

CHASING A MURDER
Ryan Beane

FADE IN

EXT. Pittsburgh -- Morning

MEN and WOMEN in business suits sprint to their jobs, while PEOPLE wait in long lines for coffee shops. ZARI YOUNG, a middle-aged woman, sprints by a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette sign, and accidentally shoves some CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

ZARI

Oh sorry, sorry!

CONSTRUCTION WORKER

(angry)

Hey! Watch it!

ZARI

Sorry... uh, gonna be late!

INT. OFFICE LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

The worker shakes his head, as Zari runs to the small, business-related lobby with only one RECEPTIONIST working at an oversized desk in the center. Zari's wearing a faded, worn suit. She sprints by the complimentary breakfast area, and quickly shoves a mini muffin down her throat. She takes some granola bars, and smuggles them in her pocket. Then, Zari takes some napkins and dips them in water, and presses them up against her sweaty armpits, all doing this while running to a crowded elevator filled with WORKERS. It closes.

INT. CONFERENCE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

TOBIAS WATTS is having a meeting with his EMPLOYEES inside a small room with a long, rectangular table. Everyone is sitting in comfortable swivel chairs. Tobias has a massive beer-belly, and a commanding voice.

TOBIAS

Alright everyone, thanks for showing up on time. I called this meeting because we have an urgent problem.

He pauses.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Where the heck's Zari?

Everyone shakes their heads. MYLES TUCKER, an employee, peers out of the window, looking for her. Then, Zari comes rushing in, almost knocking the closed-door down.

ZARI

Oh, oops. Sorry, was I late--?

TOBIAS

(cutting her off)

Again? Yes, you were! Young, this is the 8th time in the last two weeks! What is so valuable about your time that you can't show up five minutes early for work?!

Zari pauses, surprised.

ZARI

(surprised)

Oh, uh. Yes, I know. It won't happen again.

She sets her stuff down, confused, and smiles at Myles, who wears an expensive, gold-cuffed suit. He smiles back.

TOBIAS

(angry)

Well then, Zari. Why do you think I called this urgent meeting?

ZARI

Uh... to congratulate us on our progress this year?

TOBIAS

(still mad)

No. My problem, is this.

He presses a button on the slideshow, and a line graph appears, with the line at a rapid descent.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

We've lost daily subscribers this past month. I don't know if there's been a sense of slacking off in this office, but it ends now. Look at this.

He pulls up a slideshow of a story. It says "Phoebe Caspar Murdered."

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Phoebe Caspar murdered, last night, at 8:13 p.m.

MYLES

(sincere)

That's awful.

Everyone murmurs, worried about it.

TOBIAS

(angry)

Hey, hey! That's not the point. Look at the reviews just based on how the story was written.

He pulls it up, and it shows two out of five stars.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Two stars. Two out of only five stars. Since when did this company become a two-star company? Because that's not the one I know. In fact, there's been a whole string of murders this week, and each story is rapidly declining.

It gets silent. He waits for an answer.

ZARI

(still confused)

Alright, sorry. We'll try to raise the quality of them.

TOBIAS

I'm sorry. We? See, here's the thing, Young. You haven't even found a story in two weeks. So I'd say you have to raise the quality of your work, a bit more than the others here. Wouldn't you?

She doesn't respond. Myles feels sympathetic for her. Tobias waits for her, but then gives up.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

Now then, you all may go.

Everyone gets up, and exits the meeting. Zari leans to Myles.

ZARI

What'd I miss? Why is he acting like this?

MYLES

(surprised)

Oh, you didn't hear?

ZARI

(intrigued)

What? What happened?

Tobias stops Zari.

TOBIAS

Hey, Zari. Wait up. I wanna talk to you.

She looks at Myles, who gives her a worried look, and leaves the room. Tobias then closes the door.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

I think you know why we're having this discussion.

ZARI

Yeah...

TOBIAS

I've been really upset with your job performance

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

lately. It feels like you've been caring less more than normal. You're always showing up late, and haven't found a story in weeks.

ZARI

Sorry. I've just had stuff going on in my life. Hey, how come this is the first time you're bringing this up?

TOBIAS

I'll be asking the questions here, okay? I need you to understand that you're on thin ice, Young.

ZARI

Alright, yes. I'm sorry.

TOBIAS

Oh, you're sorry. Really? You know, that's all I ever hear from you. You're sorry about everything. I'mma start calling you "Sorry Zari." From now on, I want those "sorries" to become results. If you don't find a story within the next 24 hours, I'm gonna have to let you go.

ZARI

Wait, what?

TOBIAS

You heard me. I'm sick and tired of this, so you've left me no choice but to sweeten the deal. This is your warning. Next time, I won't be so forgiving. Do you understand?

Zari looks confused by Tobias.

EXT. ALLEY -- RAINY NIGHT [FLASHBACK]

Zari and her baby CALVIN are in a dark alley. "7 years ago" appear on screen. They're outside a building labeled "Charity event. All are welcome." Zari is holding Calvin, while trying to dig through a dumpster for food. She finds a half of a banana, starting to peel some for herself and Calvin. Then, Tobias walks out a doorway to throw a trash bag away, and sees them. Zari is startled at first, but then calms down.

TOBIAS

(sympathetic)

Hey, what are you guys doing?

He walks over to them. Zari is still uneasy, but doesn't try to leave. Tobias looks at the banana and Calvin, and looks at Zari.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

(calming)

Shhh, it's okay. I'll tell you what, if you need somewhere to go and help pay for some things, I have a

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

job opening at the
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.
Don't worry, I'll ease you
into it. I know an employee,
Myles Tucker, that can show
you the ins and outs of the
job. I'll even keep all of
this a secret, if you want.
Does that sound like a plan?

Zari wears a shocked face, and starts to rapidly nod her
head.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

(chuckling)

Alright. I can't sit here
and watch you in pain.
What's your name?

Then, Zari hugs Tobias.

ZARI

(crying happily)

Zari. Thank you.

Tobias smiles, with her in her arms.

INT. BACK TO OFFICE -- MORNING

Tobias gets angry.

TOBIAS

(still mad)

Ahem! I said, do you
understand?

ZARI

(startled)
Oh, uh. Yes. Yes I do.

TOBIAS
Great. Now get outta here.

Zari leaves the conference room.

INT. OFFICE MAIN AREA -- CONTINUOUS

There are several rectangular desks scattered throughout, with all of them in groups of three. She goes to Myles, who's getting coffee from the coffee maker.

MYLES
What was that all about?

ZARI
He's got me on an ultimatum.
If I don't find a story by
tomorrow, I'm done.

MYLES
What do you mean done? Like,
done done?

ZARI
Yeah.

There's awkward silence between them.

ZARI
So, uh. You mind telling me
why the nicest man I knew
has turned into... that.

MYLES

Oh, yeah. Apparently... his
wife passed away.

Zari looks shocked.

ZARI

Really? Jesus. What was the
cause?

MYLES

Unknown. He hasn't disclosed
the information yet.

They turn to see Tobias alone in his office, who's looking
depressed.

ZARI

Man, he's really in pain.

Myles nods.

ZARI (CONT'D)

Then I need to find a story
more now than I ever have.

Zari sits down at her computer. She pulls up the story
about Phoebe Caspar being murdered. She reads her bio, and
it shows that she worked at Watanabe Labs.

ZARI

(whispering)

Watanabe Labs? Since when
has that been a thing?

She opens a drawer, which shows a wedding picture of her
and KAI WATANABE. Her face goes from interested to
discouraged. Myles is at his desk, and looks behind him to
see Zari's computer.

MYLES

Whoa, you're going with the murders for your story. How come?

She quickly closes the drawer with the picture.

ZARI

Oh, I have a solid connection with the witness.

MYLES

Hm, smart.

He goes back to working.

ZARI

(muttering)

I hope.

EXT. WATANABE LABS -- DAY

Zari walks by the sign, and construction workers are tearing it down. A bunch of SCIENTISTS with their equipment come rushing down the stairs, leaving the area.

ZARI

(to herself)

What the heck is going on here?

INT. WATANABE LABS -- CONTINUOUS

Zari walks into a bunch of scientists chaotically trying to evacuate.

KAI (O.S.)

(orchestrating)
Hey! You're on microscopes!
You! Get me a beaker count!

Zari turns to see him, commanding a bunch of scientists. He then makes eye contact with her, with everything still going on. She looks worried. He walks up to her.

KAI
Zari?

She comes closer, until they're arm-length apart.

KAI (CONT'D)
(kind of mad)
What the heck are you doing
here?

ZARI
No, Kai. This isn't about
our past. I'm here from the
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. I
want to ask some questions
about Phoebe Caspar.

He still looks a little mad, but gives in.

INT. KAI'S OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

He sits down at his desk, and Zari pulls up a chair.

ZARI
How come I've never heard of
Watanabe Labs before?

KAI
The previous owner just
(MORE)
(CONT'D)

resigned, so he gave the rights to me. However, it won't be for long. We're shutting down the facility, due to the murders.

ZARI

Wait, have all of the murders been--?

KAI

(cutting her off)
Scientists at this lab? Yes. We're all scared out of our mind here, each person hoping they're not the next victim.

She looks worried.

ZARI

Do you have any idea who could be doing this?

KAI

(sighing)
We don't know. The only thing the murderer leaves is the body.

ZARI

Is there possibly a reason for why these scientists have been killed? Is there a connection between them?

KAI

Only thing I can think of is that they all work in the night shift, and all of the murders have happened around 8 p.m. Look, I gotta do some work now--

ZARI

Is that all you can say about it?

KAI

Wow, you ask a lot of questions.

ZARI

I'm a journalist, what'd you expect? And if I want to keep this job, I need a story. You of all people should understand I can't lose it right now.

Kai wears a sympathetic face.

KAI

Yes, okay. I know I made some terrible choices, and not a day goes by that I don't regret them.

ZARI

I don't need your sympathy right now, I need a story.

Kai sighs, and gives her a binder of files.

KAI

Okay. I shouldn't be giving anyone this, but these are the files of the murdered employees. I really haven't had time to look at them, juggling all of my new responsibilities, so maybe you can find something.

She takes them, and smiles.

ZARI

Thank you, Kai.

She gets up, and is about to leave. Kai stops her.

KAI

Uh, Zari. How's Calvin?

ZARI

(smiling)

Great.

He smiles back, as she leaves the lab. She passes by a CUSTODIAN, who waves at her. He notices the nearly-ransacked refreshment table.

