INT. CHARLIE'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Charlie is sitting behind his cluttered desk looking over a case file smoking a cigarette, when Officer #3 comes in.

He places the file down looking up at him.

CHARLIE
What do you have?

OFFICER #3
Our Victims were Tom Rivers and the woman worked for an escort service. Despite the woman being disemboweled, the autopsy report concluded she would've died from ingesting antifreeze.

Charlie puts his cigarette down in the ashtray.

CHARLIE
Goddamn it. I already have to deal with one nutcase running around killing women, and now---

OFFICER #3
You didn't let me get to the part about the blood on the note.

Charlie picks up his cigarette taking a pull.

CHARLIE
I'm listening.

OFFICER #3
The blood was a mixture of all the victims.

CHARLIE
What?

OFFICER #3
Blood from each victim was found on the letters.

CHARLIE
Did they find any fingerprints on the knife or note?

OFFICER #3
Not a one.

Created using Celtx

CHARLIE
Does Tom have anyone who can be notified about his death?

OFFICER #3
Most of his family lives out of state. From looking at his phone records, the people he communicates with the most lives in the county. Claire Nile, Joey Spigot and our local favorite. Bernard Drive.

Charlie takes one last pull from his cigarette before putting it out thinking about the "B" initial on the note.

CHARLIE
Bring Claire and Joey down and see what they know, just in case they're targeted next. I'll go talk to Mr. Drive.

OFFICER #3
I'm on it.

Officer #3 walks out the room.

Charlie sits frustrated about the case, but he thinks he's about to get a good lead when he speaks with Bernard.

INT. BERNARD'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Bernard is sitting behind his desk wearing something casual doing a crossword puzzle with his headphones on.

Mary is wearing something simple placing files in the file cabinet.

She closes the file cabinet walking over to him taking a seat on his lap giving him a kiss.

He takes off his headphones.

MARY
What are we doing today?

BERNARD
I was thinking we could---

Charlie bursts into the room walking up to the desk picking up the nameplate sucking his teeth.

Created using Celtx

Bernard and Mary are lost wondering why he barged into the office.

BERNARD
How may I help you?

Charlie places the plate down, turning his back walking away.

CHARLIE
Get your shit. You're coming with me.

BERNARD
May I ask why?

Charlie pauses.

CHARLIE
Don't question me, kid. Just get your shit, and let's go.

Charlie walks out the room.

Bernard and Mary look on confused.

MARY
What was that about?

BERNARD
I have no idea. But he better have a good goddamn reason or a healthy pension to retire on.

He gives her a kiss, and then taps her on the ass so she can stand up.

Bernard gets up walking towards the door walking out.

Mary looks on, shaking her head.

INTERROGATION ROOM - AFTERNOON

Bernard is sitting at the table, while Charlie stands to the side smoking a cigarette.

BERNARD
Why am I down here?

CHARLIE
Your friends are Claire Nile and Joey Spigot?

Created using Celtx

BERNARD
Not anymore.

Charlie laughs taking a pull from his cigarette taking a seat.

CHARLIE
That really doesn't matter. What does matter is you were friends with Tom Rivers.

BERNARD
And your point is?

Charlie pulls out the note tossing it at Bernard. Bernard picks up the note.

BERNARD
(Laughs)
You got me down here reading your love letters?

CHARLIE
Just read the goddamn thing.

Bernard opens the note, scans over it, and then tosses it to the side.

BERNARD
Okay. Now what?

CHARLIE
Did you pay attention to your initial?

BERNARD
(Laughs)
What? You're saying I made this?

CHARLIE
I'm saying if you don't know who the killer is, you're next on the list.

Bernard smiles leaning back in his chair.

BERNARD
It's obvious you don't know who I am.

CHARLIE
I know who you are.

Created using Celtx

BERNARD
Good. Then you know keeping me here any longer can cost you your career. Thank you, and have a nice day.

Bernard stands up patting Charlie on the shoulder ready to walk off.

Charlie drops his cigarette, grabbing Bernard by the arm making him turn around.

CHARLIE
You're a real smartass, just like your friends said. Tell me something? Did you say a smartass remark like that when they found you with your dead mother?

Bernard snatches his arm away.

BERNARD
I told you, they're not friends of mine. And if I were you, I'd tread softly. You never know if you might end up on a list.

Bernard walks out the room.

Bernard comes into the main lobby that's loud from the phones ringing, and people handcuffed talking trash.

He walks past them, making his way outside.

EXT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Bernard walks to his car resting in the parking lot getting in slamming the door.

CUT TO:

INT. BERNARD'S MOTHER KITCHEN - MORNING 1989 {FLASHBACK}

Young Bernard is standing in the corner with a blank stare watching the coroners carry his mother out.

There's a large bloodstain on the floor, and instead of the straight razor she used to kill herself, Young Bernard replaced it with another one.

MALE OFFICER walks over to Young Bernard.

Created using Celtx

MALE OFFICER
I know this isn't the right time, but I have to ask you a question. Were you here when she did this?

Young Bernard doesn't respond.

MALE OFFICER
I know this is difficult. But I need to know---

YOUNG BERNARD
She's in a better place.

MALE OFFICER
Yes, she is. But---

YOUNG BERNARD
That's all that matters.

Young Bernard walks to the front door walking out.

INT. /EXT. PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Police cars, an ambulance and the coroner van are in front of the house.

People are gathered around watching.

Young Bernard stands on the porch with the same blank stare looking at the coroner van.

He walks off the porch making his way down the street.

Coming from the other end of the street is the neighborhood bully, eleven-year-old BILLY.

He's on the husky side with soul piercing blue eyes.

Billy stops in front of Young Bernard, and Young Bernard walks through him with a hard push.

Confusion is on Billy's face running up in front of Young Bernard placing a hand to his chest making him stop.

BILLY
Are you dumb today? You know there's a toll if you wanna walk down this street.

Created using Celtx

YOUNG BERNARD
I would advise you to carry on about your day.

Young Bernard places his hand in his pocket on the handle of the blade.

