

CONFESSIONS

Written by

Mike Felix

Email Address: mikefelix744@gmail.com
Phone Number: +254721895275

FADE IN:

INT. INVESTIGATION ROOM - DAY

DETECTIVE MASALA, 40's, and his trainee JANET, 30's, stand still in the middle of a large barely lit room with a murder board.

The murder board has images of a victim, a line-up of suspects evidence and scrappy notes pinned on it.

Detective Masala is confident, well put together, a little gruff but with sharp brutal eyes and he is clearly less thrilled about how this case is going.

On the other hand, Janet is naïve, meek, ever smiling and a real go-getter. At first glance, she just looks royally confused.

MASALA

We are stuck.

JANET

What?

MASALA

There's nothing else we can do.

JANET

But...

MASALA

But what?

Det. Masala's furrowed forehead bulges. Janet looks at him scared, almost like she wants to run away.

MASALA (CONT'D)

What?...It's been three days since the pastor was killed, we have no leads, no more suspects and time is running out. I can't go back to the Inspector and report that we have nothing. Again.

JANET

So what do we do?

Det. Masala sighs.

MASALA

I don't know what to do.

JANET

But you are Detective Masala,
you've solved more tough and
complicated cases than this.

MASALA

But that's just it, this case
it's...it's not that tough. And
it's barely complicated. It's a
perfect crime.

JANET

How so?

MASALA

Let's start with the victim: a
beloved pastor who never had
enemies and a list of suspects who
were had nothing to say but good
things about the victim.

JANET

May be it's something about his
past that we missed.

MASALA

No it's not that.

Janet bites her lips, disappointed.

MASALA (CONT'D)

You know what, let's start from the
beginning.

JANET

Okay. So the Church Matron said she
walked into church and around
8am...

BEGIN FLASHBACK:

INT. CHURCH - MORNING

Still and peaceful.

Follow THE CHURCH MATRON walking into the church carrying a
tray headed to the pulpit.

She mutters a prayer and heads to the back office.

She knocks and enters without a beat.

CHURCH MATRON
Bwana asifiwe Pastor.

The office is empty. She looks around for a moment then heads out.

She heads straight towards what looks like a confession booth. She takes a peep to look if its occupied.

The door is barely closed. It swings open and The Church Matron sees:

PASTOR BEN himself. Frozen in a prayer/meditation pose.

Soaking in blood. Very much dead.

The tray slowly slips out of her hands and just as it hits the ground she lets out a deafening shrill that echoes all through the church almost harmoniously.

END OF FLASHBACK.

INT. INVESTIGATION ROOM - DAY

JANET

Poor matron. I don't think she'll ever be the same after what she saw.

Det. Masala turns to her dismissingly.

MASALA

Don't be so dramatic, she'll get over it.

JANET

I remember my first time seeing a dead body, I couldn't eat without throwing up for days. It was devastating.

Det. Masala holds his gaze at her, clearly less than thrilled about Janet's sudden oversharing.

MASALA

I'm sure it was but we are here on serious business so why would you think I'll be interested in your eating and vomiting habits.

(MORE)

MASALA (CONT'D)

You know what, here's another lesson for you, get your priorities straight and always focus on the task at hand.

Janet frowns.

JANET

I'm so sorry Detective...

MASALA

Don't be sorry, just do your job.

Det. Masala notices something on the murder board.

He heads over to the murder board to take a closer look.

He points at a blurry photo on the murder board.

MASALA (CONT'D)

What's this?

KNOCK. KNOCK.

Janet walks over to the door.

MASALA (CONT'D)

Come take a look at this.

She turns back halfway. She heads over to the murder board next to Det. Masala.

MASALA (CONT'D)

What is this?

Det. Masala points at the blurry photo.

The KNOCK still resuming in the background.

Janet squints. Trying to get a better look.

JANET

It's... I think it's a picture frame.

MASALA

But that's not a picture on it.

Janet nods.

MASALA (CONT'D)

Who takes the photos of these evidence?

(MORE)

MASALA (CONT'D)

Can you get me a clearer photo, I want to know what's on that frame.

The KNOCK becomes dominant.

MASALA (CONT'D)

Who's that?

JANET

I don't know.

MASALA

Well, go find out.

Janet heads to the door. She opens it halfway.

MASALA (CONT'D)

What is it?

Janet closes the door.

JANET

We've got something.

MASALA

What?

JANET

We have a confession... Well confessions.

MASALA

What does that mean?

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Det. Masala sits in front of BRIAN. Brian looks foggy - out of it and is drenching in his sweat.

Janet is standing beside him taking notes.

MASALA

Can you tell us what happened?

BRIAN

I killed him.

Det. Masala sighs, disappointed.

MASALA

You've been saying that or the past hour.

Brian mutters something under his breathe.

Det. Masala turns to Janet.

MASALA (CONT'D)
Can you hear what he is saying?

Janet leans in closer. She smiles weakly.

JANET
I' 'm not sure but... I think h's
saying... forgive me father... for
I have sinned.

MASALA
I'm not his father why would he say
that?

JANET
No. It's what people say before
they confess their sins to a
priest.

MASALA
And what does it mean?

JANET
I don't know.

Det. Masala snaps his fingers at Brian.

MASALA
Hey Brian, look at me. Why did you
do it?

BRIAN
He told me to do it.

MASALA
Who did? Pastor Ben?

BRIAN
No. The angel of death did.

