

LEVELING

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FADE IN:

ON LEVEL.

He stares directly at us; seated, surrounded by darkness. He is in his mid to late 20s, with thick fingered back brown hair (not gelled/nor styled) and stubble.

LEVEL

I know that you don't care. But you are going to listen to everything I say. I live in an apartment two floors up. My name is Level. But it's more of a nickname. See I, um...I was raised in a covenant run by a congregation of abusive nuns. Their...abuse was more mental, but there were a few that enjoyed the physicality. I guess you can say I'm an orphan. I never met my parents. And my mother--from what I heard--was a whore and I was her bastard. And the nuns, they made sure I never forgot it. Cause once a week, they would whip me and throw me inside a cold dark dungeon and tell me that I would never see the light of day again. And this went on for the next eight years until the day I turned fifteen. That is when they decided that they had had enough of me and kicked me out with nothing but the clothes on my back. So for next six and a half years, I lived on the street and I did what I had to...to survive.

(then)

By chance, I happened to meet a man named "Carbeck" while I was detailing some guy's face. And he took me under his wing.

(sighs)

Like you, I hurt people. I do. That's my job. I get paid to hurt people. People say I have a gift for it. But I don't know. It doesn't exactly take rocket science to cause someone pain. Now I ain't going to lie and say that I don't enjoy it, because there are times that I do. Very much so. This would be one of them. My correct title is "Enforcer". But I...I look at it as more of giving people a chance.

(MORE)

## LEVEL (CONT'D)

And sometimes...well...most of the time that involves force. But...unlike you, I know where to draw the line. So consider this your chance. If you ever lay another finger, thumb, or hand on that girl again, you know what I'm gonna do? I'm gonna make sure that you never see the light of day again.

As we PAN...the darkness gives into a bit of light. Level is wearing a black peacoat, black cargo pants, and black tactical swat boots. And we realize that we are...

## INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

...as we finally see who Level has been talking to:

LUTHER VOSS, 50, an abusive alcoholic, wearing nothing but a stained wife-beater and boxers, eating some kind of food. He doesn't seem to be fazed by Level threatening him.

## LUTHER VOSS

Great. Now get the fuck out of my apartment. And tell that bitch my food's cold.

Level SIGHS as he stands and straightens out his coat...

## LEVEL

Well, I hope you have a splendid day, Luther.

Level heads into...

## HALLWAY

On the floor is: LYDIA VOSS, early 20s, pretty with olive skin, but has been beaten by Luther for years.

## LEVEL

(indifferent)

Your father's food's cold.

Lydia looks up at him. She has a bloody nose and a busted lip. She wipes her tears away.

## LYDIA VOSS

You didn't hurt him...did you?

Level stares at her for a second before walking away..

EXT. BUSINESS AVENUE - CONVENIENCE STORE - DAY

Level walks inside and steps up to the counter.

LEVEL  
Marlboro Blacks. Menthol.

The CASHIER grabs the cigs and rings him up.

CASHIER  
\$6.81

Level hands him a \$10. Grabs the pack and his change. As he heads out he removes the wrapping. And stands just outside the door as he packs the cigs. Then puts one in his mouth. He takes out a Zippo...and lights up. Inhales.

EXT. CELTIC'S PRIDE, BAR & GRILL - DAY

Level enters with a cig in his mouth. As he heads to the back, he's greeted by the bar's regulars:

MATT, 32, the bartender. And TIC-TAC, 56, fat with graying hair, sitting at the curve of the bar smoking a cigar while watching the news on TV.

Level pats Tic-Tac on the shoulder as he walks passed. He enters through the door marked "Employees Only".

A MALE CUSTOMER who saw Level and sees Tic-Tac smoking, pulls out a cig and lights up. Matt steps in front of him.

MATT  
Hi. Can you do me a favor, sir? Can you read that sign up there?

INSERT: SIGN

Rules of the Pub: 1. Must order a Guinness. 2. Must leave staggering. 3. No smoking.

MATT (CONT'D)  
Cuz it clearly states no smoking.

MALE CUSTOMER  
"No Smoking...?" But what about--

The Customer points at Tic-Tac. Matt hits him with a right hook. Customer falls to the floor.

INT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - BACKROOM

Level enters...closing the door. CARBECK, late 40s, handsome with styled hair, is sitting on top of his desk. 4 HENCHMEN, 20s, sit in front of him.

CARBECK

...just do what you have to do to keep her from talking. Level.

Carbeck stands and pats Level's shoulder.

CARBECK (CONT'D)

I'm glad you're here. These are the guys that are gonna help us with that problem.

LEVEL

Oh? And which one would that be?

CARBECK

Some chick had the unfortunate happenstance of witnessing me do some illegal activity that I will not go into detail about.

LEVEL

Are you sure they're ready for that?

CARBECK

My honorary enforcer is judging my leadership?

LEVEL

No. No. I-I'm not...It's just that... Well...they're kids.

CARBECK

(to Henchmen)

Well, we all have to start somewhere. But- Are you guys ready or not?

The 4 Henchmen say some form of "YES." They all give dirty looks to Level who leans against the wall.

CARBECK (CONT'D)

There. You have it. They said they're ready, they're ready. Does that install your faith in them now?

LEVEL

(sarcastically)

Oh, I have nothing but complete and total faith that they are.

CARBECK

Mm-hmm. Anyway, before you came in, I was trying to lighten the mood with a joke. But I couldn't think of one. How about you tell them the story about how you got your name, Level? You know...the one with the nuns. It's fucking hilarious! I'm sure they'll love to hear it.

LEVEL

I don't remember there being a fucking joke in it, Carbeck.

CARBECK

A w, I think you're just too emotionally attached to it. Why don't you let them be the judge, since you were so quick to judge them?

Level and Carbeck stare at each other. Level is not going to tell the story.

CARBECK (CONT'D)

You're not going to tell it, are ya?

LEVEL

Nope.

CARBECK

No? No. Hmm...Poor sport.

(to henchmen)

All right, get out of here. You know what to do.

The henchmen stand and leave. Each one giving Level an evil look as they exit. Level doesn't seem to care.

CARBECK (CONT'D)

All right. I need you to head to the projects...

LEVEL

Which one?

CARBECK

Eastside.

LEVEL

Eastside projects? I thought we didn't care about the projects.

CARBECK

We do...when they're selling drugs in our territory. So I need you to do what you do and "Level" this situation. Persuade this...

(looks at notepad)

...Darryl Dumas to stay in his own. Examples have to be made. You'll get your regular fee of... Wait...What is your regular fee?

LEVEL

30 grand.

CARBECK

30 grand?! When has it ever been 30 grand? And why?

LEVEL

It's always been 30 grand. And to answer why: I just like the way it sounds.

CARBECK

30 grand. 30 grand. Yeah, I see what you mean. 30 grand, 30 grand.

INT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - MAIN AREA - CONTINUOUS

Level exits the room and stands beside Tic-Tac who is still watching the news. Tic-Tac chews on some bar nuts.

LEVEL

Hey, Tic-Tac. What's going on?

TIC-TAC

Hit and run. A child was hit by a car near Albany on her way to school--died instantly.

LEVEL

I guess she didn't look both ways.

TIC-TAC

The ever so callous Level.

LEVEL

Yep. That's me.

INSERT: TV - NEWS

JENAPHER TANOUBY, 30, beautiful, platinum blonde hair with blue-green eyes. Anchor for KRKV NEWS.

BOBBY MCKILLIP, 38, co-anchor, sitting next to her.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

...witnesses at the scene described the suspect's car as a faded tan station wagon with a busted bumper and a shattered windshield. One even got a partial license plate number: E-Q-2.

BOBBY MCKILLIP

If you happen to see a vehicle that fits this description please notify your local police station as soon as possible.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

And like always we will continue to keep you up to date as more information occurs. And I speak for everyone here at KRKV News that our hearts go out to the family. For KRKV, I'm Jenapher Tanouby.

BOBBY MCKILLIP

And I'm Bobby McKillip.

(then)

Oh, this just in. It has been brought to our birthday today.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Oh, you didn't.

BOBBY MCKILLIP

We would all like to wish Jenapher a happy birthday.

BACK TO SCENE

LEVEL

(scoffs)

And you wonder why I don't care. A child was just killed, and they wish her a happy birthday. Humph. I'll see ya.

TIC-TAC

Take care.



EXT. EASTSIDE PROJECTS - STREET - NIGHT

The street is lined with Bums and illegal activities: drug dealers, pimps, hookers, gang signs, etc.

DARRYL DUMAS, 24, bald, gang member, walks across the street towards an apartment complex. He is struck on the back of the head! Immediate blackness.

INT. DARRYL DUMAS' APARTMENT - NIGHT

Darryl stirs, noticing he is inside his own apartment. He MOANS.

DARRYL DUMAS

Where--? Ow, my head.

Darryl quickly realizes he is bound to a chair. He tries to break free!

DARRYL DUMAS (CONT'D)

What the fuck, what the fuck!?!

LEVEL

Good. You're awake, finally.

Darryl looks over at Level who is smoking while making a sandwich. He removes his RUGER KP90 and lays it down on the counter.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

You know what I like about the projects? If you scream, no one cares. Everybody minds their own business. I thought you'd feel better in your own apartment.

Level tosses his cig into the sink and takes a bite of the sandwich...

DARRYL DUMAS

Look, look, look. I don't know who you are...but if you untie me, I promise I won't say anythin'. It'll be like nuthin' happened.

Level chews on his sandwich. Swallows.

LEVEL

I've been doing this a long time. I can tell when someone's lying.

Darryl goes ape-shit in the chair.

DARRYL DUMAS

Just fucking let me go!! Just let  
me go! You--Fuck!

Level grabs a bag of ice from the freezer. He places it on  
Darryl's head.

LEVEL

There. That should help the pain.  
By the way, your bread expires  
tomorrow. Don't forget to get a new  
loaf. Okay?

DARRYL DUMAS

(astonished)

Who the fuck, are you?

Level drags a chair over and sits with the back of it in  
front of him. He takes out his pack of cigs. Lights up.

LEVEL

Name's Level.

Darryl spits in his face! Level SIGHS as he wipes it away!  
Then...Level BREAKS HIS NOSE!

DARRYL DUMAS

Motherfucker! Motherfucker! Do you  
know who the fuck I am?! Who I work  
for?! You're fucking dead!

LEVEL

You're Darryl Dumas. You work for  
Derek. Listen, Daniel--Oops.  
Daniel? I'm sorry. Darryl. Darryl.  
You know what? I'm just gonna call  
you, "Dare". Okay? Listen, Dare,  
I've got some good news and some  
bad news. The bad news is: I'm  
here. The good news is: I'm not  
here to kill you. But can you guess  
why I am here?

DARRYL DUMAS

You're an enforcer for Carbeck...

LEVEL

Very good, Dare. I'm glad you know  
that. Because I really hate having  
to signify that I'm an enforcer. It  
just seems meretricious to me.

DARRYL DUMAS

I also know that you can't come into our hood without permission. You just fucked up! You're nothing but a grease spot, cocksucker! Derek's gonna gut ya!

LEVEL

I don't know. I think he'd understand. I mean you were the one that crossed first. You know I thought we had an understanding. We stay out of your yard, you stay out of ours. And now we're at an impasse. Do you see the trouble you've caused?

DARRYL DUMAS

Please. Look, I can...I can give you the money I made. And you can give it to Carbeck. You-you don't have to do this.

LEVEL

Darryl, Darryl, Darryl, examples have to be made...so this sort of thing doesn't happen again.

Level produces a pair of BRASS KNUCKLES and attaches them to his hands.

DARRYL DUMAS

Please. I have a family. I got a mom and a newborn baby brother. Please. I'm sorry.

LEVEL

I don't care. Your family has nothing to do with this. So I'm not seeing their significance. Hey, Dare, this isn't personal--it's a lesson learned ordeal. And the lesson to be learned is: Stay in your own territory.

Level stands and moves the chair out of the way.

DARRYL DUMAS

(desperate)  
Please...

Level starts going to town on his face! Darryl reacts!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Level is walking across the street with his IPHONE to his ear. Bruising can be seen on his hands.

LEVEL

Yeah. Yeah, tell Carbeck that I finished with Darryl...

Level stops. He lowers his phone as he turns to look at: a parked old and fading station wagon with a busted bumper and a shattered windshield. BLOOD can be seen splattered lightly on the grill and the hood.

A MAN is drunkenly hunched over puking his guts out. They stare at each other. Level shrugs. And continues on...

EXT. STREET - SUBWAY - NIGHT

Jenapher is running to the entrance of the subway with her iPhone to her ear.

EILEEN (V.O.)

I just don't see why you're there so late.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

I know, mom. I'm trying to get home. I'm at the subway now.

Jenapher disappears down the subway. 2 THUGS--who we'll call JEAN (he's wearing a jean jacket)& FLYNN--notice her from down the street.

INT. SUBWAY

The train is about gone when Jenapher runs down the stairs. She hits her fist on the last car.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

No, no, no, no! Ah, shit!

EILEEN (V.O.)

What? What's happening? Are you okay, honey?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Yes, mom. I'm fine! I just missed my train.

She spots Level down the platform sitting on a bench smoking while rubbing his bruised hands. Level looks at her. Jenapher seems nervous.

EILEEN (V.O.)

Oh, God. Honey, I want you home.  
It's not safe there this late at  
night.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

(annoyed)

Yes, Mom! That's what I'm trying to  
do!

EILEEN (V.O.)

I'm sorry, honey...I just-I'm just  
worried is all.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

I know, mom. I know. Look, I'll be  
home soon. I love you.

EILEEN (V.O.)

I love you, too. You hurry and come  
home.

Jenapher hangs up. Level takes out his pack of cigs. A few  
cigs remain. He lights up another..

Jenapher puts her phone in her purse. As she turns around,  
she comes face to face with Jean & Flynn. Jenapher GASPS!  
Flynn keeps an eye on Level.

JEAN

Miss your train, sweetheart?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Uh-huh.

JEAN

Yeah, we've been down on our luck,  
too.

(to Flynn)

Ain't that right?

FLYNN

Sure is.

JEAN

But then I saw you...And that fancy  
purse of yours. I think our luck is  
looking up.

