BLACK

Over black, a man gasps for air as he runs. Footsteps chase footsteps through the blackness.

Suddenly, a door SLAMS open to reveal

EXT. STREET- DAY

FRANK DEL TORO, a hardened detective, too many years on the force, or too many years on booze, hard to tell which. He bolts through the door into the street, dark matte gun clenched in his hand, scans the street quickly, catches a glimpse of a shadow and burns off running. The shadow is out of sight before Frank gets a chance to make full eye contact. He’s lost him.

Suddenly, out of the corner of his eye, Frank sees the shadow dart into a

INT. Restaurant - Day

Through the sandwich kitchen and out the back door into an

INT. ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

The alley is wide open, dumpsters line it. Lost the shadow again.

FRANK
(through gulps of air)
Damn it.

BANG! A door slams off in the distance and Frank runs towards it. He finds the metal door to a swanky clothing store and pops in.

INT. CLOTHING STORE- DAY

Slowly, he scans for the shadow. A WOMAN comes out of nowhere and is scared shitless of Frank. He flashes the badge on his belt. He ticks his head to ask, “Where is he?” She shrugs. A doorbell entrance dings and Franks runs through the store into the street.

EXT. STREET- DAY

Frank exits the store just in time to see the shadow run into another building. Frank darts across the street and into the
INT. BUILDING- DAY

Frank enters the building and is confronted with a staircase. Shots ring out down the staircase and Frank drops. He points his gun into the air but sees nothing. His face suddenly grimaces with pain and he lowers his gun. He can’t breathe, can’t move, he’s stuck. He clutches his chest. He tears open his shirt to check for gunshots but sees nothing.

His breathing gets heavier, groaning.

Frank drops his gun and struggles to get a cell phone out of his pocket. He dials and a local dispatch woman answers. He can barely get the words out.

FRANK
F-12-42 officer-

DISPATCH
I’m sorry sir, I can’t understand you. Please speak clearly-

FRANK
(barely)
4-4-2 Officer down. Del Toro-

DISPATCH
Sir?

FRANK
(fading)
4-4-2 damn it. Location is...

Just as Frank is trying to reveal his location a shadow appears above him.

DISPATCH
Sir. Are you still there?

FRANK
614 San Jacinto. Code 20, in pursuit of Shadow suspect-

The shadow smacks the phone right out of Frank’s hand.

Frank can’t reach his gun, and the shadow. From the ground we can hear the dispatcher talking.

DISPATCH
(distant)
Sir? Sir?
(to someone in the background)
(MORE)
I don’t know but we’ve got his GPS tracking right now.

SMACK!

The shadow hits Frank right across the face and he’s out.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM—DAY

Frank slowly wakes up in a hospital, a little rundown, considering the heart attack, but no gunshots, no bandages, nothing. He’s looking into the brightest lights he’s ever seen. He squints through the light to see DETECTIVE PAM HAYS and DETECTIVE DAVID RAINS. Hays is a serious looker, 30s with a body that’s hard to conceal beneath her tough cop uniform. She glances over at rains, another looker with a bright smile and a hip arrogance. Hays points in Frank’s direction, rains looks and smiles that big smile.

FRANK
If I’m at the Pearly Gates, I never would have imagined such an ugly St. Peter.

RAINS
He’s back. You gave us quite a scare boss.

PAM
How you doing, Frank?

FRANK
Ready to get out there and show you how to do your jobs.

PAM
Yup, he’s back.

FRANK
What the hell happened anyway...? How long have I been here?

PAM
They brought you here yesterday. (pause, then suddenly) You had a heart attack, Frank. (pause) Dispatch said you were after a perp, do you remember that?
FRANK
Yeah, I remember, take it easy Pam. You can’t have my job just yet.

Frank looks away. Pam looks at rains, he shrugs.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Heart attack? Fuck that, I’m healthy.

RAINS
You’re burning both ends Frank—

FRANK
—who asked you?

PAM
He’s right. Your wife was killed six months ago and...you never took any time off. People need time off Frank. You don’t sleep, you work too much, these cases get to us and...

FRANK
And what?

PAM
(shrugging)
And, you seem to hit the sauce pretty hard..

FRANK
Well, whiskey’s my new wife and let me tell you, she’s very good to me. (beat) I don’t hit it hard.

PAM
Well, that’s nice. Anyway, your doctor’s going to keep you here for observation—

RAINS
–Til then, do you need anything?

FRANK
Any leads on the guy I was chasing?

RAINS
Nothing, but Captain Willis has already initiated the investigation with I.A. (MORE)
And, he said to take it easy til he figures out who or what you were chasing.

FRANK
What do mean, “what” I was chasing?

PAM
(quickly interjecting)
He’s just relaying what the Captain said Frank, OK? Take it easy, wait til you get better and then we’ll talk it out, ok? Until then.

Frank looks off, he has his own plans.

CUT TO:

INT. FRANK’S HOUSE - DAY

Frank pushes open his front door and walks inside. It’s quiet, empty and devoid of the life it once had. Pictures of Frank and ABBY are dusty on the wall, bookcases, tables. They’re young and happy, married, and with each picture the couple ages, still happy, what Frank used to be. Before Abby died.

Frank shuts the door and hits the couch. He has some case files with him and tosses them on the coffee table. He grabs the whiskey bottle and glass already on the table, makes a drink, straight up.

He looks over, sees his wife smiling at him from a picture frame and picks it up. He looks at it, missing her.

FLASHBACK TO:

INT. FLASHBACK SCENE

Frank and Abby are young. They gaze into each other’s eyes, in bed, half dressed, just made love. Music plays a sweet SONG.

ABBY
Do you love me?

FRANK
I don’t know yet.

ABBY
Ohhh, that’s not nice.
FRANK
What do you mean?

ABBY
When a girl tells you she loves you, you say I love you too...sweet princess...

FRANK
(beat, then)
I love you too sweet princess...

ABBY
That’s better!

The DJ’s voice on the radio floats through the air.

DJ (O.S.)
OK, for all you lovebirds out there, here’s a special one.

A sweet song that sounds a lot like “Baby I love your way...”

ABBY
It’s our song!

FRANK
Kiss me then!

Frank tickles her and plays with her she giggles.

FLASHBACK:

FRANK’S HOUSE- CONTINUOUS

Frank rubs the picture.

FRANK
(to the picture)
I miss you...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SQUAD ROOM- DAY

Detectives gather around a squad room, chatting about the local cases, news, etc. They represent a cross section of society; all shapes, colors and sizes.

CAPTAIN WILLIS, a pudgy guy with a quick trigger finger and tough guy puppy dog eyes gets the room quieted down and at attention.
CAPTAIN
Alright people pipe down, let’s get this underway.
(pause)
Before we begin with our business, I want to welcome Frank back in the trenches. He’s still on administrative leave, while this whole thing gets worked out, but we all know Frank, and he wanted to keep going with his investigation, ticker tack or not. But, I just wanted to thank all of you for the work you did on our last case. Let’s keep it up.

Everyone claps and hollers for Frank, obviously liked by most of his peers.

CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
Frank had the pleasure of realizing he’s not the spring chicken he once was.

This gets the room laughing.

CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
(interrupting)
But...and this is serious, let that serve as a reminder, for the rest of us that we have to take care of ourselves and monitor our health. Skinny guys have heart attacks too, obviously.
(turning to Frank)
Glad you’re back.

Frank nods to the captain and he continues to brief the room. Frank looks up at the investigation board. Crime scene photos, witness lists, photos of the victims of the last case.

One woman, a young 30s victim, says Victim 1, grabs Frank’s focus and the captains words fade.

FLASHBACK TO:

EXT. FRANK’S HOUSE - NIGHT
Frank finally gets back after a long stint on the job. He hops up the steps and sees the front door ajar. He heads inside.
INT. FRANK’S HOUSE—CONTINUOUS

FRANK

Abby?

Abby’s lifeless body is lying on the floor, near the couch. Frank darts over. Quick flashes of memory as Frank tries to help Abby’s dead body, holds her, freaks.

A loud CLAP thunders through the flashback and Franks snaps back to

INT. SQUAD ROOM—DAY

Frank’s notebook is on the ground, totally disrupting the Captain’s briefing. People are snickering, Frank grabs the notebook, faking a faint smile.

CAPTAIN
Buenas dias, Frank. You’re allowed a nap and that’s only because you’re my best detective.
(turns back to squad)
OK, ladies and gents, keep your eyes open out there.

The squad breaks, they give Frank their hellos and welcome backs, and leave. The captain saunters up to Frank.

CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
Frank, in my office.

FRANK
Sure, captain.

CUT TO:

INT. CAPTAIN WILLIS’ OFFICE—DAY

The captain walks into his office and motions for Frank to close the door. The captain sits and Frank stands, ready to get out of there.

CAPTAIN
(beat, then sharp)
Well, sit down Frank, I just want to tell you I haven’t been keeping up with all my people and...
(as Frank sits)
...I know you’ve been through a lot.
(MORE)
CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
Again, I’m sorry about what happened to your Abby, and with this heart attack, and the investigations, not doing enough to find Abby’s killer, Frank, god knows it adds up and I’m sorry.

Frank’s uncomfortable and isn’t interested in the Captain’s words. The captain waits for Frank’s response, anything.

CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
Damn it Frank, this is why I’m ordering you to go see someone. She’s very discreet and has helped a lot of people. Her name’s Dr. Carla Salvani and you have an appointment with her tomorrow at 1.

Captain hands Frank the shrink’s card.

FRANK
Come on, a shrink? I’ve got all the support I need here.

CAPTAIN
It’s not open for discussion and I have already told her about...Abby, the heart attack, your excessive force charges with I.A. (beat) And your drinking.

FRANK
Drinking? What drinking, it’s me captain.

CAPTAIN
I know Frank, that’s why I’m doing this.

Frank pops up and heads for the door.

CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
Frank.

Frank turns.

CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
Your gun.

Beat, then Frank draws his gun, drops the magazine and pops the bullet, leaving it on the desk.
CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
(as Frank walks out,
calling out)
And no more chasing your Shadow!

CUT TO:

INT. BUD’S BAR - NIGHT

Frank is at his favorite bar, his home away from home, a shady place a few hookers, lookers and cowboys hang out. Beer and liquor, no fancy pants Chablis in this joint. Jukebox plays classic vinyl, no Britney, no GaGa. Frank’s getting back into his favorite pastime and daily routine of numbing himself.

The owner, BUD, Frank’s age, Elvis sideburns and suspenders, country boy at heart, slides over to his loyal customer and pours a few shots, takes one and pushes the other toward Frank.

BUD
I’m only gonna ask you once.
(beat)
You’re OK right? I’ll keeping serving you as long as you promise not to croak here.

FRANK
Cross my heart and hope to die, I mean-
(laughing)
I’m fine Bud, I’ve just been strung out, you know. Since Abby...

BUD
Yeah, I know...
(sincerely)
What are you gonna do, you gotta keep swinging and moving forward. You’re a young guy and you’re gonna be fine.

FRANK
Just keep pouring and I’ll be fine.

Bud pours another shot.

BUD
But no joke, Frank, tonight you’re gonna take it easy.

They toast and shoot.
Abruptly, JULIE, a fine woman, close to Frank’s age, sits down at the bar, fiddling with her cigarettes and lighters. She notices Frank and Bud looking at her, gives a smile. Bud walks away, leaving Frank to deal with it.

JULIE
Is that it? I give you a…”I’d like you to buy me a drink smile” and you just smirk and look away. What’s wrong with me?

FRANK
Take it easy, it’s not you.

JULIE
Oh yeah, who is it then, huh?
(pauses)
You have a rough day or something?

FRANK
(chuckling)
You have no idea.
(beat)
I’m Frank.

JULIE
(suddenly happy)
Hey. I’m Julie. So, what do you like to do for fun, sailor. I don’t usually come onto guys in bars.

FRANK
(uninterested)
I drink.

JULIE
(disappointed)
You drink? You drink. Oh, how original.

FRANK
I never claimed to be fun, or original.
(taking her bait)
So, what do YOU do?

JULIE
I drink and then I like to...
(she pauses as people walk by)
I drink and then I like to...
Frank is suddenly distracted by a shadowy figure sitting at another part of the bar. Frank is too distracted to fully realize that Julie has thrown herself at him.

    JULIE (CONT’D)
    Excuse me! What are you looking at?
    You’ve got this...
    (motioning to her body)
    And you’re looking somewhere else?

Frank snaps back.

    FRANK
    I’m sorry, you were saying?

    JULIE
    I said that after I drink, I like to..

Frank’s gaze shifts toward the shadow as it stands to leave the bar.

Julie wants to know what’s got him going and turns and Frank hops up and exits the bar after the shadow.

    JULIE (CONT’D)
    Oh, come on man.

    FRANK
    Sorry, Julie, not tonight.
    (pause)
    Heading out Bud, put it on my tab.

Julie can’t believe her eyes that Frank ignores her advances and takes off.

Frank hits the exit and heads outside.

EXT. BAR- DUSK

Frank searches the area with his eyes, the shadow is walking.

    FRANK
    Hey!

The shadow keeps walking. Frank hurries after him.

    FRANK (CONT’D)
    Hey! You! Stop.

The shadow gets to a pickup truck.
FRANK (CONT’D)
I said Stop–

Frank turns the shadow around. It’s just an OLD MAN.

OLD MAN
Hey, what the hell are you doin?

FRANK
I...I’m sorry- I thought you were someone else.

OLD MAN
Oh yeah? Who? Heidi Klum? Get your damn hands off of me.

The old man pushes Frank away.

FRANK
Take it easy–

The old man puts up his fists, ready to fight.

OLD MAN
I’m gonna whip your ass kid!

Frank can’t help but laugh.

The old man stops, drops his hands.

OLD MAN (CONT’D)
Ah, forget it.

The old man struggles to get in his truck.

FRANK
Here, let me help you.

Frank tries to help.

OLD MAN
Oh, no you don’t.

Frank backs off. The old man makes it in the truck and drives off past Frank.

Just as the truck drives off, Julie is walking across the parking lot. Frank laughs to himself.

INT. CAR – DAY

Frank is cruising in his unmarked black car, phone rings.
FRANK
Yeah.
(pause, listening)
Got it.

Frank guns it.

EXT. BRIDGE UNDERPASS - DAY

Beat cops surround a crime scene. A dead body is thrown in the dirt. It’s covered in a white sheet, Detectives Pam and rains are already on the scene. Frank walks up.

FRANK
Buenas dias, damas y caballeros?
What is it this time?

PAM
Sorry to call on this one. We wanted you to see for yourself, Superman.

FRANK
Come on, settle down. Too early for that and I’m a little hungover.

Frank smiles cheaply and slaps on some latex gloves.

FRANK (CONT’D)
What do we got?

Frank rips the sheet off to reveal the victim. It’s Julie, the girl from the bar.

Shock hits Frank as he recognizes her, gets up quickly, stumbles.

RAINS
Damn, you are hungover.
(beat)
What gives Frank?

FRANK
I just met this girl yesterday.

PAM
Are you serious, where?

FRANK
Bud’s.

Beat. Pam and rains are stuck.
FRANK (CONT’D)
Stop. I left before...she chatted me up, wanted a drink...then, I left. I chased some old man, thought it was—then she was outside, I took off.

Awkward and uneasy silence.

PAM
Looks like she was strangled.
(beat)
Put up a good fight but not enough.
This look like your guy?

Frank shrugs.

RAINS
(kneeling)
Check this out, there aren’t any foot prints in this entirely muddy area. Whoever did this, drove here, dropped her or killed her on the spot, and then waxed the tracks.

Frank stares off into space.

RAINS (CONT’D)
Frank, did you hear me? Frank!
What’s up?

Frank snaps out of it.

FRANK
I’ll work with forensics and you two can do your thing.
(beat)
Follow the trail...wherever it leads. I know you want to rule me out so start at Bud’s. I gotta be somewhere.

Frank is gone, heading somewhere fast.

RAINS
Frank! Come on, this can’t be your guy.
(Frank’s gone)
God damn it.

PAM
Hey, let him go. Just let him be Frank, he doesn’t have his gun, it’ll be ok.
RAINS

Doesn’t have a gun, Pam, are fucking kidding me?

She just looks at him, you talking to ME like that asshole.

RAINS (CONT’D)

I’m sorry. You’re right. Let him go.

calls out to patrol

police

Hey, get forensics over here!

INT. DR CARLA SALVANI’S OFFICE – DAY

Frank is stuck meeting with his psychiatrist, Carla Salvani. Nice office, nice clothes on the Doc, pretty, tough. Frank stone cold stares at her without a word.

Finally.

CARLA

I’m sure your captain told you he shared some information about you, with me.

Nothing from Frank.

CARLA (CONT’D)

How are you doing, Frank?

FRANK

Haven’t won the lottery yet, is that what you mean?

CARLA

Frank, I can only help you if you let me, what do you have to lose? We’ve been here for a while, and you haven’t said much. I CAN help.

Frank isn’t interested in discussing anything but relents.

FRANK

My sleep sucks. Not getting much of it these days.

CARLA

You’re not taking it easy are you? I can see that, you look more than tired.

(beat)

It’s not just the sleep is it?
FRANK
Bad homicide, this morning that’s it.

CARLA
The Shadow?

Frank is stunned. The captain obviously told her a lot.

CARLA (CONT’D)
Are you still chasing this, Shadow, Frank, your captain says you think he’s the one who killed Abb-

FRANK
(abrupt)
I don’t give a shit what the captain says-

He stops himself.

Beat.

Carla realizes Frank does NOT want to talk about his case.

CARLA
How’s the drinking?

FRANK
THAT’S why we’re here right? Captain seems to think I have a problem with DRINKING! And, that I’ve somehow made up these imaginary connections between these MURDERS-I have a problem, it’s with this whole damn-

Frank tries to calm himself down.

FRANK (CONT’D)
(changes the subject)
Let me ask Doc, is this drinking thing gonna be your default question for everything? Huh? I’m sure you know that you shrinks are all full of shit, right?

CARLA
It was just a question Frank. I know that drinking can be a way that some people cope with tragic events.
FRANK
Yeah, yeah, so once I STOP
drinking, we don’t have to do this?

CARLA
No, I think there are other areas
we need to work on as well.
(pause)
Frank, I was sorry to hear about
your wife, I remember seeing her
picture in the paper.

Long pause.

CARLA (CONT’D)
I understand you were a suspect-

FRANK
Hey Doc, let me just say this.

CARLA
Yes, Frank.

FRANK
I just want to say that...
(beat)
Time’s up.

Carla smirks, Frank thinks he’s funny.

CARLA
I’m going to give you some Ambien
to help you get some quality sleep.

FRANK
Sounds good.

CARLA
Here’s a card with all my numbers.
Take care of yourself Frank, and
call me or come in anytime if you
need to, OK? I’ll see you in two
weeks.

FRANK
Got it.

INT. BUD’S BAR - DAY

Just another day at the bar. Empty.
FRANK
Hey Bud, what’d the detective tell the shrink?

BUD
Dunno, what?

FRANK
Nothing, absolutely nothing.

Frank laughs, drunk.

BUD
You’re not talking to a shrink are you?

FRANK
I’m not but my captain made me see one. Typical kiss and slap, welcome back and you’re my best detective and oh boy by the way, gimme your gun and go see a shrink, you nut job.

BUD
Careful Frank, I hear once they get in your head, you can never get them out.

Bud nods to someone down the bar from Frank, Frank waves him off.