Billy laughs cracking his knuckles.

BILLY
You must be ready to collect this beating?

Just as Billy gets ready to swing, Young Bernard grabs him pulling the straight blade out placing it to Billy's throat.

YOUNG BERNARD
Are you ready to go to a better place? My mommy was.

BILLY
Please. Please let me---

YOUNG BERNARD
Let you live?

Young Bernard looks back seeing people making their way towards them.

He leans in Billy's ear.

YOUNG BERNARD
I lost my mother and father. Unless you wanna join them, I suggest you leave me the fuck alone. Do you understand?

BILLY
Yes.

Young Bernard lets him go, holding the blade down to his side.

The people walk past.

YOUNG BERNARD
Get yo ass home.

Billy gets ready to walk off, and Young Bernard grabs his hand making him stop.

Created using Celtx

YOUNG BERNARD
Oh, yeah. This is for all the tolls I had to pay.

Young Bernard slices Billy across the right side of his face.

Billy gets ready to scream, and Young Bernard places the blade to his throat.

YOUNG BERNARD
Mention a toll to me again, and the price you'll pay will be far worse than this.

He lets him go, and then walks off down the street.

Billy looks like he wants to cry, but it would be tears of hate taking a bandanna out, placing it on his face trying to stop the bleeding.

COME BACK TO:

INT. BERNARD'S CAR - {PRESENT DAY}

Bernard is smiling.

BERNARD
I tell you this much. The last person who asked me a stupid question knew not to ask me shit else.

He starts the car up driving off.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

The few people in the bar are mellowed out listening to the jazz music playing.

Bernard is sitting at the bar with a bottle of whiskey, and a shot glass.

WILLIAM Billy's older brother is sitting down at the other end of the bar with a twig in his mouth staring down at Bernard.

The BARTENDER is standing behind the bar cleaning glasses, staring at Bernard.

BERNARD
(Drunk)
The woman I love is a

Created using Celtx

deranged murderer.

BARTENDER
Are you okay?

Bernard downs a shot.

BERNARD
Am I okay? Would you be okay if the woman you love is a psychopath?

William takes a shot before making his way down to Bernard standing behind him.

BARTENDER
You had enough.

Bernard pours another shot downing it, outraged the Bartender would tell him his limit.

BERNARD
What? Let me---

William places a hand on Bernard's shoulder.

Bernard pulls a cigarette out placing it in his mouth lighting it, before turning around.

WILLIAM
Ain't you that lawyer?

Bernard grabs the bottle from the counter taking a sip, and then drops the bottle down to his side holding it by the neck.

BERNARD
That would be me. If you have any problems let me know.

WILLIAM
This is a problem that should've been solved a long time ago.

BERNARD
Huh?

WILLIAM
You don't remember Billy Moore, do you?

Created using Celtx

BERNARD
(Laughs)
I haven't heard that name in years. Wait a minute. Are you the bully from back in the day?

WILLIAM
I'm his brother! I wish he was here to beat your ass, but due to what you did to him, he killed himself!

Bernard bursts out laughing. The Bartender reaches down grabbing the handle of the shotgun he has under the counter.

BARTENDER
I'm not having any shit in here tonight.

Bernard continues laughing, gripping the bottle tighter.

WILLIAM
You think it's funny?!

BERNARD
I guess the toll I told him really went to his head.

William gets ready to swing, and Bernard hits him upside the head with the bottle shattering it.

William falls to the floor holding his bleeding head.

Bernard stands up prepared to stomp him, and the Bartender pulls up the shotgun cocking it.

Everyone drops to the floor, except for Bernard. The Bartender takes aim on Bernard.

Bernard raises his hands smiling.

BARTENDER
Get the fuck outta here! I told you, I'm not having any shit in here!

Bernard kicks William before walking backwards towards the door with his hands still in the air.

He gets to the door putting his hands down going in his pocket pulling out a wad of money taking the rubber band off.

Created using Celtx

BERNARD
Everybody have a drink on me!

He throws the money up in the air.

Everyone rushes trying to get the money causing a bar brawl.

The bartender comes from behind the bar trying to break some of the people up.

Bernard continues laughing making his way out the door.

INT. BERNARD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The crystal chandelier hanging above the room shines down onto the black marble floors.

Bernard comes staggering in closing the door behind him.

As he leans up against the wall with his head down laughing, Mary comes out the bedroom upstairs wearing a sheer black nightgown walking over to the rail looking down at him.

MARY
What took you so long to get here?

He looks up placing his hand over his eyes trying to focus.

BERNARD
Mary? How did you get here?

MARY
The same way you did. Although I find it hard to believe you made it here in your condition.

BERNARD
(Laughs)
And you're mad, because?

She comes downstairs making her way to him shoving him.

MARY
What am I mad about?! I've been cooking all day preparing a nice night for us, and you went and fucked it up! That's what I'm mad about!

BERNARD
(Laughs)
...What did you make?

Created using Celtx

MARY
You know what?

She rolls her eyes making her way back upstairs going in the bedroom slamming the door behind her.

Bernard continues laughing, shrugging up his shoulders before walking into the living room.

The furniture in the white living room is all-black and leather. Hanging above the fireplace is a portrait painted of his mother.

Off in the corner is a mini bar covered with different bottles of liquor and cognac glasses.

Bernard walks over to the sofa falling face first.

The doorbell starts ringing, and he hops up looking around startled.

BERNARD
Huh? No further questions.

The doorbell continues ringing.

Bernard rolls off the sofa onto the floor, slowly crawling towards the wall.

BERNARD
Okay, Goddamn it, I'm coming!

He stands up getting to the front door, and the ringing stops.

BERNARD
What?! I know you didn't have me get up for no reason?!

Dead silence.

Bernard gets ready to walk away, and then...

PHIL (O.S.)
Why stop now when you can go all the way?

BERNARD
Because what you do now can predict who you'll be in the future!

Created using Celtx

Bernard swings the door open, and there stands Phil with a short haircut, but he still has sex appeal.