Jean shows her his GLOCK. Jenapher moves back slightly.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Look...you can-you can have my money.  
Just please...please don't hurt me.

Jenapher starts to dig through her purse, but Jean rips it out of her grasp! And hands it to Flynn who finds the cash.

JEAN

Just as sweet as you look. That'll take care of our money troubles. But not our other. See...we're fucking horny too!

JENAPHER TANOUBY

(voice breaking)

No! Please! I gave you my money.  
Please!

Jean grabs her forcefully! Level and Jenapher look at each other. Her look heavily suggesting: "HELP ME"! Flynn takes out a SWITCHBLADE and gives Level a look to "FUCK OFF!" Level turns away. Shakes his head.

LEVEL

Shit!

Level stands. He flings his cig down and walks away. Maybe he actually doesn't care. Jenapher is devastated as he does. Is no one going to help her?

JEAN

Why don't we go somewhere more private?

Jean starts pulling her towards the bathrooms. Flynn follows. Jenapher SCREAMS.

INT. SUBWAY - GIRL'S BATHROOM

The door busts open as Jean throws Jenapher inside! She falls. The doorstop drops keeping the door open.

JEAN

Let's see if you taste as sweet!

Jean kneels and starts ripping at her clothes! Flynn stands in the doorway watching.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Help me! Help me! Somebody, please!  
Help me!

INTERCUT - WITH LEVEL

...At a vending machine. He checks his pocket for change. Pulling out about a \$1.24. Jenapher's screams can be heard. Level looks in their direction. Back to the machine. He needs a \$1.75.

LEVEL  
(scoffs)  
Fucking kidding me.

JEAN (O.S.)  
Hold still, bitch!

Jean slaps her and rips her shirt! Revealing: her bra.

FLYNN  
Man. Look at those peaches!

JEAN  
Hey! Watch the fucking door!

Level turns back to the machine. HE KICKS IT! A COKE rolls out! He picks it up. Twirls it in his hand!

Jean starts undoing his pants. Then begins working on hers.

Level ENTERS/EXITS frame.

Jean is on top of Jenapher. He hasn't quite gotten her pants off yet. Flynn puts a cig in his mouth. He tries to ignite his Zippo. Nothing but sparks.

LEVEL (O.S.)  
Need a light?

Flynn doesn't have time to turn before Level sends his foot into his groin! Then yanks his head back and shoves his knee into this spine. Flynn falls!

JEAN  
What the fuck???

Jean stands...pulling out his GLOCK! Jenapher crawls away, crying. Level punches him in the face. Then twists his hand so that the gun is pointing at his DICK! And pulls the trigger!

Jean GASPS! And loses his grip on the gun to grab his groin! He falls to the ground!

JEAN (CONT'D)  
(strained; in disbelief)  
You-you blew my dick off!

Level takes the GLOCK apart.

FLYNN  
You motherfucker!!

FLYNN whips out the switchblade! And comes lashing out towards him! Level grabs a hold of his hand and...HEADBUTTS him. Relieving him of the blade, and stabs it through the back of his knee!

THE BLADE GOES THROUGH THE CAP! Level then smashes his face into the wall! Flynn stumbles back. FLINGING OUT TEETH as he drops.

LEVEL  
(to Jenapher)  
We should go now.

Level reaches out his hand. Jenapher accepts! And they run out of the room!

Jean crawls to his dismantled GLOCK and starts reassembling it. Once so...he gathers to his feet!

INT. SUBWAY TRAIN CAR

Level and Jenapher run inside just as the door closes and the train begins to move! Jenapher continues crying on the seat.

JENAPHER TANOUBY  
Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god!

Jean staggers towards them, aiming the gun! Jenapher sees him!

JENAPHER TANOUBY (CONT'D)  
Oh my god! He's got a gun!

Jean tries to fire, but the gun just CLICKS. Level holds up the FIRING PIN along with the middle finger. Jean drops to his knees. And throws the gun at the train.

JEAN  
Goddamn it!  
(hopeless)  
Oh, my dick...

He disappears as the train goes down the tunnel! Level turns to find Jenapher in his face! She grabs a hold of him!



JENAPHER TANOUBY

(crying)

Oh, god! Thank you, thank you,  
thank you!

Jenapher faints. Level catches her!

Level is looking out of the window. Jenapher has her knees to her chest, holding them. Trembling. While drinking the coke Level got.

JENAPHER TANOUBY (CONT'D)

My stop is next.

LEVEL

You gonna be...okay?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

I will be. Just get me home. Just  
get me home.

Level sits down beside her. Takes out his pack of cigs.

LEVEL

Want one?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

No. No, I don't smoke.

He shrugs. And lights up. Jenapher takes it. Their hands touching. She takes a big drag. COUGHS. Hands it back.

JENAPHER TANOUBY (CONT'D)

I'm Jenapher. Jenapher Tanouby.

LEVEL

I do live here, you know? I know  
who you are.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Right. I forgot. I'm on the news.  
Heh, can you believe that?

LEVEL

Happy Birthday, by the way.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Best present I've ever gotten. What  
do I call you?

LEVEL

Level.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Level?

LEVEL

Yeah. It's transitive. Don't ask.  
Can I ask you a question?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

You saved my life.

LEVEL

You have a death wish or something?  
What we're you doing in the  
projects this late?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

I'm trying to start a fund-raiser  
for the projects. I'm having a cook-  
out next week at the state  
fairgrounds in order to raise money  
to help out the people who live  
there. I was setting up flyers.

LEVEL

Well, if you're gonna seek to get  
yourself killed...you might want to  
hire a bodyguard.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Like...you?

LEVEL

You couldn't afford me.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

I don't know about that. It just  
may be worth it.

Level and Jenapher share a look...

EXT. JENAPHER'S HOME - NIGHT

Jenapher and Level stand outside the door. She definitely  
lives in an upper-class neighborhood.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Do you wanna come inside? I can  
offer you a drink. I think I have a  
bottle of Ketel somewhere.

LEVEL

I don't drink.

JENAPHER TANOUBY  
How about a Sprite then?

Level motions and they go inside.

INT. JENAPHER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Level is sitting at the table, drinking a sprite. Jenapher is standing next to him, and hands him some money.

JENAPHER TANOUBY  
Here. It's just 500.

LEVEL  
You don't have to pay me.

JENAPHER TANOUBY  
I know it's not much after all, but  
I want you to have it.

Level accepts. The door opens and EILEEN TANOUBY, 61, with short heavily grey hair, enters with the phone to her ear.

EILEEN  
...she's about 5'5, 120 pounds-

Eileen spots Jenapher. And she grabs her.

EILEEN (CONT'D)  
Oh my god. You're home. I didn't  
hear you come in.  
(to phone)  
Never mind. She's home.

Eileen hangs up.

JENAPHER TANOUBY  
Mom.

EILEEN  
Where were you? And where have you  
been? I was worried sick - I called  
the police.

JENAPHER TANOUBY  
I'm fine, mom.

Eileen spots Level. She looks at him with suspicion.

EILEEN  
Can I talk to you in private, Jen?

Jenapher and Eileen leave the room..

DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Eileen keeps an eye on Level through the door.

EILEEN

Who's that?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

His name's Level. Other than that,  
I don't know much about him. I met  
him in the subway.

EILEEN

Honey, you can't trust people like  
that. You just can't bring home  
strays. He could be...  
(whispers)  
...dangerous.

Eileen checks on Level. He is still at the table, drinking.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Mom, what are you doing?

EILEEN

Making sure he doesn't steal  
anything.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

He's not going to steal anything. I  
just gave him \$500.

EILEEN

You did what?! I can't believe you,  
you foolish, foolish girl-

JENAPHER TANOUBY

(cutting her off)  
He saved my life.

EILEEN

He- What?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

In the subway, two men jumped me.  
At first, I thought they just  
wanted money. But then...they tried  
to...  
(tearful)  
They tried to...rape me.

Eileen hugs her.

EILEEN

Oh god. Honey, why didn't you tell me? Are you okay?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Yes. Because he came to my rescue. Sort of like out of nowhere.

EILEEN

Honey, why didn't you introduce us?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Because you were too busy being stuck up.

EILEEN

Don't be 'castic with me, young lady. Introduce us.

JENAPHER TANOUBY

You want to meet him? C'mon.

EILEEN

Absolutely.

KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Jenapher and Eileen enter...

JENAPHER TANOUBY

Hey, Level, this is my...

Level is gone.

EILEEN

He left? How rude. I bet you he stole something.

Jenapher sees the money she gave him on the table.

INT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - NIGHT

Level heads to the backroom. He walks passed TIC-TAC, patting his shoulder as he goes.

TIC-TAC

You were gone awhile. Everything work out okay?

LEVEL

Yep.

TIC-TAC

Oh, they found that Hit & Run guy.  
In case you wanted to know.

LEVEL

I didn't.

Level disappears into the back.

BACKROOM - CONTINUOUS

Level enters. Carbeck is at his desk. A satchel lies on top of it.

CARBECK

How'd it go with Dumas?

LEVEL

He'll no longer cause us problems,  
if he's smart.

CARBECK

Well, he is a dealer...after all.  
Anyway, well done. Here's your 30.

Carbeck tosses the satchel to him. Level catches it.

CARBECK (CONT'D)

Oh, not that you need it. But if  
you want to make a little extra,  
I'd put a few on Fracx. Gunter's  
going down in the 4th.

Level nods.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - NIGHT

Level heads towards the building. And enters.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - STAIRWELL - NIGHT

Level is making his way up the steps. Lydia stands a floor up. She lights up when she sees him. Anyone could tell that she is desperately in love with him. Anyone that is, except Level who is completely oblivious.

LYDIA VOSS

Hi, Level

LEVEL

Hi, Lydia.

Level continues passed her...

LYDIA VOSS  
How was your night?

LEVEL  
Eventful.

Level makes to the next floor...

LYDIA VOSS  
Well...have a goodnight, then.

LEVEL  
Yeah. You too.

INT. LEVEL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Level enters. And throws the satchel on the sleeper sofa.  
Heads to...

KITCHEN

Level takes down two skillet. Turns the burners on. He finds some oil...and fills one up. He opens his fridge. Mostly empty, except for a package of ground beef, chopped potatoes, diced onions, and yellow and red peppers.

He takes out the beef and the potatoes. He throws the potatoes in the oil. Opens the beef and throws it in the other skillet. Sprinkles salt/pepper on both the beef and potatoes. A little Tabasco and taco seasoning on the beef.

There is a KNOCK on his door.

He turns to face it. He grabs his RUGER KP90 from off the table. He does a brass check...before sticking it behind him. He moves to the door.

The door opens to reveal: Lydia holding a towel and some clothes.

LEVEL  
Lydia?

LYDIA VOSS  
Hi. Hey, I hate to ask, but...can I take a shower?

LEVEL  
(thinks)  
Down the hall.

She enters, heading down the hall.

LYDIA VOSS

Thank you, thank you. I think our water heater's broken or somethin'.

LEVEL

Yeah. No problem.

Lydia closes the bathroom door. Level closes the front door. He stares down the hall, slightly intrigued.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

Huh.

KITCHEN

Level opens the fridge and takes out the onions and the peppers. He throws them all in the beef. Stirs.

THE SOUND OF WATER BEING TURNED ON IS HEARD.

He turns in its direction. Turning back, he tosses the fried potatoes into the beef skillet. Stirs. Opening the fridge again, he takes out a package of shredded cheese and sprinkles it over the food.

Once it's melted, he turns off the burners. And carefully carries the skillet over to the table. He sits down and begins eating.

THE WATER IS TURNED OFF.

After a few bites, he stands. He gets a coke out of the fridge. He gulps some sips.

Lydia exits the bathroom, carrying her dirty clothes. She enters...

LYDIA VOSS

Ah, thank you. I feel much better.

LEVEL

Sure.

Lydia notices the food on the table.

LYDIA VOSS

Oh my god. Are you gonna finish this?

She sits down and starts devouring Level's food.



LYDIA VOSS (CONT'D)

I'm just so hungry. Man, this is delicious.

Level leans against the wall, drinking his coke. He watches her...She swallows.

LYDIA VOSS (CONT'D)

So was that story you told my dad true? About the nuns?

LEVEL

(nodding)

Yes. He hasn't hurt you again, has he?

LYDIA VOSS

No. I think maybe you scared him.

LEVEL

I doubt it. A man like that - it's only a matter of time before he does it again. You should put some ice on that lip. I can make you an icepack.

LYDIA VOSS

No, that's okay. I gotta go anyways. I'll make one when I get home.

She stands and gathers her things. She heads for the door. Level follows.

LYDIA VOSS (CONT'D)

Thanks again for the shower...and the food.

LEVEL

You're welcome.

LYDIA VOSS

See you tomorrow?

LEVEL

More than likely. Let me get the door.

Level puts his hand on her as he reaches for the door. Lydia about quivers to his touch. She turns...wrapping her hand over his head and kisses him. Level is stunned. Lydia lets go of him.

LYDIA VOSS

(nervously)

I'm sorry. I had to do that...to see what it felt like. I'm...gonna go home now. Have a good night.

Lydia turns to the door when: Level grabs her arm. She turns to face him. He backs her into the wall. They stare at each other...

Level forces a hand inside her skirt! Lydia gasps, grabbing two fists of his shirt. And it doesn't take a genius to figure out what he's doing as she continues to MOAN.

He removes his hand. And Lydia takes it and sucks his fingers. They stare deep into each other's eyes...

Level rams Lydia into a wall. She has her legs wrapped around him. Both trying to shove their tongue down the other's throat. Level pulls down her shirt to reveal her breast. He squeezes it...and takes a taste! Another kiss.

He sets her down on a dresser. As she starts unbuckling his belt and unzipping his pants, he starts trying to take off his shirt, she helps him.

Revealing: SCARS all over his body. His back is covered with the scars from his whippings. One scar on his neck goes about a foot and a half. She stares at them.

LYDIA VOSS (CONT'D)

Whoa...

Level grabs her for another aggressive kiss. She wraps her legs around him again. He grabs her thighs as he stretches down her panties! With another taste of her breast, he inserts himself inside her!

She grabs a hold of him as she rests her head on his shoulder!