Frank clicks his phone. He’s calling Abby’s phone, still pays the bill.

(V.O.)
Hey guys, this is Abby, can’t come to the phone right now, so either send me an email or, if you don’t have my email, leave me a message. Bye.

Frank breathes into the phone, says nothing. Abruptly, he gets up and leaves the bar.

INT. BUILDING - DAY

This is the building and stairwell Frank had his heart attack in, cold clocked by the shadow.

Frank takes a seat, catching a breather, something’s gotta give. Rubs his chest. Fucking heart attack.

Just when he’s about to take off, he catches a something out of the corner of his eye. On the ground. Gets closer. Tiny. Looks like a piece of worn shoe. Rubber. Frank picks it up, examines it. Takes a step, notices. Looks down. A chunk of his right shoe, missing. Piece he just found matches perfectly. What gives. Frank pulls his cell and makes a call.

FRANK
Hey, it’s me. You got anything on the girl? Listen to me. Let’s go have a chat with Boots. I want to see what he’s been up to. I don’t care about that, set it up, I’ll see you there.

Pops the piece and the phone in his pocket and out the door.

INT. CUPID’S STRIP CLUB

Frank meets Pam at the shady club, we’re talking preggers dancers, crackheads, the works. Charles Barkley and Charlie Sheen do not hang at this place. Boots, a shitty low life career criminal, with a knack for pushing chicks around is running door, on the day shift.

FRANK
(condescending)
Boootssss! How much is the cover, my friend!?

BOOTS
I knew I could smell swine in the air.

FRANK
Keep it up shithed, so...what do you want today, a broken jaw or a just a few ribs?

PAM
Take it easy, Frank.
You two can get the hell outta here, besides I heard you wasn’t doin’ too well, Frank? And, you got nothing on me, as usual.

(interjects quickly)
Where were you Tuesday night?

I was here. Reviewing your application for employment. You come here for the oral interview?

BOOM! Frank ain’t having that shit and punches Boots right in the gut. He doubles over and Frank grabs him by the shirt.

Frank!

Oh yeah, that’s it, let’s continue YOUR oral downtown you piece of shit.

God damn it Frank.

Frank doesn’t give a fuck and drags Boots right out of the club and tosses him down on the pavement.

Frank is breathing heavy, Boots is a gnarly motherfucker, down on the ground, Frank got him good.

What’s that I can’t hear you.

SMACK! Frank gives a swift kick in the back.

Some day shift club fanboys walk up and are startled.

This, is what happens when you fuck up in a strip club. Let it be a lesson fuckers.

God damn it Frank.
FRANK
What?

PAM
What are you doing?

FRANK
It’s him, I know it. Always has been.

BOOTS
Fuck you Frank.

FRANK
Fuck me?

BAM. Franks kicks him right in the teeth.

Frank’s breathing heavy and is about to have another fucking heart attack.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Cuff this motherfucker.

Pam reluctantly agrees.

PAM
(plays along for the onlookers)
Why you runnning, huh? Innocent people don’t run, they stand straight up and say, (exaggerated for show) I’m innocent! Now come on!

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

Frank has Boots in an interrogation room.

FRANK
You look mighty comfortable in your old chair.

BOOTS
You’re barking up the wrong tree, wiener.

(pause)
I mean, Frank. Once again.

Frank finds Boots quite amusing.
This time we’re going to be real careful when we collect your evidence. Sooner or later, you’re going to drop one of those ugly hairs on the next murder victim.

Murder. I haven’t done no murder bitch.
(to Frank)
Still trying to pin your “shadow” on me Frank?

Suddenly, Boots moves his chair forcefully as he struggles to get out of his handcuffs, with no luck.

Frank gets up close and personal with Boots.

Know this scumbag, when you screw up, I’ll be there to squash you.

BANG! Boots’ lawyer, Sheila Ginsberg, suddenly opens the door.

Alright detectives, your gestapo tactics are over.

Come on! We’re just getting started.

No, you’re done. Charge him with something or we’re out of here.

Frank and Pam got nothing.

Offfff course-

Just what I thought. Oh, and detectives, try NOT to be too sloppy if you get the urge to plant evidence. Your reputation precedes you.

Nice to see you too Sheila, always a pleasure.
Frank gives a big smile.

Boots and Sheila are out the door in a flash but not before he can flash a huge, shithead grin.

Frank and Pam exit the room.

INT. SQUAD ROOM –

Boots, Sheila, Pam and Frank come out of the interrogation room, the captain walks up.

SHEILA
Captain, I don’t know what kind of show you’re running over here, but last I checked, people who were not police officers aren’t allowed to interrogate suspects, let alone rough them up.

BOOTS
Yeah.

FRANK
I didn’t rough him up, he fell, right Pam?

Nothing from Pam.

SHEILA
Oh he fell, did he?

BOOTS
I didn’t fall.

SHEILA
He says he didn’t fall, and to me, that says assault, you wanna press charges?

BOOTS
Yeah!

SHEILA
Done. And, Frank, remember you’re off the job, and as far I’m concerned, should be locked up!

FRANK
Still got it in for me, huh? Hot shot prosecutor turned defense lawyer at the drop of a hat, you’re all alike.
SHEILA
Is that right? Frank, you’re just lucky there wasn’t enough evidence to put your away for Abby’s murder-

Frank loses it and lunges at Sheila, Captain and Pam, stop him dead, still trying, other officers join in.

FRANK
You bitch! I’ll fucking kill you-

Boots is laughing hysterically.

CAPTAIN
Frank! God damn it!

Frank relents and backs off. He’s out of the room, quick.

SHEILA
Get a hold of your detectives, Captain.

CAPTAIN
That was wrong, even for you Sheila.

BOOTS
I thought it was great.

CAPTAIN/SHEILA
(simultaneously)
Shut up!

INT. SQUAD ROOM - ELEVATOR

Frank exits the elevator in the lobby of the Police Department and Internal Affairs investigator MIKE, typical IRS looking suit, walks up.

MIKE
Hey, Frank, just wanted to let you know we’ve completed a preliminary survey of the area from your chase with the Shadow and...we haven’t turned up anything. We’ll give it a final pass but so far no bullets, nothing.

FRANK
You mean, you haven’t cleaned up already?
MIKE
No, Frank. That building is set for demolition, why?

FRANK
(thinks for a second)
Nothing. Thanks Mike.

Mike shrugs and takes off.

MIKE
I’ll be in touch.

Frank exits the building and goes outside.

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Frank walks briskly, Pam runs up behind him.

PAM
Frank!

Frank stops.

FRANK
What do you want?

PAM
I think Boots is clean, what’s Plan B?

FRANK
He’s not clean, he’s smarter than he looks, keep an eye out, but until then, go get rains, let’s strategize at Bud’s.

PAM
Frank, you know we can’t go after Boots again, not after what just happened in there.

FRANK
That shit doesn’t matter, besides, Boots’ll never press charges.

PAM
Fine, but I still think you need to lay low-

FRANK
Just meet me at Bud’s.
Frank takes off.

**INT. BUD’S BAR**

Detective Pam and rains are at the bar waiting for Frank.

**DAVID**
Heard you guys talked to good ol’ Boots today.

**PAM**
Oh yeah, definitely the highlight of the day.

rains reaches over and caresses Pam’s hand.

**DAVID**
(coy)
Do you think Frank suspects that you and I are, friends with benefits?

**PAM**
Trust me, if he knew, he’d be sure to let us know.

Frank comes up behind them abruptly, smiling.

rains snaps his hand back, hoping Frank hasn’t noticed. Frank noticed.

**FRANK**
So, what’s the score gang, how many do I need to down to catch up?

**RAINS**
Easy boss, we just got here.

Bud comes over, double ready to go. Frank downs it.

**PAM**
So...you want to “strategize”, let’s strategize.

**FRANK**
I know you think Boots is clean, but I want to keep a close eye on that piece of shit, he knows more than you think.

**PAM**
You saw him, it’s not him, never been him, we got nothing.
Silence.

RAINS
Maybe you’re just trying too hard... Frank... it’s only been six months since Abby.

FRANK
(abruptly)
What did you say?

RAINS
I just think you’re pushin too hard.

Frank faces up to David and shoves the shit outta him.

FRANK
What the hell do you know?! You don’t know shit! If it wasn’t for me and my recommendations, you wouldn’t be HERE, remember that!

PAM
Come on Frank, back off, he’s right.

FRANK
Who’s right? Look at YOU, being his “protector!” Listen to me, why don’t you two do your jobs, connect the dots.

Frank hollers to Bud.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Bud, put it all on my tab.

Back to Pam and rains.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Oh. And by the way, if you’re going to screw each other, be more discreet.
(pause)
Because, if my snitches know, everybody knows.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Frank is visiting his wife’s grave. The tombstone reads, “Abby del Toro, A life Remembered”
Gayle Johnson, Frank’s age but obviously stunning, wearing her years well, walks up to Frank.

GAYLE
How are things, detective?

FRANK
(slowly)
Do I know you?

GAYLE
I guess not. We’ve never met in person...I’m Gayle, Gayle Johnson.

She reaches out her hand, Frank offers nothing.

GAYLE (CONT’D)
I was the voice on the other end of the phone when I worked for the Post...Crime Corner column.

FRANK
(slowly)
Oh. Yeah. I remember you...

GAYLE
So, what are you up to...

FRANK
You know, same ol’ samel ol’, looking for bad guys.

GAYLE
What case are you working now? I heard you had a heart attack?

FRANK
I thought you USED to work for the Post?

GAYLE
Yes, I know, creature of habit I guess.

FRANK
So....what do you do now?

Gayle lets out an embarrassing and awkward chuckle.

GAYLE
For someone who always said, “No comment”, you sure are chatty.

Nothing. No response, is that a joke?
GAYLE (CONT’D)
Just messing with you, I have a small landscaping company, we do work...here.

She just realized she’s in a fucking cemetery.