Det. Masala turns to Janet.

MASALA
Bring in the other one.

Janet heads over, grabs Brian and leads him outside.

A beat.

Janet walks in with MARY. Tired. Eyes wet with tears. She doesn't look lucid.

Janet puts her in the chair in front of Det. Masala.

MASALA (CONT'D)

Can you tell us what happened?

Mary stares directly at Det. Masala and starts mumbling. On and on. She doesn't answer.

MASALA (CONT'D)

What's going on? She's even worse than the other guy.

Just when Det. Masala's patience starts wearing out, Mary starts to get louder.

MARY

Forgive me father for I have sinned...

MASALA

This again. Did you help Brian do it or did he help you?

MARY

Who? Brian? NO! I did it all by myself.

MASALA

Why?

MARY

Because he told me to.

MASALA

Who? The angel of death?

Mary smiles at Det. Masala.

MARY

Yes...He said that the pastor's time had come and that his death would bring life to many and save a lot more lives.

Det. Masala stands from his chair. He pulls Janet aside.

JANET

I guess we've found our killers.

MASALA

No. I don't know. Something is still not adding up.

JANET

How so?

MASALA

We have one murder, two confessions each saying they acted alone and no physical evidence tying any of them to the murder. I mean look at them, they are crazy, they couldn't have pulled it off, it's just not possible.

JANET

So what now?

MASALA

Now we o back to the drawing board and review the facts and evidence at hand.

INT. INVESTIGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Detective Masala and Janet are right back where they started. In front of the murder board trying to make sense of things.

MASALA

Did you get a clear photo of that piece of evidence?

JANET

Yes. The crime scene guys sent me a soft copy.

MASALA

Show me.

Janet gets out her phone and hands it over to Det. Masala.

MASALA (CONT'D)

You didn't print it?

JANET

It was while we were interrogating the suspects, I haven't had time since then to print them...

Det. Masala looks at her, disappointed. He grabs the phone and takes a look at it.

MASALA

It's a degree certificate. A degree
in psychology.

Det. Masala pauses for a moment.

MASALA (CONT'D)

A pastor with a degree? Unh...You
don't see that everyday.

He hands the phone back to Janet.

JANET

Now what?

MASALA

I really thought the blurry photo
was the missing link but now it has
raised more questions than answers.
I want you to find out if the
pastor ever practiced as a
therapist. If so get me a list of
his patients especially those who
might hold a grudge against him.

Janet is glued on her phone.

MASALA (CONT'D)

What are you looking at?

Janet, startled, puts her phone away.

JANET

Nothing.

MASALA

Let me see it.

JANET

It's just a video o the pastor
performing a miracle.

MASALA

What miracle?

JANET

He cast out demons from a man
acting like a pig. It's all over
youtube.

Det. Masala laughs lightly.

MASALA

Like a pig?

Janet nods.

MASALA (CONT'D)

Show me.

Janet unlocks her phone and hands it over to him.

Det. Masala watches the video. Then something hits him.

He gives the phone back to Janet and starts to head out.

MASALA (CONT'D)

Follow me. I know who the killer
is.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Det. Masala and Janet walk in.

Mary is seated in the room.

Det. Masala heads over to Mary. He stands her up and whispers something in her ears.

Mary takes a deep breath. Lets it out slowly then---

---she starts behaving like a chicken. Quacking and quacking.

Janet is taken by surprise. Det. Masala just smiles.

JANET

What did you do to her?

Det. Masala smiles broaden.

MASALA

Hypnosis.

JANET

Hypnosis? You can do that?

MASALA

No. But I'm pretty sure the pastor
knew how to do it because that's
the only way he could have
performed those "miracles".

Mary starts getting erratic. Umping up and down. Helter skelter.

Janet tries to hold her down.

JANET
Well, make her STOP!

MASALA
I don't know how to.

JANET
Do something.

Det. Masala bangs on the table and SHOUTS---

MASALA
In JESUS name, STOOP!

Mary calms down.

JANET
What did you just do?

MASALA
I've cast out her demons.

JANET
Who killed the pastor then?

MASALA
It's an overreach but I think the
pastor killed himself or he
conspired with someone to kill him.

JANET
Why? What's the motive?

MASALA
The life insurance money.

Janet is confused.

JANET
But all of the money was going into
the orphanage. No one could've
benefitted from that.

MASALA
An orphanage that was on the verge
o shutting down. Remember what Mary
said..."his death would bring life
to many and save a lot more lives".

Janet nods.

JANET

So the pastor killed himself and then hypnotized Brian and Mary to confess to the crime. But why?

MASALA

I don't know. It's like they say: The Lord works in mysterious ways.

Janet frowns.

JANET

But who's going to believe your theory about hypnosis. It seems...

MASALA

...unbelievable? Everything about this case doesn't add up and we can't go to the Inspector and tell him that our suspects were hypnotized so now all we have to do is find evidence that points out to this being a suicide not a murder.

JANET

If we rule the case as suicide, the insurance money isn't going to be paid out and the orphanage will shut down.

MASALA

Our job here is to follow the leads and solve the case no matter what. Whatever happens after this is not our concern.

Det. Masala heads out.

JANET

But...

He turns around. Pissed.

MASALA

Here's one final lesson or you: if you ever feel the first word out of your mouth is but, DON'T SAY IT. Nobody likes butts, especially me.

FADE TO BLACK.