CUSTODIAN

Where did all the
complementary sandwiches go?

EXT. DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

Zari is snarfing down the sandwiches, while pulling out her cheap, old-fashioned flip phone. She calls someone.

INT. OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Myles is about to eat his lobster meal he packed, while his brand new smart buzzes on the table. Zari's name appears on the caller ID, as he answers.

MYLES

Hey, what's up?

EXT. DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

Zari speaks in the phone.

ZARI

Myles. This is it. I got some solid information.

MYLES (ON PHONE)

Nice. What is it?

ZARI

The files of the murdered employees. Apparently, Watanabe hasn't given them to anyone yet. I could be the first to get this story out!

INT. OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Myles takes another bite of his expensive meal.

MYLES

Nice. But, uh, you might wanna hurry with that. Tobias just left for his wife's funeral. I'm sure he'll come back in a terrible mood.

EXT. DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

Zari's still walking down the crowded streets.

ZARI

Alright, yeah. On my way.

MYLES (ON PHONE)

See ya.

Zari hangs up. She then gets a smile on her face. As she's not paying attention, she accidentally runs into OFFICER VASQUEZ, a female officer with the Chief symbol on her uniform. She's putting a parking ticket on a car. All of Zari's stuff goes flying, including her business card.

VASQUEZ

(looking at the card, angry)

Hey! Watch it... Zari!

ZARI

Oh, my bad.

Officer Vasquez notices the Watanabe Labs logo on her binder.

VASQUEZ

What's that for?

ZARI

(stuttering)

Oh, uh... just for a story.

I'm a journalist.

VASQUEZ

That murderer is top on the death sentence list. And stay away from that place. It's a warzone... literally.

Zari starts to give a smile, agreeing with her joke, but Vasquez keeps a straight face. She stops chuckling, and gets serious.

ZARI

Will do.

She leaves the area. Vasquez seems a bit suspicious, but moves on.

INT. FUNERAL HOME -- CONTINUOUS

A SPEAKER is at the podium in a long, extravagant funeral home, with several rows of pews filled with VISITORS. Tobias sits in the front of the pews.

SPEAKER

(mournful)

And now, a word from
SHERRI's husband, Tobias
Watts.

The speaker walks off the podium. Tobias sits there for a minute, staring at the ground, and then slowly comes up. His steps up to the podium echo in the silent funeral home. He clears his throat in the microphone.

TOBIAS

(choking up)

Sherri Watts was a--

He starts to sob in the microphone. Everyone else wears a face of sympathy. Tobias sniffs and tries again.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

(tearing up)

She was a great wife--

He puts his hands on his knees, and bends down. The audience mourns for him. He straightens up, sniffs into the microphone, and walks down the podium. Tobias takes his seat. The room is vacant of sound. Then, as he is still mourning, he notices Watanabe Labs outside the window, with the logo staring back at him. His distraught face turns to anger, as his eyes stay locked on the logo. The speaker then goes back to the podium.

SPEAKER

Alright, well, that will
conclude our service today.
The burial will be
scheduled--

Tobias still doesn't listen. His eyes get angrier and furious as he stares at the blatant logo strung across the building.

SPEAKER (CONT'D)

Will the volunteer
PALLBEARERS please come up
and escort Mrs. Watts?

A song from the piano plays overhead as the volunteer pallbearers come up, and all help in elevating the casket. They start to walk down the aisle. Tobias swiftly goes up to the speaker, and whispers something in his ear. The speaker seems confused, but accepts the request.

SPEAKER (CONT'D)

Um, sorry everyone.

The pallbearers and music stops playing.

SPEAKER (CONT'D)

But it appears Tobias has
made a special request to
(MORE)

(CONT'D)

have Mrs. Watts be escorted
through the back door.

All of the pallbearers and visitors seem confused as well, but they follow Tobias' genuine request. The pallbearers all turn 180 degrees, and move towards the other direction. They go to the left of the altar, and into a small hallway. As the speaker goes to the pews, Tobias quickly follows them wearing a face of fury.

INT. FUNERAL HOME HALLWAY

The pallbearers escort Mrs. Watts down a long, cramped corridor barely fitting the black casket. Tobias follows behind them, while watching like a hawk. Then, as Tobias gets a foot away from the back left pallbearer, he grabs him by the shoulders, and shoves him against the wall. The pallbearer screams, as the casket falls to the floor with no one holding the back left handle. Then, Tobias throws him to the floor, and starts to rapidly kick him.

TOBIAS

(furious)

You can't take her from me!

The downed pallbearer is trying to escape the onslaught. Another one comes from behind, and grabs him by the shoulders. Tobias then backs up, forcing him against the other wall. Then, another comes in front of him, and he punches him right in the face, dropping him to the floor. With the rest of the pallbearers fleeing, Sherri's casket is static on the floor. He opens it, and sees her corpse, resting peacefully.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

(sobbing)

Someday, we'll be reunited.
Someday.

His tears hit Sherri's face, and slide down her face. Then, he hears the rest of pallbearers coming his way, with backup this time. He slowly turns around, and stares daggers at them in the eyes.

INT. OFFICE MAIN AREA -- CONTINUOUS

Myles throws away his food scraps, as Zari comes rushing in, excited.

ZARI

(enthusiastic)

I got it!

MYLES

Oh, cool. Let's see it!

She sets it down on the table, and starts flipping through the pages.

MYLES

(astonished)

Wow. I can't believe he'd give all of this information to you! That connection you two have must have been pretty strong.

ZARI

Well... he's actually my ex-husband.

MYLES

(stuttering)

Oh... I, uh. Sorry.

ZARI

Oh, no, no. It was a long time ago. We, uh... it's complicated.

MYLES

Alright, so...

ZARI

Oh, yeah. Back to this.

Zari goes to Phoebe Caspar's file.

ZARI

So, this is Phoebe Caspar's file. Looks to be a great employee, and never missed a day of work.

MYLES

What was her main job at the lab?

ZARI

(flipping the pages)

Let's see... oh. Just like Kai said. She worked the second shift of the day, primarily between 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. In fact, everyone who was murdered worked at that time.

MYLES

Well then this can't be a coincidence.

ZARI

That's what I was thinking.
It looks like the project
she recently worked on was
named JT-37, which is
supposed to be a sped up
version of curing cancer.

Zari pauses.

ZARI (CONT'D)

Which makes me think...

She flips through the pages of the different employees, and they all show that they worked on JT-37.

MYLES

What is it?

ZARI

They all worked on that
treatment. That's the
connection, Myles!

They high-five just as Tobias walks in. He has a face of anger, and feeling of being wronged. Everyone in the office looks at him, including Zari and Myles.

ZARI

(trying to cheer him up)
Hey, Tobias. I finally got
solid information on this
stor--

TOBIAS

(cold)
Young, I want that story
sent to me by 10:00 tonight.

ZARI

(denying)

But, you said it wasn't due
till tomorr--

TOBIAS

(angry)

10:00!

He goes in his office and slams the door. Myles gives a
face of worry.

MYLES

I don't even blame him for
being like this.

ZARI

Yeah. I can't imagine losing
your spouse like that.

MYLES

Same.

Zari then looks at the clock, reading 2:50, and she gets
worried.

ZARI

Oh, shoot. I gotta go. I
have to... take my dog,
REGGIE, to the vet at 3:25.

MYLES

Oh. Isn't it only like a
five minute drive from here
to your place.

ZARI

Uh... I mean yeah, you're
(MORE)

(CONT'D)

right... but the vet we go to is all the way down south of the city, so i like to get a head start. Can you please cover for me, and hang on to the binder? I'll come back to retrieve it.

MYLES

Yeah, sure. No problem. But, for no particular reason, I saw you had some rice in the fridge. Do you want me to just pitch it?

ZARI

Oh, thanks. I completely forgot about that. I had.. a snack for lunch instead.

She quickly goes into the fridge and grabs the rice.

MYLES

(chuckling)

You're taking that little portion home?

ZARI

Oh, yeah. My dog loves it, so I usually try to save him some. So, I'll come back to get the binder, okay?

MYLES

Sure. No problem.

ZARI

Thanks.

She starts to head off. As she's leaving, Tobias sits in his office, staring at a picture book of him and Sherri with unhealed eyes.

INT. OFFICE LOBBY -- AFTERNOON

Zari comes down the elevator, and rushes towards the exit.

EXT. DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

She heads toward the parking lot, and it appears she's headed for a nice sports car, but then goes past it and gets on a bicycle. She straps in her helmet, and looks at the clock on her flip phone. She gets startled by the time, and starts to pedal, and goes down the crowded streets. Zari then goes past the last building on the outskirts of the city, and goes toward a forested area.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

She then flips up a grown over "Do Not Enter" sign, and goes under it. Then, she pedals fast through the abandoned forest trail, keeping a steady, fast pace. She zips through trees, under logs, and over jagged boulders. Eventually, she gets to civilization, in a small suburban area. She then goes past the fancy, upscale houses to the old, undesirable apartments. Zari sets her bike on the side of one of the apartments, and uses her key to open the stiff door, and goes in.

INT. ZARI'S APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Calvin is sitting at the table, doing homework. The apartment is a small studio. The kitchen is a tiny half-a-rectangle, with a small round, wooden table in the middle. There's canned foods sitting out on the ground, with zero shelf space anywhere. The walls are chipped, and the ceiling sagged.

ZARI

Hey Cal!

CALVIN

(enthusiastic)

Mommy!

He races to her, and gives a bear hug. Calvin is a 7-year-old boy, who wears a faded Pittsburgh Steelers sweatshirt, and stained black shorts.

ZARI

Sorry, I almost forgot they were working on renovating the school after hours, and the key you have doesn't lock the door from the inside. Also I'm going to have to stay at work late tonight, okay?

CALVIN

(excited)

That's okay. Look what I made in school!

He hands her a brightly colored picture saying "Best Mommy Ever," with a stick figure of Zari.

ZARI

Wow! It's so bright. How did you manage to get all of these different colors?

CALVIN

(fast and energetic)

Some girl in my class let me use some of her colors. Well... I guess she didn't really let me use them, because I heard her and her friends say I was "different," so I just took them when she wasn't looking. Isn't that whimsical!?

Zari is about to tear up, hearing what just came out of Calvin's mouth, but she tries to stay positive.

ZARI

Yes, that is, but Calvin, remember what I said about stealing other people's things?

CALVIN

Yeah, yeah. I do, but they were the brightest colors I've ever seen! Hot pink, electric blue, and even sunset orange! It was otherworldly!