FRANK
Good for you. I can see you doing that. Besides, it sure beats hunting down ugly old detectives for comments.

GAYLE
(flirting)
I don’t think you’re ugly at all.
(pause)
I’m sorry about your wife.
(pause)
If you ever want to talk or you know...call me, look me up under gayle plants trees dot com.

FRANK
Um, yeah, OK...

Frank suddenly catches a glimpse of someone far off, in the shadows, and intently studies the trees and shrubs for any movement. Gayle senses that it’s time to jet and walks off.

GAYLE
Bye detective.

Frank ignores her, surveys the area, and walks toward the shadow.

He hits a clearing, and there’s nothing. Just him. Empty graves.

FRANK
I’m losing my mind...

Frank turns. BAM!

Frank runs right into the CEMETERY GROUNDSKEEPER holding a shovel.

GROUNDSKEEPER
Con permiso, senor.

The groundskeeper walks off, tools in hand.

Frank is stunned. Watches him walk off.
INT. FRANK’S HOUSE- MORNING

The phone RINGS through the house, waking Frank up.

FRANK
Yeah.

PAM
Frank, let me apologize for yesterday. I’m sorry...for...not telling you about David...I know better than to fish off the company pier.

FRANK
We’re cool Pam, what’s up?

PAM
We have another one.

FRANK
Shit. Same M.O., where?

PAM
Down here by the hike and bike trailer. Near Stevie. Early morning triathlete found her by the edge of the river.

FRANK
Be there in 20.

EXT. HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL - DAY

Frank shows up at the crime scene, Pam and rains are already there, no words on Bud’s the night before.

Frank surveys the area, Pam and rains pepper him with the details.

RAINS
Another female, strangulation, crushed trachea, nothing else to go on...

Frank kneels to pull back the white sheet. It’s GAYLE from the cemetery.

Frank falls back!

He gets up quickly scanning the area, someone’s gotta be watching.
RAINS (CONT’D)
I’ve seen this look before, don’t tell me you saw HER at Bud’s place too.

PAM
Frank, you saw this one too?

FRANK
Yeah, I know who she is. I saw her at Abby’s...
(pause)
Her name’s Gayle Johnson, I talked to her yesterday, she came up to me when I was at the cemetery.

RAINS
We know who she is, we got it off her ID.

FRANK
She used to work for the Post, we did some small talk then I saw...then she left.

RAINS
Don’t take this the wrong way boss, but what’d you do last night.

FRANK
I’d ask you the same thing.
(smirk)
What else, had my liquid dinner at Bud’s.

PAM
What’s goin on Frank?

FRANK
I don’t know but it looks like someone’s trying to set me up. Again.

Frank bolts.

PAM
Frank!

RAINS
Frank! Where are you going?!
EXT. HOUSE - DAY

Frank is in his car, watching someone. He’s checking up on RAUL Mendoza, a smart looking Mexican with a nice house, nice car. He’s washing his car, scrubbing the carpet in the back of his SUV.

Frank gets out of the car, sneaks up on Raul.

    FRANK
    You get all the blood out?

Raul pops up, startled.

    RAUL
    Chinga man. You scared the shit outta me.
    (beat)
    Wait, what did you say?

    FRANK
    Looks like you’re cleaning up quite the mess.

    RAUL
    Yeah, um, I spilled something.

    FRANK
    Spilled something?

    RAUL
    Yeah.

    FRANK
    What did you spill?

    RAUL
    Bar b Que sauce, now what do you want?

    FRANK
    Just checking up on you, Raul. How you been?

    RAUL
    Fuck you. Whatever you think I did, I didn’t do it.

    FRANK
    I figured it out. I know it’s you. You’ve been upset because I was the one that you put you away for...what was it? Nine years?
    (MORE)
FRANK (CONT’D)
So, you set me up? You’ve graduated from assault to murder.

Raul laughs this away.

RAUL
Tu loco man. You need some time off, I am unclear about what you’re talking about.
(beat)
I’ll admit, I’ve had some stern discussions with some lovelies in the past-

Frank clocks him right in the face, losing it, and snaps his gun, this ain’t no police issue.

FRANK
You’ve done more than that, I do recall you choking them a bit.

RAUL
I choked just long enough to get their attention. But, not murder, no senor. I know that in the past I may have had a strong appetite for intense connections with certain mamacitas, but I can assure you...
(dramatic)
I am healed. Rehabilitated.

Frank hits again, cocks the gun, serious.

FRANK
Did you do it? Did you kill her?

RAUL
That which does not kill makes us stronger...

FRANK
Quoting Nietzsche isn’t going to help you.

RAUL
Yes, but he might.

Raul motions behind Frank.

A man stands in the shadows across the street, can’t quite make him out.

FRANK
Hey!
Frank starts to walk toward him and the shadow bolts.

RAUL
(calling after Frank)
Hope you find what you’re looking
for Frank! Because I am innocent,
this time!
(laughs)

Frank kicks it into gear and chases the shadow. It’s gone.
Behind the house and into

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Frank comes around the back of the house, no sign of the shadow.

Suddenly, it catches the corner of his eye.

Frank darts after it. Through the tiny patch of woods and back towards more houses.

He sees the shadow running!

Frank is completely out of breath, rubbing his chest, about to have another heart attack.

FRANK
STOP! NOW!

The shadow keeps running.

Frank fires a round into the air!

The shadow stops immediately.

FRANK (CONT’D)
STAY RIGHT THERE. DON’T YOU FUCKING MOVE.

Frank slowly walks up to the shadow, and rips his arms down.

SHADOW
I’m sorry sir, I didn’t see nothing. I swear, I was just-

FRANK
Shut up.

Frank cuffs the shadow and turns him around, full circle.
It’s a fucking teenager.
SHADOW
I didn’t see anything, I swear-

FRANK
(out of breath)
Why are you running!

SHADOW
I dunno, I got scared, I saw you
hitting Raul and I dunno, I just-

FRANK
Fuck...
The teenager is scared shitless.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Turn around.
Frank uncuffs the kid and lets him go.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Get outta here.
The kid bolts.

FRANK (CONT’D)
(to himself)
Shit...

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS
Frank is walking up to the front of the building.
Suddenly the Capt. calls out behind him.

CAPTAIN
Frank!
Frank turns.

CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
I just got a call from Raul
Mendoza, Frank, says you came to
see him, roughed him up, pointed a
gun at him then chased some kid
down the street, and FIRED at him!
Let me REMIND you that you’re not
on the job right now Frank, and you
sure as fuck can’t go shooting your
own personal gun, looking for this
god damn killer. You gotta do it by
the book, take it easy, let Pam and
rains do their fucking jobs.
FRANK
I’M being set up, I’M on it and
I’ll figure it soon. I always do!
Just give me some breathing room
and stop acting like everything is linear.

Frank storms away from the police station.

CAPTAIN
God damn it Frank!

INT. DR CARLA SALVANI’S OFFICE

Frank sits and appears jittery, stressed out.

CARLA
Frank, What’s going on? I do have
to tell you that your captain and I
have an on-going communication
about your progress.
(pause)
He did let me know about you
roughing up a suspect, the
teenager, and the heated
conversation at the squad room.
(pause)
He’s concerned about you.

FRANK
I’m being set up doc.

CARLA
What do you mean? Set up? For what?

FRANK
My latest cases involve people I’ve
met and in less than 12 hours from
talking to them, they’re dead,
murdered.

Frank is disbelief, staring.

CARLA
Why do you think you’re being set
up?

FRANK
I just am OK, quit with the fucking
shrink talk.
CARLA
We are making some progress and just want you to stay calm, don’t retreat Frank, not now. I’m not asking for specifics, I just want to understand the setup.

FRANK
There’s this person, this guy, he follows me and has been the same places I’ve been, with these victims. We can’t figure it out yet, but I’ve seen him before, he’s toying with me.

CARLA
Who’s we, Frank?

FRANK
Pam, Captain, and rains.

CARLA
They think you’re being set up too?

FRANK
Yeah, Captain didn’t tell you THAT?

CARLA
Hmmm. I’m not judging you Frank, I’m very interested in what you’re telling me. How long have you had this feeling of-

FRANK
-I’m wasting my time here, I just feel it OK?! I’ve developed a sixth sense in my years on the job and it’s saved me many time. I don’t know how to explain it, but I trust it. This guy’s watching me, and targeting the women I interact with...starting with...Abby...

(beat)
I know how to catch this guy.

Carla checks her watch.

CARLA
Frank, I’m sorry to have to do this but we have to cut this short-

FRANK
-OK. Thanks for seeing me.
CARLA
You’re welcome.

She checks her watch again.

CARLA (CONT’D)
I’m meeting my husb-

FRANK
-Doc, it’s fine, I’ll walk with you.

CARLA
OK. Let me grab my things.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Carla and Frank enter the garage from the street and walk quickly.

FRANK
Next time, I’ll call you for an earlier time slot.

CARLA
No problem, here I am.
(points to car)

FRANK
Alright, doc, I’m onto the next level. Thanks again.

CARLA
Bye Frank.

Frank turns to leave.

CARLA (CONT’D)
Frank!

He turns back.

CARLA (CONT’D)
I have to ask, how’s the drinking?

FRANK
Oh god damn it Doc.

Franks storms off and in the distance Carla is putting things in her trunk.

Frank makes it to the next level.
Carla’s still fumbling.

A pair of shoes walks in the direction of Carla.

She goes around the car, digging in her purse. She puts her phone on top of the car, still digging, shoes getting closer, faster.

Finally, she’s in the car, just about hits the ignition.

BAM! A hand hits the window, scaring the shit out of Carla.

Reveal, it’s CARLOS, the maintenance man, a heavy Mexican with a thick accent.

    CARLA
    Carlos. You gave me quite a stare.

    CARLOS
    Sorry doctor, you left your phone on your roof.