The two hug.

Bernard lets him come in closing the door behind him.

They walk into the living room.

PHIL
I see you made it.

BERNARD
What are you doing out here? The last I heard you were in Ohio.

PHIL
I've been here for the longest.

The wife and I had a few issues, so we went separate ways.

BERNARD
It wasn't for what I think, was it?

Phil walks over to the mini bar grabbing two glasses and a bottle of cognac filling the glasses, walking back over to Bernard handing him one.

PHIL
Nah. I learned my lesson from that shit.

BERNARD
That's good. You like it out here in the county of murder and madness?

PHIL
None of that shit bothers me. Being able to finally see my best friend is all I care about.

MARY (O.S.)
What's going on down here?

They turn around seeing Mary wearing a robe with her arms folded across her chest.

Phil is in awe staring at her, almost ready to drool over her beauty.

Created using Celtx

PHIL
Who is that?

Bernard looks at him smiling.

BERNARD
Phil, this is my woman, Mary. Mary, this is my best friend, Phil.

She rolls her eyes, turning her back.

MARY
The rapist? I'm going back to bed.

She walks off.

Phil is confused why she would bring up his past, and he didn't disrespect or come across her wrong.

PHIL
What's her problem?

BERNARD
Who gives a fuck what her issue is? Where are you staying?

PHIL
This little motel not far from where you live. Just a little something until I get on my feet.

BERNARD
I think you meant to say you're staying here.

PHIL
I can't do that, B.

BERNARD
You can and you will. Your family did it for me.

PHIL
You're the same old Bernard. You never learned what defeat means.

BERNARD
That's why I'm the best in the county.

They laugh toasting.

Created using Celtx

INT. GUEST ROOM - MORNING

The guest room is just as nice as Bernard's bedroom.

There's a king size bed with black sheets, a wall flat screen television and a stereo system in the corner.

Phil is under the covers asleep moving around. Mary is standing at the side of the bed wearing a black jogging suit staring at him.

Phil slowly wakes up, and just as he gets ready to come from under the covers, he jumps back pulling the cover over himself.

PHIL
Sorry. I didn't know you were in here.

MARY
That's the least of your problems.

Phil sits up in the bed staying covered.

PHIL
What the fuck are you talking about?

MARY
I just wanna let you know, I know what you're doing. And just because you helped my man when he was little, don't think you can come back around taking him from me.

PHIL
Have you lost your fucking mind? It was his idea for me to stay here in the first place.

MARY
It's not about what he says! It's about what I say! If you're smart, which I know you're not!

She points between her legs.

MARY
You should know he'll put this pussy before some bum ass, washed up ex rapist!

He gets ready to lunge at her, and she pulls a butcher knife

Created using Celtx

out making him jump back.

Phil sits back furious about the situation, scared if he tries taking a swing she might end his life.

PHIL
You got the nerve to mention my past, and pull a knife on me?! Bitch, you crazy!

MARY
You goddamn right I'm crazy! You take these words in heed. It's not hard for me to bruise myself up, and file a report saying you beat me. I'm sure they'll love sending your sweet ass back to jail.

She points the tip of the knife in his face.

MARY
You remember that, bitch.

She walks out the room leaving Phil sitting upset.

INT. BERNARD'S CAR - AFTERNOON

Bernard is sitting in front of his mini mansion sitting off alone surrounded by trees, looking at the group message he sent to Joey and Claire waiting for Phil to come out.

INSERT THE PHONE SCREEN

If it's possible, can we meet for lunch at the sushi place? I'm sure you guys are still pissed from last time, but let's put that behind us. I hope to see you.

He sends the message.

Phil comes out the house wearing some of Bernard's casual clothes making his way to the car getting in.

Bernard turns the radio on, and some rap music plays on low as he drives off.

INT. INSIDE BERNARD'S CAR - CONTINUOUS

Phil is still stewing about the incident he had with Mary earlier.

Created using Celtx

PHIL
What's wrong with your girl?

Bernard turns the music down.

BERNARD
What about her?

PHIL
She didn't tell you about the shit she did?

BERNARD
She told me y'all had a conversation.

PHIL
She came in the room on some other shit. Talking about she's not letting me take you away from her. And then the crazy bitch pulled a knife on me.

BERNARD
(Laughs)
You taking me away from her? I didn't know you were into men.

PHIL
You're laughing, but I'm dead serious.

BERNARD
Whoa, wait a minute. You said she pulled a knife on you?

PHIL
That's what I said.

Bernard bites down on his lip.

PHIL
I know that's your girl, and you love her. But, the bitch is crazy.

BERNARD
I'll talk to her when we get back.

PHIL
Fuck a talk! You need to kick that bitch out!

BERNARD
I said I'll talk to her! Did I get on

Created using Celtx

yo head when I told you about that shit back in the day, and you didn't listen?!

Phil sits silent.

BERNARD
Thank you. I said I'll talk to her, and I will. You're my boy. No pussy or money will ever come between that. I'm glad we're back hanging.

PHIL
I'm glad, too. It's just---

BERNARD
Just drop it.

CUT TO:

INT. SUSHI BUFFET - AFTERNOON

The restaurant is packed with people either sitting at tables, being seated or walking around refilling their plates.

ANGLE ON--

Joey has his back turned to the entrance, and Claire is sitting across from him.

Bernard and Phil come into the restaurant.

Bernard tells Phil to wait by the door while he makes his way to Claire and Joey.

JOEY
Who does he think he is? What does the little lunch date supposed to mean?

CLAIRE
Just let it go. Everybody was in the wrong that day.

JOEY
That might be true. It still doesn't give him the right to do what he did. When he gets here---

Bernard extends his hand out in front of Joey.

Created using Celtx

BERNARD
You'll shake my hand accepting my apology, and say we're still friends.

CLAIRE
What do we owe the honor of this lunch, Mr. Perfect?

JOEY
Yeah. I thought you wanted us to stay the fuck out of your life?

Bernard pulls his hand back clearing his throat.