Zari chuckles, and sets the picture down on the binder. Then, she gets out the uneaten rice and packaged granola bars.

ZARI

Alright Cal, here's the bounty. I got rice and two granola bars.

CALVIN

(enthusiastic)

Whoa! So much better than
yesterday! Are we living the
rich life or what?

Zari smiles at his energy.

ZARI

So, heat up the rice. Do you
remember how to do that?

CALVIN

(energetic)

Yup! Put it on the metal
pan, and in the sunlight,
because the electrons in the
atoms are not stuck to
individual atoms, but can
flow through them freely!

Zari smiles at Calvin, and kneels down by him.

ZARI

Cal, you never fail to teach
me something new.

Calvin smiles back.

ZARI

Now, Lieutenant Mommy has to
go back into work, and
probably won't be back till
dark. I'm gonna trust you
with all of this. Do I have
permission, Captain?

She salutes Calvin, who salutes back.

CALVIN

At ease, Soldier. I'll go to

bed at 21:00 hours.

ZARI

Thank you for your bravery.
God bless.

She kneels down and kisses him, and then turns around and army walks out of the kitchen, still saluting. Calvin is cracking up in the background.

EXT. APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Zari straps on her helmet, and proceeds into the abandoned forest path. It's noticeable she's taken this path so many times, as she's zipping through the trees without even looking forward.

INT. OFFICE MAIN AREA -- EVENING

Tobias is getting water at the water cooler. He's watching Myles like a hawk. Then, he notices Myles quickly go into his drawer, and puts some papers inside. He quickly catches a glimpse of the binder, with the Watanabe Labs logo plastered over it. Then, he goes to Myles.

TOBIAS

What was that?

MYLES

What was what?

TOBIAS

(smiling)

That binder. In your drawer.

MYLES

(stuttering)

Oh. It was, uh--

Tobias swiftly opens the drawer, and pulls out the binder. Myles tries to stop him.

MYLES (CONT'D)

Hey!

Myles is trying to get a hold of it, but is getting boxed out.

TOBIAS

(intrigued)

Huh. Interesting stuff right here. Good job as usual, Myles.

Zari comes in from the background.

ZARI

(angry)

Tobias?! What the heck are you doing with my binder?

TOBIAS

(surprised)

This is yours? You managed to get the murdered victims' files? Hm, I'm impressed. Are you almost done with that story?

ZARI

(lying)

Uh... almost. I just came back to retrieve the binder, so I can finish it.

TOBIAS

Alright, fair enough. It's 5:00 right now, so you got

five hours. It better wow
me...

Tobias starts to walk off.

ZARI

You bet. It'll knock your
socks o--

He leaves the room.

ZARI (CONT'D)

(mutter)

Okay, he left.

Myles looks at her apologetically.

MYLES

Sorry about that. He yanked
it out of my desk.

ZARI

Oh no, no. It's fine. Thanks
for keeping it... most of the
time.

Myles chuckles.

MYLES

So uh, I wish you luck in
getting your story finished
tonight.

ZARI

Thanks for everything.

MYLES

Oh, no problem. I'm just
glad you got Reggie to the

vet.

ZARI

(confused)

Regg--?

She remembers.

ZARI (CONT'D)

(Understanding)

Oh! Yeah... thank you.

Myles chuckles, as he leaves the building.

MYLES

See you tomorrow!

ZARI

You too! Goodnight!

He walks out, and Zari grabs her binder. She notices Tobias wiping tears off his face, and she looks scared about his swift mood change, so she reluctantly goes in.

ZARI

Hey... sorry about your wife.

He sniffs, and looks up at her.

ZARI (CONT'D)

I... uh. The closest thing
I've come to losing my
spouse, is when he walked
away from me seven years
ago, taking everything I

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

had, including our money. I
just hope, you can go back

to the you I know. The one that helps a single mother in the rain with giving her a job, only with the mindset of improving their life.

TOBIAS

You have no idea what it's like, watching someone you've spent 27 years with, die right in front of you. And now, I have to pay for the lawsuit with the pallbearers.

ZARI

What--?

TOBIAS

Nothing. Look, I know you're going to tell me that everything's gonna be okay, but think. When it first hit you, didn't you think it was the end of the world, and how you've lost faith in society?

Zari thinks about it, and starts to faintly tear up.

ZARI

Yes.

TOBIAS

That's what I thought.

He turns and looks at the window, and Zari finally leaves. Tobias' face goes from sad to angry, as he faces the outside world.

EXT. OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Zari walks outside of the main entrance, and sees Myles' nice sports car zoom past her. He waves, and she waves back, seeming a little jealous of his transportation. She goes to her worn bike, and straps on her helmet. She then rides down the busy sidewalks, and walks into a public library.

INT. LIBRARY -- CONTINUOUS

She quickly goes to the crowded computer station, with only one computer left. She races towards it, and plops all of her stuff down. She logs on, and opens a folder. Inside, there's a bunch of previous stories, ranging from "Woman Believes Aliens Stole her Puppy," to "Man Plants a 'Super Tomato.'" She opens a new doc, and her cursor appears, blinking endlessly.

ZARI

(to herself)

Okay, Zari. This is it.

Just... write.

She thinks for awhile, and then begins. However, she quickly deletes it. She tries another way, and then deletes that, too.

ZARI (CONT'D)

(angry)

Gah! Why can't I do this!

She puts her hands over her face, angry. When she puts them down, she notices a paper sticking out of the binder. She

pulls it out, and it's the "Best Mommy Ever" picture that Calvin drew. She smiles.

ZARI
(sniffing)
I don't deserve you.

Zari then puts it down, and takes a deep breath.

ZARI (CONT'D)
But I won't let you down,
Cal.

She then begins to type, and doesn't stop.

INT. LIBRARY -- NIGHT

Zari still types, as the elderly, female LIBRARIAN comes up to her.

LIBRARIAN
Ma'am. The library's closing
at 8:00.

Zari still stares at the screen, typing.

ZARI
(not paying attention)
Yeah... yeah. Okay.

LIBRARIAN
(stern)
That's 10 minutes from now.

ZARI
(realizing it)
Wait, what! No, you don't
understand. I have to finish
this--

LIBRARIAN

You don't have anywhere else
you can finish it?

Zari looks discouraged by her comment.

ZARI

Okay. 10 minutes.

LIBRARIAN

9 now, technically.

ZARI

(a little mad)

Okay, I get it.

She walks off. Zari gets up, and quickly goes to the window.

ZARI

I think there's a--

She sees a retail store across the street, and smiles. She looks around her, and doesn't see the librarian.

EXT. STREET -- CONTINUOUS

She then leaves the library, and runs across the crowded street to the store.

INT. STORE -- CONTINUOUS

Zari paces the aisles.

ZARI

(muttering)

Flash drive, flash drive.

She passes by one, and stops. She then looks at each available one. She finds one that's \$5.15, and then keeps looking. Every other one is more expensive. Then, she picks up the original and looks at her wallet. She scrapes out exactly \$5.15, and then races to the CLERK.

CLERK

Hello, is that all for you today?

ZARI

Yeah.

CLERK

Alright. That'll be \$5.46.

ZARI

Wait, I thought it was \$5.15-- dangit, sales tax.

CLERK

Cash or credit?

ZARI

Look, I only have \$5.15, and I have to be somewhere in like 5 minutes, now. Can we just, not account for that last \$00.31?

He stares at her, as she starts to spread all of her belongings on the table, to try and find the extra money.

CLERK

Eh, ok. \$5.15.

Zari stops frantically looking through her belongings.

ZARI
(excited)
Seriously?!

CLERK
Yeah.

He looks at her business card on the counter.

CLERK
(giving her the receipt)
I'll look for your story in
the paper.

He smiles, and Zari smiles back.

ZARI
Thank you so much.

CLERK
Have a good night.

She takes the flash drive, and leaves.

EXT. STREET -- CONTINUOUS

Zari runs across the street again.

INT. LIBRARY -- CONTINUOUS

The librarian is startled as she comes rushing in.

LIBRARIAN
Good lord, I wondered where
you went. Thought you got
caught in those strings of
murders on the news. Do you
know anything about that?

She sticks the flash drive in the computer, and captures the file.

ZARI

Uh... yeah, actually. I do.
I'm a journalist.

The librarian stares at her.

LIBRARIAN

You? A journalist? Well,
I'll remind my grandkids to
never go into that made-up
field.

She turns to walk the other direction, but Zari stops her

ZARI

(offended)

I'm sorry, what's that
supposed to mean?

LIBRARIAN

Oh, come on. Look at
yourself. You're a mess.
Going back and forth between
stores like some kind of
madman, and don't even get
me started on that
disgusting suit. I can't be
the first person to tell you
this.

ZARI

You don't know what goes on
in my life, because for
anyone else on the planet,
it's pretty shocking! I'm
(MORE)

(CONT'D)

keeping a full-time job, and
a little boy to feed and
care for. On top of all
that, I'm barely making
enough so me and my boy
won't have to live on the
streets, wondering if we'll
ever get another meal!

The librarian stands there, with a blank face.

LIBRARIAN

Okay. Now get out of my
library.

Zari gets her stuff, and leaves without saying anything.
She then slams the door shut.

INT. STREETS -- CONTINUOUS

Zari walks on the streets, and onto her bike. She straps
in, and goes through the busy nightlife, with bars going
insane over sports games. She stops at a map of the city,
and goes through the key to find the public libraries.
After she finds it in the key, she looks through the city
to find the one down south. She checks her phone's clock
really fast, and continues on her path. Then, she sees Kai
Watanabe pass by with supplies, including a cart he's
hauling, as Watanabe Labs has a "closed" sign on it.

ZARI

(scoffing)

That was *this* morning when
we talked? Jeez, it's been a
long day.

As she passes by, he goes into an alley, getting into his car. Zari keeps going, but then hears a huge scream. She stops, startled.

ZARI

(to herself)

Kai?

She backs up her bike, and sees a hooded silhouette of a person, up against Kai, who's screaming in pain. Kai then drops to the ground, and blood trickles on the concrete. Zari gasps, as she hides behind some cardboard boxes. She pulls out her flip phone, and tries to record the situation. However, her phone lets out a buzz, reading "Your storage is full. Click this button to delete some files." The murderer hears it, and goes toward her. Knowing she's about to be toast, she dials 911.

INT. POLICE STATION -- CONTINUOUS

A RECEPTIONIST answers the phone call.

RECEPTIONIST

911, what is your emergency?

