

THE HORRIBLE SOUND OF ROLLER SKATING

by

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INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - MORNING

CLIFFORD WILSON in sweatshirt, 40, mature, sharp eyes, sits at a desk. A man, 34, tall and fat with a kind face sits across from him. This is BILLY JONES.

CLIFFORD

Mr. Jones, I'm sorry to have kept you waiting.

BILLY

That's all right.

CLIFFORD

You look uptight. Are you all right? Is there anything I can do for you?

BILLY

Yes, very uptight. You are my last attempt. I have talked to many private detectives in San Francisco. All turned me down. Some even suggested me seeing a doctor. Feel frustrated. Hope you can help.

CLIFFORD

What seems to be the trouble?

BILLY

A woman named Tessa Smith was killed in her apartment in the Village Building. Ever heard of it?

Clifford thinks for a while.

CLIFFORD

Yes.

BILLY

She was my neighbor. The cops said a burglar broke into her apartment, took away her money, gold watch and killed her. It has been four months.

CLIFFORD

They need more time. I used to be a cop.

Billy sighs.

BILLY

Not demand them to solve it as soon as possible. Feel uncomfortable. Something horrible's happened to me.

Clifford stares at him in surprise.

CLIFFORD

What was that all about?

BILLY

After her death, I heard the sound of roller skating in the corridor of the building. Looked around. Nobody. Her sound. I was certain. She loved roller skating very much.

CLIFFORD

Does it happen frequently?

BILLY

Once in a while. Especially at 8 pm.

CLIFFORD

Did you videotape it with your cell phone?

BIILLY

I did. No sound on the screen.

Clifford gives Billy a suspicious look.

BILLY

I think Tessa was trying to give me a message related to her death, and wanted me to find the killer.

CLIFFORD

Any suspects?

Billy shakes his head.

BILLY

That's why I'm here. One of her neighbors must be. I don't know what to do.

CLIFFORD

Why'd it happen to you?

BILLY

About five months ago...

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - EVENING - FLASHBACK

The lift door opens. Billy exits and walks down. TESSA SMITH, 28, wears a pair of glasses with long and straight hair carrying a box coming out of her apartment. Billy bumps into her.

BILLY

I'm sorry.

TESSA

(smiling)

It's okay. You live here?

Billy points at his apartment.

TESSA

Just moved in. Tessa Smith.

BILLY

Billy Jones.

Billy smiles at Tessa. She smiles back.

TESSA

The apartment was vey dirty. Took me half day to clean it up.

BILLY

Not surprised to hear. He's a slob. Smelly. I passed it each time.

Billy stares at the box which contains a lot of trash. He shakes his head.

BILLY

Terrible!

TESSA

Yeah.

Tessa goes to the backstairs. Billy enters his apartment. Tessa comes back and walks into her apartment.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - LATER

Billy puts some tomatoes, carrots, red peppers, onions and cucumbers into a boiling pot. He stirs it and closes the lid. He places a pan on the stove and turns on the burner. Suddenly, he hears the sound of roller skating in the corridor. He turns off the burner, and goes to open the door, seeing Tessa roller-skating.

TESSA

Hi, Billy

BILLY

You like roller skating?

TESSA

I like it. I do it every day. Do you like roller skating?

BILLY

I'm really into it. Hearing the sound, I can't control myself.

TESSA

Let's go.

BILLY

I can't. Making dinner. How about tomorrow?

TESSA

See you tomorrow.

The lift door opens

TESSA

Bye.

She enters.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Tessa roller-skates very fast in front of Billy, who eyes her, shaking his head.

BILLY

Tessa, you're going very fast. I can't catch up. Slow down, please.

Tessa keeps on going fast.

BILLY

You're good at it. I'm not.

Tessa smiles.

TESSA

Try your best to keep up with me. Come on, Billy, you can.

BILLY

I can't.

Tessa speeds up, leaving Billy far behind.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - DINNING ROOM - NIGHT

Billy and Tessa sit at a table having food. Pizza, steak, salad and soup occupy the table. Tessa is eating pizza.

BILLY

What do you think of the pizza?

TESSA

It tastes good.

BILLY

Really?

TESSA

Yes. You bought it?

BILLY

I made it.

TESSA

As good as restaurant's.

BILLY

Thank you.

TESSA

Would you teach me cooking?

Billy puts down his knife and fork.

BILLY

On one condition.

TESSA

What is it?

BILLY

Teach me roller skating.

TESSA

You're on!

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Billy roller-skates behind Tessa, who goes very fast. Suddenly, she stops and turns around.

BILLY

That's very kind of you.

Tessa skates backwards and does a speed lap. Billy does the same thing.

BILLY

Who taught you roller skating?

TESSA

My uncle.

BILLY

He must be a good coach.

Tessa does a spinning.

TESSA

How about you?

BILLY

Book.

Tessa does a shoot the duck and forward and backward scissors. Billy APPLAUDS. Tessa nods.

BILLY
(to himself)
How elegant she is!

Tessa stops to do a Mohawk Turns.

BILLY
(to himself)
Amazing!

Tessa starts going.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Billy sits at a table studying the menu. Then he puts it down on the table and glances at his watch. He looks at the entrance, glancing at his watch again.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The lift door opens. Billy exits, hearing the loud sound from Tessa's apartment. He moves up to it and sees GARY HARIS, 60, in suit, the owner of Tessa's apartment, talking with two POLICE OFFICERS in Tessa's apartment. Billy walks closer and sees Tessa lying in bed with much blood on her stomach.

BILLY
(loud)
What happened to Tessa?

Hearing it, Garry steps out of it.

GARY
Tessa was killed.

BILLY
(stunned)
Oh! My God.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY - PRESENT DAY

Clifford stares at Billy blankly.

BILLY
After that, I hear the sound of her roller skating.

There is a pause. Clifford thinks for a moment. Billy looks at him.

CLIFFORD

Your case is very extraordinary. I know why they turned you down. Perhaps, you need a psychic.

BILLY

I'm willing to pay more.

CLIFFORD

Money isn't my concern.

BILLY

Will you take it?

CLIFFORD

Dunno. Can you give me a few day to consider?

BILLY

OK. Sorry to have bothered you.

Billy gets up and leaves disappointedly. Clifford watches him leaving. A knock on the door. It is opened. RICK BLANCH, 26, tall and muscular, Clifford's assistant enters.

RICK

Mr Watson called to cancel his appointment this afternoon. Going to New York for an urgent meeting.

Clifford eyes the ceiling.

RICK

A penny for your thoughts?

CLIFFORD

Do you believe in ghosts?

Rick looks bewildered.

RICK

Come again?

CLIFFORD

Forget it.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY

The lift door opens. Billy exits, a supermarket bag in hand, sauntering. There are six apartments. The grey wall makes the corridor dim and the closed windows make it suffocating. Billy's eyes are fixed on a door for a moment, then stops at his apartment.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Billy enters. He places the bag down on the coffee table and plops down on the couch. He stares up at the ceiling and closes his eyes.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN - EVENING

Clifford puts some steak into a pan. Rick watches it.

CLIFFORD

Remember the steak you cooked?