LYDIA VOSS (CONT'D)

(gasps)

Oh, god! Oh...Fuck! Oh, shit!

Level keeps thrusting. She joins in as the pleasure rises!

Level and Lydia both on the sleeper sofa bed, both covered in sweat. Level is on top, thrusting! She has her hands on his lower back. She digs her nails into his skin and scratches him.

Level GROWLS! He grabs her arm...and squeezes her thigh! With another kiss, he clamps her hands behind her head and continues thrusting...until the CLIMAX! He collapses on top of her. She holds him in her arms.

INT. JENAPHER'S HOUSE - DAY

Eileen enters through the front door.

EILEEN

Jena. Jena-babe. Are you here? I've been calling. Hello?

She starts climbing up the stairs...

EILEEN (CONT'D)

Jenapher? Honey? It's mom. Where are you?

JENAPHER'S BEDROOM - SAME

Jenapher lies on top of the unmade bed near the bottom edge. Her clothes are ripped and ragged. She is covered in blood and bruises! JENAPHER IS DEAD.

Eileen enters.

EILEEN

Jen-

She sees her daughter. She collapses to her knees!

EILEEN (CONT'D)

(cries)

No!

INT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - DAY

Level enters. Matt is behind the bar, cleaning out a glass. They nod to each other. Level heads to the back, but stops when he notices that Tic-Tac is gone.

LEVEL

Hey, where's Tic-Tac?

MATT

He's in the back. Something happened.

Level continues to the back.

BACKROOM - SAME

Tic-Tac stands in front of the desk. Carbeck is behind it leaning on his chair.

TIC-TAC  
...this is a problem.

CARBECK  
(sighs)  
Fuck!

Level enters.

LEVEL  
What's going on?

CARBECK  
Where the hell have you been?

LEVEL  
Home-

CARBECK  
Never mind that - I don't care. We have a situation. Those men I sent after the witness got picked up.

LEVEL  
(scoffs)  
I told you they weren't ready. Jesus. Intimating a witness - that's 15 to 30 easy with no hope for parole. It'd be better to just cut our losses.

CARBECK  
I can't believe you just said that. But I guess I can't be too upset, when that's one of the reasons why I hired you - for your uncaring trait.

TIC-TAC  
As much as I hate to admit it, and as hard as it might be for you to hear it - Level's right.

CARBECK  
I don't give a shit! They're one of us, and we take care of our own. Level, I need you to pay their judge a visit. You'll get your regular fee of...um...

LEVEL

30 grand.

CARBECK

30 grand?! What are you, insane?  
Done. Now get out of here.

Level and Tic-Tac give a look as Level leaves...

EXT. JENAPHER'S HOUSE - DAY

Various police vehicles and POLICE OFFICERS are all over the yard. A Ford Crown Vic pulls up to the curb.

DET. MIKE SALZER, 38, handsome with short black hair and stubble. And his partner, DET. MOLLY LULU, 27-29ish, exceedingly pretty, exit. They head for the entrance.

INT. JENAPHER'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

Crime Scene Investigators are surveying the crime scene - dusting for prints, taking photos, and tagging evidence.

We find Eileen almost on the verge of a heart attack, talking to C.S.I. MITCHELL, who is on his knees digging through his evidence kit. He takes out gloves and puts them on.

EILEEN

...oh my god. You're ruining the house. Does there have to be so many of you here?

MITCHELL

(annoyed; almost pleading)  
Ma'am, please...

Det. Salzer and Det. Lulu enter; going passed 2 C.S.I.s dusting the front door. They head towards Mitchell and Eileen.

EILEEN

Look! Look, at what you people are doing. Putting that shit all over everything. And you have your shoes on.

MITCHELL

Ma'am, we're all wearing boot covers.

Eileen looks around at the Officers' shoes, and sure enough they all have on booties over their shoes.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Hey, Mitchell. Where's the vic?

MITCHELL  
Upstairs, down the hall and to the left. Sorry. Right.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Thanks.  
(to Eileen)  
Ma'am, I'm sorry, but you can't be here.

MITCHELL  
Uh, Detective, that's the vic's mother. She's the one who found the body.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Oh. My apologies, Ma'am. I'm Detective Salzer and this is my partner Detective Lulu. We're the leads on this case. Would you mind going with her? She'd like to ask you a few questions.

EILEEN  
I can't go with her. I have to stay here and make sure no one steals anything.

MITCHELL  
Ma'am, for the 14th time we're the police.

EILEEN  
Don't give me that shit! I've seen you looking at that golden medal above the fireplace.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Ma'am, as the lead, you have my total assurances that I will shoot anyone that even thinks about stealing anything from this house. Please, go with Det. Lulu.

EILEEN  
No- But- I-

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Here. Come with me, Ma'am. Just a few questions.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
I assure you, you're in good hands.  
Please go. Just...go...thank you.

Det. Lulu leads Eileen away...Mitchell and Det. Salzer both sigh a relief.

MITCHELL  
Jesus. You'd think she'd be more concerned about her daughter.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Well, we all deal with grief in different ways. Can I get some gloves?

MITCHELL  
Sure.

Mitchell hands him some gloves...

JENAPHER'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A few C.S.I.s and the CORONER are here. Det. Salzer enters putting on his last glove. The Coroner has just finished taking Jenapher's liver temperature.

Jenapher looks different...Her clothes have been fixed and she has been neatly positioned inside the bed. The room looks exceptionally clean as well.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
What've we got?

CORONER  
One female vic - around the ages of 28 and 30.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
T.O.D.?

CORONER  
From her liver temp, I'd say around 2:34 A.M.

Det. Salzer looks at the body with recognition.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
She looks...familiar.

CORONER  
As well, she should. That's Jenapher Tanouby.  
(MORE)

CORONER (CONT'D)

The lady anchor for KRKV News. She just had a birthday.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Oh. Oh, yeah. Thought she looked familiar. Cause of death?

CORONER

I won't have anything conclusive until I do the autopsy. But judging from the bruising around her neck, I'd say strangulation.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Was she raped?

CORONER

I won't know until I do a vaginal swab. But from the bruises on her thighs I'd say it's highly plausible. And she does have defensive wounds all over her arms.

DET. MIKE SALZER

She fought back. Good for you, honey. I'm gonna find out who did this to you, okay, sweetheart? I promise.

CORONER

Jesus, Detective. You gonna make-out with her next?

Det. Salzer gives him a stern look! Coroner shuts up quick.

DET. MIKE SALZER

I'll do a follow-up at your department later. I'm done here.

CORONER

All right. See you then.

EXT. JENAPHER'S HOUSE - DAY

Det. Salzer exits the house. Various NEWS CREWS have now appeared and are filling up the yard along with NEIGHBORS.

Det. Salzer spots Lulu talking to Eileen near the driveway. He motions to her. She excuses herself.



DET. MOLLY LULU  
Thank you. Give me Charles Manson,  
Jim Jones, anybody except that  
woman!

DET. MIKE SALZER  
I take you got what you needed?

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Yes. She says she found the vic...

DET. MIKE SALZER  
(sternly)  
Jenapher Tanouby.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Jenapher Tanouby? The newscaster?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
The one and the same.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Jesus. The press is gonna be all  
over this.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
What time did she find her?

DET. MOLLY LULU  
12:47 P.M.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
She say anything else?

DET. MOLLY LULU  
There were no signs of forced  
entry. And nothing was stolen.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Hmm...

Det. Salzer starts looking at the people that have gathered  
at the curb. He watching them, intently.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
What are you doing?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Seeing if anyone looks suspicious.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Does anyone?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Yeah. All of'em. Let's head over to  
KRKV.

EXT/INT. CROWN VIC - JENAPHER'S HOUSE - DAY

Det. Salzer in the driver and Det. Lulu in the passenger  
seat. He goes to start the engine but stops... Det. Lulu  
wonders...

DET. MOLLY LULU  
What...?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
I don't know. Something about the  
crime scene. It was...it was too...  
(getting it)  
She's obsessively compulsive.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
You've lost me.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
The mother has OCD.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Yeah. I'll say.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
I'll be right back.

Det. Salzer exits.

EXT. JENAPHER'S HOME - DRIVEWAY - DAY

Eileen is harassing the C.S.I.s that are exiting the house  
with evidence.

EILEEN  
Hey, where are you going? You can't  
take that. I need those. Where are  
you taking them?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Ma'am, I need to talk to you for a  
second.

EILEEN  
No, I-I gotta watch them.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Ma'am. Ma'am, it wasn't a question.

EILEEN

Um...okay.

Det. Salzer leads her...towards the garage.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Ma'am, did you in anyway touch the body?

EILEEN

(clearly lying)

What? No...I...

DET. MIKE SALZER

Don't lie to me! I've been a detective for 16 years, and not once have I ever seen a crime scene so clean before. Now, what the fuck did you do?

EILEEN

Don't yell at me!

DET. MIKE SALZER

What did you do?

EILEEN

I vacuumed! And I made her more... presentable.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Where? Where?!

EILEEN

The pantry and the garbage.

DET. MIKE SALZER

(to C.S.I.)

Hey! Tell Mitchell to bag the vacuum and all the garbage. The mother contaminated the scene.

C.S.I.

You got it!

DET. MIKE SALZER

(to Eileen)

Do you realize what you've done? Do you?! Do you want the person who did this to your daughter to walk? Because that is what you have just fucking done!

EILEEN  
Stop yelling at me!!

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Stop yelling at you? Ma'am, you're  
lucky I'm not arresting you!

EILEEN  
(voice breaking)  
What was I supposed to do? My  
daughter was lying there, just  
lying there. She wasn't breathing,  
covered in her own blood. Her  
clothes were ripped to shreds. And  
her...breasts were...showing. Tell me,  
what would you have done if she was  
your daughter?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
I'd let the police do their job.  
(under breath)  
Stupid bitch.

He walks away! Eileen starts to cry..

EXT/INT. CROWN VIC - DAY

Det. Salzer enters.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Well?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
She cleaned the scene.

Det. Lulu SCOFFS.

INT. KRKV NEWS STUDIOS - DAY

PEOPLE are rushing back and forth as Det. Salzer and Lulu  
follow MR. BURLY, 50s, pudgy and balding. As they pass  
cubicles a few are CRYING.

MR. BURLY  
Sorry 'bout all the ruckus.  
Jenapher's death has caused quite a  
ruse here.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
That fast?

LILLY, 27, comes up to Mr. Burly, crying..

LILLY

(crying)

Mr. Burly, do you mind if I go home? This whole thing with Jenapher...I-I just...

MR. BURLY

Of course, Lilly. You take all the time you need.

Lilly walks away. They continue their walking conversation.

MR. BURLY (CONT'D)

I'm sorry. What were you saying?

DET. MIKE SALZER

Well, what my partner was saying is that we just got the call two hours ago...and we didn't know who it was until about the 30 minute marker.

MR. BURLY

Is that a statement or a question?

DET. MOLLY LULU

What we're asking is: How did you find out so fast?

MR. BURLY

We're the press. We're paid to know fast. Take a look.

Mr. Burly points their attention to...

INSERT: TV - NEWS

Bobby fills the screen along with Jenapher's picture in the top right-hand corner. The word "DEAD" appears across it.

BOBBY MCKILLIP

...We're sorry for interrupting your previously scheduled program to inform you that...

(voice breaking)

Jenapher Tanouby...was found dead inside her home today. She was found by her mother this afternoon at around 12:30 P.M. Um..We will continue to bring you up to speed as more information develops.

MR. BURLY'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mr. Bury stands behind his desk while Det. Salzer and Lulu stand in front.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Mr. Burly, do you have any reasons why someone here might want Jenapher dead?

MR. BURLY

No. Everybody loved Jenapher. She was friends with everyone. Hell, she was a part of every fund-raising charity I've ever heard of. She was the sweetest person you'd ever meet.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Well, we're going to need to talk to her friends.

MR. BURLY

Then you're looking at the whole building. Like I said - Jenapher was friends with everybody. She even knew the janitors' names.

Det. Lulu and Salzer both look out at all the people in their cubicles.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Anyplace you'd like to start?

DET. MIKE SALZER

Yeah. Let's start with the people who didn't come into work today.

EXT. CONDOMINIUM HIGHRISE - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Level comes out of the darkness from behind an SUV when he hears a...CLICK...from behind him. He spins around, putting a hand on his Ruger behind his coat and sees:

EMIRUS, 31, clean shaven, styled hair, nerdy, wearing a black and white suit. He puts away his cigar cutter, which was probably the noise that alerted Level.

During their conversation it is clear Level doesn't like him and he never takes his hand off his gun.

LEVEL

Emirus!

Emirus lights his cigar.

EMIRUS

Hey, Level. You should get yourself a nickel-plated 45...like mine.

LEVEL

Well, I'm not a materialistic girl, so I have no need to be flashy. I'm perfectly happy with my K P. Now...what the fuck, are you doing here, Emirus?

EMIRUS

Carbeck sent me.

LEVEL

Why? From my understanding, no one's supposed to be killed.

EMIRUS

And you're right. Carbeck sent me to help you. Said you acted... "hesitant" when he sent you after a judge. Anyway, it's a dream come true for me. I've always wanted to see the great Level at work. I've heard stories about you, like how you have this...gift.

LEVEL

All right, let's get one thing straight. This is still an enforcer job, so I'm in charge. Got it?

EMIRUS

Of course, of course. Shall we?

LEVEL

As long as you stay in front of me.

EMIRUS

Nah. How about you stay in front of me?

They stare uneasily at each other...

INT. CONDO - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The JUDGE, 50, and his WIFE, late 20s, are both bound to chairs. Wife has duck tape over her mouth.

Level is sitting in front of them wearing a ski-mask. Emirus is standing beside him also wearing a mask, and smoking a cigar.

EMIRUS

Does it usually take this long?

Judge stirs.

EMIRUS (CONT'D)

Wakey-wakey. Hey! The early owl catches the mouse.

Judge looks at them. Struggles in the chair. Wife wakes up, too. Starts whimpering as she struggles!

LEVEL

If you haven't figured it out, you're tied to a chair.

JUDGE

Do you know who the fuck I am?!

EMIRUS

Is it just me or does he seem pretty brazen for a guy tied to a chair next to his wife?