BERNARD
That's all in the past. I'm a new person now, and all I want is my friends.

Claire stands up stepping over to him.

CLAIRE
I don't know. My life without Mr. Perfect might be hard to deal with.

She opens her arms for a hug, and they embrace.

BERNARD
Thanks. How about you, Joey?

Joey stands up staring in Bernard's eyes.

BERNARD
Well?

JOEY
...As long as you give me a kiss.

The two laugh, before giving each other a hug, while Claire looks at Bernard confused.

CLAIRE
Can you tell me what happened to Bernard?

BERNARD
I had an epiphany. I want you guys to meet someone.

Bernard signals for Phil to come over.

Created using Celtx

Phil pauses in his tracks staring at Claire in awe.

BERNARD
Claire and Joey, this is my good friend Phil. Phil, Joey and Claire.

Phil takes Claire's hand and kisses it.

PHIL
I'm charmed to meet your acquaintance.

She pulls her hand back blushing.

CLAIRE
Where did you meet this well- mannered man?

BERNARD
He's my friend from back in the day.

CLAIRE
It's nice to meet you, Phil.

JOEY
Claire, calm down. I don't think he's into men.

Claire gets ready to speak, and Phil grabs her hand staring into her eyes.

PHIL
She's far from a man. She's the true meaning behind the word beauty.

JOEY
I think he's blind. What man in his right mind would say that about Claire?

BERNARD
(Laughs)
Let's stop with the jokes, as Tom would say. Let's sit down, eat, drink and have a good time.

The four sit having a good time, drinking and eating.

Claire and Phil keep constant eye contact with each other.

Created using Celtx

INT. BERNARD'S KITCHEN - NIGHT

This is a beautiful white kitchen with black hardtop counters.

Mary is sitting at the glass table soaking wet, drinking vodka straight from the bottle.

A picture of Bernard is in front her, and resting beside it is a butcher knife.

She picks up the knife placing the tip of the blade on the picture beginning to scrape away until she realizes she's scraping the glass, placing the knife down.

Tears pour down her face picking up the bottle taking a sip.

Just as she gets ready to put her head down, she hears the front door open, followed by laughter from Bernard and Phil.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bernard and Phil are standing by the mini bar laughing.

PHIL
Your friends are crazy. And that Claire is something special.

BERNARD
I just bet she is. You never took your eyes off her, and you got her number.

PHIL
It's something about her. I doubt she'll be interested in me.

BERNARD
Are you crazy? You better put that number to use.

PHIL
You think so?

BERNARD
Hell yeah. There's no doubt in my mind---

Created using Celtx

MARY (O.S.)
(Drunk)
He's right! What woman would be interested in a rapist?!

They turn seeing Mary leaning up against the wall holding the bottle.

Phil lowers his head in shame.

Bernard walks to her, snatching the bottle.

BERNARD
What the fuck is wrong with you?

PHIL
...I'll just come back later.

BERNARD
Fuck that! This is my goddamn house! I need to speak with you.

He grabs her by the arm, dragging her into the kitchen.

He presses her up against the wall holding her by the shoulders.

BERNARD
Why are you fucking with him? And what's with the shit you pulled this morning, pulling a knife on my friend?

MARY
I'm not losing you to a rapist, and I meant what I said! This is our house! I need you to understand that!

BERNARD
Lose me? This is our house?
(Laughs)
Listen. I know you're drunk right now. I need you to go upstairs and take a nap. When you wake up, we can talk about it.

She snatches his hands down, pushing him back.

MARY
You're not my daddy!

She turns her back walking away.

Created using Celtx

BERNARD
I should be your daddy! I'll discipline yo ass when you get outta line!

She stops turning around.

MARY
I don't think you would wanna be my father, considering that bastard is a rapist, too! That's the reason why I'm here!

She turns back around storming out the kitchen.

Phil looks at her storming to the front door opening it, slamming the door behind her.

Bernard walks out the kitchen.

PHIL
You okay?

BERNARD
I'm pretty fucked up right now. I'll get up with you later.

Bernard makes his way out the room.

Phil walks over to the bar making a drink.

INT. BERNARD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bernard lies asleep on the bed. The light from the moon coming through the window shines on the bed.

The killer is standing beside the bed in the shadows placing the tip of a butcher knife on Bernard's leg slowly trailing it up.

BERNARD
(Half woke)
Mary quit bullshitting.

The killer places the tip on Bernard's arm trailing it up.

BERNARD
Mary, I told you---

The killer pounces on him weighing him down pulling out a flashlight turning it on in Bernard's eyes.

Created using Celtx

With the light beaming in his eyes, Bernard still remains calm.

BERNARD
What do you want?

The Killer places the dull part of the blade on the right side of Bernard's face trailing it down to his heart.

BERNARD
Charlie said this would happen. Do it.
Do it, Mary!

The killer quickly moves the knife placing a deep gash on Bernard's side causing him to moan in pain.

BERNARD
...Is that the best you got?

The killer hits Bernard upside the head with the flashlight until he goes unconscious.

Before leaving the room, the killer drops a note on the bed.

INT. CLAIRE'S BASEMENT - NIGHT

Some rap music is playing.

Claire is on the bench cranking out covered in sweat.

She finishes one more rep putting the bar down sitting up breathing heavy, reaching down grabbing her water bottle.

Her phone rings. She finishes drinking her water before answering her phone.

CLAIRE
Hello?

JOEY (O.S.)
What are you doing?

CLAIRE
Hitting the weights.

JOEY (O.S.)
I should've known, Hercules.

CLAIRE
Is there a reason for this phone call
before I hang up?

Created using Celtx

JOEY (O.S.)
Yes. I think I like the new Mr. Perfect.

CLAIRE
He's cool. I like his friend more.

JOEY (O.S.)
You're a dick chaser. Have you ever heard of the word game?

CLAIRE
Have you ever heard of the word hater? You're jealous because everybody has somebody all over them except you.

JOEY (O.S.)
I got mine, sweetheart. Believe me.

CLAIRE
Sure you do.