RICK

(embarrassed)

Don't dig at me. That's why I'm standing next to you. Just watch.

Clifford pours some sauce onto the steak.

CLIFFORD

Thank you for your watching.

Rick smiles in embarrassment.

RICK

Why don't you teach me how to cook steak?

CLIFFORD

A waste of time. I don't want to suffer from it again.

RICK

Come on! I'm a smart cookie. I won't let you down. Have been your assistant for four years. You've never complained about me.

CLIFFORD

I hide the complaint in my heart.

Rick bursts out laughing.

RICK
Thanks to your heart.

CLIFFORD
Time for dinner.

Clifford turns off the burner and puts the steak onto the plates.

RICK
Delicious!

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - DINNING ROOM - LATER

Clifford and Rick carry two plates of steak and set them down on the table. They start eating.

RICK
(chewing)
Yummy, yummy. It is always up to standard. Clifford, you're right. Cooking, I'm all thumbs.

CLIFFORD
No, you aren't. You try to spend more time on it. You'll be better than I. I do believe.

RICK
I don't think so. You are the best. No one can beat you.

CLIFFORD
Are you kissing up to me?

RICK
Yes.

Both laugh.

RICK
Are you gonna take the case?

Clifford thinks for a while.

CLIFFORD

Not decided yet. A man came into your office, saying he encountered something horrible that you don't know whether that's true. The guy looked sincere. The sincerity on his face I've never seen. That's why I'm still considering.

RICK

I'm curious. Do you think he is a sicko?

Clifford puts down his knife and fork.

CLIFFORD

He isn't. If that's true, don't that beat all.

RICK

You may take it?

CLIFFORD

I think I need to talk to a friend of mine.

INT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - MORNING

Clifford jogs with ROGER LOUIS, 50, gentle. Looks like a scholar. Clear up. Birds sing. Runners jog happily. Clifford and Roger stop and sit down on a bench.

ROGER

(gasping)

Enough.

CLIFFORD

Just ten minutes. What's wrong with you? Do you need a medical checkup? Oh, I think you must be tied up.

ROGER

I don't need a checkup. You ran so fast. I tried my best to catch up. It's your fault. You need a checkup...to see if there's something wrong with your heart. It is like a boy's.

CLIFFORD

You do it every day. You'll have one.

ROGER

Thank you for your advice. I'll do it every day. I don't think we're here just for jogging.

CLIFFORD

You know me more than I know myself. Just met with a client who's had unusual experience, wanted me to solve it.

ROGER

What was that all about?

Clifford pulls out tissues from his jacket pocket, handing it to Roger, who takes it and wipes his face with it.

CLIFFORD

Do you believe in ghosts?

Roger stops wiping and turns to Clifford.

CLIFFORD

He hears the sound of his dead neighbor's roller skating. It's happened to him all the time. It seems she needs him to find the killer. He looks upset.

ROGER

I've had the similar experience. I was investigating a murder case. A couple were killed in their house. Whenever I was in the house for clue, I felt someone was behind me invisibly. Later I knew it was them who tried to communicate with me, leading me to find the clue. I did it.

CLIFFORD

Were you scared of it?

ROGER

Of course, I was scared. However, I tried my best not to because I told myself I needed to bring the killer to justice.

Clifford nods.

ROGER

If I were you, I would take the case. Help her find the killer. You can. I do believe.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON

Clifford sits at his desk reading information about Tessa on the computer screen. He scrolls down to read more. Clifford shakes his head.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

It's not big news. Even the Internet doesn't have much information. Have you found anything important, Rick?

Rick sits at his desk reading newspaper about the case. He folds it up.

RICK

I haven't. Just a report of her death. Not detailed.

CLIFFORD

I don't think the cops put more energy and resources on it.

RICK

What should we do?

CLIFFORD

I intend to talk with Billy.

RICK

Such a little information. Difficult for us.

CLIFFORD

It may help.

RICK

You're going to give it a shot, aren't you?

CLIFFORD

Yes, I plan to rent the apartment for clue. Hope it is still available.

RICK

(eyes widen)

What!

CLIFFORD

Live there. Hope she'll give me some hints.

Rick swallows hard.

CLIFFORD

Will you do it with me?

RICK

Um...

CLIFFORD

Are you scared?

RICK

No, no, no.

CLIFFORD

Good. Count you in.

RICK

Although I'm not scared of anything in my life, I can't put up there.

CLIFFORD

Why?

RICK

Because I've got to brush up on my study for exam. The study is not only for me but for you.

Clifford frowns

CLIFFORD

For me?

RICK

Yes. Knowledge is important to a private detective. No worries. I'll back you up in the office. You'll make it. I'm sure.

CLIFFORD

Such a good employee. Study hard, pass the exam and get a grant. I'd attend your graduation ceremony.

RICK

Thanks.

Rick glances at his watch.

RICK

It's half past five. I gotta go.

CLIFFORD

Where're you going?

RICK

Study

CLIFFORD

Good boy.

RICK

Bye.

CLIFFORD

Bye.

Rick gets up and leaves the office quickly.

INT. CLIFFORD'S CAR - DAY

Clifford sits at the frontseat. A tap on the door. Clifford opens it. JACK LIGGINS, 30, a SFPD detective wearing jeans and jacket gets in.

CLIFFORD

Long time no see, Jack?

JACK

Yeah. You look full of beans.

CLIFFORD

You too.

JACK

Still jog every day?

CLIFFORD

Yes. Let's jog this Sunday?

JACK

Busy.

The two laugh.

CLIFFORD

A woman called Tessa Smith was killed in her apartment four months ago. Do you remember it?

Jack thinks for a moment.

JACK

Yes.

CLIFFORD

I'm hired to investigate it. Any progress on the case?

JACK

I can't tell you the details. You used to be a cop.

CLIFFORD

I want to know if you still working on it or it has become a cold case?

A pause.

JACK

It has become a cold case.

CLIFFORD

Why?

JACK

No evidence. No suspects. No witnesses.

CLIFFORD

It's just been four months.

JACK

That's Thurman's style. He said a burglar killed her and snatched her money and gold watch. Hard to find the burglar.

CLIFFORD

He jumped at a conclusion.

JACK

What does that mean?

CLIFFORD

He jumped at a conclusion.

Jack gazes at him strangely.

JACK

You've suspects?

CLIFFORD

No.

JACK

It's difficult to solve the case. We spent three months on it. Didn't get anything, even a little.

CLIFFORD

Thurman must have been mad at you.

JACK

You are smart.

CLIFFORD

I worked with him for five years.

JACK

What're you gonna do?

CLIFFORD

Dunno.

JACK

Hope you'll solve it.

CLIFFORD

Thanks.

JACK
I've to go. Goodbye.

CLIFFORD
Bye.

Jack gets out, waving goodbye to Clifford, who waves back. Clifford sees him walking down. He is deep in thought. A moment later, he starts up the car and drives off.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Billy sits on the couch watching TV. Suddenly, he hears the sound from the outside. He gets up and opens the door, seeing nobody. He steps out.

INT. CORRIDOR - LATER

He stands in the middle, looking around.

BILLY
Tessa?