LEVEL

You're a judge. And you might be a mister big shot down at the courthouse, but here? Here you're nothing.

Wife mumbles!

LEVEL (CONT'D)

If I remove that and you scream, Emirus is gonna have a fun night. Understand?

Wife nods. Level removes the tape.

WIFE

Isabelle - my daughter, is she okay?

LEVEL

She's locked in her room. She is of no concern to us, so no harm will come to her.

(then)

All right, let's get down to business. We have two problems.

(MORE)



LEVEL (CONT'D)

Well, we have one...and your wife will have the other.

JUDGE

Whatever they're paying you, I'll double it. Triple it!

LEVEL

That's not gonna work here. Now, you have a sentencing tomorrow - 4 men intimidating a witness. Ring any bells?

EMIRUS

Tonight, you're gonna learn two words: Not Guilty.

Emirus punches Judge in the eye! Level stands and pushes Emirus!

EMIRUS (CONT'D)

What the fuck?!

Emirus pulls out his nickel-plated 45 - aims at Level's chest.

LEVEL

You better make sure that shot kills me.

EMIRUS

Hey, Carbeck told me the cards. I'm just following orders.

LEVEL

You can't hit him. If he goes to court black and blue, people are going to ask questions. Now, go get an ice pack for him.

Emirus leaves. Level sits down. Lights up a cigarette.

WIFE

Please! Just let us go!

LEVEL

I will as soon as your husband cooperates. Now, remember when I said your wife has the other problem? See I may not be able to hit you, but your wife, as far as I'm concerned, is open season.

JUDGE

Look, I know what you want...but it can't be done.

Emirus returns with an ice pack. He puts it to Judge's eye.

LEVEL

Look, we all know intimidation is 15 to 30. All I want is minimum security.

JUDGE

I can't do that!

Level puts on his brass knuckles...

LEVEL

Your wife isn't going to like that.

Level goes to town on Wife's face! She reacts.

JUDGE

Please! Please stop! Don't, don't, don't! Stop it! Stop...

Level stops.

EMIRUS

Man, you are sick! I love it.

JUDGE

Look, if you don't want money. I'm sure she can satisfy you both.

Level looks at him in disbelief...

EMIRUS

Wow. Is it weird that I like where this is going?

WIFE

I'll do it. I'll do it. If it saves my daughter, I'll do it.

Level kicks Judge over! He begins to STOMP on his stomach!

EMIRUS

Hey, hey, hey! I thought you said we couldn't touch him?

LEVEL

His gut isn't going to be in plain view!

(MORE)

LEVEL (CONT'D)  
 (come to think of it)  
 Hey. Go find their address book.

EMIRUS  
 What am I, your little errand  
 bitch? You go get it. I'll stay and  
 do this.

LEVEL  
 Carbeck sent you to help me. I'm  
 the enforcer, Emirus. Or do you  
 wanna see just what I can do?

They stare provocatively at each other! Then...Emirus leaves...  
 Level picks Judge up.

LEVEL (CONT'D)  
 So...you want your wife to pleasure  
 me, is that it? Now why would I  
 want her when...she...looks...like...this?!

Level goes to town on Wife' face again. She reacts O.S.

JUDGE  
 I can't do what you want!

Level stops. Wife remains hidden...

LEVEL  
 (more to himself)  
 I don't understand. I really don't.  
 It's just minimum security. It  
 isn't worth this. Why are you doing  
 this to your wife?

JUDGE  
 I told you, I can't. I can't. Now,  
 please...let her go. Stop beating  
 her.

Level looks down. SIGHS. Then...a light bulb goes off in his  
 head.

LEVEL  
 She's not your wife. Is she?  
 (off Judge's look)  
 You're cheating on your wife with a  
 fucking prostitute and she had a  
 baby.

EMIRUS (O.S.)  
 Hey, look-y what I found.

Level looks and we see Wife's face: bloody, swollen, black and blue. We also see that Emirus has ISABELLE, 6.

ISABELLE

(sobs)  
Mommy? Daddy?

JUDGE

No, baby!

Judge struggles in his chair!

WIFE

Oh, God! Don't hurt her!

Level stands up!

LEVEL

Emirus, what the fuck are you doing?

EMIRUS

Hey, we tried it your way. And I gotta say, I'm very disappointed after all I heard about you.

Level takes out his KP.

LEVEL

Let the girl go, Emirus. She's not part of this.

Emirus hides behind Isabelle. He takes out his cigar cutter and puts her finger through it.

EMIRUS

Oh, I think she is. Her parents made sure of that. What are you gonna do, shoot me? You might hit her.

Level points his gun at him.

EMIRUS (CONT'D)

Hey, Isabelle, your daddy is about to cost you a finger. Isn't that nice of your daddy? Well, daddy, what's it gonna to be? Lowered security, or nine fingers instead of ten?

JUDGE

(abreat)

Okay, Okay. I'll do it. Just let her go.

Emirus lets Isabelle go. She runs to Wife, crying!

EMIRUS

See? Look at that. Much quicker. And, hey, I also found their address book.

Emirus tosses it to Level. He skims through it.

LEVEL

It would've been a lot less painful, if you had just done what we asked. Now, if you think about fucking us tomorrow just remember I have this.

Level waves the address book in Judge's face! Emirus and Level leave...

INT. LEVEL'S APARTMENT - BATHROOM - NIGHT

Level and Lydia are in the bath together. Lydia is on top, rocking. She rubs her hands through his hair. He kisses her chest...and gives her breasts a taste. She kisses him and moves down to his neck. He holds her.

She continues until the CLIMAX. Then she turns over...and lies against him. She rubs his bruised hands.

LYDIA VOSS

So...what exactly does an enforcer do?

LEVEL

I make people accept.

LYDIA VOSS

What if you wanted me to do something?

LEVEL

Well, if it were you...I'd probably start by slowly moving my hand below the water.

Level puts his hand under the water near her groin...

LYDIA VOSS

Ooh. Do you wanna get out of here?

LEVEL

Absolutely.

LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Level lies on the sleeper sofa. Lydia is underneath the sheets near his groin with her head bobbing up and down. Level's in pure ecstasy! Lydia finishes. She rests her head on his stomach.

LYDIA VOSS

Can I ask you something? It's about your scars.

LEVEL

(sighs)

The ones on my back are mostly from whippings. But there are a few that aren't. Did you have certain ones you wanted to know about?

LYDIA VOSS

This one?

LEVEL

Knife wound. Ka-bar. The guy stuck it in about four inches. Then twisted it.

LYDIA VOSS

And this one?

LEVEL

GSW. 40 caliber. Close range.

LYDIA VOSS

And that?

LEVEL

Ah, that one. I got that when I was 16. I was on this roof about to do a B & E. And I slipped...and I slid down on to an awning. It severed my flesh as I went over. When I hit the ground, I saw that it had ripped the skin up to my underarm and I was staring at my ribs.

LYDIA VOSS  
That's-that's disgusting. Okay,  
last one. I promise.

LEVEL  
Box cutter. The girl-

LYDIA VOSS  
Girl??

LEVEL  
Yeah. The girl was protecting her  
brother, and she sliced my neck  
down with a box cutter. Nicked my  
jugular.

LYDIA VOSS  
(afraid to ask)  
What happened to the girl...?

LEVEL  
I didn't kill her if that's what  
you mean. She wasn't my target.

Lydia lies back down on his stomach. Level rubs her head.

LYDIA VOSS  
(abeat)  
Did you ever try to find your  
parents? Do you know if they're  
alive or dead?

LEVEL  
I don't know and I don't care.

LYDIA VOSS  
You have to care about something.

LEVEL  
Do I?

Lydia rises and kisses his scars as she moves up to his lips.  
Level turns her over and disappears underneath the covers  
near her groin. She starts MOANING.

EXT. COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE - DAY

Det. Salzer and Lulu exit their car and head towards the  
entrance...

INT. COUNTY CORONER'S OFFICE - OPERATING ROOM

Coroner stands beside the operating table where Jenapher's recently autopsied body lies. Det. Salzer and Lulu walk over.

CORONER

Good morning, Detectives.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Cut the small talk. Whaddya got?

DET. MOLLY LULU

Forgive him - he hasn't slept.

CORONER

Well, the autopsy revealed strangulation as the cause of death.

DET. MIKE SALZER

So she was murdered, just like we thought.

CORONER

That's not all. Whoever did it beat her to a pulp. From several x-rays, I discovered that she had a shattered zygomatic, a broken nasal concha, a few clipped teeth, and a lacerated tongue.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Jesus. Poor girl.

CORONER

And two broken ribs. One of which was lodged in her lung.

DET. MIKE SALZER

What about the bruising around her.. genital area?

CORONER

Ah, yes. I did a vaginal swab and found that she was indeed raped. I sent the sample to the lab. I also found skin tissue underneath the fingernails. So whomever you're looking for is gonna be scratched somewhere on his person. I too sent that DNA to the lab. If there's anything else you need, I'll be in my office.



Coroner walks away...

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Who could do something like this to her?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Let's go find out.

INT. POLICE STATION - DET. SALZER & LULU'S DESK - DAY

Det. Salzer is standing by his desk watching the POLICE CHIEF & CAPTAIN who are both outside talking to about 30 REPORTERS.

Det. Lulu walks up to him carrying about ten stapled pages.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
What's happening?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
The Chief and the Captain are talking to reporters. What've you got?

Det. Salzer heads over to his desk and sits down.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
I did some digging in her financials. And there's nothing out of the ordinary. But get a load of this: She was making roughly 1600 dollars bi-weekly, but she was only taking home 1/4 of that.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Well, color me curious. What was she spending it on?

DET. MOLLY LULU  
(re: papers)  
Charities.

Det. Lulu throws him the stack. He flips through it.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
You mean to tell me she is involved with all of these?

DET. MOLLY LULU  
(nods)  
Yep. Hey, change, no matter how small, adds up.

CAPTAIN, 60s, walks up to them.

CAPTAIN  
In my office. Now.

CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Captain sits behind his desk. Det. Salzer and Lulu stand in front..

CAPTAIN  
All right, the press is jammed up mine and the Chief's ass. We need this solved fast. So where are you with this case?

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Lost.

CAPTAIN  
Well, you better G.P.S. your way outta there real quick.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Lulu pulled her financials, and found out that she's Mother-fucking-Theresa reincarnate. DNA found is in the lab along with fingerprints from the house being scanned.

CAPTAIN  
Hopefully we'll get a match soon, and y'all two can go make an arrest.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
We might have a problem there too, sir.

CAPTAIN  
And what might that be?

DET. MOLLY LULU  
The mother contaminated the scene - vacuumed and threw stuff away. Whatever we find, it'll be useless in court now.

CAPTAIN  
For the love of Finding Nemo! Can you just please give me some ray of sunshine, some glimmer of hope? Look, look.

(MORE)

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

I don't care how you do it, but get a suspect for the News. Otherwise, this city is going to tear us apart looking for this cocksucker.

INT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - BACKROOM

Carbeck stands as Level walks in. Another satchel lies on top of the desk.

CARBECK

Well? Did the judge go for it?

LEVEL

I got them 5 to 10 in minimum security.

CARBECK

That wasn't what I wanted.

LEVEL

I'm sorry, Carbeck. But what you wanted was impossible; no one could have gotten that. They'll be out in a year on good behavior. Until then, we'll take care of their families.

Carbeck just stares at him...He doesn't look happy. But...

CARBECK

All right! Your money's on the table. Oh, tell me, how'd you like working with Emirus?

Level collects the satchel.

LEVEL

It would do him well that you never send him on another job with me.

CARBECK

Oh? Well, from what I heard, I should be giving him your cut.

LEVEL

He was going to cut off a six year old's finger.

CARBECK

Sounds to me like he got the job done. Heh. Get outta here.

Level leaves.

INT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - MAIN AREA - CONTINUOUS

Fairly crowded. Level stands next to Tic-Tac.

TIC-TAC

Well...I see it went okay.

LEVEL

Yeah. Sorta.

Level sees Jenapher's photo with the word "MURDERED" on the TV.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

Hey. What's that about?

TIC-TAC

That news reporter that just had a birthday was found murdered the other day. Haven't you been watching-? Wait. I forgot.

LEVEL

Matt. Hey, Matt! Can you turn that up?

Matt walks over...and turns the volume up. Level is glued to the screen. Matt and Tic-Tac are puzzled.

INSERT: TV - NEWS

The Captain and the Police Chief are standing outside the Police station surrounded by NEWS REPORTERS.

POLICE CHIEF

...Tanouby's death has...devastated us all. And I want everyone to know that every officer is not taking this lightly.

REPORTER

What was the cause of death?

POLICE CHIEF

Strangulation. So far that is all we know.

CAPTAIN

But don't let that discourage you. We have two of our very best detectives on the case. And I assure you Detectives Mike Salzer and Molly Lulu will find this culprit.

BACKROOM

Carbeck is sitting at his desk filling out a logbook, when: the satchel is dropped right in front of him. He jumps. Level stands in front of him.

CARBECK

If I miscounted...all you have to do is say so.

LEVEL

For information.

CARBECK

Information?

LEVEL

On Jenapher Tanouby's murder case.

Carbeck stares at him, intently... Behind Level, Matt and Tic-Tac peek inside.

CARBECK

Okay. I'll get it set up.

INT. LEVEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Level enters still in a state of shock. Lydia is in the kitchen.

LYDIA VOSS

Hey. I was thinking...maybe we should go out.

Lydia looks at him. Level seems distant.

LYDIA VOSS (CONT'D)

Is everything okay?

LEVEL

Get out.

LYDIA VOSS

...What?

LEVEL  
Get your shit. And get out!

Lydia walks over to him, upset.

LYDIA VOSS  
(tearfully)  
Are you breaking up with me? Look,  
whatever it is, we can fix it.  
Whatever happened-

Level pushes her! And brings up a fist!

LEVEL  
Get the fuck out of my apartment!

Lydia cries as she runs out!

INT. LYDIA'S APARTMENT - DAY

Lydia enters, crying.

LUTHER VOSS  
Where the hell have you been? I'm  
hungry! Stupid worthless whore!  
Just like your cunt of a mother!