EXT. ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

Zari sets the phone on the box, and hides behind the wall. The murderer turns a sharp corner, and picks up the phone, breathing heavily into it.

INT. POLICE STATION -- CONTINUOUS

RECEPTIONIST

(confused)

Um, hello? Is anyone there?

EXT. ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

Zari rolls her eyes, as she hears the receptionist's oblivious comment. Then, the murderer turns, and is about to see her.

RECEPTIONIST (ON PHONE)

Well, if you don't have a reason to dial this number, then that's a federal offense--

Then, Zari takes a deep breath.

ZARI

(angry)

I found the murderer in the alley by the north library!

INT. POLICE STATION -- CONTINUOUS

RECEPTIONIST

Oh my gosh! Help is on the way!

She hangs up, and runs to Officer Vasquez, whose making some tea.

RECEPTIONIST (CONT'D)

Chief! We found the murderer.

Officer Vasquez wears a fierce look.

EXT. ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

The murderer turns, and she makes eye contact with the figure. Then, the murderer keeps the knife withdrawn.

ZARI

(screaming)

Who are you!? Why are you
doing this to innocent
humans!?

The murderer does not answer, and keeps the knife out, but does not strike. Then, Zari snatches a pipe off of the damp ground, and strikes the murderer's leg. The person falls, and Zari kicks the figure into the alley. When the silhouette gets up, she strikes again, hitting the figure's stomach, then the side, and finally beating the face. Then, she sprints out of the alley. She gets a block away from it, and stops.

ZARI

Ah, dang it! The binder!

When she reluctantly goes back to the alley, the figure is holding the binder and picture Calvin drew. The person is intrigued by it.

ZARI

(angry)

Don't you lay a finger on
that!

She is about to strike with the pipe again. Then, the murderer hands her the binder, and tosses the knife up. She catches and examines it. Then, the person walks away towards the other direction. Zari's face is engulfed in confusion and anger. Flashlights appear behind her.

POLICEMAN (O.S.)

Hey! Over here!

Zari panics, as a police car comes drifting in front of her. She stares right into the headlights. Officer Vasquez is in the car.

VASQUEZ

She's got a knife!

ZARI

(stuttering)

Wha--?! No, I--

One of them shoots their pistol, and it ricochets off the wall. She sprints the other way, startled.

VASQUEZ

Set up a perimeter around
the alley! We're not looking
to kill just yet. Lure her
to a police car!

All of the officers run opposite ways, while the police car comes barreling down the alley, knocking over trash cans. The side mirrors scrape the walls, getting decapitated.

INT. POLICE CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Officer Vasquez is in the passenger seat, next to the DRIVER.

VASQUEZ

C'mon, c'mon. Stay on her.

EXT. ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

Zari is trying to open doors as she runs by, but they're all locked. Finally, when the car is about to ram her, she uses her pipe to bust down a door, opening it. The car obliterates the opened door. As the car stops, Officer Vasquez and the driver try to get out of the cramped car.

VASQUEZ (on radio)

She entered building 2022!

Stop her! She's a maniac!

INT. ENGINE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Zari races through the generator room, trying to find an escape route. The police bust down the door, and fire at her. It ricochets off the different power generators, and she hides behind one.

ZARI

(panting)

Don't you dare!

She peers around the corner, seeing the shadow of the policemen get smaller. Then, she climbs under the generator. The policemen get to her previous position, and look around in confusion. Zari lays under it, and gets her knife. She cuts open a control pad, and snaps a wire in half. The whole room goes pitch black.

EXT. BUILDING -- CONTINUOUS

The whole building's lights cut out.

INT. ENGINE ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

It's still pitch black, and a huge sound occurs.

POLICEMAN

(worried)

What was that?!

VASQUEZ

(calm)

Everyone! Engage your
flashlights!

They turn them on, and the room becomes barely visible. Officer Vasquez sees an open door, leading to the street.

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

We got a runner!

They all run outside. Once the last one is gone, Zari appears from under the generator, smiling. She walks out of the building, casually and confident.

EXT. STREET -- CONTINUOUS

As she walks down the sidewalk, a random police officer from before that split up runs past her. He nudges into her, and she drops the bloody knife. They look down at it.

POLICEMAN

It's the--!

Zari kicks the officer down. He tries to charge her, but she grabs him and spins 180 degrees, sending him right to a bunch of crates. The policeman still tries to get the signal out.

POLICEMAN

(talking to scanner)

Chief! We found her!

Zari turns with her fierce eyes to see the rest of the police running at her. Zari grabs the binder and knife, and sprints the other direction. Police sirens are screeching down the road, as she finds a parked motorcycle.

ZARI

(intense)

Close enough to a bike.

She mounts the vehicle, and inserts the knife in the key fob. The motorcycle activates, and she begins to coast down the road, passing by all of the policemen, who are jumping out of the way. Zari laughs maniacally.

VASQUEZ

Go, go! Stop her!

The policemen get in their police cars. She's about to, but then notices a card on the ground, which is Zari's business card. Officer Vasquez stares at it.

EXT. DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

Zari's zooming down the crowded streets, with police lights and sirens coming from all directions. A car behind her tries to block her off, but she's faster. She looks forward to see a line of cars blocking the street. Zari drifts to the right, and into a narrow alley. The police car behind her crashes. She looks behind and laughs, insanely.

INT. POLICE CAR -- CONTINUOUS

The driver looks shocked.

DRIVER

This person's insane!

VASQUEZ

She's potentially murdered five people within the last week, what'd you expect? Stay on her. If this fails, I got a plan B.

EXT. STREETS - CONTINUOUS

Zari looks left and right, as she notices police cars between alleyways going her direction. She sees the abandoned trail sign in front of her.

ZARI

(confident)

I've ridden this trail
several times a day for 7
years!

As she notices the police cars barreling towards her from different directions, she busts through the sign, and into the abandoned trail. The police cars are about to crash head-on.

INT. POLICE CAR -- CONTINUOUS

DRIVER
(worried)
What the--?

VASQUEZ
Turn!

EXT. TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

The car takes a sharp turn, as all of the other cars slow down and crash softly into each other, making a big traffic jam. Zari turns to see Officer Vasquez's car as the last one left. She smiles devilishly, and drives through the trail with ease, not even having to look in front of her.

INT. POLICE CAR -- CONTINUOUS

The driver is cautiously driving through, not wanting to crash.

VASQUEZ
(angry)
C'mon, c'mon! Keep up with
her!

DRIVER
Do you wanna try doing

this!?

EXT. TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

Zari zips through another tree, and turns to the right. She sees a pond and a log resting on it, and drives on top of the log, crossing the pond. The police car stays on her tail, and is about to go through pond.

INT. POLICE CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Officer Vasquez sees the pond dead ahead.

VASQUEZ

(worried)

What are you--!?

EXT. TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

The car tries to ford the pond, but gets stuck in the water. It sprays in all directions. Zari looks behind, smiling. She continues on the trail.

INT. POLICE CAR -- CONTINUOUS

DRIVER

(apologetic)

Shoot...

VASQUEZ

Stow it. We continue the

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

mission. I got a trick up my
Sleeve.

EXT. TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

Zari gets a big distance from the police. She feels the motorcycle about to run out of gas, and veers off-trail to the right. Once it stops, she gathers all of her belongings, except for her suit jacket and bloody pipe, which is caught on the motorcycle, but she doesn't notice. She continues on foot. Her face seems hypnotized, laughing.

INT. TOBIAS' BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Tobias' work belongings are sprawled throughout the room. He's lying in bed and looks to the left of him, with no one there, feeling a sense of loneliness. He gets up and stares at the stories plastered on the wall, including "Head Boss of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Donates to Children's Hospital," and "Local Hero Pledges to Pay for 2nd Grader's College." He viciously tears them to shreds, without stopping. Then he goes into the bathroom, still tearing them up into microscopic pieces. He stares at the mirror, with a drunken face.

EXT. TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

Zari still laughs psychotically, as she then sees a puddle, lit by the faint moon. The puddle mirrors her face, as she sees her fierce look. It only takes her a second to calm down and wears a shocked face about what happened.

INT. TOBIAS' HOUSE -- CONTINUOUS

Tobias still stares at his harsh face in the mirror. Then, he clenches his fists, showing the whites of his knuckles, and punches the mirror, splitting it into a million different pieces. His face is still intense.

EXT. TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

Zari stares at her bloody hands, with a worried look. Then she notices the picture drawn by Calvin plastered on the

binder. She sits down on a stump, and rests her face on her arm in sorrow.

ZARI

(scared)

What have I done?

She gets out her phone, and calls Myles.

INT. MYLES' MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

Myles is hypnotized into his flat screen TV, with the headline saying "Murderer's Information Discovered, but Escaped."

REPORTER (ON TV)

This just in, the recent acts of murder have all been projected to be from Zari Young, journalist at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Police Chief Amanda Vasquez claims "she fled into the woods, after killing owner of Watanabe Labs, Kai Watanabe." The reason for the murderers have not been discovered yet. If you know anything about this situation, please contact the police.

Myles hears his phone buzz on the counter, and he picks it up.

ZARI (On phone)

Myles, I--

MYLES

Zari, what the heck's going on? Did you really murder Kai? I thought you said you forgave him?

EXT. TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

ZARI

(defensive)

No, of course not--wait, how did you know?

MYLES (ON PHONE)

It's all over the news.

Zari mouths a curse word.

ZARI

I was just going to the library down south, and I got mixed up with the murderer!

MYLES (ON PHONE)

Well, how do we fix th--

INT. MYLES' MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

Myles stares at the TV in worryment.

REPORTER (ON TV)

Luckily, it appears that the police were able to find the suspect's house. They hope to gain more information on the case there later today.

MYLES

Oh no.

EXT. TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

ZARI

Myles, Myles, what!

MYLES (ON PHONE)

They found your address,
they're headed there now.

Zari's eyes get huge.

ZARI

(scared)

Calvin.

INT. MYLES' MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

MYLES

Who's Calvin?

ZARI (ON PHONE)

Alright, Myles. I've never
told you this, but I have a
little boy.

MYLES

(surprised)

What? We've been coworkers

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

for seven years, and you've
never told me about your
Son?

EXT. TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

ZARI

Look, now's really not the
time! My address is 67001 E.
Gardner Terrace. Please,
Myles. Can I trust you to
save Calv--

Her phone cuts out, as she realizes it's out of battery.
She lets out a worried cry, and falls on the ground,
crying.