No response.

BILLY
Do you hear me, Tessa?

No response.

BILLY
What're you doing? I know you're here.
Need help? You need help, show me?

Billy looks around. Silence fills the corridor. A moment later.

BILLY
Goodbye, Tessa. I go back to my
apartment.

Billy returns to his apartment.

INT BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - SAME

Billy sits on the couch watching TV. He turns it off with a remote control and turns to the door. His eyes are fixed on it. He rises his feet, and opens the door, poking his head round the door to see the corridor. Billy sighs and closes the door. He enters his bedroom.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Clifford falls asleep on the couch. The doorbell RINGS. It wakes him up. Clifford yawns and stretches. The doorbell RINGS again.

CLIFFORD

I'm coming.

He goes to open the door. In the doorway is THURMAN SEER in suit, former superior of Clifford's, 45, tall and strong with neat and short hair. He rushes into. Clifford is stunned.

THURMAN

Worried you'd close the door.

CLIFFORD

You worried too much.

THURMAN

It's been a long time.

CLIFFORD

Yeah.

Thurman scans.

THURMAN

A nice house. I like it. How long've you lived here?

CLIFFORD

Take a guess.

THURMAN

Seventy years.

CLIFFORD

Exactly.

Thurman sits down on the couch.

THURMAN

How much's this couch?

CLIFFORD

Take a guess.

THURMAN

It must be very cheap. I don't think you can afford an expensive one.

CLIFFORD

Yes, I can't. Cheap couch doesn't mean bad. I got it six years ago and still in good condition. Remember the couch you got? Expensive but bad.

THURMAN

So what? I have money.

CLIFFORD

I don't think you're here for the couch.

Thurman APPLAUDS.

THURMAN

How clever you are!

CLIFFORD

It has nothing to do with my wisdom. I worked with you for five years. I know who you're.

THURMAN

I know who you're. A jerk.

CLIFFORD

What do you want?

Thurman gets up and moves up to Clifford.

THURMAN

What'd you talk with Jack?

CLIFFORD

Take a guess

THURMAN

I won't. Answer my question. What'd you talk with Jack?

CLIFFORD

Take a guess.

THURMAN

(points a finger at
Clifford)

Don't try to fool me. You know who
I'm.

CLIFFORD

Asshole.

Thurman glares at him.

THURMAN

I'll never forget what you said
tonight.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The lift door opens. Clifford and Rick exit and look for
Billy's apartment. Rick looks around. He feels a gust of
wind coming at him, which makes him take a step back.

CLIFFORD

What's going on?

Rick stands still.

RICK

Wind.

CLIFFORD

Wind?

Clifford scans.

CLIFFORD

The windows're closed.

Rick appears fearful. Clifford walks up to Billy's
apartment, knocks on the door, which is opened. In the
doorway is Billy.

BILLY

Hi, come on in.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Clifford and Rick enter. The three sit down on the couch.
Billy has a happy look on his face.

BILLY

Never thought you came for the case. I know you haven't made the decision. I'm thrilled. You made the first step and I appreciate it whatever the decision'll be.

CLIFFORD

Hope you don't mind my hesitation. We haven't had the case similar to yours before. Need more time to analyse it.

Billy shakes his head.

BILLY

I don't mind. Hope you'll take it.

Clifford spots a tired look on Billy's face.

CLIFFORD

You have trouble sleeping?

BILLY

How do you know?

CLIFFORD

Your face.

BILLY

You're my last attempt.

CLIFFORD

Hope you'll be all right soon. Oh, This is my assistant, Rick.

BILLY

Hello.

RICK

Hello.

CLIFFORD

When does it come?

BILLY

8pm.

Clifford looks at his watch.

CLIFFORD

It's time we went.

BILLY

Let's go.

They get up and exit.

INT. CORRIDOR - LATER

The three stand with nervous looks on their faces. Billy moves up to an apartment whose door is blue.

BILLY

This was Tessa's. The original color was green.

Clifford nods.

BILLY

No one dares to rent it even though the rent has been reduced by 40%. Gary, the owner of it, has been angry.

Suddenly, the light bulbs flash. Rick stares up at them.

BILLY

It happens.

The light bulbs stop flashing. Clifford glances at his watch.

CLIFFORD

Eight pm.

A pause. Silence fills the corridor. Rick takes a deep breath. Clifford scans.

CLIFFORD

Does it come on time?

BILLY

Not every time.

A moment later. Clifford looks at his watch.

CLIFFORD

Five minutes late.

BILLY

She is coming.

RICK
(whispers in
Clifford's ears)
He needs a doctor. Should we go?

CLIFFORD
It's too soon to tell.

A moment later, Clifford glances at his watch again.

CLIFFORD
Billy, I must go now.

BILLY
OK.

Clifford and Rick start to walk. Suddenly the sound of roller skating is heard. They scan. Nobody.

CLIFFORD
(stunned)
My God!

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Clifford sits at his desk meditating. Moments later. He gets up and walks around. Rick stares at him. Clifford stops and turns to Rick.

CLIFFORD
Have you done with the document for
Billy to sign?

RICK
Yes, I've. He must be very happy.

CLIFFORD
I don't know if I can help him out.
Just the sound. Looks like a ghost
detective.

RICK
There is something I really don't
catch on. Why didn't she show up? We
could talk with her.

CLIFFORD

I've no idea. She must have her difficulty connecting us. We were lucky. We heard it.

Clifford returns to his seat.

CLIFFORD

Is the equipment ready?

RICK

All set. Billy said he'd videotaped it but no sound on the screen.

CLIFFORD

I'll make use of anything trying to understand what she's doing and why.

Clifford looks up at the clock on the wall.

CLIFFORD

It is time I went.

He opens the door and exits.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The doorbell RINGS. Billy opens it. Clifford enters, seeing Gary approaching him.

BILLY

This's Garry, the owner of all apartments on this floor. He's well off.

GARY

No, I'm not. I've to work hard to bring home the bacon.

BILLY

You don't need. Just need to collect the rent each month.

GARY

Are you kidding?

BILLY

This is Clifford.

GARY

Hi, Clifford.

CLIFFORD

Hi, Gary.

GARY

Clifford, I think Billy's told you about the apartment. A woman was killed in it. You aren't afraid of it, are you?

CLIFFORD

Not afraid of anything except the rent. Poorly off. You've reduced it by 40%. Relieved!

Gary smiles.

GARY

Why do you need a two month lease? Billy refused to tell me the reason.

CLIFFORD

Writing a horror novel. Try to get some inspiration from it.

GARY

I see. Hope you'll come up with a good plot. Don't forget to give me your novel after you've it published.

CLIFFORD

With my autograph?

GARY

That's great!

BILLY

May I have a look at it?

GARY

Of course.

They exit.

INT. APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

The door is opened. Clifford, Billy and Gary enter. Gary switches on the lights. There are a couch, coffee table, end table and an ottoman. On the ceiling is a chandelier.

Clifford scans. Then he focuses on some big stains in the carpet.

CLIFFORD

Gary, why some stains in it?

GARY

Um...um...

CLIFFORD

Blood.

GARY

Um...

