

THE CLEANER

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. FBI HEADQUARTERS/MEETING ROOM - DAY

AGENT STEVE CANNON (52), handsome, confident, slick hair and
AGENT JANE KOFFMAN (42), street-smart, cute, sit next to each
other on one side of a rectangular table.

In between them, a laptop computer and their coffees.

SUPERIMPOSE: JUNE 6th, 2017

The agents stare at a large digital screen mounted on the
wall across from them.

AGENT CANNON

Truly, the strangest case I've been
assigned to.

Cannon taps away on the laptop.

ON THE DIGITAL SCREEN

- An image of a young blonde woman.
- Victim: Amber Churchill. Age 22.
- Location of Body: Warren, Vermont.
- Date of Death: November 2nd, 2012.
- Presidential Link: Warren Harding, born November 2nd, 1865.

BACK TO SCENE

Cannon and Koffman stare at the screen - searching. Cannon
taps a key on the laptop.

AGENT CANNON (CONT'D)

Nine victims in all.

ON THE DIGITAL SCREEN

- An image of a young blonde woman.
- Victim: Alicia Jostley: Age 24.
- Location of Body: James, Iowa.
- Date of Death: October 1st, 2015.
- Presidential Link: James (Jimmy) Carter, born October 1st,
1924.

AGENT CANNON (O.S.) (CONT'D)

All blonde women. All young. All
had wealthy parents.

We hear the TAP of the keyboard and the screen shot related
to Alicia Jostley disappears and replaced by another victim.

- An image of a young blonde woman.
- Victim: Elisa Hummersteen. Age 22.
- Location of Body: George, Washington State.

- Date of Death: July 6th 2016.
- Presidential Link: George W Bush, born July 6th, 1946.

AGENT CANNON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
All killed on the date of the
Presidents' birthday. All dumped in
a town that bore the President's
Christian name.

BACK TO SCENE

AGENT CANNON (CONT'D)
Trump's birthday is June 14th.
Eight days away.

AGENT KOFFMAN
How many towns are called Donald?

AGENT CANNON
One.

Agent Cannon taps on the keyboard.

ON THE DIGITAL SCREEN

A full map of the USA. In an instant, it zooms over to a
small town in Washington State, called Donald.

BACK TO SCENE

AGENT CANNON (CONT'D)
We have twenty undercover agents
already there.

Agent Cannon grabs the mouse and scrolls down to one of the
victims.

ON THE DIGITAL SCREEN

- An image of a young blonde woman.
- Victim: Victoria Wells. Age 26.
- Location of Body: Bert, West Virginia.
- Date of Death: August 10th, 2013.
- Presidential Link: Herbert Hoover, born August 10th, 1874.

AGENT CANNON (O.S.) (CONT'D)
This is victim number three. She
was found in Bert, West Virginia.
She's been linked to our thirty-
first President, Herbert Hoover.

BACK TO SCENE

AGENT CANNON (CONT'D)
If Bert can be Herbert, then what
are the possibilities for Donald?

AGENT KOFFMAN
Bring up the list of victims again.

Agent Cannon taps on the keyboard.

ON THE DIGITAL SCREEN

All nine victims listed underneath each other.

AGENT KOFFMAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)
The fact that this killer has gone
to all this trouble, tells me the
individual is highly intelligent.

BACK TO SCENE

AGENT CANNON
The Profiler said we're looking at
a white male, college educated,
between thirty five and fifty years
old. Lives alone. Self employed.

Agent Koffman grabs her coffee.

AGENT KOFFMAN
I'd say that narrows it down to
about twenty million.

Agent Cannon grabs his coffee but spills it all over the
laptop.

AGENT CANNON
Shit!

He rolls back in his chair and checks his suit.

Agent Koffman climbs out of her chair as well.

AGENT KOFFMAN
My lucky day. You missed me.

Cannon, now on his feet, walks over to the door and sticks
his head out.

AGENT CANNON
Charlie. Can you come in here
please?

Cannon leaves the door ajar.

AGENT CANNON (CONT'D)
(To Agent Koffman)
Old Charlie's on his way.

In steps, CHARLIE (70), African-American, slight, bald, sad
eyes, dressed as a cleaner.

AGENT CANNON (CONT'D)
Charlie. We've had a spill. Can you
run a rag over it?

Agent Cannon points to the laptop.

CHARLIE
Sure.

Charlie pulls a cloth out of his back pocket and delicately
wipes the laptop down.

AGENT CANNON
(To Agent Koffman)
Let's go for a walk. I need another
coffee.
(To Charlie)
Charlie. I'll leave this with you.
All good?

CHARLIE
All good.