INT. MYLES' MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

MYLES

Look, I'm gonna make you a
promise. Cal--

He notices she hung up. Myles is confused, but quickly
takes action, as he runs out of his mansion.

EXT. MYLES' MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

He gets into his fancy sports car in the garage.

INT. MYLES' SPORTS CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Myles turns on the ignition, and the car lights bright,
vivid colors.

MYLES

(putting on seat belt)
Set route for 67001 E.
Gardner Terrace.

COMPUTER

Yes Myles.

The screen shows a map of the city, with a waypoint. Myles takes the wheel, puts it into reverse, and backs out onto the street from the opened garage.

EXT. POLICE STATION -- CONTINUOUS

Officer Vasquez is orchestrating a bunch of police cars leaving the station. She's waving her arms frantically.

VASQUEZ
(commanding)
Let's go! Get a move on!

She hops in a police car herself, and it leaves the station. It then engages it's lights and sirens.

EXT. MYLES CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Myles' sports car is speeding through the lit up city. He passes by the abandoned trail sign.

INT. MYLES' CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Myles is concentrated on the road. He hears the sirens in the distance.

MYLES
(worried)
How far away now?

COMPUTER
2 miles away, sir. Turn left
on E. Gardner Terrace.

He quickly turns the wheel left.

EXT. MYLES' CAR -- CONTINUOUS

The car does a sharp turn, and drifts onto the next street. Many cars honk in anger.

INT. MYLES' CAR -- CONTINUOUS

MYLES

Jeez! How far--

COMPUTER

Your destination is on your right.

He slams on the brakes.

EXT. MYLES' CAR -- CONTINUOUS

The car stops abruptly, and he gets out of the car. He stares at the old, worn-down apartments.

MYLES

(skeptical)

I hope this is right.

He sprints up the stairs, and races through the different apartments, looking for the right one.

MYLES (CONT'D)

(sprinting)

66999, 67000. 67001!

He knocks on the door, violently.

INT. APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Calvin is brushing his teeth in the kitchen sink. He wears faded pajamas. When he hears the knocking sound, he goes to the door, confused.

CALVIN

Mommy? Did you forget your
key--?

He opens the door, and Myles stands in front of him. Calvin looks startled and confused.

MYLES

Calvin, I--

CALVIN

Who are you, you intruder!
Where's my mommy! She vowed
she'd be back tonight--

Myles waves his hands frantically, getting him to stop.

MYLES

Shhhhhh! It's okay, I'm not
gonna hurt you, but you need
to come with me, or else
this won't turn out well for
both of us. I work with your
Mother.

Calvin still looks uneasy, but follows his orders.

CALVIN

Oh... okay.

Myles then looks surprised by his quick response.

MYLES

(confused)
Alright, c'mon.

He takes Calvin's hand, and they sprint away from the apartment.

EXT. APARTMENTS -- CONTINUOUS

They rush down the stairs, and still hear police sirens getting closer. Myles stops, remembering something.

MYLES

Wait! What about Reggie?

CALVIN

Reggie?

He takes a second to understand it.

MYLES

(confident)

Right.

They go down to Myles' car. Calvin is astonished by it.

CALVIN

Whoa! You have an
automobile!?

He unlocks the car from afar.

MYLES

Yeah, doesn't your mother?

CALVIN

No... she has to use her bike
as an excursion to work.

Myles starts to look understanding of everything, but quickly keeps moving. They open the doors and jump in.

INT. MYLES' CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Myles and Calvin get strapped in.

CALVIN
(curious)
How nimble can this
automobile trek?

MYLES
(mutter)
Hopefully fast enough to get
away from the cops.

CALVIN
What!?

Myles slams on the gas.

EXT. MYLES' CAR -- CONTINUOUS

The sports car does a 180 degree turn, as it continues on the road. As he turns a sharp right into another street, the police behind them barely become visible.

INT. MYLES' CAR -- CONTINUOUS

Calvin catches a glimpse of the police.

CALVIN
(angry)
Are you disclosing to me
that I was an escort
mission? We could have been
(MORE)
(CONT'D)
seized by the police! And
where's my mommy at?!

MYLES

(apologetic)
It's a long story.

An awkward silence overcomes the car, as Calvin gives a huge face of worry.

INT. APARTMENT -- CONTINUOUS

Officer Vasquez and the police bust down the door. They have their guns wielded, as they enter the apartment. There's an abandoned toothbrush laying on the counter, as the only sound you can hear is the one-by-one drops of water from the sink. They're all looking around in confusement.

EXT. TRAIL -- CONTINUOUS

Zari walks the forest, slowly and tiredly. Her breath flows through the brisk night. She stops at the bottom of a large tree. There's a bunch of branches under a large log. She tries to pull them out, but they're stuck, so she withdraws the knife and cuts a thick vine. She ties it to the log, and loops the vine through the tree's branches. After pulling with all of her might, the log elevates. She ties the vine to a stump, and it stays. Then, she grabs all of the branches, and throws them in a pile. Zari takes a branch on the pile, and spins it on the wood. After a little bit, a small cloud of smoke appears.

Zari's sitting by the small fire, reading through the binder. She's looking through pages she's already read, until she finds something, written in red pen, compared to the rest of the information being typed.

ZARI

(reading)

A newly-found side effect
for the JT-37 involves
feeling a swift mood change.

She takes a second to digest the information.

ZARI (CONT'D)
(chuckling nervously)
Since when did my life get
all supernatural?

She lays on the side of a tree, and drifts to sleep, with all of her stuff still sprawled on the ground.

EXT. MYLES' MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

Myles' car passes by Watanabe Labs and the funeral home, and pulls up into the driveway. Him and Calvin get out. Calvin is astonished by the mansion.

CALVIN
(dumbfounded)
Oh my gosh, this mansion is
surreal! I've heard my
classmates talk about these
all the time, but I just
thought it was a myth!

Myles chuckles, and pats Calvin on the back.

MYLES
(smiling)
C'mon. I'll show you around.

He opens the door.

INT. MYLES' MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

Myles enters the dark mansion, and turns on the light. Calvin walks in, and is astonished again. He drops his jaw.

The mansions has several different paths leading to different rooms, with a huge glass chandelier hung from the ceiling.

CALVIN

(looking around)

Wow! Look at this place!

He runs to the study on the right. Myles smiles.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Oh my gosh, that bookshelf is gargantuan! My school doesn't even have one that enormous! And that TV! I think that's the size of my bed!

Calvin then runs to the kitchen, with Myles staying with him.

INT. KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

Calvin looks at the granite counters and stainless-steel appliances. Then, he opens a door. Inside, there's a walk-in pantry with food, such as chips, cookies, bread, etc.

CALVIN

(astonished)

Whoa. You have a whole room *just* for food!

MYLES

(chuckling)

Hey, uh. Let's get you cleaned-up here. There's a shower upstairs, although I don't think I have any

clothes that fit you.

CALVIN

Oh, uh. That's fine. My mom just went to the laundromat yesterday after work.

Myles nods.

INT. MANSION BEDROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Calvin comes out of the bathroom with his pajamas on. His hair is wet, and he's wiping it with a towel.

CALVIN

(amazed)

I didn't know that much water pressure was possible!

Myles chuckles, and Calvin hops in the large, king-sized bed. Myles kneels down beside him.

MYLES

Alright, now tomorrow, I have to go to work early in the morning, and I think it's safer if you don't go to school.

CALVIN

Because of the cops?

MYLES

It's... complicated. Can you be brave and stay here by yourself?

CALVIN

Sure thing.

Myles pats him on the shoulder, and gets to the doorway.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Hey, uh... why did you ask if we had a dog?

MYLES

Oh, uh. Your mother, for some reason, didn't ever tell me about you, and instead said you had a dog.

Calvin looks confused.

MYLES (CONT'D)

I don't know. I'm as confused as you are.

He turns and starts to walk out.

CALVIN

It's because, she thought you'd think differently of her, if you knew her life outside of work.

Myles stops, and his face is sympathetic.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Apparently right when I was

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

born, my dad, Kai Watanabe, left my mom after they had a huge fight, and he took all of our money. Then, she had found a job to get enough

money to raise me.

Myles stops, and turns around, his face still in shock.

MYLES

She thought that?

CALVIN

(nodding)

My mom talks to me about
it all the time. That's how
I knew you were Myles,
because I thought if she
sent anyone from work to
save me, it'd be you.

Myles goes to Calvin, and kneels by him again.

MYLES

Alright, well when we find
your mom, we can both tell
her how I would never think
differently about her, under
any circumstance.

Calvin nods assuringly.

MYLES (CONT'D)

And, your mother is a
fighter. She knows how to
get out of any situation to
come her way.

Calvin nods, and Myles puts his hand out for a high five.
Calvin does, and then Myles walks out of the room, and
turns the lights off.

EXT. MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

The last light goes off in the house in the dark night.

FADE OUT

FADE IN:

EXT. TRAIL -- MORNING

Zari is asleep in the break of dawn. She starts to slowly wake up, and gets up from the ground. She wipes off the dirt on her suit, and goes over to the binder.

ZARI

(confident)

I gotta make one last change
to the story. For everyone's
sake.

She opens the binder, and draws lines from every person's name that was murdered. They all meet in a single spot, and Zari draws a big question mark. Then, she pulls the flashdrive out of her pocket, and makes sure it's still there. After that, she starts to walk a certain direction on the trail.

INT. MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

Calvin wakes up from his bed, and the little bit of sunlight peaks through the blinds. He sits upright, and remembers where he's at. A small face of discouragement overcomes him, but he gets out of bed, and goes to the window. He puts his hand on it, and looks concerned about his mom. Then, he goes to the kitchen.

INT. KITCHEN -- CONTINUOUS

Calvin finds a plate of eggs and sizzling bacon. There's a card on it that says "Eat up, sport." Calvin gives a faint smile.

INT. OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

All of the employees are huddled up in a circle, except Myles. He's at his desk, and everyone is pointing to Zari's desk, and whispering about her. Myles rolls his eyes. Tobias comes booming in. He has a small bandage on his right hand from punching the mirror.

TOBIAS

(cold)

Hey, everyone get back to work.

WORKER #1

But sir, didn't you hear about Za--

TOBIAS

Yeah, I did. Honestly, I'm not surprised.

Everyone gives a little bit of a chuckle.

EMPLOYEE

Yeah, and her clothes always wreaked. I don't think she knows what deodorant is.

They chuckle again. Myles has enough of it.

MYLES

Alright, guys. C'mon. Let's act like adults here. And I honestly don't believe she's the real murderer.