    CARLA
    Thank you, thank you.

    CARLOS
    Are you here in the weekend, if not I can clean carpets and they will be dry on Monday.

    CARLA
    That would be great, see you.

INT. BUD’S BAR

Frank has clearly been drinking heavily.

    BUD
    Think you should take it easy Frank, you did have a heart attack.

    FRANK
    Did my captain call you, wait, did my SHRINK call you and tell you to harass me.

    BUD
    Screw your shrink, within these walls I’m Dr. Freud mother fucker.
    (beat)
    I’m not complaining, I dig your business, it’s just that, you know, heart attack and drinking...
Bud trails off and walks away to clean, still within hearing distance.

FRANK
What do you know..

BUD
What do I know? I know that I’m scared shitless because there’s some asshole killing women in our neighborhood, I’m just freaked out. I’m thinking of my two girls at home. Promise me you’re gonna catch this piece of shit, now.

Frank looks up and straight into the mirror on the wall, his face looks distorted.

FLASHBACK:

INT. FRANK’S HOUSE– MORNING

Abby is being strangled in the shadow. Can’t see the killer’s face. Only a shadow. Abby’s dying.

FLASHBACK:

INT. BAR– DUSK

Frank snaps out of it and sees his face once again, this time normal. He turns to leave and a shadow walks out the door.

Frank snaps outside.

EXT. BAR– DUSK

Frank stumbles out into the night, drunk. He hurries down the street, he keeps seeing shadows everywhere but tries to ignore them. He’s heading somewhere fast.

EXT. CEMETERY – DAY

The sun comes up on Frank as he is passed out at Abby’s grave. His phone rings to life.

MIKE
(on phone)
Frank?
FRANK
Yeah, this is Frank.

MIKE
Frank, it’s Mike.

FRANK
What do you want, do you know how early it is?

MIKE
Yeah, Frank, listen. I have to tell you that-

FRANK
God damn it what!

MIKE
Frank, take it easy. The reason I’m calling is, IA is through with the investigation. We’re finished, you’re clear.

FRANK
Clear?

MIKE
Yeah, Frank, you can get back to work, as a cop but listen, I’m doing you a favor on this Frank, next time-

FRANK
Yeah, yeah-

MIKE
Frank, I’m serious. There’s not gonna be a next time, some other agent won’t be so-

FRANK
Mike. Thanks. I mean it.

MIKE
Alright, Frank. Take it easy OK?

FRANK
Thanks.

Frank hangs up the phone and gets up off the dirt.
INT. SHOWER-

Frank showers in slow motion, closes his eyes.

INT. SHOWER- FLASHBACK - DAY

Frank flashes back to another time, showering. Abby is outside.

We see her panties slide down her legs.

She steps in the shower with Frank. They kiss, passionately. His hands are on her back.

She turns. The water runs down their bodies. They move together.

INT. FLASHBACK SCENE

Abby is getting strangled!

INT. SHOWER

Frank snaps out of the water, jarred from the killing flashback.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE OF HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

Frank walks briskly, mumbling to himself.

A car door SLAMS in the distance. Frank ignores it, keeps walking. A car alarm BUZZES through the parking garage suddenly. Frank tries to ignore, keeps walking, but it’s so loud.

FRANK

Shut that damn thing off!

Still going. Frank’s had enough.

He walks toward the alarm, finds a red Porshce.

FRANK (CONT’D)

Turn off the fucking alarm Richie
Rich jesus-

Franks stops DEAD, Sheila is dead on the ground, keys in her hand.
Frank rips his gun out of holster, spinning, scanning, can’t see anything. Alarm still going.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Where the fuck are you...

Frank can’t see anyone, lot’s full of cars, but no people. He pops his phone.

FRANK (CONT’D)
(into phone)
Captain, get your ass to the parking garage now. I just found Sheila. Dead. Yeah, I will.

Frank waits, gun still out, pops a pen out of his pocket. Kneels down to Sheila’s lifeless body, hits the alarm key with his pen, finally the alarm stops.

Just as the alarm stops, hurried footsteps get close.

Frank readies for anything. He moves behind the Porsche. He sees someone come around a pillar, not the captain.

Frank readies his gun and pops out from behind the Porsche, it’s rains!

Frank almost shoots him.

RAINS
Whoa! Frank, it’s me!

FRANK
rains, what the fuck, I almost shot you.

RAINS
I can see that, put the gun down.

FRANK
What are you doing here!? How’d you know where I was?

RAINS
Frank, take it easy man, the Captain called me. I was on my way in he said to haul ass down here.

FRANK
Oh yeah?

RAINS
Yeah, Frank, jesus.
The captain and Pam run up just then.

CAPTAIN
Frank, what the fuck are you doing?

FRANK
You call him?!

CAPTAIN
Yes, Frank, put the gun down.

Frank lowers his gun.

FRANK
Had to be sure.

RAINS
Gee, thanks Frank.

CAPTAIN
Where’s Sheila?

Frank points to her body. Captain goes over, checks her pulse.

FRANK
She’s dead captain.

CAPTAIN
I can see that Frank, but she’s warm. How’d you find her?

FRANK
I just got here, and I was heading up and this god damn alarm was going off. So, I came over and there she was.

PAM
Just like that?

FRANK
Yeah, just like that.

RAINS
You see anyone?

FRANK
No, rains, I didn’t.

RAINS
Anyone see you?
FRANK
God damn it kid.

PAM
Frank!

FRANK
You think I’d kill someone right in the fucking parking garage of a police station?

RAINS
No, Frank, just...

FRANK
What?

RAINS
I’m sorry. It’s just that, I saw you with her, popping Boots out-

FRANK
If you recall, Pam was there too.

RAINS
Yeah, I know, this is ballsy, even for the Shadow.

FRANK
Oh, so you believe me now?

PAM
Take it easy Frank.

CAPTAIN
She’s right Frank. Let’s get the boys down here, scan the area, find anything, something. Rains, you take Frank’s statement.

PAM
I’ll help.

FRANK
Tag team.

EXT. PARKING GARAGE OF HEADQUARTERS

Rains and Pam take Frank’s statement, Rains is taking notes. Really into it. Around them CSI snaps photos and looks at the evidence.
RAINS
Um, OK, Frank, I think we got it.

PAM
Yeah I think so.

RAINS
Ok, I’m gonna file this upstairs.

Pam turns to him.

RAINS (CONT’D)
See you later?

Pam nods, Rains smiles, looks at Frank, smile fades.

Pam looks down, turns back to Frank. Rains jets.

PAM
What?

Frank smiles.

PAM (CONT’D)
You’re an asshole.

She abruptly tries to leave.

FRANK
Pam. Wait.

Pam stops, head down, Frank is behind her.

FRANK (CONT’D)
I’m sorry.

Pam is relieved. She turns.

FRANK (CONT’D)
It’s just, Abby-

PAM
I know, Frank. It’s ok.

Beat.

PAM (CONT’D)
Was it really that obvious?

FRANK
Oh yeah.

Pam’s a bit stressed.
PAM
Damn it.

FRANK
Hey. Perk up, you guys look cute together.

She gives him a look.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Have a good night Detective.

Frank turns, Pam is smiling. Walking away, she waves.

PAM
Good night detective.

Frank gets back to the crime scene.

The forensics team is bagging and tagging. Frank hits up one of the techs.

FRANK
We got footage down here?

FORENSICS GUY
Not getting installed until next week, no one knows that but us.

FRANK
OK, thanks, have a good night Tim.

INT. SQUAD ROOM – MORNING

The crime board is littered with maps, photos and arrows indicating the murders in relation to each other. Pam, Frank, Captain and rains check it out.

RAINS
I’ve put a few things together and just wanted run them by you. These are the things we know. The M.O.s are the same for all the victims, starting with...Abby. Frank, I’m sorry. Same pattern. The kills are always clean, and we never recover anything in the way of evidence. The victims are all women, same age range and they are all located within a 2 mile radius of Frank’s pad.

(long pause, everyone is checking out the info)
(MORE)
Not only do I now agree with Frank, that he’s being set up, but it looks like we have a serial killer on our hands, and he’s gonna strike again. Soon.

CAPTAIN
Good work detective, I’ll brief the rest of the boys.

The captain leaves.

FRANK
Good work there, rookie.

RAINS
Thanks.

FRANK
About the other night, things got heated and I just wanted to tell you, I know you’re looking out for me and thanks for thinking about Abby on this.

They survey the board.

INT. CARLA’S HOUSE – MORNING

Carla and her husband AL, nerdy old dude, glasses, they are eating breakfast. Kitchen looks remodeled, nice, no children live here. Carla seems out of it. A cat follows them around.

AL
Hey honey.

No answer from Carla.

AL (CONT’D)
Honey!

Carla forces a smile, everything’s fine.

CARLA
Yeah, babe.

AL
What’s up? You were squirrely all night now this morning.
CARLA
It’s just, I know we don’t like to talk about work but there’s this patient.

(pause)
I get a sense that he’s in danger, there’s something bigger and deeper. I don’t know, I’m really worried about him.

AL
What do you mean, danger?

CARLA
I don’t know what it is. I’m finally getting to it and he knows he’s in danger too.

AL
You’re losing me babe.

CARLA
This guy, he’s bright, but then appears to space out. Damn it, I don’t know, something is off.

AL
Sit down, have some wine. Do you want to call him?

CARLA
(talking to herself)
Right under the surface, he has core issues about his identity, almost like he’s fragmented, I don’t know why, I can’t get in...there’s a storm in there. He’s a troubled guy. He won’t let anyone in, not even me.

(pause)
Of course, why would he, especially after what happened to his wife.

AL
What happened to his wife?

CARLA
(hesitating, then)
Sweetheart, let’s have dinner. I don’t want to talk about this anymore. I think I can help him, thanks for listening.
INT. SQUAD ROOM

All the officers are on the job, planning a sting.