Lydia wipes her tears away. She throws a plate at him!

LYDIA VOSS  
Then make yourself something to  
eat!

Luther stares at her. Lydia realizes what she just did as  
Luther stands, menacingly!

INT. LEVEL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Level is pacing around the hall, angrily!

QUICK FLASH

Jenapher looks at Level...

TIC-TAC (V.O.)  
I forgot. You don't care.

QUICK FLASH

Jenapher faints. Level catches her.

CARBECK (V.O.)  
That's why I hired you - for your  
uncaring trait.

## QUICK FLASH

Jenapher and Level sitting on the train. She reaches for his  
cigarette. And their hands touch.

LYDIA VOSS (V.O.)  
You have to care about something.  
You can't go through life without  
caring...

Level puts his fist through the wall! He gathers himself. And  
leaves.

## EXT. EASTSIDE PROJECTS - STREET - DUSK

Jean and Flynn whose knee has been bandaged and now has a leg  
brace are standing by a barrel of fire trying to keep warm.

Level comes up to them, his face hidden in the darkness. They  
don't recognize him.

LEVEL  
Hey-!

Level is knocked over the head! Level hits the ground,  
unconscious. Jean and Flynn are flabbergasted!

## INT. POLICE STATION - CRIME LAB

Det. Salzer is sitting on top of a desk next to SUZANNE, 26,  
lab tech, working at her computer.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
What do you mean you have nothing?

SUZANNE  
I'm sorry, Detective, but the DNA  
the coroner sent over hasn't found  
any matches. It must be from  
someone who has never been  
processed before.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Come on, Suzanne. There's nothing  
you can do?

SUZANNE

Well, if you get a suspect, I can run their DNA and see if it matches. But other than that, no there's nothing I can do.

Det. Salzer rubs his face. SIGHS. He stands and heads for the exit.

INT. UNKNOWN ROOM - NIGHT

A FIST connects with Level's face. He is bound to a chair, surrounded by 5 MEN. He has been beaten for quite awhile. He stirs. COUGHS. And looks around...

LEVEL

Oh. Hey, guys. Mike. John. Leo. Hicks. Hilary.

Level spits blood. Examines his bounds...

LEVEL (CONT'D)

Well, you definitely have the basics down right. Now, where's Darryl at? This has "dumbass" written all over it.

Darryl steps out of the darkness...holding a CATTLE PROBE.

DARRYL DUMAS

Bravo.

LEVEL

There he is! Hello, Darryl. My, my, my, how the tables have turned in your favor.

JOHN

You think you can attack one of us without there being consequences?

LEVEL

Consequences? Oh. You didn't tell them, did ya? I figured.

DARRYL DUMAS

Shut up!

MIKE

Darryl, what's he talking about?



DARRYL DUMAS  
Nuthin'! He's just tryin' ta save  
his own ass!

Darryl smacks Level!

HICKS  
But Derek does know he's here,  
right?

DARRYL DUMAS  
Of course, he does. This is his  
plan. Remember?

LEVEL  
All right, I'm game. What's the  
play here?

DARRYL DUMAS  
Payback. Do you know what this is?

Darryl rises up the probe. Electricity crackles!

LEVEL  
Ooh. Kinky.

DARRYL DUMAS  
Hilary, take his shirt off.

Hilary steps forward. He rips Level's shirt off! They all  
MURMUR over his scars.

JOHN  
Jesus.

MIKE  
What the hell's he been into?

DARRYL DUMAS  
Hey, who gives a shit?!

Darryl shocks Level with the probe! Level rises in the chair,  
gritting his teeth, and GROWLS! Darryl stops. Level sits,  
panting.

LEVEL  
(panting)  
You sure did pick a strange time to  
come out, Darryl. In front of all  
the boys here.

Darryl shocks him again! Finally: Darryl kneels in front of  
him..

DARRYL DUMAS

I want to hear you beg for your life.

LEVEL

(laughs)

You don't know me very well. I'm not going to beg for my life because I don't care. But I'll die happy...knowing that I didn't give you the satisfaction.

Level smirks. Darryl shocks him, repeatedly! When he stops, Level leans over exhausted.

DARRYL DUMAS

Nobody said I had to kill you fast. I'm gonna take my time, all night to be exact.

LEVEL

Okay. Okay.

(coughs)

34th street, apartment C. 100 East 11th street. 431 Fairfax Road. 127 northwest lane, complex 1, apartment 13. 31 X avenue.

John, Mike, Leo, Hilary, and Hicks all move nervously - They know those addresses!

LEO

That's my bitch's house.

LEVEL

Yeah. And I heard she just had a baby. Congratulations.

DARRYL DUMAS

What do you think you are doing?!

LEVEL

You wanted me to beg. I'm begging. Not for me, but for their families. What do you think Carbeck's gonna do...when he finds out? He's gonna kill the people you love most.

MIKE

How do you know where my moms lives?

HICKS

How do you know my sister?

LEVEL

I work for Carbeck. I'm paid to know these things. It comes in handy.

JOHN

Darryl, man, I was with you...but, um, if my family's in danger...

DARRYL DUMAS

Shut up! You bunch of fucking whores! You bunch of pansy ass pussies! He's bluffing!

LEVEL

Wow. You guys allow him to talk to you that way? I wouldn't put up with that.

DARRYL DUMAS

That's it! I've had enough outta you!

Darryl grabs a pair of pliers from off a table.

DARRYL DUMAS (CONT'D)

Let's see how talkative you are without any teeth! Leo, Mike. Hold his head!

Mike and Leo hold Level's head! Darryl puts the pliers on a tooth, when: The door opens and in walks DEREK, 30. He walks over to them.

DEREK

Hey, Darryl. We need to talk-

Derek sees Level.

DEREK (CONT'D)

Oh my god. What have you done? Do you know what you're doing? Do you know who this is?

MIKE

Yes. This is the guy that beat up Darryl for no reason.

DEREK

Oh? And did dumbass here tell you that? I guess he forgot to mention that he went over into Carbeck's territory to sell drugs.

DARRYL DUMAS

Derek, please.

DEREK

You keep your fucking mouth shut!

HICKS

Derek, we didn't know. Darryl said this was your plan.

DEREK

I don't give a shit! You. And you. Untie him. Now!

Hilary and John untie Level...

DEREK (CONT'D)

Level, I want you to know I had nothing to do with this. Please, I-I don't think Carbeck needs to hear about it either. Can we keep this between us?

Level stands. And with the palm of his hand, HE SHOVES DARRYL'S NOSE INTO HIS BRAIN! Darryl drops to the floor, DEAD.

LEVEL

Anyone have a problem with that?

They all look at one another - Nope.

DEREK

Are we cool?

LEVEL

Depends. Know anything about the Tanouby murder? Someone shootin' their mouth off? Anything?

DEREK

Nothing. But I'll have my boys keep their ears open for you.

Level walks away...

DEREK (CONT'D)

So? Are we cool?

LEVEL

For now.

INT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - BACK ROOM

Carbeck is behind his desk when Level and Tic-Tac enter. Carbeck rises when he sees Level's face.

CARBECK  
What the fuck happened to you?

LEVEL  
Allergies.

TIC-TAC  
(semi-sarcastically)  
Yeah, I think we're all allergic to fists to the face.

CARBECK  
Whatever. I got your info set up.  
Speed dial 1.

Carbeck tosses Level a cell phone. He catches it. Dials.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

DET. HANSEN, 40s, is at his desk. A cell and an iPhone on top. The cell starts RINGING. He looks at it, timidly. He picks it up.

DET. HANSEN  
What do you want?

INTERCUT - WITH LEVEL

LEVEL  
Any information you can give me.  
Need something that hasn't been on the News.

DET. HANSEN  
Well, I can tell you she was raped.

LEVEL  
Raped?

DET. HANSEN  
Yup. And she was beaten pretty severely.

LEVEL  
What about any leads, suspects?

DET. HANSEN

Nada. The DNA recovered hasn't matched anyone. So whomever did it has never been arrested. Is there anything else?

LEVEL

I need to look at the case files.

DET. HANSEN

You'll have to give me a few. I'm not on the case, and the Detectives that are aren't into sharing.

LEVEL

Let me know.

Level hangs up. Carbeck and Tic-Tac are staring at him.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

What?

CARBECK

This...isn't like you.

TIC-TAC

Yeah. One could even say: you care.

Level rolls his eyes.

LEVEL

Let me know if you need me.

INT. POLICE STATION - HALLWAY - DAY

Det. Salzer is exiting the bathroom when Det. Lulu comes up to him carrying a folder.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Hey, I think I might have something. Fingerprints came back from the front and back doors. Anyway, I cross-referenced each one, and found that only one person had a key to Tanouby's house.

Lulu shows him the folder. Salzer finishes drying his hands on her jacket.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Daniel Spurs. Good work. Let's go get him.

EXT. STREET - DANIEL SPURS' HOUSE - DAY

The Crown Vic pulls to the curb. Det. Salzer and Det. Lulu exit. Heading to the door, they both take out their guns...

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Backdoor?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Backdoor.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
You got it.

Det. Lulu heads around the house. Det. Salzer gets in front of the door. He knocks!

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Daniel Spurs! It's the Police! Open  
the door!

INT. DANIEL'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

DANIEL SPURS, 39, chunky, gets up off the couch! He sees Det. Salzer through the window.

DANIEL SPURS  
Oh, shit!

Det. Salzer sees him running! He kicks in the door!

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Police! Freeze!

He FIRES. The bullets miss as Daniel runs into the...

KITCHEN

...where Det. Lulu kicks in the door! Daniel turns around in to Det. Salzer who is just entering the hall. Daniel rams him through the drywall! And runs back into the...

LIVING ROOM

...where he is tackled by Det. Lulu! He elbows her off him! They tussle for a bit!

Det. Salzer gets to his feet!

Det. Lulu on the floor, leg sweeps Daniel. He trips...and climbs to his knees...and looks straight at...Det. Salzer

DET. MIKE SALZER  
You have the right to be  
unconscious!

Det. Salzer hits Daniel with his gun! Daniel is knocked unconscious! Salzer helps Lulu to her feet.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
You really need to work on your one  
liners.

INT. POLICE STATION - HALLWAY - DAY

Lulu, Salzer, and the Captain are standing outside the  
interrogation room.

CAPTAIN  
Are we sure this is the guy?

DET. MOLLY LULU  
We have his prints and DNA in the  
lab right now. It's only a matter  
of time before we get the  
prognosis.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Captain. I'd still like to talk to  
him. Getting the DNA to match would  
be great, but it's not nearly as  
satisfying as getting a confession.

CAPTAIN  
That would look good in the papers.  
"Hero Cop solves Tanouby Murder,  
gets the perpetrator to confess."  
All right, you have until the DNA  
proves what it proves. Get in, get  
out. Understand?

INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Daniel sits, handcuffed to the table. The door opens, and  
Salzer enters.

DANIEL SPURS  
About time! Do you know how long  
I've been in here? I want my  
lawyer.

Det. Salzer slams his head down on the table.



DANIEL SPURS (CONT'D)

Oh!

DET. MIKE SALZER

Shut up!

(sits)

We have you on assaulting two police officers. And pretty soon we'll have you for the murder of Jenapher Tanouby.

DANIEL SPURS

What? No. No, no, no. You think I had something to do with her death?

DET. MIKE SALZER

Oh, I don't think. I know. And when the DNA proves it; you're looking at the death penalty.

DANIEL SPURS

No. Please. I didn't kill her. I didn't.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Oh, yeah? And no suspect has ever said that before. Okay, I'll play along. If you didn't do it like you say, why'd you run?

DANIEL SPURS

Because I thought you were there to arrest me for scamming my employers.

CRIME LAB - SAME

Suzanne is waiting on the DNA test results. They appear on the monitor. 0.00% Match. She takes out her phone. Dials.

INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Det. Salzer is looking at Daniel's rap sheet.

DET. MIKE SALZER

It says here you're a contractor.

DANIEL SPURS

Yes. Construction.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Tell me more about the scamming.

DANIEL SPURS

Well, I tell my employers that they need something they don't and how much it is. They give me the cash, and they're none the wiser.

Salzer SCOFFS. The door opens, and Lulu peak inside.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Salzer. I need to talk to you.

Salzer gets up.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Salzer exits from the room. Lulu is right by the door, waiting on him.

DET. MIKE SALZER

I was in the middle of an interrogation, Lulu! What is it?

DET. MOLLY LULU

The DNA results came back. No match.

DET. MIKE SALZER

You've got to be kidding me!

Det. Salzer heads back inside...

INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

DANIEL SPURS

Look, I'll confess to the scamming. But I didn't kill Jenapher!

Det. Salzer rips of Daniel's shirt!

DANIEL SPURS (CONT'D)

Hey! What the fuck, man?!

DET. MIKE SALZER

No scratches? Fuck!

DANIEL SPURS

I told you I didn't do it! Why did you think I did?

DET. MIKE SALZER

You and her mother are the only ones with keys to Jenapher's house.

DANIEL SPURS  
I don't understand.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
None of the doors we're picked.  
Therefore someone had to have used  
a key.

DANIEL SPURS  
No, they wouldn't have.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
What do you mean?

DANIEL SPURS  
Jenapher...She-She always kept the  
back door unlocked. Her mother used  
to yell at her about it.

HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Det. Salzer and Lulu stand in the overzealous hall.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Think he's telling the truth?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Only one way to find out.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Go. I'll take him to lock up. And  
tell Captain about the DNA.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Okay. Be there in a minute.

Det. Salzer heads down the hall...taking out his cell. He  
dials.

EILEEN (V.O.)  
Hello?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Mrs. Tanouby, this is Det. Salzer.

EILEEN (V.O.)  
Oh, Detective. What can I do for  
you?

DET. MIKE SALZER

We have a suspect in custody. And he says that your daughter always kept her back door unlocked. Is that right?

EILEEN (V.O.)

Oh my, yes. I told her to lock it. But she would never listen to me.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Ma'am, that would have been useful information to know beforehand.

EILEEN (V.O.)

I'm sorry, Detective. I didn't think of it at the time.

DET. MIKE SALZER

I don't suppose you do much thinking at all. Good day, Ma'am.