Tobias looks at him devilishly.

TOBIAS

Oh yeah, Myles? Then why don't you give us your thoughtful perception of the situation. Who is the murderer?

Myles pauses.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

That's what I thought.

He starts to go back into his office, until Myles stops him.

MYLES

Alright, well I don't know who did it exactly, but I can tell you right now that Zari is out there somewhere, and she won't stop until she gets a story out of the real murderer.

Tobias looks a little worried at first, until he quickly blows over it.

TOBIAS

(sarcastic)

Yeah, right. Zari can't even

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

write a good story under normal conditions. How's she gonna do it with the whole city against her?

Tobias goes into his office, and shuts the door.

MYLES

(muttering)

Not the whole city.

EXT. HILL -- CONTINUOUS

Zari treks up a hill, overlooking the city in the early morning. She has a face of confidence.

EXT. ALLEY -- CONTINUOUS

Zari goes to the outskirts of the city, and finds a dumpster in an alley. She digs through it, and tries to find a new set of clothes. She pulls out baby shirts, and finds a big suit. She holds it to her body, and it is twice her size. Then, she finds an old sweatshirt with a hood, and a worn pair of jeans. She holds it up, and they fit. After that, she pulls a hat out of the dumpster, and puts it on.

EXT. DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

Zari's walking out of the alley, with the clothes on her. She looks back, to make sure no one's suspicious. Then, she finds a pair of glasses on the ground. She picks them up, and looks through the lenses. She doesn't seem phased by them, and puts the glasses on, continuing walking down the busy street.

EXT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

There's a bunch of CSI AGENTS studying the crime scene. Officer Vasquez pulls up in a police car.

VASQUEZ

What've we found today,

boys?

Zari comes up behind them, and has a good view of the crime scene, including Kai Watanabe in a body bag. She gets behind some crates, casually.

AGENT

I don't know how Zari-- or whoever it is-- does it. There aren't any blood or fingerprint samples here except Kai's.

VASQUEZ

(sarcastic)

Am I the only one who understands that she's a scumbag, good-for-nothing murderer?

Zari rolls her eyes, still behind the crates.

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

But we really can't get any samples?

AGENT

No. She must've had gloves on, a mouthguard to cover saliva, and apparently Kai didn't put enough of a fight up to draw blood.

VASQUEZ

Dang it. If we're going to bring this murderer to justice, we'll need more evidence than what we saw,

and how I remember her
having a Watanabe Labs
binder the day of the
incident.

Officer Vasquez then sees liquid on the ground.

VASQUEZ (CONT'D)

What's that?

AGENT

Oh, that's the only thing we
could find. It appears to be
a vaccine of some kind.

Zari's eyes get really big.

VASQUEZ

Do you know which medicine?

AGENT

No. We ransacked all of
Watanabe Labs' files, but
couldn't find any medicine
that shares a connection to
the murders.

Zari's still listening in, as her eyes get wide, looking at
the binder in hand. Then, more police cars come in from the
distance. Zari quickly turns around and walks on the
sidewalk.

INT. OFFICE BREAK ROOM -- AFTERNOON

Myles microwaves his fancy steak dinner, and goes over to
an empty table. He sits down, and looks to his right, to
see no one there. A sense of sadness overcomes him, as he
turns on the tv. It goes to a fast-paced intro to the news.

REPORTER (ON TV)

Police have found more
information on the suspected
murderer, Zari Young.

INT. MYLES' MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

Calvin is making a sandwich with a bunch of open bottles of condiments, including ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, horseradish, relish, ranch, and thousand island. Then, he hears the tv on in the background. He goes to it, and they have a picture of Zari.

CALVIN

Murderer?

REPORTER (ON TV)

It appears that the police searched her apartment, and found a toothbrush lying on the kitchen table. After testing the saliva, it matches up with Zari's son, Calvin Young.

Calvin looks scared by the reporter.

INT. OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

Myles looks angry.

REPORTER (ON TV)

If any of you know anything about his position, please contact the police. He could be in serious danger.

EXT. MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

Calvin still looks frightened, as he turns the tv off. Tears fill up in his eyes, and he lets all of it out. He gets on the ground, bawling.

CALVIN

(bawling)

Mommy. I miss you.

INT. OFFICE BREAK ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Myles still looks a little angry, and he checks Zari's contact information. None of his texts to her have been sent, including "Found him," "He's safe with me," and "What happened. R u good?" Also, none of his calls have been accepted.

INT. OFFICE MAIN AREA -- CONTINUOUS

Tobias surveys the office, to find it almost completely baron. Then, he walks out, and paces the office. Most everyone is eating, except a few stragglers. He then walks with a small limp, to Zari's computer. He logs onto her account, and searches her files. After finding the "stories" folder, he searches through the several stories, and finds the one labeled "Murder Mystery." He opens it, and skims through it. Then, he clicks on the "delete" button, smiling devilishly.

EXT. DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

Zari walks the streets, alone. She is intrigued in the binder, as she sits down at a vacant bus stop. She writes down inside the binder *JT-37 is a cancer vaccine with a terrible side effect, and Kai was hauling the last remaining JT-37 left.* After writing it down, she surveys it.

ZARI

(worried)

Someone must have been
affected by the JT-37 to
have done this--

She remembers something.

INT. OFFICE -- AFTERNOON [FLASHBACK]

Tobias is sitting in his office, talking to Zari.

TOBIAS

(angry)

And now I got to pay for the
lawsuit with the
pallbearers.

ZARI

(confused)

What--?

EXT. BACK TO STREET -- AFTERNOON

She seems scared, and then finds a sign on the street. She
pinpoints the location of the funeral home.

EXT. FUNERAL HOME -- CONTINUOUS

Zari walks up to the main entrance. The building has
vividly-colored stained glass windows.

INT. FUNERAL HOME -- CONTINUOUS

Zari walks in to find the speaker alone cleaning up the
altar. She takes some holy water, and performs a sign of
cross on her chest. Then, she slowly walks up to the lonely
speaker.

ZARI

(timid)

Hello?

The speaker stops what he's doing, and comes over to Zari.

SPEAKER

Why hello. Who are you?

ZARI

(pulling out her business card)

Oh, I'm--

She notices it says Zari Young, and quickly shoves it back in her pockets.

ZARI (CONT'D)

I'm... Jasmine Perry, from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. I'm here to ask some questions about the recent lawsuit with Tobias Watts.

The speaker's face slowly gets more serious.

SPEAKER

You work for Watts?

ZARI

Yes, and I was wondering if

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

you knew anything about the recent lawsuit between him and one of his pallbearers at the funeral.

The speaker sighs, and looks to the right of him. Emerging from the shadows comes a pallbearer, with bruises all

across his hands, along with a big gash on his forehead.
Zari looks frightened.

PALLBEARER

Tobias' wife was diagnosed
with cancer.

Zari seems afraid and intrigued by his statement.

PALLBEARER (CONT'D)

And.. the last thing I
remember was getting a
special request from Tobias
to carry the casket out the
back door. So, we did. And
then, I was the first one
to--

He stops, looking frightened to finish his sentence. Zari
looks afraid as well.

ZARI

(scared)

To what?

PALLBEARER

To get thrown to the ground,
and get brutally kicked. It
wouldn't end. I tried to
find an escape, but every

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

time I opened my eyes, all I
saw was the fury in Tobias'
eyes, haunting me.

She remains frozen in fear. The speaker looks down in
worriment.

ZARI

I-- um. I'm so sorry.

PALLBEARER

Thanks Jasmine, but I'm not
the one you should be
worried about.

The pallbearer continues on his path through the funeral home. The speaker doesn't say anything as he continues his work. Zari opens the binder, and crosses out the big question mark. Instead, he writes Tobias' name next to it.

ZARI

(to herself)

But he must've not killed me
in the alley because--

She pauses.

ZARI (CONT'D)

(walking)

Because he needed me to draw
away the police.

She starts to speed walk down the empty funeral home.

INT. LIBRARY -- CONTINUOUS

Zari looks around to make sure no one notices her. It's a work day, so very few people are there. Then, she takes a seat by a computer in the very back, covering her face with a large, green plant. Then, she puts in the flashdrive, and begins to write.

INT. OFFICE -- AFTERNOON

Tobias is at his desk, and then gets up again. This time, he looks even more demented. He goes over to Zari's

computer again, and checks to see her files. He notices there's a new story with the headline "Owner of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Tobias Watts, Found to be Real Murderer." He wears a face of anger, as he clicks on the article. He skims through it.

TOBIAS

(angry)

This is the same stor--she
put it on a flashdrive.

He scrolls down even further, and notices that Zari is still typing it. He gets angry, and pulls up maps on the computer. After zooming in on Pittsburgh, he finds the local library, near the office. A huge face of anger overcomes him, and he puts his coat on to leave the office.

INT. OFFICE MAIN AREA -- CONTINUOUS

Myles comes out of the bathroom, still looking a little depressed. He checks his phone again, and still nothing from Zari. Then, he decides to pack up all of his things. He looks over at Zari's empty desk, and then looks down in sadness. Then, pulls up something on his phone and reads it, and then quickly grabs his gold-crusted suitcase, and leaves the office.

INT. LIBRARY -- CONTINUOUS

Zari's typing intently. During it, she shakes her hand, after getting a hand cramp, but then goes back into typing. She types one last sentence, and stops, congratulating herself by smiling. Taking a deep breath, she saves it on the flashdrive, and gets up to leave. When she's walking out, she sees Tobias through the window, standing there with a sack. She makes direct eye contact with him, while he gives a sly smile. Then, she walks the other way, and pretends that nothing happened. As she's going the other

way, Tobias pushes open the door. She hears it, and starts going a bit faster, with Tobias following.

TOBIAS
(chasing her)
Hey, hey!

She keeps going and doesn't look back. As she reaches the doorway, he closes it on her. Zari reacts quickly, about to defend herself, but Tobias stays calm.

TOBIAS
(holding up the sack)
I just thought you would be
hungry.

He opens it to see fancy sandwiches and wine. She looks at it, and appears hungry at first, but resists it.

ZARI
Oh, no thank you. I--

TOBIAS
Oh, please. It's my treat.

He drops a couple of quarters in her hands.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)
I'll even give you the
change.

She reluctantly gives in.

EXT. ROOFTOP -- CONTINUOUS

Tobias and Zari are sitting on a rooftop table with chairs. Zari's digging into the sandwich without taking a breath.

TOBIAS

See, I knew a murderer like
you would be hungry.