Her line clicks.

CLAIRE
Hold on.

She clicks over.

CLAIRE
Hello?

PHIL (O.S.)
Hey, Claire.

CLAIRE
Who is this?

PHIL (O.S.)
Phil. Bernard's friend.

CLAIRE
How are you?

PHIL (O.S.)
I'm fine.

CLAIRE
What's going on?

Created using Celtx

PHIL (O.S.)
Nothing much. Do you wanna go get something to eat?

CLAIRE
Sure. Just give me a minute to get ready.

PHIL (O.S.)
Okay, cool. I need some time to get ready myself. I'll call you when I'm ready.

CLAIRE
I can't wait.

She clicks back over, and Joey is singing a song sounding horrible.

CLAIRE
You know singing ain't for everybody?

JOEY (O.S.)
Girl, you know my singing turns you on.

CLAIRE
Yeah, okay. Anyway, I have to let you go. I need to go get ready.

JOEY (O.S.)
Where are you going?

CLAIRE
On a date with the person you said is running game on me.

JOEY (O.S.)
I would tell you to take some mace, but you don't need that.

CLAIRE
Fuck you. Good bye.

She hangs up smiling, getting up to go get ready.

INT. EMERGENCY ROOM - NIGHT

Bernard is on the bed getting stitched up, while Charlie stands to the side looking at him.

Created using Celtx

CHARLIE
This is the man who said he wasn't on the list?

BERNARD
Fuck you very much. This ain't the time for sarcasm.

CHARLIE
You're right.

Charlie pulls out the note handing it to Bernard.

Bernard takes the note opening it.

BERNARD
(Reads aloud)
I'm cutting off all ties. The only thing standing between me and my goal is death. For the first time, Bernard was scared for his life.

CHARLIE
Do you know what it means?

BERNARD
She was plotting on me the whole time.

CHARLIE
Who?

BERNARD
My woman.

Charlie bursts out laughing, causing the doctor to laugh accidentally pricking Bernard with the needle.

BERNARD
Ouch! That shit hurt.

DOCTOR
(Snickering)
Sorry, sir.

CHARLIE
Let's say that's true. That explains why she killed your friend. Why did she kill the other women?

BERNARD
Her abusive mother placed a gash on

Created using Celtx

the right side of her face and she ended up killing her, growing a deep hate for women.

CHARLIE
That explains why she takes the flesh. We need to get to her before she kills someone else.

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

The streetlamps light up the park.

Claire and Phil are holding hands walking along the path.

CLAIRE
How does it feel reuniting with your childhood friend?

PHIL
It's good. We started off as nothing more than neighbors. After the incident with his mother we became closer.

CLAIRE
What incident with his mother?

PHIL
You don't know? His mother killed herself. Sad to say, he was the one who found her.

CLAIRE
Oh, my God.

PHIL
It fucked him up real bad. He was always trying to kill himself. It got to the point I couldn't leave him alone.

CLAIRE
I didn't know that.

PHIL
He's a secretive person. He doesn't open up because he feels holding back pain makes him stronger.

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CLAIRE
So, you were his guardian angel?

PHIL
You can say that. He was mine, too.

CLAIRE
Mr. Perfect was a guardian angel? Tell me about this.

PHIL
He took a knife for me. I thought he was about to die in my arms that day.

CLAIRE
Why would anyone want to hurt you? You're such a sweetheart.

PHIL
During that time, I was everything but a sweetheart. I did dumb shit I knew I had no business doing.

CLAIRE
I know what you mean.

PHIL
That day showed he's a real friend.

CLAIRE
Believe it or not...Bernard has a special place in my heart.

PHIL
Are you gonna tell me?

CLAIRE
It's not important right now. So, what's a fine, well-distinguished man doing single?

PHIL
Drugs, alcohol and trying to be something I'm not.

CLAIRE
Okay.

PHIL
That's why I don't bother approaching women. I figure when they find

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out about my past it's a wrap.

CLAIRE
You approached me.

PHIL
To tell you the truth, I was about to give up. Good old Bernard told me to keep pursuing.

They stop walking, and she turns looking at him.

CLAIRE
I'm glad you kept pursuing me. Maybe we're meant to wipe the others' pain away.

PHIL
That would be---

She gives him a kiss.

They embrace for a moment, and then release.

CLAIRE
I need to get home and tend to a few things. How about when I'm done, I'll come over and we can talk?

PHIL
Great. I'll head to the house and freshen up.

CLAIRE
You do that.

She gives him one more kiss before they walk back to their cars.

INT. BERNARD'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Bernard and Charlie are standing in the room that's in shambles lit by the moon and building lights coming through the window.

CHARLIE
This place is a mess just like hers.

BERNARD
There's only one other place she could be.

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Charlie picks up the picture Bernard had on his desk.

CHARLIE
How did you get over the thing with your mother?

BERNARD
I'm actually not over it. That's why I take cases reminding me of the incident. Like the case I just won with the lady on trial for killing her husband.

CHARLIE
What about it?

BERNARD
She killed him because he was always cheating and beating her.

CHARLIE
She killed him because of built up anger?

BERNARD
She had a depression problem. In the state she was in, I'm surprised she didn't kill him, the kids and herself.
(Sighs)
You know when you get to the point where you have to do something? That moment of clarity to help you get through the pain. I kept having flashbacks of my incident, and I used that to help strengthen me win the case.

CHARLIE
So, winning the case helped you with your problem?

BERNARD
If I knew then, what I know now.

Charlie places the picture back on the desk, and then pats Bernard on the back.

CHARLIE
I'm sorry about the comment I made before.

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BERNARD
Sometimes I need to hear those words so I can get through the rough times.

CHARLIE
You did real good, kid. Let's get some justice for those innocent people murdered.

Charlie walks out the room.

Bernard stands with tears in his eyes sighing deeply before walking out the room.

Bernard comes out the room walking down the barely lit hallway with his head down and the killer clotheslines him from one of the other rooms, knocking him to the floor unconscious.