CAPTAIN'S OFFICE - LATER

Det. Lulu, Salzer, and the Captain are huddled around the desk.

DET. MOLLY LULU

So, he didn't do it?

DET. MIKE SALZER

Nope. The killer's still out there.

CAPTAIN

All right. Bury it.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Bury it? I'm sorry. What do you mean, bury it?

CAPTAIN

I mean bury it. Me and the Chief have a press conference to go to. Charge Daniel Spurs for the scamming, and we'll pin the murder of Jenapher Tanouby on him. He'll be in prison, who's he gonna tell?

DET. MOLLY LULU

Sir, that's chicken shit.

CAPTAIN

No. It's called lying for a better cause, Det. Lulu. Besides you have nothing. This case is colder than Iceland. This city is about ready to charge our doors for this murderer, and I'm gonna give them one. This comes directly from the chief. So it's out of my hands.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Sir, we can catch this guy. You just got to give us more time.

CAPTAIN

Det. Salzer, face it. It's over. Move on...and enjoy the raise you two are getting.

Captain leaves.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Can you believe this shit?

DET. MOLLY LULU

What do you want to do?

DET. MIKE SALZER

We're going back through her life, inch by inch. We have to have missed something, and this time we are going to find it!

EXT. BUSINESS AVENUE - NIGHT

Level is walking down the street...when the cell phone rings. He answers...

LEVEL

What?

DET. HANSEN (V.O.)

Hey, they got the Tanouby killer. Check the News.

Det. Hansen hangs up. Level takes out his iPhone. Hits a few buttons.

INSERT: IPHONE - NEWS

The Police Chief and the Captain are standing outside the POLICE STATION. They are again surrounded by various REPORTERS and BYSTANDERS.

POLICE CHIEF

Yes, it is true. We have found the person responsible for the murder of Jenapher Tanouby.

CAPTAIN

Our very own, Detectives Mike Salzer and Molly Lulu, apprehended Daniel Spurs today. So, we can all rest peacefully tonight knowing that this dangerous murderer is off the streets.

A NEWS REPORTER fills the screen inside a NEWS STUDIO.

NEWS REPORTER

One of our reporters, Trish Evans, got a look at the Detectives and this Daniel Spurs.

OUTSIDE DANIEL SPURS' HOUSE

Det. Salzer and Det. Lulu have Daniel handcuffed between them! Trish Evans, 28, runs up to them.

TRISH EVANS

Excuse me, Officers. Is this the man who murdered Jenapher Tanouby?

DET. MIKE SALZER

No comment! Move outta the way, please.

Daniel looks at the screen. Scared. Pause.

BACK TO SCENE

Level is looking at Daniel...

LEVEL

I don't think so.

He takes out the cell. Speed dials 1.

DET. HANSEN (V.O.)

Well?

LEVEL

I'm still gonna need the case file.

DET. HANSEN (V.O.)

C'mon. They got the guy. It's all over the news.

LEVEL

No, they don't. The guy's innocent.

DET. HANSEN (V.O.)

How do you- I'll see what I can do.

INT. POLICE STATION - DET. SALZER & LULU'S DESK - DAY

Det. Salzer is at his desk with his head laying on top of papers. Det. Lulu walks up.

DET. MOLLY LULU

The results from Interpol are in.

DET. MIKE SALZER

(rising up)

Let me guess? Not a fucking thing.

DET. MOLLY LULU

You'd be right. Listen. I think we should...

DET. MIKE SALZER

We should...What? Huh? Forget about the case? Just whoever killed her gets to walk?

DET. MOLLY LULU

No. I think you should go home, take a shower, and go to sleep. When you come back, me and you will attack this case like Obi-Wan and Yoda.

Det. Salzer SCOFFS. And gets up. He heads away.

DET. MOLLY LULU (CONT'D)

Hey, where are you going?

DET. MIKE SALZER

To Jenapher's funeral.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Hey, wait a minute. I'll go with you.

EXT. CEMETERY - DAY

Jenapher's funeral. Family and friends have gathered. Eileen is in the front row, crying, behind a veil. Jenapher knew quite a lot of people.

The PASTOR, 60s, takes a stand next to Jenapher's coffin.

THE PASTOR

We have gathered here today...to honor the life of Jenapher Tanouby. She was someone who'd spread love and joy wherever she was. I met her once at a festival, and although it wasn't long enough to get to know her, I feel blessed knowing that I got a chance to be in her presence.

FORD CROWN VIC - SAME

Det. Salzer and Lulu are yards away from the funeral. Salzer is sitting on the hood with binoculars to his eyes.

DET. MOLLY LULU

See anybody yet?

DET. MIKE SALZER

No. Not yet.

Det Salzer's POV - He looks at all the people at the funeral. He goes passed Level who is behind the funeral, leaning against a mausoleum, smoking a cigarette. He goes back to Level.

DET. MIKE SALZER (CONT'D)

Oh, hey. Wait a minute.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Got something?

DET. MIKE SALZER

I'd say so. Hello, mister creepy.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Well, let's go and say "Hello".

MAUSOLEUM - LATER

Level is watching the final aspect of the funeral. He tosses his cigarette to the ground. He takes out another. He goes to light it when...



DET. MIKE SALZER (O.S.)  
I hate funerals.

Level startled, lowers the cig. He turns and looks at Det. Lulu. She takes his picture with her iPhone.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Howdy, handsome.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
But do you know what I like about them? You can always tell who's upset, who's not, who belongs, who doesn't. Guess which category you're in. Oh. Forgive me. The name's Salzer, Detective Salzer.

LEVEL  
I know who you are.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
And your name is?

LEVEL  
I don't have one.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Well, isn't that fortunate for you. So...you knew Jenapher?

LEVEL  
Not really. More of an acquaintance. I saved her life.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
And when was this?

LEVEL  
I don't know, last week on the 7th.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Can anyone prove that?

LEVEL  
Her mother met me. Got the feeling she didn't like me very much.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
That's the night before she died. You mind telling us how you got all the bruises?

LEVEL  
Occupational hazard.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
How about we finish this  
conversation downtown?

LEVEL  
And there's my cue.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
You know...I can always tell when  
someone's guilty. And when they're  
lying.

LEVEL  
Oh, really? Then if I was you, I'd  
let that Spurs guy go. He didn't do  
it.

Det. Salzer and Lulu give each other nervous looks.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Oh, yeah? And how do you know?

LEVEL  
I saw him on the news last night.  
Oh, and you guys are here. Good  
luck. I hope you find the guy.

Level walks away. They watch him go.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Lulu, put a tail on him.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
We can't do that. We've got nothing  
on him.

Det. Salzer kneels.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Ah, my dear, Det. Lulu. We're the  
police - we've got probable cause.

Det. Salzer picks up Level's cigarette butt.

DET. MIKE SALZER (CONT'D)  
And his DNA.

INT. POLICE STATION - CRIME LAB

Suzanne places Level's cigarette butt inside a PCR MACHINE.  
Presses a button...and the machine starts spinning.

SUZANNE

All right. Let's work some magic.

INSERT: PC MONITOR

DNA 76.4% Match. Cold Case #443302. Case Unsolved.

BACK TO SCENE

Suzanne picks up her telephone. Hits two buttons.

DET. MIKE SALZER (V.O.)

Det. Salzer.

SUZANNE

Salzer. I need you in my lab.

Det. Salzer enters and stands next to Suzanne.

DET. MIKE SALZER

All right. I'm here. So?

SUZANNE

The DNA doesn't match to your case.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Suzanne, I'm in no mood for games. I thought you said you had a match?

SUZANNE

I do. I have a 76.4% match to a cold case - a murder. Here.

Suzanne hits a button. A new page loads. Showing a picture of a woman named JUSTINE DAVENPORT. Murdered. Case Unsolved.

DET. MIKE SALZER

The DNA was a 76.4% match to this woman? What does that mean? Biological?

SUZANNE

A match this close...I'd say they're mother and son.

DET. MIKE SALZER

But other than this, you've got nothing? Not even his name?

SUZANNE

Nope. I'm sorry, Salzer.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Can I please just get a fucking break?! This case is just one dead end to another!

(sighs)

I'm sorry. I'll talk to you later.

EXT. EILEEN'S HOUSE - DAY

Salzer and Lulu stand outside the door. The door opens, and Eileen steps out.

EILEEN

Oh, Detectives. I didn't think I'd be seeing you again.

DET. MIKE SALZER

We're sorry to bother you again. But we'd like to ask you a question.

EILEEN

Um...okay.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Do you know this man?

Lulu shows Eileen Level's picture on her iPhone.

EILEEN

Yes. Jenapher brought him home with her the night before her... She said his name was Level. I think. It's been awhile.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Did she seem threatened by him in anyway?

EILEEN

Not at all. On the contrary, she told me he saved her life.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Where was this?

EILEEN

She was at the subway in the eastside projects when two guys jumped her. She said he came out of nowhere. Why do you ask? You caught the person responsible.

(MORE)

EILEEN (CONT'D)

The Chief of Police came here  
himself to tell me.

DET. MIKE SALZER

It's just a follow-up, Ma'am.  
Nothing to concern yourself with.  
Thank you for your time.

Salzer and Lulu start walking back to their car. Eileen  
returns inside her home, closing the door.

DET. MOLLY LULU

So, what now?

DET. MIKE SALZER

Now? Now, we're going down to the  
M.T.A.

EXT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - STREET - DAY

Two DETECTIVES sit in an unmarked Chevy across the street.  
They watch as Level enters the bar.

DETECTIVE 1

You'd better call'im.

DETECTIVE 2

Yep...

Detective 2 takes out his cell. Dials.

DETECTIVE 2 (CONT'D)

Yeah, hey. You know that guy you  
sent us to tail? Well, you'll never  
believe whose place of business he  
just entered.

INT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - BACKROOM

Carbeck is sitting behind his desk, dying laughing. Level is  
leaning against the wall behind him. And Tic-Tac is sitting  
in front of the desk, laughing as well.

The door opens, and Det. Salzer enters. Level straightens  
out. And Carbeck stops laughing.

CARBECK

Well - I smell bacon.

Tic-Tac does a double-take before standing up and moving to  
the side. Det. Salzer takes a seat.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Level. Why don't you do the  
introductions?

LEVEL  
Det. Salzer.

CARBECK  
Level, you know this pig? Shit. Why  
didn't you say you invited him  
over? I would have sent out for  
some donuts. You like donuts,  
right? I like donuts.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
(to Level)  
You know this is a funny story. I  
put a tail on you, and you head for  
the city's most notorious crime  
lord. Tsk, tsk, tsk. Doesn't look  
good for a P.O.I. in a murder  
investigation.

CARBECK  
Okay, what did I not do now? Or  
should I say, what did I do that  
you'll never prove?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
I wasn't talking to you. You see  
until I find the person responsible  
for the Tanouby murder, I am going  
to web my way into every aspect of  
Carbeck's implicit activities.

Tic-Tac puts a hand on a GUN inside his jacket, looks to  
Carbeck. Carbeck shakes his head, no.

CARBECK  
That seems like a good way to wake  
up with a horse's head in your bed.  
Or worst...your partner's. I'm  
assuming you have a partner...most  
detectives do.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Are you threatening me?

LEVEL  
What didn't we clear up at the  
cemetery, Detective?

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Where were you the night she was  
killed?

LEVEL  
I was at home.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Can anyone verify that?

LEVEL  
I was fucking my neighbor.

CARBECK  
Level! You dog you! Doggy style?  
69?

LEVEL  
Detective, the next time we meet...  
it's not going to be so friendly.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Is that a promise? Cuz I'm looking  
forward to it.

CARBECK  
Great. You two set your dates. And  
Level here is a sucker for flowers  
and chocolates. Now, get the fuck  
out of my establishment...before I.A.  
gets involved.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Well, I can tell this is gonna be  
fun. And you really should call an  
ambulance for him.

Salzer shoots Tic-Tac in the foot. Tic-Tac goes down with a  
YELP! Carbeck stands!

DET. MIKE SALZER (CONT'D)  
And remember if you ever need a  
cop, we're just three digits away.

Salzer leaves. Carbeck stands looking at the closed door.  
Anger rising!

LEVEL  
Carbeck, I'm really sorry-

Carbeck backhands him...and slams his head down on the desk!  
Level is stunned! And seems visibly upset.

CARBECK

It seems your little side mission is becoming a problem for me. Now I don't know what the fuck's going on with you and this fucking road to redemption or whatever the fuck it is you're on! But I don't ever want to see you again until this faggot epiphany of yours is over. Do I make myself clear?

LEVEL

Yes. I'm sorry, Carbeck.

CARBECK

I don't want to hear it. Get the fuck out of my sight. What happened to you?

(re: Tic-Tac)

And get him off my fucking floor! I just had it done! And he's bleeding all over it!

Level walks over to Tic-Tac and helps him up. Tic-Tac leans on him for support as they walk out of Carbeck's office.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Level is making his way through the cars. Hearing a noise, he stops and turns. He looks around...Nothing. He turns back around...coming face to face with...

Det. Hansen who's holding the Tanouby case file. Level shoves him up against a car!

DET. HANSEN

Hey! What the fuck? It's me - Det. Hansen!

Level lets him go.

DET. HANSEN (CONT'D)

I got your fucking case file here. Now I could've lost my job for this, so I think I deserve some comeuppances.

LEVEL

What, you want a fucking medal or something? Gimme the fucking folder!



Level yanks the file out of his hands! Digs in his pocket and pulls out 3 dollars.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

Here's three bucks. Go get a donut on me, huh?

Level walks away.

EXT. STREET - UNMARKED CHEVY - NIGHT

The two Detectives are inside playing cards. Level stealthily approaches the car, kneeling behind the bumper. He slides underneath and jabs a knife through the gas tank.

Gasoline starts pouring out.

Level moves out from under the car. And leaves without the Detectives ever knowing he was there.

EXT. JENAPHER TANOUBY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - NIGHT

Level is holding the case folder under his arm, while he lights a cig. After a couple of inhales:

LEVEL

Okay.

He opens the folder and flips from page to page...until he stops on one...

INSERT: PAGE

"From evidence gather, and a statement made by the victim's mother, Eileen Tanouby, we have concluded that the suspect, Daniel Spurs, entered through the back door, which the victim, Jenapher Tanouby, always left unlocked."