It gets intense as she slowly puts down the sandwich.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

(slightly laughing)
I'm just kidding. I'm sure
you're not the murderer.

Zari laughs a bit, relieved.

ZARI

Oh, yeah. Sorry, didn't know
where you were going with
that.

TOBIAS

Yeah. So, uh, who?

It gets dead silent, as Zari tries to process the question.

ZARI

(slightly scared)
What?

TOBIAS

Who is the murderer?

It gets dead silent again, as she tries to come up with an
answer. Tobias wears a slight smile on him, as he waits for
her answer.

ZARI

Oh, uh. I'm not sure. It
could be anyone, really.

TOBIAS

Really? Huh, well I hope you're being honest, because it is possible to access your stories on your computer at the office, so it'd be a shame if someone found something they shouldn't have.

Tobias wears a smirk, clearly knowing something. Zari gets scared.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

But I guess you decided to be lazy about it, and not write a story, right? Just like usual.

He laughs, as Zari tries to laugh weirdly along with him.

ZARI

Oh, yeah. You know me. Not much of a journalist. Well, uh. This has been great, but I gotta get back to running on the streets, you know?

She gets up, but Tobias stops her.

TOBIAS

Do you know about the JT-37?

Zari stops, and sits down, scared.

ZARI

Yes? How do you know--?

TOBIAS

Do you know the effects of

it?

ZARI

(still confused)

I saw that it can completely
change a person's mood in
the blink of an eye.

TOBIAS

Hm, you know your stuff.
But, it doesn't just
completely change their
mood. It changes them into a
completely different person.

Zari gets a little shiver from being scared.

TOBIAS (CONT'D)

You see, the vaccine was
meant to break down tumors
in your brain, but it did
the opposite. Instead, it
mutated them, which creates
a certain neural pathway in
your brain, giving you a

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

sense of uncontrollable
revenge.

Zari gets very scared, and sips her wine in a fancy glass.

ZARI

(frightened)

How do you know so much,
About--?

TOBIAS

(looking at his watch)

Oh, would you look at the time. It's been a pleasure. I do hope you find the real murderer, and when you do, beat him up for me, will you? I'm rooting for you Zari.

He takes all of the food and wine glasses with him, as he opens the door to the steps to get downstairs. Zari looks very frightened.

EXT. TRAIL -- EVENING

Myles drives up to the trail, and runs down it.

MYLES

Police report said Zari went down this--

Myles sees the abandoned motorcycle, and bloody pipe on the ground. His eyes get big.

MYLES

(scared)

Path.

He gets frightened, and he sprints towards the wreckage. He looks around in it, and finds the jacket of her suit. His face starts to stream with tears, and he holds the jacket towards his face.

INT. MYLES' MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

Calvin is sitting on the couch, with used tissues everywhere he's reading a book titled "Newton's Law of

Motion." Myles comes in the front door, still shocked. Calvin puts the book down, and races to him.

CALVIN
(optimistic)
Did you find my mommy?

Myles pauses.

MYLES
(melancholy)
No.

He starts to walk away. Calvin gets upset.

CALVIN
What? What do you mean you
didn't find her?

Myles stops.

CALVIN (CONT'D)
You promised me that you'd--

Myles hands him the suit jacket. Calvin examines it, frightened.

MYLES
(choking up)
I tried, okay?

He kneels down by Calvin, and puts his hand on his shoulder.

MYLES (CONT'D)
Your mother is... gone.

CALVIN
(crying)

No, no. You're lying.

MYLES

Look, I know. It sucks, but
you always find the optimism
in things, right?

Calvin takes Myles' hand off of him.

CALVIN

(depressed)

Not this time. I can't live
without my mommy.

Calvin leaves him, and goes upstairs to his room. Myles
looks depressed as well.

INT. BEDROOM -- NIGHT

Calvin is in bed, with the city's lights barely peeking
through the blinds. The clock says 7:59, and then strikes
8:00. He hears a crashing sound, and gets up, confused.

CALVIN

(confused)

Myles?

He hears another crash, and gets out of bed.

INT. MYLES' MANSION -- CONTINUOUS

Calvin is creeping through the dark hallway. The crashing
sound comes again, bigger than before. He turns a corner,
and sees a light on in a room.

CALVIN

(tiptoeing)

Myles? Is that you?

When he peers around the corner, he sees Myles, going insane. He's flailing his arms around like a madman, and banging on the table in front of him. He grits his teeth, and his eyes look hypnotized. Then, he opens a drawer, with a rusty, jagged knife.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Myles? What are you--?

Myles turns at him, with ferocious eyes. Calvin's eyes get big, as he starts to back up in worry.

CALVIN (CONT'D)

Look, I didn't mean what I said earlier. I know you were just trying to help--

Myles picks up a chair, and throws it at Calvin. He screams, and runs away, dodging it. Myles chases him through the dark corridor, scraping the sides of the walls with his knife. Calvin swings open a door, and Myles charges right through it, tearing the door out of the wall. Calvin gets to the stairs, and slides down the railing.

INT. LIVING ROOM -- CONTINUOUS

Myles sprints down the stairs after him, almost grabbing onto his shirt. Calvin gets to another door, but Myles jumps from halfway down the stairs to the door, blocking his exit. Calvin sprints the other way, but Myles kicks a table with a flower pot and several books towards him. It knocks several things over, and the legs of the chair penetrate the wall, leaving Calvin to go right in between them. Myles walks over towards him, and goes above Calvin, and strikes his knife at him. Calvin rolls toward the face of the table, dodging it. Then, he lifts it up against Myles, who doesn't get knocked back at all. Instead, he

pushes the table back against the wall, now at an angle, with the legs slotted in the wall. He starts to penetrate the face of the table with his knife, each strike almost hitting Calvin.

CALVIN

(frightened)

Look, Myles! I don't know
what's gotten into you, but
you gotta snap out of it!

He doesn't stop striking the table. The next strike goes a centimeter away from Calvin's nose. Then, he notices Myles' feet. He tries to jab at them, but it doesn't affect him. Then, he sees a pair of long, expensive boots, and slots one foot in them. He then takes it behind Myles, and sweeps his legs. He falls over, and Calvin crawls under it. Then, he makes a run for it, but Myles stretches out and stabs the bottom of Calvin's pant leg, making him fall over. Myles has him pinned down, but then the front door comes smashing open. Calvin is confused.

EXT. DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

Zari hides in the shadows in an alley, looking through all of her findings. Then, she sees a public telephone. She pulls out her quarters, and looks at them, conflicted.

ZARI

I have to get some clear
evidence, and end this once
and for all.

She goes inside the telephone booth.

INT. TELEPHONE BOOTH -- CONTINUOUS

She dials a number, and puts in a quarter. It rings for a little bit, until someone picks up.

TOBIAS (ON PHONE)

Hello?

ZARI

How could you do something like that? Take an innocent soul?

TOBIAS (ON PHONE)

Ah, Zari. How are you?

ZARI

(angry)

Shut up. I've proven what you've done.

TOBIAS (ON PHONE)

Oh, you mean Kai? From what I understand, you hated him, too. Didn't you?

ZARI

I mean everyone you've killed and attacked, but for Kai, just because he's done some terrible things in the past doesn't mean I'd ever want to take his life. I don't know what he did to offend you, but it couldn't possibly be enough to kill him.

TOBIAS (ON PHONE)

(angry)

He took everything from me! And now, I'm starting to

realize that the only way to
live in this screwed-up
world, is to protect the
citizens from evil myself.

Zari pauses.

ZARI

And what do you mean by
That?

TOBIAS (ON PHONE)

I mean, I'm sending you an
invitation to come to the
office, before you show that
evidence to the police. I'll
leave the door unlocked.

ZARI

And why, in the heck, would
I do that?

TOBIAS (ON PHONE)

You know, you could've done
a much better job. It wasn't
hard figuring out you left
him with the one person you
trust most in the office.

Zari's face gets furious, as she hears Calvin on the phone.

CALVIN (ON PHONE)

(in despair)

Mommy! Where are you!?

Zari punches the wall.

ZARI

(furious)
I swear to God, if you lay a
finger on him--!

Tobias hangs up the phone. Zari starts to pound the phone against the wall, completely ripping it to shreds. She opens the door and storms out, with the whole booth busted.

EXT. DOWNTOWN -- CONTINUOUS

She marches down the street, with a ferocious face. She pulls up her sleeves intensely, and keeps going down the street angrily. Owls chirp, as she gets to the office door, and it's unlocked.

INT. OFFICE LOBBY -- CONTINUOUS

Zari speed walks through the dark lobby, wearing a face of fury. She goes to the elevator, and presses a button. It closes.

INT. OFFICE MAIN AREA -- CONTINUOUS

When it opens again, she sees the front hallway is all torn up, with the lights flickering, broken. She starts to then walk a little slower.

ZARI
(frightened)
What the heck?

She walks by the torn up couches, and knife marks on the wall. Then, she walks to the main area, with all but one computer destroyed: Zari's. The lights are still flickering, and cords are dangling from the ceiling.

CALVIN (O.S.)
(scared)
Mommy! I'm scared!

Zari gets a small sense of relief.

ZARI

Cal! Where are you--?!

She sees him walking in another hallway, trying to find his way around. His silhouette is the only thing that appears, with the sparks and faint light coming from the crushed lamps.

ZARI (CONT'D)

(relieved)

Cal!

She sprints, and kneels beside, along with a bear hug. They both are streaming tears.

CALVIN

(choking up)

I thought you were dead.

He goes in for a deeper hug.

ZARI

No, okay. I will never leave your side. C'mon, let's go!

CALVIN

(frightened)

No, mom! Myles! He's... changed!

Zari stops, and looks at him.

ZARI

(afraid)

What do you mean he's... changed?

Zari's computer starts to jumpstart, and a video appears. Tobias is on the computer.

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

Your son's right, Zari. And
you're not going anywhere.

Zari walks slowly, closer to the screen.

ZARI

(looking around)

You tell me what's going on,
right now. Why, and how, did
you do all this?

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

Man, you are a terrible
reporter. You can't even
understand it, when Calvin
just told you.

Zari looks confused and angry.

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

I'm not the one who
committed the murders. All I
needed was the JT-37, and
someone I knew who lived
close to the targets I
needed to go after. And
you're lucky I swooped in to
save your son's life.