Charlie is walking down the stairs, and then he stops when he notices Bernard isn't behind him.

He pulls his gun out, slowly making his way back upstairs.

CHARLIE
Come on kid, we need to get going!

Charlie gets to the top of the stairs pausing seeing the outline of the killer.

CHARLIE
Kid?

The killer opens fire, and Charlie quickly takes cover returning fire.

The two have a short and sweet shootout, because Charlie tries getting a clean shot, and gets shot in the shoulder making him fall backwards down the stairs.

Charlie tumbles down the stairs losing his gun, and the killer is right behind him.

Charlie lands hard against the wall, sitting in pain with distorted vision.

The killer walks up kneeling down placing the gun in his face.

CHARLIE
Kill me, you crazy bitch!

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The killer pistol-whips Charlie until he goes unconscious, and then goes back upstairs to get Bernard.

INT. BERNARD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bernard's arms and ankles are tied to the bedposts as he lies unconscious.

The killer injects him with morphine.

As the killer gets ready to walk out the room, you can hear Phil coming in the house.

Phil is coming up the stairs, and the killer quickly hides behind the door.

PHIL (O.S.)
B! You won't believe what happened tonight.

He opens the door, and his mouth drops seeing Bernard tied to the bed.

He rushes over trying to untie him, and the killer comes from behind the door butcher knife in hand, walking behind Phil tapping him on the shoulder making him turn around.

The Killer plunges the knife in Phil's right eye twisting it before his body falls to the floor dead.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. STAIRS - CONTINUOUS

Charlie is slowly waking up moaning in pain.

He takes his tie off wrapping it around the bullet wound tight to stop the bleeding, and then he stands to his feet still in pain walking to get his gun.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BERNARD'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Bernard is tossing and turning in his sleep covered with sweat.

BERNARD
Mommy! Get up, mommy!

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DISTORTED VOICE (O.S.)
Mommy can't help you.

BERNARD
What am I supposed to do mommy?

DISTORTED VOICE (O.S.)
Wake up. I have a surprise for you.

Bernard slowly opens his eyes turning to the side, and he shrieks seeing Phil's dead body.

BERNARD
What the fuck?!

Bernard struggles trying to get free from the ropes.

Mary is standing at the foot of the bed in the shadows only allowing us to see the cold stare in her eyes.

Bernard sees her, and stops trying to get free.

BERNARD
I knew it was you. Why didn't you kill me?

She doesn't respond.

BERNARD
Say something!

JOEY (O.S.)
I will.

BERNARD
Joey? What are you, her partner?

JOEY (O.S.)
(Laughs)
How can she be my partner...and I killed her, too?

Joey releases Mary's hair and shirt allowing her to fall onto the bed.

The back of her skull is crushed in with multiple stab wounds in her back.

Joey stands up from the stool he was sitting on, walking over to the wall turning the lights on.

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His wife beater is covered with blood.

He makes his way over to Bernard.

Bernard lies with tears falling from his eyes.

JOEY
Would you look at this? Mr. Perfect has a heart after all.

BERNARD
Go to hell, you son of a bitch.

JOEY
The hell part I can probably get with. The son part is way off.

BERNARD
What are you saying? ...You're a woman?

JOEY
(Sighs)
I was. Besides, when I was a girl you didn't care for me then, like you don't now.

BERNARD
What are you talking about?

JOEY
Back in high school, I was the flat chest girl with shaggy hair, bum clothes and messed up teeth.

BERNARD
I think you got the wrong guy, freak.

JOEY
Allow me to refresh your memory. It's graduation day, and a girl asks if she can have that special place in your heart.

Bernard lies silent with his eyebrow raised.

JOEY
I guess the ugly people are hard to remember. I mean, how can you remember a hideous beast named Josephine Sheppard?

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Bernard's eyes widen.

BERNARD
It can't be.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - AFTERNOON 1997 {FLASHBACK}

Teenage Bernard and Teenage Phil are standing by the lockers wearing their cap and gown.

TEENAGE BERNARD
This is the day we've been waiting for.

TEENAGE PHIL
Our moment to shine is now.

TEENAGE BERNARD
Check out this ring.

Teenage Bernard holds out his right hand showing off the ring he was rubbing when the movie started.

TEENAGE PHIL
That's cold. Where did you get it?

TEENAGE BERNARD
It was mama's engagement ring.

JOSEPHINE has shaggy hair, and is skinny as twig.

She comes walking down the hall wearing her gown, carrying her cap smiling.

She walks up behind Teenage Bernard tapping him on the shoulder.

JOSEPHINE
Can I talk to you for a minute?

He turns around and jumps as if he saw something that scared him.

TEENAGE BERNARD
Goddamn it, Scooby. What do you want?

JOSEPHINE
It's the end of the year, and I was wondering---

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TEENAGE PHIL
Just say what you have to say so we can get the fuck on.

JOSEPHINE
Would you like to exchange numbers?

Teenage Bernard and Teenage Phil look at each other, and then break out laughing. Josephine stands embarrassed.

TEENAGE PHIL
Why the hell would he do that?

JOSEPHINE
I wasn't talking to you, now was I?

TEENAGE BERNARD
You two cut it out.

Teenage Bernard takes Josephine's hand kissing it looking into her eyes.

TEENAGE BERNARD
Josephine, I would love to.

Josephine stands blushing.

JOSEPHINE
Would you, really?

He lets her hand go.

TEENAGE BERNARD
Hell no! Get outta here, Scooby.

Teenage Bernard and Teenage Phil walk off laughing.

She runs up grabbing his shoulder making him stop.

JOSEPHINE
Bernard, I can be the perfect woman for you. Give me that chance.

He backhands her with his right hand, turning around looking at her.

TEENAGE BERNARD
What would I look like dating something that looks like you?! I'd prefer death before being seen with you!

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She holds her bleeding face crying.

He realizes what he's done and tries comforting her, but she slaps him across the face.

She stares at him with insanity in her eyes, and blood coming from the long gash.

JOSEPHINE
Get the hell away from me!