This appears highlighted for us.

BACK TO SCENE

Level closes the folder...and drops it to the ground. He takes out his FLASHLIGHT and begins searching the yard for clues...

Level APPEARS/DISAPPEARS in different areas of the yard until finally...his flashlight shines upon...

The remains of a cigarette.

He kneels.

INT. SUBWAY CAR - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

Level and Jenapher sitting next to each other. Level offers her a cigarette.

LEVEL

Want one?

JENAPHER TANOUBY

No. I don't smoke.

EXT. JENAPHER TANOUBY'S HOUSE - BACKYARD - BACK TO PRESENT

Level follows the butt of the cig with the flashlight to...the back of the yard where there is a SMALL WOODED AREA. He stands and heads over...

SMALL WOODED AREA

The flashlight shines upon several remains of cigarettes beside a tree. Following the light...we find Level about 3 yards away.

He kneels beside the cigs. He moves them around with his fingers...finding a matchbook for "Nathan's Chalice". Standing up, he shines the light on the tree.

INSERT: CRAVING

DAVID + JENIFER inside of a HEART. It looks like someone tried to cut it out after they did it. However it is still readable.

Level rubs a hand over it.

LEVEL

Hello, David.

A BLACK SILHOUETTE stands on the left side of Level. Level looks at it. Then looks towards Jenapher's house.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

You watched her from here, didn't ya, David? You had the perfect spot, standing right here.

The SILHOUETTE turns and faces him. They stare at each other before the SILHOUETTE dissipates.

INT. JENAPHER TANOUBY'S HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

Eileen enters the house, closing the door. Something about the way she moves seems haltered, like she's afraid to be here. She makes her way up the stairs...

JENAPHER'S BEDROOM

The lights are already on when Eileen slowly steps inside. She looks around the room, almost trembling...

She heads over to the closet. And opens the door...revealing all of Jenapher's clothes. She grabs one of the shirts and brings it to her nose and smells it. The scent of her daughter brings tears to her eyes.

She can't hold it back any longer and starts to sob heavily. She falls into the closet, bringing clothes down on top of her as she continues to smell them and cry.

AFTER A MOMENT we hear the sound of a door closing. It's faint, but Eileen hears it as well. She wipes her tears away and gathers herself. She stands. And grabs a BAT that is inside the closet. She slowly heads to the...

UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Eileen with the bat slightly raised, cautiously treads down the hall...

EILEEN

Hello? Is someone there? I-I have a-a-a g-gun.

She moves a further down the hall...

EILEEN (CONT'D)

Hello?

Level turns the corner. Eileen sees him...and his KP90 in his hand. She SCREAMS! And tosses the bat at him. Eileen runs back down the hall! Level gives chase! Catching up and grabbing a hold of her!

EILEEN (CONT'D)

No, No! Don't kill me! Please don't kill me-!

Level shoves her against the wall and puts a hand over her mouth! Eileen is scared to death! Eyes full of tears. She MUMBLES. Level puts the KP against her cheek.

LEVEL

Shh, shh, shh. I'm not going to hurt you. Do you remember me? You met me the night before your daughter's murder. My name is Level. Nod if you remember.

Eileen nods.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

Okay. Good. I'm gonna remove my hand, now. Please don't scream.

Level removes his hand. Eileen doesn't scream.

EILEEN

(barely audible)  
Are you going to kill me?

LEVEL

No. Here...You can hold this if you like.

He puts the KP in her hands.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

All you gotta do is pull the trigger.

She holds it awkwardly, shaking. Level steps back.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

Satisfied?

EILEEN

What are you doing here?

LEVEL

I'm trying to find out who killed Jenapher.

Level heads into Jenapher's bedroom followed by Eileen.

EILEEN

Why do you care for? She not your family.

JENAPHER'S BEDROOM

Level stands in front of the bed. Eileen stands next to him. He looks at the BEDROOM CRIME SCENE PHOTOS.

EILEEN  
 Besides...the Detectives already  
 caught the guy.

LEVEL  
 Sure they did.

EILEEN  
 They also told me that you were  
 dangerous. And-And that you work  
 for a crime lord or something.

LEVEL  
 (preoccupied)  
 Uh-huh...

EILEEN  
 Are you even listening to me?

LEVEL  
 Not really...

Level shuffles through the photos again. Becoming more and more...perplexed. Something about the photos isn't adding up to him.

LEVEL (CONT'D)  
 (mumbling)  
 What the...? This isn't...

Level does a 360 looking through the pictures...

EILEEN  
 What? What is it? What's wrong?

Level starts dropping the photos to the floor...

LEVEL  
 These...don't making any- They  
 aren't...

He stops. And points at Eileen.

LEVEL (CONT'D)  
 You.

EILEEN  
 Me???

Level moves towards her in a threatening manner. Eileen backs into the wall! She brings the KP up and tries to fire! But nothing happens. Level knocks the gun out of her hand!

LEVEL

Next time flip the safety off. You cleaned the scene, didn't you?

EILEEN

(clearly lying)  
What? No.

LEVEL

You're lying! The person who did this carved his and your daughter's name inside a heart on a tree in the backyard. He wanted people to see what he did. He's a bragger. He raped her and he murdered her.

EILEEN

Shut up.

LEVEL

No, you need to hear this! Whatever she did or whatever she was to him...he despised her for it. So he would not have gently put her inside her bed...after he beat her. He was proud of what he did. He thinks he's a hero. Only someone who loved her would place her kindly in bed. That means you.

EILEEN

All right! Yes! Yes, I cleaned her up! Please...Please stop talking about her. Please.

LEVEL

I read her case file three times before coming here tonight. It said nothing about the scene being contaminated.

A revelation comes over Level and he understands. He paces.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

(more to self)

Of course. They covered it up. They had no evidence...And they couldn't tell the press that. Do you know how bad that would've made them look? So they covered it up, and made Daniel Spurs the patsy. It's genius. But you...

Level shoves Eileen against the wall! Wrapping his hands around her neck and squeezes! Eileen grabs his hands! She tries to fight him off, but it is no use!

LEVEL (CONT'D)

You let the person who killed your daughter walk. You sent an innocent man to prison! You...

Level sees that the wall is GLOWING a FADED GREEN in their shadows. He lets Eileen go! She falls to the floor, GASPING for air!

LEVEL (CONT'D)

What the...?

He touches it. He moves to the light switch and flips off the lights. To reveal:

The walls are covered in glowing words. "Faceless" "Shadow" "Faceless Cunt" "Faceless shadow" "Descended" "Ascension" "Astral". Written again and again. Some overlapping each other.

Eileen, in awe, rises to her feet.

EILEEN

What is this?

LEVEL

You mean you've never seen this?

EILEEN

No. I haven't been here since she died.

Level turns the lights back on and picks up his KP90.

EILEEN (CONT'D)

What are you going to do?

LEVEL

I'm gonna go find the guy who did this. And then I'm gonna kill'im.

EILEEN

That won't bring her back.

LEVEL

I know. But it'll make me feel better.

EILEEN

Get out of my house! Before I call  
the police.

Level and Eileen look at each other for a second...before he leaves...Eileen looks down and finds the MATCHBOOK on the floor. She picks it up and looks it over.

EXT/INT. PHONE BOOTH - DAY - SPRINKLING

Level is inside with his iphone to his ear. He dials. As it rings, he takes out his pack of cigs and lights up.

MATT (V.O.)

Celtic's Pride, Bar and Grill. This  
is Matt. How can I help you?

LEVEL

It's Level.

INT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - DAY - SPRINKLING

Matt stands behind the bar with the phone to his ear.

MATT

Oh, hi, Level. You want to talk to  
Carbeck?

INTERCUT - WITH LEVEL

LEVEL

No, I wanted to talk to you.

MATT

Um. Okay. What do ya need?

LEVEL

Ever heard of a bar called..  
"Nathan's Chalice"?

MATT

(thinks)

Nathan's Chalice...Nathan's Chalice-  
Ah. Yes. It was a bar located near  
Long Island. It was inside of a  
warehouse. Anyway, it ran out of  
business about 3 years ago. It's  
been abandoned ever since.

LEVEL

All right. Thanks.



Click.

EXT. EILEEN'S HOUSE - DAY - SPRINKLING

Eileen stands outside with Det. Salzer and Lulu.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
...are you sure it was him?

EILEEN  
Of course I'm sure! Do I look blind to you? You told me to call you if he showed up. Look at what he did to my neck!

She shows them here bruised neck...

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Jesus. Are you okay?

EILEEN  
No, I am not! He put a gun to my head!

DET. MIKE SALZER  
All right, Ma'am. Did he say where he was heading? Any clues?

EILEEN  
Yes. He dropped this.

She hands the matchbook over to Det. Salzer. He examines it.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Nathan's Chalice?

EILEEN  
He said he was going to kill the person responsible for my daughter's death.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Well, that's impossible, Ma'am. We have the murderer already in custody.

EILEEN  
Well, he doesn't seem to think so. And he was actually convincing me more than you are now. Look...I just want my daughter to rest in peace.

EXT. NATHAN'S CHALICE - DAY - SPRINKLING

Level stands looking at the door...contemplating...He tosses his cig away. And takes out his KP...He pulls the hammer back with a thumb. He enters.

INT. NATHAN'S CHALICE - CONTINUOUS

The decaying remains of the bar are present along with 3 years of bums/junkies using it as a place to sleep.

Level stands in front of the door.

LEVEL

David!

A CREAKING sound is heard upstairs. Level heads to the stairs on his right...

SECOND FLOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Ahead of Level is an OFFICE. The door is closed and the windows are pretty much all covered, but we can see a green light from inside.

Level takes a deep breath before slowly proceeding towards it. He aims his KP at the door.

LEVEL

David?

Level stops to listen. Nothing. He proceeds closer to the office, when: From behind him, SOMEONE grabs his KP! And as he turns to face his attacker, he is...

SHOT 9 TIMES IN THE CHEST AT POINT BLANK RANGE WITH HIS OWN .40 KP90!

Level stumbles to the floor with the biggest GASP we have ever heard! He is sucking in nothing but air...until he can't any longer but he still can't breathe out!

DAVID, 35, the attacker, is wearing frail and raggedy clothing with a trench coat. But underneath all that attire is the body of a soldier! He towers over Level. He puts the KP inside of the coat.

Level grabs his chest in anguish! He climbs to his hands and knees, where he finally breathes out! David kicks him in the stomach! Level lands on his back, out of breath!

DAVID  
 You're here to kill me, aren't you,  
 Shadow?

David picks him up...and tosses him into the...

OFFICE/BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Level crashes through the door! On the ground, he lifts up his shirt! Revealing: a BULLETPROOF VEST! He takes it off, throwing it on the floor. He falls back holding his severely bruised chest, GROANING!

Looking around we see that this is where DAVID sleeps. On the walls and windows are green glow sticks and...

PICTURES of various PEOPLE - ALIVE & DEAD. We see Jenapher's photos.

David enters. Level looks at him still holding his chest.

DAVID  
 They sent a normal Shadow to kill  
 me...?

David spots the vest. A look of utter astonishment shines upon his face! He looks to Level then the vest.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 (gasps)  
 The shield of a Guardian.

David drops to his knees...and bows before Level. Level is beyond confused...

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 Please forgive me of my dishonor,  
 Astral Guardian. For I did not know  
 it was you.

Level COUGHS still holding his stomach.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 I have wounded thee, Guardian.  
 Allow your humble servant to assist  
 you.

David helps Level up to his knees. Level continues to hold his chest, hunched over. BLOOD is seeping through his hand - a bullet went through the vest.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Have you come to ascend me, Astral Guardian? For I have descended another Shadow from this plane.

LEVEL

I know what you did to Jenapher Tanouby.

DAVID

Yes. Yes. Aren't you proud of your humble servant? But I must confess. She tricked me, Astral Guardian.

David moves to one of Jenapher's pictures. He rubs a finger over it.

LEVEL

What do you mean?

DAVID

I thought she was an astral. She looked at me with kindness...with a smile that made me feel alive. I loved her.

EXT. STATE FAIR GROUNDS - DAY - FLASHBACK

Jenapher is behind a long table filled with all kinds of food. Several other WORKERS are here too. They are feeding the hungry.

There is a long line of HOMELESS PEOPLE looking forward to getting a plate. We find David next in line. Jenapher hands him a plate with a smile that could warm your soul.

INT. NATHAN'S CHALICE - OFFICE/BEDROOM - BACK TO PRESENT

DAVID

I watched over her for weeks. Until I entered her home...to welcome her as a sister in our astral duties.

INT. JENAPHER'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT - FLASHBACK

MOS. Jenapher looks at David with fear. She SCREAMS as she turns to run down the hall!

DAVID (V.O.)  
 And she looked at me with fear...with  
 hatred. I thought she loved me!  
 But...

INT. NATHAN'S CHALICE - OFFICE/BEDROOM - BACK TO PRESENT

David turns back to Level.

DAVID  
 She was faceless. She was a Shadow.  
 I did what was destined upon me,  
 Astral Guardian. And descended her  
 from this realm.

Level sits in total despair!

LEVEL  
 You...you killed her for...nothing?

DAVID  
 No, Guardian!

David rips off her picture and hands it to Level.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 She was a Shadow. Look at her. She  
 was faceless. Surely you can see  
 through her façade, Astral  
 Guardian...?

David gets behind a distraught Level and pulls out a mystical  
 looking KNIFE!

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 You're not an Astral, are you?  
 You're a Shadow Guardian. You're  
 here to strike vengeance upon me. I  
 assume I should feel honored,  
 Shadow Guardian. I mean I've heard  
 of your kind before, but I've never  
 actually seen one of you until now.

Level stealthily places his hands inside of his coat...and  
 takes out his BRASS KNUCKLES!

DAVID (CONT'D)  
 We both know that I must descend  
 you from this realm now, Shadow.

Level cracks his neck.

LEVEL

And I you, David. It seems we both have a job to do. So how about we get on with it?

David rises up the knife! And with all his might, he brings it down heading for Level! But Level moves just in time, standing up to deliver a BRASS KNUCKLE punch to his face!