BILLY

Yes. Also some in the mattress.

Gary glares at Billy. Clifford moves up to enter the bedroom.

INT THE BEDROOM

A few stains in the mattress catches Clifford's attention. He walks slowly towards the mattress and sits down on the edge of it, eyes the stains, fingering it.

CLIFFORD

I think Tessa was stabbed in the living room, ran into here trying to close the door. She was pushed down on the mattress, stabbed to death instantly. Terrible!

Gary pulls out a packet of cigarette from his jeans pocket, trying to take one out.

BILLY

No smoking!

GARY

Sorry.

Gary complies.

BILLY

You're supposed to get a new one.

GARRY

I forgot. OK. I'll get one as soon as possible.

CLIFFORD

I like this one.

Gary lets out a sigh of relief.

BILLY

Garry, you must be happy because you don't need to...

GARRY

I'm busy.

BILLY

Busy at what?

GARY

I don't need to answer your question.

Clifford moves up to the chest to open the drawers, all empty. He turns to the night table.

CLIFFORD

I like this apartment.

INT. CORRIDOR - LATER

The door open is opened. Clifford, Billy, and Gary exit. They run into CINDY COLE, 29, slender with blonde curly hair.

BILLY

Hi, Cindy.

CINDY

Billy.

BILLY

This's Clifford. Our new neighbor. He'll move into Tessa's apartment.

CLIFFORD

Hello.

CINDY

Hi. It'd been vacant for four months.
Thought nobody'd rent it.

CLIFFORD

Good! That's what I want. I'm writing
a horror novel. Hope it will help.

CINDY

Excuse me. In a hurry. Bye.

CLIFFORD

Goodbye, Cindy.

She enters her apartment. The three enter the lift.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Clifford stands in the middle looking around, shaking his
head.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

Very dirty.

He walks into the bathroom.

IN THE BATHROOM

Clifford looks around.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

Where're the broom, mop and bucket?

He exits.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

HERMAN WOODY, with a serious face, 45, medium built and his
wife DORIS WOODY, 42, fat. Billy sits on the couch watching
TV. The doorbell RINGS. Billy goes to open it, seeing
Clifford.

CLIFFORD

Have you got broom, mop and bucket?

BILLY

Yes, I've. Come in.

Clifford enters, seeing Herman and Doris. They smile at one another. The couple get up from the couch and approach Clifford.

HERMAN

You must be Clifford. Billy's just mentioned you. This's my wife, Doris.

DORIS

Hello, Clifford.

CLIFFORD

Hello, Doris.

HERMAN

Clifford, I know that you've rented the apartment.

DORRIS

If I were you, I wouldn't do that.

CLIFFORD

It is cheap.

Billy goes into the bathroom.

HERMAN

You're a friend of Billy's.

CLIFFORD

I've known him for years. A nice guy. Glad to have such a good friend.

DORRIS

Yes, he's. Whenever we're in trouble, he comes.

HERMAN

We all like him.

Billy comes out carrying a mop, a bucket and a broom and hands them to Clifford.

CLIFFORD

Bye.

HERMAN/DORIS

Goodbye.

Clifford exits.

INT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - MORNING

Clifford and Rick jog. Clifford jogs ahead of Rick, who has a painful look on his face. Seeing it, Clifford jogs faster. Some runners wave at Clifford, who smiles at them. Clifford stops and turns around. Rick stops to walk up to him slowly.

RICK

Enough!

CLIFFORD

You have just finished one third of it. Don't try to give up. We've to finish it.

RICK

Oh, my God.

CLIFFORD

Come on. It'll do you good.

RICK

Okay. I won't give up. By the way, what're you gonna do at tonight's social gathering?

CLIFFORD

Hope to get some clues from their conversation and facial expressions.

RICK

You're good at it.

CLIFFORD

Not accurate every time. Murderers always pretend to be innocent.

RICK

Yeah.

CLIFFORD

Ready?

Rick MOANS. Clifford starts to jog. Rick follows him.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

The party is underway. Snacks and drinks are on the table. Clifford holds a glass of cocktail. Billy is busy at waiting on his guests. Among them are: Herman, Doris, and Cindy,

The doorbell RINGS. Billy opens it. In the doorway are TRACY COLLINS, 28, who has a shy face with short hair. Standing next to her is RANDAL ZENT, 36, tall and thin, gentle.

TRACY/RANDAL

Hi, Billy.

BILLY

Hi, Come in.

They step into. Clifford puts down his cocktail and moves up to them.

BILLY

This's Clifford, our new neighbor.
He's rented Tessa's apartment.

Tracy and Randal's eyes go wide.

BILLY

He's writing a horror novel so the
apartement's good for him.

TRACY

Oh!

CLIFFORD

Hello!

TRACY/RANDAL

Hello!

BILLY

Would you like cocktail?

RANDAL

Sure.

TRACY

Water, please.

Billy walks toward the kitchen.

TRACY

I'm fond of novel. William Bill's my favourite writer. Who's yours, Clifford?

CLIFFORD

Well...Um...actually, I've many. Hard to choose one.

TRACY

William Bill's special style no one can copy it, even a little. He's like a friend speaking to you softly but seriously. Strangely enough, these two styles're totally different but seems like the same thing in his stories. I like it.

CLIFFORD

He is a good writer.

RANDAL

I like non fiction. Looks like more realistic than fiction. Do you agree?

CLIFFORD

I agree.

TRACY

I disagree. Reality is too cruel. We don't want to see something we actually know and feel sad. Fiction has a function of making us get out of the cruel world... to take a break to indulge in our dreams and desire. Do you agree, Clifford?

CLIFFORD

I agree.

Billy comes out with two glasses of drinks and hands them to Tracy and Randal.

BILLY

Okay. Please take a seat. Before we enjoy the food, I suggest we share something we intend to share, which's the purpose of this gathering.

RANDAL

Good idea. We are here not just for eating and drinking.

BILLY

First of all, let me introduce our new neighbor, Clifford to you. Although you all have talked to him, I still think that we should give a big hand to him.

All APPLAUD.

BILLY

He's so bold that he's rented the apartment.

Laughter.

BILLY

Would you say something to us, Clifford?

CLIFFORD

Say what?

BILLY

Anything about you?

Clifford gets up and bows.

HERMAN

You look like a President making a speech.

All laugh.

CLIFFORD

I would run for the President.

More laughter.

CLIFFORD

Just quit my job, spend more time on writing a horror novel. To be a novelist is my dream. I've known Billy for years. Told me the incident and I told myself that it's a good opportunity for me to get inspiration.

All are engrossed in Clifford's remarks.

CLIFFORD

Not sure whether I really want to see something we can't explain so far. Perhaps, it may help me write better. I pluck up the courage to experience it whatever'll happen to me. Glad to see my neighbors are so nice. Therefore, I'm not scared of anything horrible that may happen to me.

ALL

We stand by you.

CLIFFORD

Thanks.

BILLY

Cindy, anything to share?

CLINDY

Not much. Just want to say something about my career. As you know, I'm a dancer. Really love dancing. Age's my enemy. Just 24 but's been facing difficulty. Last week, a dancer, aged 20 took over my job. I was angry because that'd nothing to do with my ability. Just my age.