TEENAGE BERNARD
I'm---

JOSEPHINE
You mark my words, Bernard Drive! It may not be today or tomorrow! But you're gonna pay for what you did to me! Physically and mentally!

She takes off running down the hall crying.

Teenage Bernard gets ready to go after her, but Teenage Phil stops him.

TEENAGE PHIL
Just let her go. Who'll believe what that ugly bitch has to say?

TEENAGE BERNARD
...Maybe you're right.

He looks down seeing a piece of flesh and blood on the ring rubbing it off.

COME BACK TO:

INT. BERNARD'S BEDROOM - (PRESENT DAY)

Joey wipes the tears from his eyes, walking over to Phil's dead body snatching the knife from his head.

He spits on Phil's face, and then walks over to Bernard.

Bernard looks at him confused.

BERNARD
Wait a minute. You waited all these years to do this crazy shit?

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JOEY
You would've taken forever too, if you had to plan, go through therapy and surgery. Didn't you get my message from Tim?

BERNARD
Tim? The only Tim I know is from high school, and I haven't seen him since.

JOEY
You've seen him. He's not the terrifying threat who stabbed you, but you've seen him. "Vengeance is only sweet when you make the person you love realize how sweet it is.".

BERNARD
(Laughs)
That was him? I thought he would be dead by now.

JOEY
(Laughs)
You might as well say he is.

BERNARD
You murdered those innocent people just so you could get back at me? You're a fucking weirdo.

JOEY
Oh, it's okay, baby. You can finally be with a real woman.

BERNARD
What the fuck are you talking about?

JOEY
I may look like a man, but I still have my womanhood to satisfy a man. And, I'm still a virgin.

BERNARD
You're truly out of your fucking mind.

Joey takes a seat on the bed patting Bernard on the chest.

JOEY
I know this. But, you'll finally be with a real woman. Because unlike

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your mother.
(Scoffs)
What a pathetic woman. But unlike her, I'll never leave you.

Bernard spits on him.

BERNARD
Fuck you, bitch!

Joey smiles ripping Bernard's shirt open, placing the knife on his stitched up wound slowly dragging it across.

Bernard moans in pain.

JOEY
We'll grow to love each other.

BERNARD
...I'd prefer death.

JOEY
I won't let you die, baby. But since we're talking. Let me tell you how I killed your precious Mary. I'm actually glad I killed her. Not just because she slept with you, but she was the key for me to set this up.

CUT TO:

EXT. LAW OFFICE - NIGHT {FLASHBACK}

Mary staggers along the side of the building not knowing Joey is waiting in the shadows behind some trees watching.

She gets to the back door leaning up against the wall, fumbling around in her purse for her key card, finally pulling the card out ready to use it.

Joey runs from the darkness grabbing her covering her mouth, dragging her into the darkness behind the trees.

Mary struggles trying to get free.

Joey tosses her to the ground, turning her around taking a seat on top of her.

MARY
Oh, my---

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He slaps her hard across the face.

JOEY
Yes bitch, it's me. If you'd kept your hands off my man, you wouldn't have been on the list.

Joey pulls the butcher knife out, and Mary swings with all her might hitting him in the face knocking him over to the side.

She gets up running, but Joey is quickly on his feet right behind her tripping her, causing her to fall face first to the ground.

Joey places his foot on her back so she can't move.

Mary screams out for help as Joey leans down picking up a brick.

She continues screaming as Joey cocks his arm back slinging the brick with full force to the back of her head, silencing her screams.

He sits on her back picking the brick up hitting her in the head a few more times, cracking her skull.

He gets up going to grab the butcher knife, walking back over to her dead body taking a seat on her back stabbing her.

JOEY
He's not here to save you this time.

He stabs her one more time leaving the knife in her back walking off.

COME BACK TO:

INT. BERNARD'S BEDROOM - {PRESENT TIME}

Joey is sitting with the tip of the knife on his lip smiling.

Bernard is devastated with tears falling from his eyes.

JOEY
Considering I already sabotaged her house. When I killed her, I sabotaged your office, and as I was coming out, you and your cop friend showed up. I guess it was a blessing in disguise.

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BERNARD
And you really think we'll be together?

Joey leans down in Bernard's face, placing the knife to his throat.

JOEY
I don't think it, baby. I know.

INTERCUT WITH:

EXT. BERNARD'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Claire comes walking up the walkway to the front door ready to ring the doorbell, and Charlie comes from behind one of the trees walking up aiming his gun at the back of her head cocking the hammer.

She puts her hands up in the air.

CHARLIE
(Whispering)
What are you doing here?

CLAIRE
(Nervous, whispering)
I came to see Bernard's friend.

Charlie lowers his gun.

Claire slowly turns around lowering her hands.

CHARLIE
His woman is the killer. I'm pretty sure she has him in there.

CLAIRE
Why are we standing here talking?

CHARLIE
We're not about to do anything. I'm waiting for backup, and we'll handle this.

CLAIRE
My friend could possibly die, and you're standing here waiting for backup? I'm going in.

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CHARLIE
No you're not. We're waiting for backup.

CLAIRE
You wait for backup. I'm helping my friend.

She gets ready to take off running, and he grabs her arm.

Sighing deep, he pulls a nine-millimeter from his other holster extending it to her, and she pushes it away.

CLAIRE
I don't need that. I can handle myself.

CHARLIE
Okay. Here's what we're gonna...

She takes off running towards the back of the house.

Charlie sighs, and within a few seconds the sound of breaking glass is heard, followed with the alarm blaring.

Charlie pulls his gun out running towards the back of the house.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. BERNARD'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Joey places a gag in Bernard's mouth, and then gives him a kiss on the forehead.

JOEY
It sounds like we have guests, dear. Let me go take care of them, and I'll be right back.

Joey walks off, and Bernard starts mumbling.

Joey walks back to him taking the gag from his mouth.

JOEY
Yes?

BERNARD
(Laughs)
I knew you had no social life.

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Joey gets frustrated, slashing Bernard across the chest, before placing the knife on his throat.