Level gets in a few shots before David grabs him and spins him around the room and...TOSSES HIM OUT OF THE OFFICE WINDOW!

Level crashes through...and slides across the floor. Turning over, there is a piece of glass sticking through his coat into his shoulder. He pulls it out! And stands as he takes off his coat.

David exits from the office with the knife back in his hand!

DAVID

I have descended many of your Shadow brethren, Guardian. Do you think you will be any match for me?

LEVEL

David. You haven't seen anything yet!

During the fight we are going to learn just how brutal and tough/persistent of an S.O.B. Level is. But so is David who is not only taller but stronger as well.

Level uses his brass knuckles to his advantage as he uses them to block David's knife swings. He actually does a good job of it until: David SLICES HIS CHEST! And as he turns... David SLICES HIS BACK!

Level recovers quickly, ripping off his shirt! He hits the knife out of his hand! And goes to town on him for several vicious seconds! Level climbs on top...wrapping his legs around his head...and flips him over on to his back, hard!

Level sits on top of him as he savagely beats him! David searches around and grabs a hold of a broken TUBE LIGHT. He smashes it on the side of Level's face! Knocking him off!

LEVEL (CONT'D)

Ah! Fuck.

David rises and walks over to him. He stomps on his back! Level YELPS! David then stomps on both of his hands! Level Screams each time! David removes his brass knuckles!

DAVID  
 Weapons of the Shadow Guardian are  
 of no concern to me. I will soon  
 have my ascension!

David picks him up by his hair! Level punches him in the throat! David head-butts him twice! Level drops to his knees where his face is met with a ROUNDHOUSE!

EXT. NATHAN'S CHALICE - DAY - SPRINKLING

Det. Slazer and Lulu are both outside. They both take out their GUN and do a brass check!

DET. MIKE SALZER  
 Okay. Ready?

DET. MOLLY LULU  
 Ready.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
 On three. One. Two. Three!

Det. Salzer kicks open the door! And they run inside!

INT. NATHAN'S CHALICE - CONTINUOUS

DET. MIKE SALZER  
 Police!

They look around - Nothing.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
 Doesn't look like anyone's home.

DET. MIKE SALZER  
 Keep your eyes peeled! He could be here somewhere. Level! This is Det. Salzer! Come out with your hands up!

They both hear the COMMOTION upstairs. They head towards the stairs, cautiously!

SECOND FLOOR - SAME

David is dragging a dazed Level across the floor over to a STEEL COLUMN. He picks him up! And raises him about a foot off the floor with his hands around his neck!

Level slams his arms down on David's which make him lose his grip! Level falls down! Where he uppercuts David! David twists his arm, shoves his forearm into his face, and smashes his face into the column about three times!

David then twists his arm until we hear his shoulder CRACK! And Level YELLS! And pushes him away! David stumbles back. Level kneels and slams his shoulder back into place with the column!

Level looks to see where David went and finds out with a kick to the face! Level now completely on the ground is repeatedly kicked in the head over and over again!

David climbs on top of him and goes to town! Punch after punch after punch! He eventually starts just slamming his head down on the floor!

INTERCUT - WITH SALZER/LULU

They are ascending the stairs. At the top is a closed door.

David stands and picks up a very worn out Level. And raises him above his head...and brings him down on his knee! He picks him up again...and spins him around and around and throws him into the far wall where he makes an indention!

Det. Salzer and Lulu bang against the door!

DET. MIKE SALZER (O.S.)

Level! Open the door! There is no escape!

DAVID

You brought shadow reinforcements?

Level starts crawling towards the door. David heads for his knife on the ground. Level starts climbing to his feet using the wall for support!

David picks up the knife. He takes out Level's KP from his jacket and aims at the door! Det. Lulu kicks open the door! And Det. Salzer charges inside!

LEVEL

Get back!

Level jumps in front of him! Just as David FIRES! The bullet hits Level in the chest! He falls on top of him, unconscious!

DET. MIKE SALZER

What the fuck?!



Det. Lulu opens fire towards David! David runs into the darkness of the warehouse where he disappears!

DET. MOLLY LULU  
Who the fuck was that?  
(re: Level)  
Jesus. Is he?

Det. Salzer checks Level's pulse...

DET. MIKE SALZER  
No. He's still with us. It's very  
low, but it's there.

He handcuffs Level to a pipe. Then stands.

DET. MIKE SALZER (CONT'D)  
Go up and cover the roof. He's  
still on this floor somewhere.

DET. MOLLY LULU  
You got it.

Det. Lulu heads into the darkness to the stairs. She opens the door letting in sunlight until the door closes! Det. Salzer heads to...

OFFICE/BEDROOM

He looks at the pictures of all the people! And sees the photos of Jenapher's murder!

DET. MIKE SALZER  
Oh my god...

Det. Salzer is so distracted by the photos that he doesn't notice that David is kneeling above him on a beam!

Level stirs. And sees David above Salzer!

LEVEL  
Detective!

Det. Salzer notices too late as David drops down on top of him!

Level tries to help but realizes that he is handcuffed. He starts trying to break free!

LEVEL (CONT'D)  
Are you fuckin kidding me?!

David elbows Det. Salzer on the back of the neck. He goes down...where his head is slammed into the desk!

DAVID STABS THE KNIFE THROUGH HIS HAND AND THE DESK!

Det. Salzer SCREAMS! David takes his gun. And shoots Salzer twice! Then retrieves his knife! Det. Salzer falls to the floor. Dead or Alive???

David and Level look at each other. David climbs back up into the darkness of the beams.

Level has sliced open his wrist! He starts kicking the pipe! Then pulls on it again! The pipe just won't give. Level looks at his hand. Then with his other, he wraps it around his thumb. And we hear the sound of his bone BREAKING!

He GROWLS! And painfully pulls it out the handcuff! He is free. He staggers to his feet. And stumbles towards the roof access stairs - where Det. Lulu went!

EXT. NATHAN'S CHALICE - ROOF - RAINY

Det. Lulu is looking over the edge. It's about a 30ft drop straight down.

BEHIND her, David crawls out from a hole in the side of the warehouse. He pulls himself up on to the roof!

Sensing something, Det. Lulu turns around. Nothing - all is clear. She takes her gun out!

INTERCUT - WITH LEVEL

He is on his hands and knees, slowly climbing the stairs.

Det. Lulu is watching the alleyway exits. David puts the knife in his hand. He moves very quietly towards her.

Level is almost at the roof access door.

David rises up the knife when all of a sudden: the door opens and Level runs out! David swings at Lulu but is stopped by Level! Lulu turns just in time to see them both go over the edge as Level tackles David! Saving her life!

David and Level fall through the air...

CRASHING THROUGH A DUMPSTER!

David takes most of the damage.

Det. Lulu looks down at them. For what seems like forever no one moves. Until: Level stirs.

EXT. NATHAN'S CHALICE - ALLEYWAY - RAINY

Level's hand grips the edge of the dumpster...and lifts up. Then we see his hand. His PINKIE and his INDEX fingers are both broken! He looks at them, slightly GASPING. He wraps his hand around them and...PUTS THEM BACK IN PLACE!

LEVEL

Aah!

David stirs! He finds the gun and is taking aim at him. Level is unaware. And just as he is about to pull the trigger, he is...

SHOT IN THE HEAD!

Level stumbles around to see him DEAD! He looks up at Det. Lulu.

DET. MOLLY LULU

I owed ya one!

Level climbs out of the dumpster! And falls to the ground! He staggers to his feet and walks down the alleyway. Near the end, he is met by Det. Lulu. She smiles...but then her eyes focus on SOMETHING and she has a look of dread.

Level follows her gaze to the...

KNIFE STICKING OUT OF HIS SIDE! BLOOD IS JUST POURING OUT OF HIM.

Level collapses into Lulu's arms. She holds him as he fidgets around, GROANING...

DET. MOLLY LULU (CONT'D)

Hey! Hey, hey, hey! Stay with me.  
Come on, Level! Stay with me.

(in iPhone)

10-13! 10-13! I repeat 10-13! Shots fired. I have an officer down! And one civilian critically wounded! I need an EMT and paramedic to my location. ASAP! ASAP!

INT. HOSPITAL - RECOVERY ROOM - DAY

Level lies in the bed hooked up to machines. His head is wrapped in white medical cloth, totally covering up his left eye. He wakes up to find Det. Lulu staring at him..

LEVEL

I'm not paralyzed...am I?

DET. MOLLY LULU

Nope. And you have all your limbs too. I didn't want you to wake up alone. And I wanted to thank you for saving my life.

LEVEL

You don't have to thank me.

DET. MOLLY LULU

Yes. I do. Can I ask you something?  
(off his nod)  
Why did you risk your life for someone you didn't even know?

LEVEL

(sighs)  
People have been asking me that ever since I started. And I could sit here and tell you things like: she was a nice person who didn't deserve to die. But the truth of the matter is: I have no idea why I did what I did. There was no reason whatsoever. It was just something I had to do.

DET. MOLLY LULU

(displeased)  
Oh...

LEVEL

I'm sorry if you were looking for some great philosophical answer. But I don't have one for ya.

DET. MOLLY LULU

You know what? I don't think you're as heartless as you make yourself out to be, Level.

LEVEL

Well, Detective...you don't know me very well.

Level smirks.

INT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

SUPER: THREE WEEKS LATER

Level stands staring at the stairs. He is still in bandages for his broken fingers and his head and left eye. He starts climbing the stairs...

STAIRWELL - MOMENTS LATER

Level finds Lydia on the floor outside of her apartment.

LEVEL  
Hey, Lydia.

Lydia turns around. Her face has been mercilessly beaten! Level is taken back by the sight!

LEVEL (CONT'D)  
Lydia...

Level looks at her door...then at her. To say that he is angry would be an understatement!

INT. LYDIA'S APARTMENT - HALLWAY/LIVING ROOM - SAME

Level kicks open the door, and charges inside! Luther gets off the couch, and sees who it is!

LUTHER VOSS  
What the fuck?! Oh, I'm gonna enjoy  
this, you little shit!

Level grabs a bottle of Jack Daniels. Luther takes a swing at him, which Level easily dodges. And smashes the bottle in Luther's face!

LEVEL MERCILESSLY BEATS THE LIVING SHIT OUT OF LUTHER!

LEVEL  
What did I say?! What did I say?!

Luther tries to get away! But Level has him pinned down on the couch! Level wraps his hands around his neck!

LUTHER VOSS

(strained)

Don't kill me! Please don't kill  
me!

We PAN as we hear Level GROWL! And Luther starts SCREAMING!  
Until we hear nothing but silence.

Level appears again, looking down the hallway at Lydia who is  
standing there. She slowly heads inside the room.

LYDIA VOSS

Did you kill him?

LEVEL

No.

Lydia enters...and looks at her dad. Luther's eyes have been...  
THUMBED OUT! Lydia covers her mouth as she GASPS! Luther  
continues to whimper softly.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

I told him if he ever touched you  
again he would never see the light  
of day again.

Lydia stares at him. A tear falls from his eye.

LEVEL (CONT'D)

I am so sorry, Lydia.

Lydia charges over...and wraps her arms around him and they  
kiss! She jumps into his arms, where they continue to kiss  
passionately! He sets her down on a dresser...and rips open her  
shirt! She rips his open!

Revealing: Lydia's bruises. And Level's wounds.

Lydia stands and grinds him! Level undoes her buttons and  
yanks down her pants! He undoes his pants as well. He presses  
her down on the dresser and inserts himself inside of her.  
She MOANS with pleasure!

Level falls on his back to the floor, chuckling! Lydia falls  
on top of him, LAUGHING. They kiss as she positions herself  
on top of his groin!

Luther is on the floor near the couch still whimpering. Level  
throws a shoe at him...that hits him in the face!

LEVEL (CONT'D)

Shut the fuck up!

Level rises and wraps Lydia in his arms. She continues rocking while they kiss. Level tastes her breasts.

INT. STAIRWELL - HALLWAY - LATER

Level exits Lydia's apartment with his shirt unevenly buttoned. He heads up the stairs...when:

DET. MIKE SALZER (O.S.)

Level.

Level stops and turns to see Det. Salzer. His hand wrapped in medical tape. Blood visible.

LEVEL

Detective.

DET. MIKE SALZER

I'm just here to give you this.

Det. Salzer holds up a folder. Level walks down and takes it. He looks it over.

LEVEL

What is this?

DET. MIKE SALZER

Well, when I got your DNA tested it came to a 76% match to that person. That is everything we have on your mother. Your last name is Davenport. This is my way of saying thank you.

LEVEL

Davenport? Level Davenport. Has a nice ring to it. But I don't need this. Thanks though.

DET. MIKE SALZER

Are you sure?

(off his nod)

I also came to tell you that I will be pursuing Carbeck. He threatened my partner. I can't let that go.

LEVEL

Just as long as you understand that I will be right there between you and him.

DET. MIKE SALZER

I figured as much. I guess we'll see how it goes.

LEVEL

I guess we will...

INT. CELTIC'S PRIDE - DAY

Level is sitting in the middle of Carbeck and Tic-Tac, who are drinking. Tic-Tac has his foot in a cast. Level is playing with his pack of cigarettes.

A GIRL, 25, enters the bar, crying and frantic! Screaming!

GIRL

(French accent)

Please! Somebody help me! Two men jumped my boyfriend! They're going to kill him! Please...Somebody help!

Everyone turns and looks at her. The Girl locks eyes with Level.

LEVEL

Welcome to America!

Level, Carbeck, and Tic-Tac turn back around in their stools. As does everyone else. Totally ignoring her. She leaves.

CARBECK

It's good to have you back.

LEVEL

It's good to be back.

TIC-TAC

(chuckles)

Are you going to smoke a cigarette or what? You've been playing with that pack for about ten minutes.

LEVEL

I don't know. You wanna know something funny? As I was lying in a pool of my own blood about to die, I had nothing but the taste of cigarettes in my mouth. And it wasn't a good taste. Almost made me vomit. I thought really hard about quitting...



CARBECK  
Well, what did you decide...?

LEVEL  
Eh, fuck it!

And he lights up as Carbeck and Tic-Tac CHUCKLE. Carbeck puts his arm around him!

FADE OUT.

THE END