TRACY

Are you sure that's related to your age? Or you think too much? You're just 24.

CINDY

Positive.

DORIS

I know how you feel, Cindy. Age is an obstacle that prevents women from developing more in some careers. I'm also a victim.

BILLY

Would you tell us about it, Doris?

DORIS

Sorry.

ALL

We want to know.

RANDAL

We are curious.

BILLY

Mind sharing it with us, Doris?

All look at Doris sincerely.

DORRIS

I used to be a model.

All exchange looks.

DORRIS

I retired at the age of 28 because they said I was a bit old. They had lots of girls for them to choose. They demanded me to reduce my wage. I hit the ceiling. I retired. Never went back even if I was invited.

HERMAN

Cindy, don't get upset. You're better than Doris, not required to reduce your wage. Keep going. You'll make it.

CINDY

Thank you so much, Herman.

Clifford takes a sip of his drink.

RANDAL

I'm an accountant. I don't have age problem. However, I do the same thing every day. Um... perhaps, it is worse than you. My job's boring and stressful. I can't make even a tiny error on it, or my company might lose lots of money or reputation.

He sighs.

RANDAL

I've insomnia. Every time I check the figure of big projects, I've nightmares.

HERMAN

I suggest you do exercises to get rid of stress.

RANDAL

Yes, I do it every day. It's getting better.

TRACY

I think I'm a lucky person among you. I haven't had the problems you're having. I'm a translator. I don't need to worry about my age. On the contrary, it is beneficial to me. I don't need to worry about the loss of money.

CINDY

I am jealous.

HERMAN

Me too.

TRACY

Thank God.

Billy turns to Herman.

BILLY

You don't have any stress. You run a company, Herman?

HERMAN

You're wrong, Billy. I suffer more than you all.

DORIS

Yes, he does.

Herman puts his arm around her shoulders.

HERMAN

I set up the company five years ago. I've an ambition to make it a company, which'll have two hundred staff. Now, I realize that being an employee's better than a boss. You don't need to worry about everything.

DORIS

Herman is right.

Clifford turns to Billy.

CLIFFORD

How about you, Billy?

Billy ponders.

BILLY

There is something that has hid in my heart. I've lost a neighbor. The neighbor'd a good personality. We'd the same hobbies. She loved roller skating, movie, reading. In the past, We had a good time. Unfortunately, something cruel happened to her, which separated her from us. I think you all know who she was.

Clifford looks at their eyes.

BILLY

The case's not solved yet. Really hope the cops'll find out the killer.

HERMAN

(loud)

Certainly, they will.

Doris turns to him.

BILLY

Hope so. Seems the cops have put aside the case.

RANDAL

Yes, we have not heard of any progress on the case.

HERMAN

I think they're still doing the case. We should give them more time.

TRACY

No one can get away with what they did to Tessa.

CINDY

What should we do?

DORIS

There's nothing we can do. We're not cops.

RANDAL

If they can't find the killer after a period of time, the case'll become a cold case. Then the killer'll get away with what he did to Tessa.

DORRIS

Randal, what do you suggest? Set up a team for the clue, hunt for the killer, bring the killer to justice by ourselves. We don't have time. We need to work. You're free, so I suggest you do it. After you get him, I'll take my hat off to you.

RANDAL

I don't mean we do the case ourselves, Doris

DORIS

So you shouldn't have said that. You're wasting our time.

RANDAL

Hey, what're you talking about? I just express an opinion on it. I've the right to talk about it.

BILLY

Oh! Come on. We're here to chat. Take it easy.

CLIFFORD

What'd you think of Tessa, Randal?

RANDAL

I rarely talked to her because I was doing night shift. Just said hello to her a few times. In my opinion, she was nice.

TRACY

I'd never talked to her.

All stares at her in surprise.

TRACY

Yes, never.

DORIS

In my opinion, she was a very ordinary girl, not pretty. That's why she'd no boyfriend.

HERMAN

Agreed.

CINDY

Yes, she was not pretty but attractive. Her personality attracted me. It is unfair. Such a good woman was killed. Hope the cops'll solve the case.

ALL

Hope so.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Clifford sits at his desk reading a document. Rick knocks on the door, entering.

RICK

How was the social gathering?

CLIFFORD

Not much I got.

RICK

Any suspects?

Clifford shakes his head.

CLIFFORD

When they mentioned Tessa, all looked sad.

RICK

Can you make an initial judgement?

CLIFFORD

I can't. It is the most difficult case
I have ever done.

Clifford gets up from the chair and walks around. Rick
watches him.

RICK

What should I do?

Clifford stops walking.

CLIFFORD

Follow them.

RICK

Yes.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The door is opened. Clifford puts supermarket bags on the
coffee table. He plops down on the the couch, staring
around, glancing at his watch that reads: 10pm.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

Ten o'clock. Time for dinner.

He moves up to kitchen.

IN THE KITCHEN

He opens the fridge, pulling out a can of beer and three
slices of bacon. He puts them into his mouth and cracks the
can of beer open, drinking in one gulp. Then he exits into
his bedroom.

IN THE BEDROOM

He gazes at the stains in the bed and sits down on the edge
of it, fingering the stains. Suddenly they turn out to be
red. Clifford moves away from the bed quickly. A moment
later, the stains go back to normal color. Clifford stands
still eying the change.

He ponders a moment.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Clifford sits on the couch eating a sandwich. Billy comes out, carries a cup of coffee, and sets it down on the coffee table.

CLIFFORD

Thanks.

BILLY

That was horrible.

Clifford stops eating.

CLIFFORD

I thought that was a magic.

BILLY

You couldn't get to sleep?

Clifford nods and takes a sip of the coffee.

CLIFFORD

I don't know whether there has something to do with the stains.

BILLY

What're you gonna do tonight?

CLIFFORD

Not decided yet.

BILLY

Let me get you a new mattress?

CLIFFORD

No, thanks.

BILLY

Why?

CLIFFORD

I may get some leads from it.

Billy nods in agreement.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY

JANE SMITH, 35, sits at the desk typing on the computer screen. The door is opened. Rick enters, whistling.

RICK
Good morning, Jane.

JANE
Morning. You look wonderful.

RICK
I've got a date tonight.

JANE
With Clifford?

RICK
Next time.

Clifford walks into, a newspaper in hand, tossing it at Rick, who catches it.

RICK
Any big news?

CLIFFORD
I couldn't get to sleep.

RICK
Why?

CLIFFORD
I won't tell you. I don't want to scare you.

Jane rises to her feet, handing a few envelopes to Clifford, who takes them.

CLIFFORD
Rick, I've a question.
Clifford goes into his room and Rick follows.

IN THE ROOM

Clifford sits at his desk. Rick sits across from him.

CLIFFORD
Any progress on the following of the neighbors?
Rick shakes his head.

RICK

I haven't found anything important from them. Cindy spent most of her time dancing. No boyfriend. Leads a regular life.

CLIFFORD

Tracy?

RICK

She is a boring person. Sitting in the library, doing translation all day. Just a sandwich for lunch.