JOEY
I might as well send you to your precious, Mary.

He gets ready to slit his throat, when Claire bursts into the room.

CLAIRE
What the hell?

She covers her mouth from the gruesome scene.

JOEY
Goddamn it, Claire.

CLAIRE
You were the killer all this time?

JOEY
This has nothing to do with you. Strong women like me and you need to stick together.

CLAIRE
Strong women like me and you? What fucking drugs are you on?

Joey walks over to Claire with a sadistic smile.

BERNARD
He's a woman, Claire! She's a crazy bitch from my past finally coming back to get me!

JOEY
(Chuckles)
Pay him no mind. You and I could---

Claire hits Joey in the mouth making his head turn, taking a step back.

CLAIRE
Why would I be part of this?! Joey looks at Claire smiling, licking the blood from his busted lip.

JOEY
Fuck it. I see there's no winning.

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He tries to stab her, but she grabs his arm and they tussle out the door.

Charlie is making his way upstairs, and they trip stumbling forward down the steps knocking Charlie down with them.

Joey drops the knife on the steps before the three hit the floor.

Claire and Charlie lie motionless.

Joey gets up laughing, walking back over to the stairs getting the knife.

JOEY
You see, Claire. Since I'm a strong woman, it allows me to endure anything.

He walks over to Claire grabbing the back of her head pulling it back.

JOEY
Unfortunately...this is the end for you.

He gets ready to slit her throat, when a gunshot goes off.

Joey drops the knife looking at the bullet hole in his shoulder.

Charlie is sitting up with his aim on Joey.

JOEY
I don't recall this happening in my story.

CHARLIE
It happens when you leave someone alive in the last scene. They always come back to bite you in the ass.

Joey picks up the knife smiling.

JOEY
Not in my story.

CHARLIE
I'm tired. Just put the knife down, and we can all walk out alive.

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JOEY
You're in the way of a beautiful picture.

Joey charges at Charlie, and Charlie lets off two shots dropping him.

Charlie slowly stands to his feet in pain, and then walks over to Claire.

Claire sits up shaking the daze off.

CHARLIE
You okay over here?

CLAIRE
I had better days. Bernard is upstairs tied to the bed.

CHARLIE
Okay. Let's get up there and--- AH!!

Charlie drops to the floor dropping his gun screaming in pain, grabbing at his bleeding ankle Joey slashed.

Joey has blood falling from his mouth and chest.

Claire picks up the gun taking aim.

JOEY
He's mine! You can't have---

Claire lets off one shot hitting Joey in the head, splattering his brains on the floor.

Charlie continues holding his ankle in pain looking up at Claire.

CHARLIE
Goddamn.

CLAIRE
It wanted something it couldn't have.

CHARLIE
Go outside and see if backup arrived. And find somebody to turn off this annoying ass alarm.

She places the gun under her shirt.

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EXT. BERNARD'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Coroner vans, ambulances, reporter vans and police cars are resting in front of the house.

Reporters are trying to get to Bernard for interviews, but officers are holding them back.

Medics are tending to Charlie on a stretcher.

Claire is standing beside Bernard's stretcher.

BERNARD
Thanks Claire.

CLAIRE
I'm glad I could help. Can you help me out with something?

BERNARD
You name it.

CLAIRE
Do you remember the pedophile they caught some years back?

BERNARD
I remember that sick bastard, because I got him life in jail. What about him?

CLAIRE
Along with giving him life, you took my unborn child's life due to a miscarriage.

BERNARD
Huh?

CLAIRE
He was my soon to be husband, and father of the child I lost.

She pulls the gun from under her shirt placing it to his head.

The medics take off running.

MEDICS
She's got a gun!

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The officers on scene draw their guns taking aim, and the reporters scream dropping to the ground.

Charlie sits up taking aim with his spare gun from his ankle.

CLAIRE
Anything you wanna say?

Bernard shakes his head, closing his eyes.

BERNARD
Do what you have to do.

CLAIRE
I hereby sentence you to death. No further questions.

A gunshot goes off, and blood sprays on Bernard's face.

He opens his eyes just in time to see the hole in Claire's head before her body falls to the ground.

He looks over seeing Charlie.

CHARLIE
You owe me one, kid.

The medics come back over ready to place him in the ambulance.

BERNARD
All this time...I thought she was a virgin.

The medics place him in the ambulance, and then get in themselves.

The ambulance pulls off.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. INSIDE THE AMBULANCE - CONTINUOUS

The rain is hitting hard against the ambulance.

Bernard has a look of anguish on his face.

BERNARD
I'm alone again.

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MEDIC
Excuse me, sir?

BERNARD
Nothing. I was thinking aloud.

MEDIC
Okay.

BERNARD
I wanna go home.

MEDIC
Sir?

BERNARD
I'm sorry, this was an eventful evening. Can you loosen my straps, please? I feel a tad bit dizzy.

The medic loosens the straps.

BERNARD
Thank you. I'm going home now.

Bernard sits up shoving the medic to the side, kicking the door open jumping out onto the street.

He tumbles to the ground, and when he stands to his feet, he gets hit by a car rolling up and over the top, landing on the ground dead.

The look on his face says he's happy with the outcome.

EXT. CEMETERY - MORNING

It's a clear day. Charlie is standing in front of Bernard's tombstone wearing a black suit with his arm in a sling holding a bouquet of white roses.

CHARLIE
I guess this is the way it had to end, huh kid? I'll tell you one thing. You can finally rest in peace.

He places the roses down pulling a cigarette out placing it in his mouth lighting it.

Exhaling slow nodding his head yes, he turns his back walking away.

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SLOWLY FADE TO BLACK:

"Depression leads to various outcomes, all of which are bad. Don't let the burden of what happened to you or someone you know bring you down."

Bernard Mersier

In loving memory, and will never be forgotten. Mary K. Lewis, Shawn P, Richie, Sweetie Mae Peterson, Kenyon, Reese, Ken, Macc 3, and Lamar.

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