CAPTAIN
Alright, listen up. I know you all know why we’re here. Let me just say this. Be sharp and do your jobs. Take it away Frank.

Frank hops up to address the mob.

FRANK
Listen up, we’re gonna nab this scumbag. This is how it’s going to go down. We are going to triangulate our positions to this Laundromat (points to location on map) If you look at the surrounding crime scenes, they all circle my house and this here, is the last point.

Frank adds a tack to the last location, the laundromat.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Tell me what you see here.

Nobody knows. Frank grabs a marker connects the dots, draws a circle and stepes back to reveal a perfect pentagram.

The crowd is stunned.

FRANK (CONT’D)
This is it. Our sting. Pam will run point on this one and will lead the A team. Team B will be run by Cruz, and third team will be led by, David.

David is quite surprised to hear this.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Any questions? None. OK. We’re gonna bait this shit-head by serving him a victim on a silver platter.
Pam seems confused.

FRANK (CONT’D)
I would like to introduce to you
the young lady who has agreed to be
our pigeon. This is Amy Newman.

Amy, a beautiful petite blond, a little too young and pretty
to be a cop, fresh faced, straight out of the academy, could
have been a model.

AMY
Hello.

FRANK
I chose Amy because she’s a good
cop and she’s cool under pressure.
And, you remember how she kicked
ass on that Casino robbery last
spring. Patrol woman of the year
bumped up, ready to roll.

AMY
I just want to nab this prick.

FRANK
We will. I’m gonna try to bait this
bastard by interacting with Amy. So
let’s break up into our teams and
go over the game plan.

INT. CARLA’S HOUSE, BEDROOM

Al is sound asleep in their bed, Carla is studying Frank’s
file. She is recording notes into her tape recorder.

CARLA
Patient shows signs of anger, may
be suffering from post traumatic
stress disorder, maybe after his
wife. He never saw anyone...he
drinks heavily...hasn’t mentioned
any memory loss...

Al snorts, shifts around in bed.

CARLA (CONT’D)
Patient is convinced someone is
setting him up for these, murders,
starting with his wife, Abby.
Carla flips around to some pictures of Abby.

    CARLA (CONT’D)
    All victims are strangled, left
    without any traces of evidence.
    These crimes occur almost
    immediately after interacting with
    the patient.

She clicks off her recorder, thinking.

Al shifts again. The cat hops up on the bed and slips on the
files, scattering them to ground.

    CARLA (CONT’D)
    Oh, Sigmund. Look what you did.

She gets off the bed, the cat purrs. She starts to gather up
the files, and sees something. In Frank’s file, it says
Claymore Institute.

    CARLA (CONT’D)
    Claymore...

She reads the file fully.

1972.

    CARLA (CONT’D)
    Wait a minute...

Carla gets up and goes into her

INT. OFFICE - NIGHT

She sits down at her computer and logs into a system called,
U.S. Dept of Corrections, then punches some keys into reveal
the Claymore Institute. She punches in, Search Records, types
Frank’s name. Frank’s info pops up.

Seventeen year old Frank’s picture pops up, she reads some
handwritten notes that have been scanned into a computer for
electronic viewing.

They read, patient doesn’t seem to understand why he’s here.
No memory of the incident. Patient doesn’t recall being found
with a gun. Can’t rule out schizophrenia, but shows no signs
of other violent behavior. Continue to observe.

She tries to scroll, it stops: End of file.
She closes the program and pops into a Wikipedia search for Claymore Institute.

She reads from the screen.

CARLA
Claymore Institute shut down after giant fire engulfs cafeteria. 1972. Patients escape. Some still at large, most moved to more secure facility. Some released citing lack of space at new facility. Reopened in 1988 as City Medical.

BAM! A hand grabs her shoulder and she's scared shitless. She turns quickly.

It's her husband.

AL
Honey. What are you doing?

CARLA
(exasperated)
Oh my god, you scared me half to death Al, jesus.

AL
I'm sorry. I fell asleep and you were gone...

CARLA
I know, I'm sorry, it's just, look at this.
(points to computer)
Have you ever heard of this place?

AL
Claymore...yeah, I remember hearing stories about the kids there. Scary stuff.

CARLA
Frank was here.

AL
Frank?

CARLA
My patient, the detective.

AL
OK.
CARLA
It’s a, was, a hospital, mental hospital, for YOUNG kids.

AL
What are you saying?

CARLA
I’m saying I think Frank has suffered from this kind of thing before. He goes on about how somebody is setting him up for murder and quite frankly, he almost had me convinced, he certainly has his captain convinced, probably the whole damn police force. It’s like a Folie a Deux...

AL
I’m lost honey.

CARLA
I’m gonna call him.

AL
Honey, it’s late. It’s...
   (he looks at his watch)
Oh, 930. Wow, I fell asleep early this time. Well, no sense in staying up now, don’t stay too late with this OK honey.

CARLA
I won’t.

Al kisses her head and walks away.

Carla stares at the phone. She snaps it up, dials.

(V.O.)
This is Frank, leave a message.

CARLA
Frank, it’s me Car- Dr. Salvani, I’m sorry to call you like this but, I think I can help you. Give me a call when you get this.

She hangs up.

CARLA (CONT’D)
Damn it.

She grabs her purse and walks out of the house.
The computer screen still shows the Claymore info.

EXT. CARLA’S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER
Carla gets into her car and drives off.

INT. LAUNDROMAT - NIGHT
Frank and Amy sit in a dark, seedy laundromat.

Amy is flipping through some gossip magazines, Frank stares into a spinning machine, clocking his reflection. People start slowly exiting, wrapping up their nightly chores. Only one woman remains with Frank and Amy.

    FRANK
    (to Amy, stagy)
    So, you come here often?
    (pause)
    You doing OK?

    AMY
    I’m good, how are you holding up?

    FRANK
    Me? I’m not worried. This guy only goes after attractive women. Remember.

    AMY
    Thanks, you’re so comforting. So you think I’m attractive, huh?

    FRANK
    Yeah, maybe I have a weakness for dimples. You know you’re kind of cute Amy.

    AMY
    That’s nice Frank.

EXT. LAUNDROMAT - NIGHT
The surveillance teams scan the landscape for any clues as to the arrival of the mystery guest.

    PAM
    Checking the airwaves gang, alpha check.
CRUZ
Bravo, check.

DAVID
Charlie, check.

INT. LAUNDROMAT
Frank stands.

FRANK
OK, my dear, I’d love to sit and flirt some more but I think it’s time to serve you up.
(Frank smile and reaches out his hand)
It was nice meeting you and remember, you have a lot of support out there.

Frank reaches for a basket and grabs the laundry from a dryer.

AMY
Nice meeting you too.
(pause)
I feel good, thanks Frank.

Frank leaves the laundromat, gets in his car and takes off.

INT. FRANK’S CAR
Frank is driving, tries talking into his walkie.

FRANK
I’m in position, let me know when-

Static, cutting out.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Damn it.

Frank bangs the walkie, with no luck.

Static on the radio, song comes on. It’s the SONG that played in the ABBY flashback.

Frank listens to the song, looks in the rearview, distorted!
EXT. LAUNDROMAT

PAM
All quiet on the western front. Frank’s been gone 45 minutes and no sign of the Shadow.

CRUZ
I’m beginning to think that homeboy is a no-show. When do you call the game due to rain?

PAM
Not yet, I feel it, he’s showing tonight.

DAVID
Can we send in a bum? I want to check out the guy in the Ford pickup, over.

PAM
Copy that. Ahoy there bum, can you go sniff around?

The undercover bum makes his way to the truck, just as the guy in the Ford pickup opens his door and enters the laundromat. He quickly checks a machine, smiles at Amy and heads back to the truck. The bum calls out.

BUM
Authorization to shoot, over.

Pam’s walkie is fucking up.

PAM
Repeat, over.

BUD
Authorization to shoot, over.

PAM
Damn it, what?

BUM
He’s in his truck singing along to Air Supply.

Laughter leeches over the walkie.

CRUZ
How earth would you know that? We should shoot you, you bum!
PAM
Settle down, who is that at 10 o’clock?

CRUZ
I know that vato strut, that’s Frank.

PAM
Well, it isn’t the first time he deviates from the game plan.

DAVID
I don’t like this, he might scare our guy off. Keep an eye on the cowboy in the truck, this should be interesting.

PAM
We should have miked Frank.

CRUZ
We nixed it for Amy’s. Too much static with the machines in there.

Frank walks along the strip center parking lot towards the door of the laundromat.

The team members watch as Frank gets closer to the truck.

The cowboy opens the door slowly but darts back inside his truck when he sees Frank.

CRUZ (CONT’D)
Yup, he spooked him.

PAM
Damn it Frank...

Frank stops steps inside the laundromat.

DAVID
OK, what just happened, what is Frank doing? Does he not see he just fucked this whole thing up?

PAM
I don’t know what he’s doing, is he talking?

DAVID
Who else is in there? I don’t like this Pam, something’s up.
PAM
Stay in position, let this play out-

Her radio cuts out, she bangs it.

DAVID
Repeat, I said repeat.

Nothing, static.

INT. LAUNDROMAT

AMY
Change of plans Frank?

Nothing from Frank.

AMY (CONT’D)
Are we still in the game?

Frank stares at her, cold.

AMY (CONT’D)
Frank?!! What are you looking at?

EXT. LAUNDROMAT

Amy hops off the washer, out of sight from the team.

CRUZ
I can’t see-A-

Radio cuts out.

DAVID
Say that again, Cruz?

PAM
Frank’s the quarterback right now, hold your positions.

The cowboy gets out of his truck.

INT. LAUNDROMAT

AMY
What’s the plan Frank?

The cowboy comes in. Squeezes by Frank.
COWBOY
Excuse me.

EXT. LAUNDROMAT

DAVID
What the fuck are we doing, he’s in there?

PAM
Just hold, god damn it.