CLIFFORD

How about Randal?

RICK

He is talkative. Easy to get along with everyone. After off duty, he goes to bar. Likes watching women. Sees his targets, he goes for them. He's popular with women. Considerate, humorous, gentle.

CLIFFORD

Wow! A lady killer. How about the couple?

RICK

It seemed a gap between them. In the café, Herman read a book and Doris ate pizza. They kept doing that for half an hour without saying a word to each other. From Doris's facial expressions, I thought she wasn't satisfied with Herman.

CLIFFORD

With what?

Rick shrugs.

RICK

Do I need to follow them?

CLIFFORD

You don't need.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Billy comes out of his apartment. He walks up to press the lift button. He turns to stare at Tessa's apartment.

BILLY

Tessa, I am hiring a private detective for your death. I know someone on this floor killed you. Do your best to give us more leads.

Billy starts to stand in the middle.

BILLY

I know you have been trying to communicate with us using the sound. Unfortunately, it doesn't work at times. I understand you've done your best.

Billy looks up at the ceiling.

BILLY

Tessa, hang in there.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Clifford falls asleep in bed. He is awoken by the sound of the chest. He sits up and gazes at the chest. It opens and then closes itself. His eyes go wide.

Clifford gets out of the bed to the chest. It vibrates. He takes a few steps back. The vibration gets louder and louder. Clifford's hands are shaking.

The vibration stops. Sweats run down his face. He dashes into the bathroom.

IN THE BATHROOM

Clifford turns on the faucet and rinses his face. He exits into the living room.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Clifford stands and then sits down on the couch. He looks around and takes a deep breath. A moment later, he gets up and stands in the middle.

CLIFFORD

Tessa, I'm a private detective. I'm here to help you. Why're you doing that? You scared me. Stop it.

INT. GOLDEN GATE PARK - MORNING

Clifford and Roger jog. Clifford jog faster, leaving Roger behind. Roger tries to run faster to catch up. Seeing it, Clifford runs faster. Roger stops, gasping.

ROGER

I give up. You win.

Clifford stops.

CLIFFORD

You've made some improvements in jogging. But you need to do faster to keep up with me.

ROGER

I can't.

CLIFFORD

Come on. You can.

They sit down on a bench.

ROGER

How's the case going?

CLIFFORD

It's jogging along.

ROGER

Hope you'll solve it.

CLIFFORD

When I saw the stains in the mattress, it's color turned red.

Clifford sighs.

CLIFFORD

Last night, the chest was vibrating. I don't understand. I'm helping her. Why she did that to me?

ROGER

What you were seeing was the things she was doing in the past. She didn't mean to scare you.

CLIFFORD

How about the stains?

ROGER

The same thing. You saw the blood. You were in her apartment. You stayed in her past.

CLIFFORD

I see.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

It is very dark. Clifford saunters down, deep in thought. Moments later, he stops, turns around, and scans.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Clifford enters. He switches on the lights and goes to his bedroom. Suddenly he pauses and scans. He returns to stand in the middle.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

It seems someone has entered my apartment. Who's the guy?

He moves up to open his bedroom quickly.

IN THE BEDROOM

He looks around. He walks slowly to touch the computer on the desk.

CLIFFORD

Fortunately, it's password protected.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Clifford sits at his desk. Rick sits across from him.

RICK

Are you certain someone has entered
your apartment?

CLIFFORD

I have a feeling the things in it've
been toughed and moved. I'm a private
detective, sensitive to it.

RICK

Are you too sensitive?

CLIFFORD

I'm not.

RICK

Someone's suspecting you.

CLIFFORD

Maybe. I'm being followed.

RICK

Who?

CLIFFORD

I wish I knew.

Rick smiles embarrassingly.

RICK

Any suspects?

Clifford shakes his head.

RICK

Do I need to move into your apartment?

CLIFFORD

You don't need. If you are there, the
mysterious man'll stop. I can't find
him out.

Rick nods in agreement.

CLIFFORD

I follow people. Now, I'm being
followed. It's funny.

RICK

Yeah.

INT. CLIFFORD'S CAR - DAY

Clifford sits in the frontseat watching the apartment building. He yawns and glances at his watch. Cindy comes out of it. Clifford gets out.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Clifford heads for Cindy.

CLIFFORD

Hi, Cindy.

She turns.

CINDY

(smiling)

Hi.

CLIFFORD

Are you going to your company?

CINDY

No, I'm not. Are you still writing your novel?

CLIFFORD

I've writer's block so I'm going to take a walk. Do you read novel?

CINDY

Sometimes, I read romance novel.

CLIFFORD

Do you like horror novel?

Cindy shakes her head.

CLIFFORD

I want to get some inspiration from you because you live on the floor where a woman was killed. Something strange must've happened. Have you seen it? You might help me solve my writer's block.

CINDY

I don't think I can.

CLIFFORD

You've not seen even a little?

CINDY

I haven't seen even a little.

CLIFFORD

I am curious. Are you scared as you pass Tessa's apartment?

CINDY

I'm not scared.

CLIFFORD

That's the place where Tessa was killed.

CINDY

I'm not scared at all. What about you? Have you seen anything horrible?

CLIFFORD

No, I haven't. That's why I'm asking you for some inspiration. I think I should ask others.

CINDY

Yes, you should.

CLIFFORD

Sorry to have bothered you.

CINDY

That's all right. Bye.

CLIFFORD

Goodbye, Cindy.

She walks off. Clifford watches her leaving.

INT. HERMAN'S APARTMENT- LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Herman and Doris sit on the couch watching TV. The doorbell RINGS. Dorris opens it. It is Clifford.

CLIFFORD

Hi, Doris. May I come in?

DORIS

Yes.

Clifford steps into.

HERMAN

Clifford, take a seat.

Clifford sits down on the couch.

CLIFFORD

I've writer's block. I'm here to look for some inspirations from you two.

Herman looks confused.

HERMAN

We're not writers.

CLIFFORD

You live in the building where Tessa was killed. I think you must have seen something strange.

DORIS

(loud)

No.

Clifford and Herman turn to her.

DORIS

(loud)

Nothing is happening here.

CLIFFORD

Doris, chill out. Just want to get some inspirations for my writing.

HERMAN

The cops said a thief broke into her apartment. Stole her cash and gold watch. Killed her.

CLIFFORD

Not looking for news of the case.

DORIS

None of us're the killer. That's why nothing is happening.

CLIFFORD

I don't suspect any of you because you all are good guys. I just try to get inspiration.

DORIS

I am sorry. I am tired and want to hit the sack.

CLIFFORD

Bye.

Clifford gets up and leaves.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NIGHT

Clifford tosses and turns in bed. He sits up to turn on the lamp on the desk and glances at the clock that reads: 11pm. He gets out of the bed to open the door.

IN THE LIVING ROOM

Dark. Clifford walks towards the kitchen. He stops. He hears some footsteps in the corridor. The footsteps are drawing closer. Then they stop. Clifford opens the door and sees nobody in the corridor. He hears the sound of door closing quickly. Clifford steps out.