ZARI

(denying)

No, I don't believe you--

He turns on the light in a room, to see Myles chained up to the wall. He looks ferocious. Zari goes up to the window in fear, and sees him. She has a petrified look on her face, as she puts her hand on the window. Myles growls, scaring Zari. Then, Calvin walks up, and Myles sees him and slams his head on the window, trying to escape.

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

You see, the JT-37 brings
out the revenge in people,
so they only want to kill
the first person they see.
Once they've accomplished
that, they don't need to
feel the need to kill
anymore.

ZARI

(angry)

Wha--? How do you cure it?

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

The effects last for 30
minutes in every day for the
rest of their life. The
neural pathway it makes is
like a bad habit. That's
why every murder this week
has happened at around 8
p.m. However, the only way
to cure it is the small
amount of antidote created
by Kai before he passed, or
to kill them altogether.
Which is why you're not
leaving, because you need
it, too.

He smiles, as Zari gets frightened.

ZARI

(afraid)

What do you mean I need it
too?

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

(smiling)

You need it for the JT-37
coursing through your veins.

ZARI

From what?

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

(laughing)

From the wine you drank
during our dinner.

Her face gets angry.

ZARI

(furious)

You give me that antidote
right now.

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

Whoa, slow down. I don't
think you want to do that,
either.

ZARI

(scared)

Why?

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

Because then there won't be
enough for all three of you.

Zari stops, and looks at Tobias, angry as can be.

ZARI

(ferocious)

Three of us?

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

Oh, you don't see that scar
on Calvin's neck? Well, then
I guess I did a pretty good
job at subtly injecting him
with JT-37 as well.

Zari looks at Calvin in fear. Calvin starts to tear up, and Zari tries to stay calm.

ZARI

If you want to kill me, why
didn't you just do it on the
rooftop?

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

(laughing)

Oh, I couldn't just kill you
without you seeing your
loved ones suffer, just like
I had to do. I wanted this
to happen to Kai, but there
was no controlling Myles
when he killed him, so I
figured you were the next
best thing. And remember, I
said the world has given me
no choice but to go after
the evil myself, and I won't
let the media stop me.

Zari keeps a straight face, but is slightly scared.

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER) (CONT'D)

Much like what Kai did to
me. I trusted him with the
JT-37, when my wife was
diagnosed with cancer.

INT. WATANABE LABS -- AFTERNOON [FLASHBACK]

Tobias is confronting Kai. He's pestering him with
questions, and getting very angry.

KAI

Tobias, this vaccine-- it's
too early. There's no
telling the side effects--

TOBIAS

No, okay. You listen to me!
My wife is dying, and this
is my only option!

Kai pauses.

KAI

(reluctantly)

But-- ok. But look, this is a
very raw vaccine, and hasn't
been tested on anyone yet,
okay?

TOBIAS

(tearing up)

I know. I just want a sliver
of hope to save my wife.

INT. BACK TO OFFICE -- NIGHT

Zari still seems scared by what's happening.

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)
(even more psychotic)
And he promised me it'd
work!

INT. TOBIAS' HOUSE -- EVENING [FLASHBACK]

Tobias is laying in bed, as he hears a crash. He goes to it, suspiciously, and finds his wife going insane. His face gets very afraid, as she looks at him, and attacks.

TOBIAS (V.O.)
Having to defend myself was
already hard enough, but
knowing I was killing my
wife in the process. Well,
that's unbearable.

Tobias has to knock her out with a wine bottle, making her drop to the floor. Her eyes are still open, but she has blood spewing out of her head. He kneels beside her, and finds her not breathing. He then starts to bawl.

INT. BACK TO OFFICE -- CONTINUOUS

ZARI
Alright, just because your
life didn't go all that
great, doesn't mean you need
to screw with other
people's!

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)
I have a system going on
here. I send out Myles each
night to kill someone who
had a hand in murdering my
wife. First it was the
scientists. Next, it'll be

the pallbearers who tried to
take away my wife for good.

ZARI

I won't let you go on your
murder spree any longer.
What you did to that
pallbearer was already bad
enough.

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

This, is a lifestyle! I'm
finally finding my place in
this world, and it makes
sense to me! I'm protecting
the people of this city by
making sure no one will ever
make another vaccine which
kills innocent humans!

ZARI

You can't lie and manipulate
anymore people! It's gone on
long enough!

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

Just like you were doing,
going behind my back with
that story?

ZARI

(angry)

I'm stopping you from
cold-blood murder!

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

You know, conflicts are
created only when each side
believes they're 100% right.

Much like us. I don't believe ridding the world of evil is wrong, and you don't believe letting me continue my work is either.

ZARI

I'm stopping you, because you are the one taking innocent souls in this city. Clearly, losing your wife has messed with your brain. And now, you've become the very thing that took your wife. A psychopath. And when you snap out of it, you'll realize what you've done, and how you can't come back from this.

Tobias looks angry, but doesn't respond.

ZARI (CONT'D)

I need the old Tobias now, okay? The one who gives a job to a random homeless person, just because he knows it's making their life just that much better.

Now, he seems conflicted, still not responding.

ZARI (CONT'D)

Trust me. The scariest part of the devil inside all of us, is not the content of it, but the choice of resisting or accepting it.

Then, he finally snaps out of it.

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

Enough! Here's how this will
go down.

He turns on another light on a table, which has one bottle labeled with a skull, and the other with a happy face. They both have a clear liquid.

ZARI

What is that?

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

The bottle with the skull is
straight poison, while the
bottle with the happy face
is the antidote to the
JT-37. This is the only

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

bottle created since Kai was
murdered. Also I was able to
get your effects to happen
at the same time, with
Calvin being effected way
before you due to his size.
You have five minutes to
choose who will live, and
who will die. If you don't
accept either of these, then
you will end up killing each
other.

Zari looks at Calvin, whose tearing up. Then, Zari tears up, too. She frantically looks around for an exit. All of the doors and windows are cover with cabinets and shelves. Then she looks back at the door she entered from. It's bolted shut.

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

Oh, and I've managed to make
any escape routes
compromised. Your failure is
inevitable.

Zari feels hopeless, and makes dead eye contact with
Tobias.

ZARI

(threatening)

I swear, you better not--

TOBIAS (ON COMPUTER)

Let the games begin.

He cuts out the video. It's silent for a few seconds, until
it comes back on, now with a timer. Five minutes appear,
but slowly start to decrease. The only sound comes from the
clock counting down. Calvin looks at Zari, upset. Zari
comes up to him, trying to stay calm.

CALVIN

(crying)

Mommy, I--

ZARI

Calvin, look at me. I need
you to be the brave little
boy I know, okay? You're
going to take the antidote--

CALVIN

No, Mom! I-- I can't live
without you! Let me take the
poison!

ZARI

Don't even talk like that,
okay? It's going to be fine.
You're going to live with
Myles, and find him some
help at the neighboring
labs.

CALVIN

(denying)

No, no.

Zari pauses, and looks into his eyes.

ZARI

You will go places in life,
okay? I can't say the same
for me. You have your whole
life in front of you, and
with a mind like yours,

(MORE)

(CONT'D)

you'll be unstoppable. You
just have to learn to zone
out the doubters in life,
and focus on your dream.

CALVIN

But, I--why is he doing this
to us. It's not fair.

ZARI

There will always be people
who try to outsmart you,
okay? It worked this time,
but with your wit and skill,
you'll never go through
this again. Do you
understand me?

He turns around, and is still tearing up. Zari feels really sorry for him, and tries to calm him down.

ZARI

Hey.

He turns around. She salutes.

ZARI

It's been a pleasure working
with you, captain.

Calvin sniffs, calming down.

CALVIN

(saluting)

Best lieutenant ever.

She smiles. Then, he reluctantly goes up to the table. She follows. The clock strikes one minute left. She grabs her bottle, and he grabs his.

ZARI

(tearing up)

Someday, we'll be reunited.
Someday.

Calvin nods, holding back tears.

ZARI (CONT'D)

(choking up)

On the count of three. One.

CALVIN

(scared)

Two.

They each pause.

ZARI AND CALVIN

Three.

They each drink the liquid. Zari looks at Calvin, upset, accepting the situation. Then, as they put down the glasses, Calvin's face gets blank, as he falls over, unconscious. Zari's face goes from frightened to furious.

ZARI (INAUDIBLE)

Calvin!

Calvin lay on the ground, knocked out cold. Zari rushes over to him, and kneels down. She wraps her arms around her dead son. Her tears stream, as they fall on Calvin's face and slide down.

ZARI (CONT'D)

(denying)

No, no. Stay with me.

Calvin still lays there, unresponsive. His eyes are still open.

ZARI

(angry)

Stay with me!

Her face is still overcome with tears. The clock strikes 8:30, and Myles turns back to normal. He's very confused.

MYLES

(confused)

What the?

He tries to move, but realizes he's chained up. He hears the crying, and tries to get free.

MYLES (CONT'D)

Hey! Is anyone there!?

Zari hears him, and picks up Calvin. She slowly walks towards Myles.

MYLES

Hello!?

Zari walks in the door, and brings Calvin, still crying. Myles sees him, and gets completely shocked.

MYLES (CONT'D)

Wha--? What happened?

Zari doesn't answer, but then sees a wire going into a room. She finds the wire ending at her computer.

MYLES (CONT'D)

(confused)

Hello?

Zari goes towards the door, and it's locked.

ZARI

(pounding it)

No, no! Open!

She takes off one of the chains holding Myles, and then ties it around the handle, pulling. Myles gets one arm free. It smashes open. Then, she sees a computer with a face cam.

ZARI

(angry)

You murderer!

Once she gets to the computer, she notices Tobias on the ground, dead. She gets confused, and sees a smashed bottle with the happy face on the ground, with his eyes still open. Some of the liquid had spilled onto the ground, and some was still on his face. Zari stands there, in shock. Myles gets out of the last chain, and sprints towards Zari.

MYLES

(concerned)

Hey, Zari! Are you okay--!

He sees Zari, staring at Tobias' dead, static body. She looks at Myles in a worried, angry look. Then, she goes over to him and rests her head on his shoulder, and cries. She starts to bawl her tears out completely. Myles starts to tear up, looking around, and putting the pieces of the puzzle together. Then, Zari looks back at Tobias' corpse, and tries to charge it. Myles stops her, holding her back.

MYLES

(stopping her)

Hey, hey! Zari! Look at me!

Zari tries to fight off being restrained, but then reluctantly looks at him.

MYLES (CONT'D)

That won't help anything,
okay!? You can't change the
past.

Zari then realizes he's right, and bawls on him again.

FADE OUT

THE END