Charlie lifts up the laptop and wipes down the table. He
checks the laptop again and gives it a one last touch up,
before putting the cloth back in his back pocket.

Charlie looks up at the screen - fascinated. He takes a seat
and stares at the information. He's overwhelmed.

BLACK SCREEN

SUPERIMPOSE: 8 Minutes Later

BACK TO SCENE

Agent Cannon and Agent Koffman step back into the room.
Charlie's still staring at the screen.

The agents look at each other in disbelief.

AGENT CANNON
Charlie. All good?

Charlie doesn't take his eyes off the screen and responds in
a calm voice.

CHARLIE
All good.

AGENT KOFFMAN
You okay, Charlie?

CHARLIE
I'm fine.

Agent Cannon walks over and sits next to Charlie. He looks
back at Agent Koffman.

AGENT CANNON
Charlie. We've got work to do. And
I'm guessing, so have you.

Charlie finally snaps out of his spell and slowly turns to
Agent Cannon. He looks like he's seen a ghost.

CHARLIE
Sure.

Charlie climbs out of the chair as Agent Koffman takes it up.
Charlie slowly walks to the door with both agents observing
his strange demeanor.

AGENT CANNON
Thanks, Charlie.

Charlie stops and turns around.

CHARLIE
Have you caught him yet?

AGENT CANNON
Sorry?

Charlie points to the screen.

CHARLIE
David Gates. Have you caught him
yet?

The agents look at each other, bemused.

AGENT CANNON
(Chuckling)
David Gates? Charlie. David Gates
hasn't worked here for ten years
and I don't think this is any of
your--

CHARLIE
--You knew his daughter.

The smile instantly runs off Agent Cannon's face.

AGENT KOFFMAN
Excuse me?

CHARLIE
Agent Cannon. You knew his
daughter, right?

AGENT KOFFMAN
Charlie. I think you need to--

AGENT CANNON
--Yes. I did know her. I was the
last person to see her alive.
(MORE)

AGENT CANNON (CONT'D)
 I'm sorry, but why am I having this
 conversation with you. Get the fuck
 out of here. Go on. Go clean
 something! Fuck off.

Charlie leaves the room and closes the door behind him.

AGENT KOFFMAN
 What was that all about?

Agent Cannon shakes his head and sighs.

AGENT CANNON
 Charlie's been here far too long.
 He should have retired years ago.

AGENT KOFFMAN
 And the daughter? What's he talking
 about?

Agent Cannon stares in the distance, remembering the
 daughter.

AGENT CANNON
 I was staying in the Presidential
 Suite at Caesars Palace and Gates'
 daughter, Sam, jumped off the
 balcony. That's it. Nothing more.
 Nothing less. Let's move on.

Agent Koffman looks up at the screen. She looks back at Agent
 Cannon.

AGENT KOFFMAN
 Did Sam have blonde hair?

AGENT CANNON
 What?

AGENT KOFFMAN
 I'm just curious. Presidential
 suite. Blonde hair--

AGENT CANNON
 --Yes! She had blonde hair. Now
 let's move on. Can we?

Agent Cannon becomes agitated.

AGENT CANNON (CONT'D)
 He's a fucking cleaner.

AGENT KOFFMAN
 What?

AGENT CANNON

He comes in here, looks at a screen and thinks he has the answers.

AGENT KOFFMAN

Forget about him.

AGENT CANNON

What would happen if I went into his workplace and told him how to clean a fucking toilet?

AGENT KOFFMAN

Do you wanna take a break?

AGENT CANNON

No I don't. It just ticks me off that some people feel it's their God-given right to voice their opinion on a topic they know nothing about.

AGENT KOFFMAN

You're right. Now let's look at victim number-

AGENT CANNON

-He's a fucking cleaner, for Christ's sake. He wouldn't know how to read.

Agent Cannon becomes angry.

AGENT KOFFMAN

Let's take a break.

AGENT CANNON

(Impersonating a dunce)
Hello, I'm Charlie. Victim number one was a girl called Destiny. That's 'D' for Destiny. Victim number two was a girl called Amber. That's 'A' for Amber. Victim number three was a girl called Victoria. That's 'V' for Victoria. Victim number four was a girl called Ingrid. That's 'i' for Ingrid.

Agent Cannon suddenly stops. He sits back in his chair as his eyes widen. He puts his hands on his head.

AGENT KOFFMAN

What is it?

AGENT CANNON
Charlie's right. It's David Gates.

FADE OUT

Thank you for reading.....

I'm not entirely happy with how I described the ending. If you have a better way to tell the ending, let me know.

(In case you never understood the ending - see below)

D estiny

A mber

V ictoria

I ngrid

D ana

G eorgia

A Licia

T illy

E Lisa

S ????