DAVID
(to himself)
Fuck this.

David gets out of his car. Pam sees from afar.

PAM
Damn it David.
(trying to reach his radio)
David-

Nothing.

She gets out of her car. She moves fast toward the laundromat.

Suddenly, the lights go OUT! She takes off running, they all do.

INT. LAUNDROMAT

COWBOY
Aw, what the fuck--

He gets cut off like a knife to his throat, pitch black.

AMY
Frank! God damn it! Frank, where are you?

EXT. LAUNDROMAT

The officers are booking it toward the laundromat.

Gun flashes IGNITE the laundromat.
INT. LAUNDROMAT

The flashes reveal Amy’s face for only a second. Scared.

EXT. LAUNDROMAT

The officers draw their guns and Pam signals to them.

INT. LAUNDROMAT

Pitch black. Amy backs away, can’t see shit.

EXT. LAUNDROMAT

Pam shines a flashlight, into the laundromat. She catches a glimpse of Amy, getting strangled!

INT. LAUNDROMAT

Amy is getting strangled by a shadow, can’t make out who it is.

Pam hops in. Gun pointed.

    PAM
    Let her go!

Still choked.

    PAM (CONT’D)
    Let her go now!

Amy tries to speak.

    AMY
    (struggling)
    Shoot me...shoot...

Pam shines the light directly at her target, sees the words on Amy’s mouth.

    PAM
    Let her go, now!

BANG! She fires her gun, nailing Amy in the leg, BANG, a knocks Pam to ground, Amy goes down.

The rest of the team storm into the laundromat.
David tries to grab Pam and drag her out of the mat as the officers’ flashlights shine into the mat, illuminating it. Amy’s on the ground bleeding, they reveal Cowboy’s dead on the ground. Cruz reaches Amy, no sign of Frank.

AMY
...Frank...it’s Frank...

Cruz looks up at David and Pam, can’t believe it.

EXT. CARLA’S CAR

Carla is driving her and her navigation system says, Turn left in 15 meters.

She turns left and pulls up in front of

EXT. FRANK’ HOUSE

She looks out the window at the dark house, just as she sees a shadow flash and go inside.

She gets out of her car and goes up to the front door.

She rings the doorbell. Nothing.

CARLA
Frank!

Nothing. She goes to knock, the door cracks open.

CARLA (CONT’D)
Frank...

She peers inside, pushes the door a little...BANG—a hand slams over her mouth and pulls her back outside, she’s freaking.

It’s Captain Willis and he mimes SHHHHH...he has his silver gun drawn.

CARLA (CONT’D) (quietly)
What are you doing? I think I know what’s wrong with Frank, what’s wrong with all of you...

CAPTAIN (quietly)
I know, it’s Frank.
CARLA
No, no, that’s not what I mean, I’m
telling it’s what called-

They hear some noises coming from inside the house. The
captain motions for her to be quiet. She shuts up. The
captain starts to creep the door open with his gun. BANG!

A door slams from inside the house and the captain darts in.
He makes it just in time to see a shadow fly out the back and
out of sight. He chases.

EXT. FRANK’S HOUSE
Outside, it’s so dark, can’t see, shadow’s gone.

(O.S.)
AHHHHHHHHH!

Carla screams from inside the house, the captain darts back
in.

INT. FRANK’S HOUSE- CONTINUOUS
The captain runs into the living room, lights on. Carla
stands staring. The captain turns to see two bodies, strapped
to chairs, bags over their heads. He grabs Carla and pushes
her out of the room.

CAPTAIN
Stay here. If you see anything,
holler.

She nods.

INT. FRANK’S HOUSE LIVING ROOM
The captain leaves her and goes back to the bodies.

Very carefully and slowly he pulls the bag off one. It’s
Boots! Dead!

Captain grimaces and goes to the next body. It’s RAUL! Dead!

INT. FRANK’S HOUSE
Carla waits patiently but scared in the darkness. She can see
out the front door and WOOSH!, a shadow flys by!
CARLA
Captain!
The captain runs from the other room.

CARLA (CONT’D)
Outside.
The captain darts outside.

EXT. FRANK’S HOUSE– CONTINUOUS
Just in time to see Carla’s car peel off down the road! Carla pokes out of the front door.

CARLA
Captain, what is going on? Where is Frank?
He turns.

CAPTAIN
That. Was Frank.
She can’t believe it.

CARLA
Oh my god.
The Captain’s phone rings.

CAPTAIN
(into phone)
Yeah? No, but get over here, you need to see this. And, I’ve got the doc here too, I’ll give her the details, maybe we can figure out his next move.

Click. He hangs up.

CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
(to Carla)
You OK?
She nods.

INT. HOSPITAL
Detective David rains hangs up the phone. He’s sitting with Pam rains, who is in bed, recovering.
DAVID
That was Sarge, he’s got something at Frank’s. You gonna be OK?

PAM
Yeah, he only got me in the leg, think I’ll live.

rains smiles.

PAM (CONT’D)
Still can’t believe it’s Frank.

RAINS
I don’t think Frank, believes it’s Frank. I mean, the way he... I don’t know...

PAM
Hey, don’t worry about it, he got us all. But, we’ll catch him. Now get out of here and do it already. Before I have to get up and do it myself.

rains chuckles and leans in for a kiss. Long and slow.

RAINS
I love you.

PAM
I love you.
   (beat)
Now go!

RAINS
OK.

rains heads for the door.

PAM
David.

He turns.

PAM (CONT’D)
If you have to, take him out.

David walks out. Pam’s alone.
INT. FRANK’S HOUSE- NIGHT

rains arrives at Frank’s house while forensics is going over the crime scene, snapping photos, dusting for prints. The Captain is with Carla, another officer takes their statements. rains walks up to the captain.

CAPTAIN
How’s Pam?

RAINS
She’s fine, captain, trooper, you know that. Amy too.

CAPTAIN
Good. rains, this is Dr. Carla Salvani. Doctor, this is David, one of our newest detectives.

CARLA
The captain tells me you were the one who agreed with Frank about the setup.

RAINS
Yeah, it just seemed so clear. Like Frank really was being set up. I don’t know, something got to me-

CARLA
Folie a deux.

RAINS
What?

CARLA
It’s a rare condition, in which symptoms of a delusional belief are transmitted from one individual to another. The same syndrome shared by more than two people may be called folie à trois, folie à quatre, folie en famille or even folie à plusieurs. Recent psychiatric classifications refer to the syndrome as dependency psychotic disorder and induced delusional disorder in the ICD-10, although the research literature largely uses the original name.

RAINS
Folie a deux...
CARLA
Yes, Frank has wrapped his mind around this setup, starting with his wife but what I really think is Frank has had some severe psychological problems for a long time, not just with his wife or these cases, but stemming from his teenage years. In cases like these, it’s easy for those around to become caught up in the delusions of the affected, in essence, a madness shared by two, or in this case, madness of many.

rains is dumbfounded, and embarrassed.

CAPTAIN
Don’t sweat it kid, what’s important is bringing Frank in and stopping these murders.

rains nods, turns around towards the bodies.

RAINS
Can’t say I feel bad for these two-

rains is cut off by a young patrol officer rushing in from outside.

YOUNG OFFICER
Captain, I’ve got a report on your line that there’s a, Pam...at City General. She’s demanding you, rains and a...Dr. Carla Salvani...says she’s...underground?

The three look at the officer then back at each other.

RAINS
Pam? Pam isn’t at City General, she’s at Brackenridge...

CARLA
Frank. That’s it.

Captain and rains don’t know what she’s talking about.

CARLA (CONT’D)
City General. Frank has been there before, and he knew all along, somehow.
CAPTAIN
Doc, what are you talking about?

CARLA
I looked at Frank’s old file, on the database, and, and, when he was a teenager, he was admitted to the Claymore Institute.

RAINS
Claymore Institute?

CARLA
Yes, it’s a, was a clinic for kids, a psychiatric hospital for kids, where City General is now. That’s why he’s there-

CAPTAIN
Let’s go.
(to the officer)
Keep this quiet, you hear me. Don’t say a word to anyone. When I need to, I’ll call you personally and then you can send backup. Keep the swat team outta our asses. This is not gonna be a warzone, Got it?

YOUNG OFFICER
Yes sir.

EXT. CITY GENERAL
rains, Carla and the Captain pull up outside city general. Modern hospital, the works.

It’s dark, Carla points.

CARLA
That’s my car...

Carla’s car is haphazardly parked in a handicapped space, doors wide open.

CAPTAIN
He’s here. OK, Carla, you stay here, rains-

CARLA
-He said me too. I’m not gonna stay out here, I can talk him down-
CAPTAIN
-No, you stay here-

CARLA
-let me talk to him, I know he’ll listen to me-

RAINS
-Maybe she’s right captain, she is a shrink...

CAPTAIN
(beat, then)
Fine, but you stay behind us and don’t do anything stupid.
(beat)
Let’s go.

INT. CITY GENERAL LOBBY - NIGHT

The captain, Carla, and rains walk into the hospital.
The captain and Carla check out the front desk. A plump old receptionist runs the show.

RECEPTIONIST
Can I help you?

The captain flashes his badge.

INT. CITY GENERAL

The trio creep up to a pair of swinging doors. Beyond the doors is a long hallway, lights flash off and on.

CAPTAIN
OK, that receptionist said there are multiple stairways leading to the underground. Keep your eyes open and be sharp, Frank’s smart, but we’re gonna be smarter.
(beat)
Do me a favor, rains. Don’t shoot if you don’t have to.

rains nods.

The trio walk through the doors, lights flash. A door to the left says, MAINTENANCE ONLY.

The captain points to the door.
CAPTAIN (CONT’D)
(to rains)
You head down there, the Doc and I
will come around the other side.
Flank him and stop him, take him.

RAINS
Got it.

rains heads through the door.