INT. CORRIDOR - LATER

Clifford stands in the middle, scanning each door. He moves up to the backstairs to have a look. Then he goes back to his apartment.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Clifford stands close to the door. When he hears the sound of a door opening and closing, he opens it and exits.

INT. CORRIDOR - LATER

He sees Randal.

RANDAL

Clifford, have you finished your novel?

Clifford shrugs.

CLIFFORD

I have writer's block.

RANDAL

Hope you'll get it through. I'm not good at novel writing. There's nothing I can do.

CLIFFORD

You can.

RANDAL

How?

CLIFFORD

Have you seen anything strange?

Randal thinks for a moment.

RANDAL

Not many. Just once.

CLIFFORD

Could you tell me?

RANDAL

Of course. A knock on my door. Opened it, saw a shadow, followed it to the backstairs. It vanished. That's Tessa.

CLIFFORD

You sure?

RANDAL

Positive.

CLIFFORD

What happened next?

RANDAL

I went back to my apartment. Surprised to see Tessa sitting on the couch.

Randal's eyes go wide.

RANDAL

Blood ran down her cheeks. She asked me for tissue. Wanted me to do make-up for her. She said she needed a beautiful appearance even if she was a ghost. Besides, she wanted pizza, steak and lobster.

CLIFFORD

You're going too far.

RANDAL

I am a person who doesn't do the thing I can't get money from it. Take it easy. I'm just joking.

CLIFFORD

This is going beyond a joke.

RANDAL

Bye.

The lift door opens and Randal enters. Clifford glares at him leaving.

INT. BACKSTAIRS - NIGHT

Clifford dumps a few supermarket bags into a dustbin. Suddenly, a sound of a woman high heel shoe is heard. Clifford turns to it. The sound stops. Then it is heard again. The sound gets louder and louder. A woman head with long and straight hair pops up from the stairs. This is Tracy. Clifford lets out a sigh of relief.

TRACY

Hi.

CLIFFORD

Hi, Tracy. Why didn't take the lift?

TRACY

Out of order.

CLIFFORD

I see.

They start to walk into the corridor.

IN THE CORRIDOR

They walk down.

CLIFFORD

Have you seen anything strange after Tessa got killed? Maybe, it can help me solve my writing problem.

TRACY

No.

CLIFFORD

Not even a little?

TRACY

I haven't seen even a little.

CLIFFORD

Are you sure?

TRACY

I'm sure. Sorry. Exhausted. Need to take a shower and go to bed. Bye.

Tracy walks quickly to her apartment.

INT. HARELEY'S CAR - DAY

HARLEY BALLS, 28, a SFPD officer drives with Thurman, who looks a bit nervous.

HARLEY

What'd you get in his apartment?

THURMAN

Nothing.

HARLEY

You look nervous, Thurman. The case?

THURMAN

Yeah.

HARLEY

It is a cold case now.

Thurman sighs.

THURMAN

Clifford's hired to investigate it. I worry that he'll find something useful, which we overlooked.

HARELY

I don't think Clifford'll find anything. We spent four months on it and didn't get anything.

THURMAN

The killer is still on the run.

HARLEY

No worries. Clifford'll stop as he can't find anything.

THURMAN

If he find out the killer, we'll be very embarrassed.

HARLEY

Clifford is going down.

THURMAN

He isn't.

HARLEY

What should we do?

THURMAN

Keep on tailing him.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The lift door opens. Billy exits, walking up to his apartment. He stops as he hears the sound of creaking. He looks around and the sound gets louder.

Then the sound of roller skating is heard clearly. He glances at his watch which reads 8pm.

BILLY

Hi, Tessa.

The sound gets louder and louder. He dashes to knock on the door of Clifford's apartment. Clifford opens it.

BILLY
(points at the
corridor)

The sound

Clifford exits and stands in the middle. He takes out his cell phone from his jean pocket and videotapes it.

CLIFFORD
Tessa, well done.

It gets louder and louder. A moment later, it dies down.

BILLY
Tessa, keep going.

CLIFFORD
Tessa, lead us to find the killer.

No sound.

BILLY
Why's that?

CLIFFORD
I think she tried to give us more hints.

BILLY
The sound didn't last long. Why?

CLIFFORD
I've no idea. Perhaps, she felt tired after doing that.

BILLY
Maybe.

CLIFFORD
We have made some progress on it. Glad to see it.

BILLY
Yeah.

CLIFFORD
That's not enough. We still just got the sound.

Billy nods.

BILLY

Clifford, I'm counting on you.

CLIFFORD

You did a good job of telling me the sound immmdeiatly.

BILLY

That's the only thing I can do.

CLIFFORD

Tessa must've been happy to see you did that for her.

Billy smiles. Billy follows Clifford into his apartment.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Clifford checks out his cellphone. His eyes widen.

CLIFFORD

Billy, look at it. Her sound on the screen.

Billy watches it.

BILLY

Yeah. You did it.

CLIFFORD

Maybe, this's the hints.

BILLY

Hope so.

CLIFFORD

I'm going to study it.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Clifford sits at his desk watching his cellphone. He watches it over and over again.

CLIFFORD

Rick, Jane, come over here.

They step into.

CLIFFORD

I've something to let you see. Get psyched. You might've a nightmare after watching it.

RICK

What is that?

CLIFFORD

Are you scared?

RICK

Um...

CLIFFORD

What about you, Jane?

JANE

I'm not scared of anything. Let me see it.

RICK

Not scared either.

Clifford hands the cellphone to Jane. She takes it and watches the screen.

JANE

Is it real? No sound effect?

CLIFFORD

It is real.

JANE

(stunned)

My God.

RICK

What's that?

Jane hands him the cellphone, who takes it. Seeing it, his eyes and mouth widen.

JANE

We need to help her.

RICK

I'll do anything I can to help her.

JANE

I'm willing to work overtime for this case for free.

RICK

Ditto.

CLIFFORD

I am proud of you two.

JANE

What're you gonna do?

CLIFFORD

We still need more clues. Not enough so far.

RICK

I have a suggestion.

CLIFFORD

What's that?

RICK

Why don't we let her neighbors watch it?

JANE

Judge from their facial expressions.

CLIFFORD

That doesn't mean he or she is the killer. It's normal as they fear.

Rick and Jane nod.

RICK

That's why you're my boss.

CLIFFORD

What if the killer moves out after knowing this?

RICK

It'll be hard to get the killer.

CLIFFORD

That's right.

Clifford looks up at the clock on the wall.

CLIFFORD

Time for lunch. I'm buying.

Rick and Jane APPLAUD.

INT. CLIFFORD'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Clifford falls asleep in bed. Suddenly, a sound is heard, which wakes him up. He turns on the lamp on the night table, revealing a pair of roller skates. He is stunned. A moment later, they disappear. Clifford looks around.

INT. CAR - DAY

Harely drives with Thurman.

THURMAN

What'd you get?

HARELY

Sorry, nothing.

THURMAN

Is he aware that he's being followed?

HARELY

He isn't.

THURMAN

Good.

HARELY

I don't think he'll get some important leads. After a period of time, he'll give up.

THURMAN

Hope so.

HARELY

This case is tough nut to crack. That's why Clifford looks confused.

