-five fucking K-! You have until tomorrow to get it back, or you will be mincemeat!

He ends the call then angrily discards the phone.

OMAR

BITCH!

END FLASHBACK.

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - NIGHT

Omar Fayin sits at a table. Kiki and DCI Nunn sit opposite.

DCI NUNN

(to Omar)

I'm Detective Chief Inspector Nunn. To my left is Detective Sergeant Carruthers.

(pauses)

So- what's your story?

OMAR

I never killed the girl.

KIKI

Why did you try to leave the country then?

OMAR

Ali called me to tell me you were going to arrest me for her murder.

KIKI

If you didn't kill her, then who did?

OMAR

The person who killed your girl will be the same person you can prove killed her.

DCI NUNN

Very good. But we have your DNA and video footage from Harry's Club to suggest that you were with her that night until late.

OMAR

I slept with her. Check the CCTV at Princes Court. When she left, I stayed. I called Ali Bolsover and told him that she had stolen money from me. He called me back and said that he would find her and deal with it, and that he would return the money. Check my phone data.

DCI NUNN

How much did she steal from you?

OMAR

Twenty-five grand.

The Detectives glance at one another knowingly.

INT. LAURA'S SPARE BEDROOM - DAY

A distraught Laura bags up her son's belongings.

DOORBELL

She goes to the door and opens it to Kiki.

LAURA

Can I help you?

KIKI

Is Daryl here? I'd like to speak to him concerning a missing twenty-five K.

LAURA

Unfortunately, he is no longer with us. He took his own life yesterday.

KIKI

Oh no. I am so sorry to hear that. I truly am.

LAURA

Come in.

KIKI

Thank you.

LAURA

I was just gathering up his things. We're going to lay him to rest next week.

She leads her into the-

SPARE BEDROOM

LAURA /

This is where he took his life.

KIKI

How?

LAURA

He cut his wrists. I was too late. He was already dead when I got home.

CU: A guitar case.

KIKI

Is that his guitar?

LAURA

Yes. He used to take it everywhere with him. He was a very good musician. He wrote all his own songs.

KIKI

May I take a quick look at it?

LAURA

Of course.

She picks up the guitar case and lies it on the bed, before she unclips the lid.

Kiki grabs the beautiful left handed Gibson semi-acoustic guitar.

KIKI

It's heavy.

LAURA

Yes, it is.

She places it upon her lap and realises the strings are the opposite way around.

KIKI

So he was left handed?

LAURA

Yes.

She quickly puts it down then looks inside the guitar case where she spots a pair of BLACK GLOVES.

She unzips a pocket where a BLOODSTAINED KITCHEN KNIFE sits.

KIKI

(awestruck)

Holy shit!

Laura goes to grab the knife. Kiki blocks her hand.

KIKI /

No! Don't touch it! It's evidence.

LAURA

But he was my son!

Kiki gets to her feet and angrily confronts her. Laura turns away and sobs.

KIKI

Did you know he killed her?

LAURA

Yes. He told me the night before he took his own life.

(wipes her nose)

I was going to call you. I just needed to bury him first.

KIKI

(disbelievingly)

I bet you were.

(pauses)

Right. Don't touch anything in here. I'm calling Scene of Crimes. You will need to make a statement at the station. Get your coat.

LAURA

He was my son. Any loving Mother would do the same.

KIKI

Did he mention anything about twenty-five grand?

LAURA

Yes. I was going to use it towards his funeral.

KIKI

Well, I'm afraid you cant, It's stolen.

LAURA

I didn't know. He said he'd been saving up for his wedding to Bea.

KIKI

Where is it now?

LAURA

I'll fetch it.

KIKI

I'll come with you.

LAURA

Fine.

She leads her to a drawer where the money is kept.

KIKI

Bea was somebody's daughter. Why did he kill her?

LAURA

He couldn't take it anymore.

KIKI

Take what?

LAURA

Her, and the filthy pornography.
The disgusting videos. The
sleeping around. She constantly
lied to him. He couldn't deal
with it any longer. She destroyed
him and now he's dead.

She breaks down as Kiki cuffs her.

KIKI

I'm arresting you for withholding
evidence in the murder of Bea
Spence. You do not have to say
anything...

INT. NANCY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A candlelit dining table, set with a bottle of red and two
plates. They sit opposite one another, beneath a soothing
backlight.

NANCY

I know this might sound a bit
premature...

KIKI

Go on.

NANCY

I was wondering if you would like
to move in with me.

(sincere pause)

Will you?

Kiki gets to her feet and walks around the table with a
massive grin on her face.

KIKI

Stand up then.

Nancy gets to her feet and faces her with an embarrassed
look.

KIKI /

Yes!

They hug and kiss passionately.

NANCY

Oh my God. I didn't think you'd agree to it that quickly.

KIKI

You don't get anywhere by thinking, Nancy.

NANCY

(chuckles)

I know. It makes sense seeing we're both on our own.

KIKI

Paris first though, right?

NANCY

Paris first.

They share an infectious smile as they begin to eat.

FADE OUT.

THE END