INT. UNDERGROUND

rains hits the last of the stairs. He’s in the underground,
dark, no visibility, flashlight out, scanning.

RAINS
Frank...
Nothing.

RAINS (CONT’D)
(yells)
Frank!

His yell echoes through the underground.

INT. CITY GENERAL

The captain and Carla find the other door to the underground.

They head down the stairs.

INT. UNDERGROUND, ANOTHER AREA

The captain and Carla exit the stairway into the underground.

They creep through.

FRANK
(off screen)
Nice of you guys to show up like this...

A shadow whisks by in the distance.

CAPTAIN
Frank, come on out here and let’s talk OK?

Nothing.
RAINS
Where’s Pam, Frank?

CARLA
Frank! Come on, I can help you!

Captain is pissed at her. Shut up.

FRANK
Nice to hear your voice, doctor...

Shadow whisks by again.

INT. UNDERGROUND

rains is scanning the area, creeping slowly. Afraid.

PAM
David!

RAINS
Pam!

rains bolts in the direction of Pam’s voice.

He’s gone, into the shadows.

INT. UNDERGROUND, ANOTHER AREA

Pam’s yell echoes through the underground.

The captain looks at Carla. She nods.

CARLA
Frank! I want to help you!

The captain is losing control of the situation.

A shadow FLASHES quickly behind them. They turn abruptly. Nothing.

CAPTAIN
God damn it Frank. What are you doing? Why are you fucking with us?

FRANK
(in the distance)
Why are you fucking with me, Captain?
CARLA
Frank, you’re sick, and I can help you. You just have to let me.

BAM! Frank comes up behind them, quickly, lightning.

FRANK
I said quit with the fucking SHRINK TALK!

Slow motion of his gun coming up to the Captain’s head, he can’t get around fast enough, Frank fires, Carla screams, captain drops dead.

Frank grabs Carla and slams her down.

INT. CITY GENERAL

The receptionist looks up from her magazines, heard the gunshot. Waits. Nothing. Shrugs.

INT. UNDERGROUND – ANOTHER AREA

rains hears the gun blast and jerks, gun aimed, ready to fire.

RAINS
Fuck.

Pam’s very near.

PAM
(quiet)
David.

rains listens for her.

PAM (CONT’D)
David. Over here.

rains darts toward her voice and finds her on the ground, dazed.

RAINS
Shit, you ok?

PAM
Yea, where’s Frank?

RAINS
I dunno, but we gotta find the Captain and Dr. Salvani...
INT. UNDERGROUND - BACK TO FRANK AND CARLA

FRANK
Now see, what did you do, doc, you got the captain killed.

Carla shakes her head, crying, scared, trying to stay calm, losing it.

CARLA
No, you did that, Frank, you shot him-

Frank is on her immediately, gun against her head.

FRANK
-No! You did this, you got him killed.

FOOTSTEPS get louder, closer. Frank looks away.

Carla jets. RUNS! Frank SNAPS back, grabs her leg, just barely...enough to trip her. She crawls, trying to get away.

Frank follows, she squirms, gets her body up, trapped.

FRANK (CONT’D)
Uh oh, where you gonna go now?

Carla sits up, squeezing her back against a large metal pipe, reflections of light bounce off it.

CARLA
Please Frank...

Frank JERKS right into her face with his, close, flash of light, his reflection hits him off the pipe, he can’t look away, it’s distorted then clear, distorted, his mind SNAPS-

FLASHBACK:

MONTAGE

INT. UNDERGROUND

Frank can’t look away from his reflection!
INT. CHASING THE SHADOW

Frank walks by a window shop, sees his reflection, distorts, shadow behind, Frank turns, Frank chases the shadow, there is no shadow, he runs aimlessly, deliriously, crazy, it’s in his mind. Through the store, across the street, in the stairway. He fires rapidly and randomly into the air at nothing.

His heart attack starts, it’s real, real pain, pops his phone out, calls for help, trips, ripping the piece of his shoe out, falling, dropping the phone, hits his head, OUT!

INT. UNDERGROUND

Frank is terrified of his own reflection, still holding the gun, this is happening instantaneously.

INT. BUD’S BAR

Frank chats up Julie, Bud’s not around, doesn’t see. Julie loves the attention.

EXT. BUD’S BAR

Frank sees Julie outside after the old man drives away, he’s on her in a flash. She smiles.

JULIE
Oh, hey stranger, you scared me-

Frank’s on her! Starts to strangle her, STRONG STRANGLE, dead!

EXT. BRIDGE UNDERPASS

Frank carries Julie’s body, drops it hard. PLOP!

Footprints everywhere. Rakes his tracks away. Nothing left.

INT. UNDERGROUND

Still reflecting.

FRANK
No...
EXT. CEMETERY

Gayle is packing things into her truck.

Frank walks up behind her. Scares her.

GAYLE

Oh, geez, hey Frank, are you still here-

BAM! Frank grabs, slams her in the truck, she struggles intensely, finally, she’s limp.

EXT. HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL

Frank dumps Gayle’s body, just like Julie’s. Rakes again. No evidence.

INT. PARKING GARAGE OF HEADQUARTERS

Frank pulls into the garage, parks. Looks in the rearview mirror, quick flash, distorted.

In another flash, he’s out of the car, sees Shiela, grabs her, strangles her.

EXT. STRIP CLUB

Frank nails Boots over the head with his gun as he walks to his car in the parking lot.

Frank shoves him in the car. BOOM! Lid down.

EXT. RAUL’S HOUSE

Raul is putting the trash cans out. Hears something, sees nothing, turns, BAM, out cold. Frank puts him in the trunk.

INT. FRANK’S HOUSE

Raul and Boots are tied up, Frank hits them both, bags them both, dead.

INT. CITY GENERAL

Carla realizes that Frank is flashing in and out.
CARLA
Frank...

Frank can’t respond.

INT. CAR – NIGHT OF LAUNDROMAT

Frank hears the song, his reflection distorts in the rearview.

EXT. LAUNDROMAT

Frank sabotages the power of the laundromat. He sets up a timer, guerrilla style, ticks away.

INT. LAUNDROMAT

Power flashes out.

Frank shoots the cowboy, tries to strangle Amy, gun fire stops him, he darts out the back door.

EXT. HOSPITAL

Pam hobbles out to the parking lot, lights up a cigarette. Frank hits her, pops her in the trunk.

INT. CITY GENERAL

Frank pushes Pam in a wheelchair, smiles at the receptionist, flashes his badge, she looks at him suspiciously.

INT. UNDERGROUND

Frank knocks Pam in the head and lays her down.

INT. UNDERGROUND

Frank flashes back.

CARLA
Frank!

She yells but it sounds a million miles away to Frank.
INT. FRANK’S HOUSE- MORNING (LESS ERRATIC)

Frank’s at home. There are police files all over the place, the floor, Abby comes in with a pile of bills.

Frank is yelling at nothing.

ABBY
Frank! What are you doing?

FRANK
Who?! Me!? Nothing.

ABBY
Frank, what is all this?

FRANK
It’s my cases!

ABBY
(dumbfounded)
Have you seen these?

She holds up the final notice bills.

FRANK
Yeah, I saw em.

ABBY
I thought you said these were paid Frank?

FRANK
Damn it Abby, can’t you see I’m working, I’m trying to catch this guy!

ABBY
How are we going to live Frank? Huh? Your cases aren’t everything, they don’t matter-

FRANK
(cuts her off)
-They don’t matter?! They don’t matter?! Abby there are bad guys out there every day, and I catch them. I do, you sit here!

ABBY
That’s not what I meant and you know it-
Frank is getting extremely frustrated. He paces. He looks up, catches his reflection, it distorts.

He turns quickly, calm, staring Abby down. He walks toward her. Abby isn’t looking, she’s got her head down. She looks up as Frank is right on her.

    ABBY (CONT’D)
    What are you do-

She gets off as Frank grabs her by the throat! She struggles to get out...he’s too strong...can’t get out...Frank squeezes.

She tries anything, jumping, swinging, they fly around the room slamming into walls, she goes limp finally, against the wall. Frank’s right on the mirror and clocks himself, he snaps back to the

END MONTAGE

INT. CITY GENERAL

Frank snaps back to reality, back to Frank the Cop.

    FRANK
    No...

He looks down at Carla.

    FRANK (CONT’D)
    Doc, how could I...

    CARLA
    (tries to speak)
    ...sometimes...

    FRANK
    ...all those people...Abby...oh god...Abby...

    CARLA
    ....I’m sorry....it’s not your fault, you’re sick Frank. You’ve been sick for a long time. Your mom died Frank, you blamed your father. You snapped, and grabbed your dad’s gun, pointed it at him, he sent you away, to this place, that’s why you came back here Frank-

    RAINS (O.S.)
    -Hey Frank!
Frank turns, rains has a gun pointed right at him, Pam down by his side.

BANG! He fires.

CARLA
NO!

Frank drops to the ground, shot in the chest.

CARLA (CONT’D)
Frank!

FRANK
Doc...why...how...

CARLA
You’re sick Frank...that’s all...

Frank shuts his eyes and dies.
Carla weeps for him.
rains finally lets his gun down.
Looks down at Pam.

PAM
Let’s get out of here.

FADE TO BLACK.

FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY
Detective rains is alone visiting Frank’s grave.
He places Frank’s badge on the just covered grave.

FRANK
Rest in peace, Frank.

rains walks away.

EXT. CEMETERY/CAR – CONTINUOUS
rains walks to his car, sees his reflection in the car window.
It’s DISTORTED for a second then back to normal.
rains is freaked for a sec, but comes too quickly, embarrassed. Laughs it off.

He opens the door to get in.

RAIN
Can you believe that Folie a Deux stuff
(halfway in the car)
I mean really, how does that happ-

PAM IS DEAD IN THE PASSENGER SEAT!

SMASH CUT TO BLACK.

ROLL CREDITS.