THURMAN

Really?

HARELY

Yeah.

THURMAN

Who hires him?

HARELY

Billy Jones. Her neighbor.

THURMAN

Why does he hire Clifford? Was Tessa Smith his girlfriend?

HARELY

I have no idea. Something strange. Billy likes to talk to himself in the corridor.

Thurman thinks for a moment.

THURMAN

I need to take a look at it.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Clifford sits on the couch pondering. Some drops of water dripping onto his face from the ceiling. He looks up at it and wipes the drops with his palm. The drops of water keep dripping onto his face. He moves away. A moment later. He pulls out his cell phone and dials.

CLIFFORD

(into phone)

Gary, something wrong with the ceiling. Drops of water dripping from it. Get it fixed. Okay.

The drops keep dripping onto the couch

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

Gary is a fucking guy. He didn't tell me about this.

He stares up at the ceiling.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

This building's too old. It needs maintenance.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The lift door opens. Clifford exits. Gary and Billy stand in the doorway of Clifford's apartment. They turn to Clifford.

GARY

Clifford, I got someone to check it out. He said the floor was OK. Even the owner said it hadn't happened before.

CLIFFORD

This building is too old.

BILLY

I think so.

CLIFFORD

Does it happen to you, Billy?

BILLY

No.

GARY

Can I've a look at it?

Clifford opens the door.

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - LATER

The three enter. Clifford points at the ceiling. Gary stares up at it and thinks for a while.

GARY

I'd never got this complaint. I've inspected many ceilings. I think this one is all right.

CLIFFORD

Why is it happening?

Gary scratches his head.

BILLY

Garry, why don't you get someone else to check it out?

GARY

There is no need.

BILLY

Why?

GARRY

He's the best of all. Much experience.
I trust him. Clifford, if it happens
again, let me know. No worries.

Clifford nods.

GARRY

I've to go now. Good night.

He exits.

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Thurman comes out of backstairs. He walks up to Clifford's apartment slowly. Then he stands in the centre, looking around, gazing up at the ceiling and the light bulbs.

THURMAN

(to himself)

Nothing. Is Billy crazy?

INT. CLIFFORD'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Clifford sits on the couch watching TV. He shakes his head.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

It's boring.

He changes the channels. A moment later, the screen changes to a movie channel itself suddenly. Clifford tries to return to the original channel but he fails. He watches it strangely. The movie focuses on a woman weeping.

Then some drops of blood dripping onto his right hand from the ceiling. Clifford's eyes go wide. The blood turns out to be water. He looks up at it, then turns to the woman. He swallows hard.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

My God. Tessa's weeping. Don't worry,
Tessa. I'll do my best to catch the
killer. I give you my word.

INT. HERMAN'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Doris and Herman sit on the couch watching TV. They watch without saying a word to each other. They look like strangers. Herman breaks the ice.

HERMAN

Joe Cole's a good comedian. I like his performance. Not too exaggerated. Do you like him, Doris?

Dorris ignores him. Herman turns to look at her.

HERMAN

You don't like him?

Dorris switches the channels with a remote control.

HERMAN

What're you doing? I'm watching it.

Herman snatches it from her and switches it to the original channel. Doris gets up, walking up to the TV to push down the off button.

HERMAN

What's wrong with you?

Doris returns to her seat.

HERMAN

Are you deaf?

Doris glares at him.

DORIS

Zip it up.

HERMAN

Thank you for your advice but I'll keep asking. What's wrong?

Dorris turns to him.

DORIS

Why don't you invite her in to watch TV? Have some snacks?

HERMAN

Who?

DORIS

You know who she is.

HERMAN

Come on. She rejected me.

DORIS

What if she didn't. Would you invite her in?

HERMAN

Doris, I admit making the mistake. I have forgotten her.

DORIS

Really?

HERMAN

Of course. We've been married for twenty years. I still love you. I don't understand why I made the mistake. Please forgive me.

DORIS

I know the reason.

HERMAN

What is it?

DORIS

Seven-year itch.

HERMAN

Oh! Come on.

Doris rises to her feet, going to her bedroom, slamming the door.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Thurman sits in the frontseat smoking and meditating. He gets out, tosses the cigarette at the ground, and walks towards the building.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Thurman hides himself in the backstairs door. He peers out. Moments later, Tracy comes out of her apartment and waits for the lift. The lift door opens and she enters.

There is some noise from Herman's apartment. Thurman goes to press his ear against the door. He returns to the backstairs as hearing footsteps drawing closer from the apartment. The door is opened. Herman exits. Doris stands in the doorway.

DORIS

You'll regret.

HERMAN

I won't.

DORIS

That's the mistake you made. Don't forget.

HERMAN

I've apologized to you.

DORIS

So what?

HERMAN

What do you want me to do?

DORIS

Do something sincere.

HERMAN

I don't know how to do. Teach me.

DORIS

You're still lying, right?

HERMAN

I won't argue with you.

DORIS

Good.

She slams the door and Herman enters the lift. Billy comes out of his apartment and stands in the middle.

BILLY

Tessa, I know you're here. Do something to give us more clues. Do your best. You can.

Thurman looks at him puzzledly.

BILLY

Tessa, who is the killer?

Silence. Billy glances around.

BILLY

Tessa, where are you?

A moment later, Billy returns to his apartment. Thurman comes out of the backstairs, standing in the middle, looking around.

THURMAN

(to himself)

He's not all there.

Suddenly, he hears the sound of roller skating. He looks around. Thurman appears bewildered. The sound gets louder and louder and starts to go to the backstairs. Thurman follows it running down the steps.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Thurman runs after the sound. It goes so fast that he can't catch up. He stop to stand in the centre. All of a sudden, some fog appears in front of him.

THURMAN

(to himself)

What is happening?

The sound stops. The fog gets thicker. The sound, which breaks through the fog, is approaching Thurman. He eyes it. Suddenly, a pair of woman legs in jeans, without the upper body, is roller-skating in front of Thurman. His eyes and mouth go wide. His hands quaking. His teeth chattering.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Clifford slouchs in a chair with his legs spreading out. He looks up at the ceiling blankly. Rick sits on the edge of his desk watching him.

RICK

Are you okay, Clifford?

Clifford still stares up at the ceiling.

RICK

Are you all right? Do you need to see a doctor?

Clifford turns to Rick.

CLIFFORD

I am all right. Just chilling. I couldn't get to sleep last night.

Jane sits at her desk.

JANE

For the case?

CLIFFORD

Yeah.

RICK

What're we gonna do?

CLIFFORD

Dunno.

Clifford takes out his cellphone from his shirt pocket. He watches the video about the sound of Tessa's roller skating. Rick and Jane move up to Clifford.

JANE

What are the hints she is giving us? I don't know.

RICK

Don't know either.

Clifford focuses on the sound. Then he presses the playback button to watch it over and over again. He pauses.

CLIFFORD

Listen to it carefully. The end of the sound.

Rick and Jane are engrossed with it.

RICK

Yes, it is different.

JANE

What is that?

Clifford presses the button.

RICK

Seems Tessa tried to go further but...

CLIFFORD

Something prevented her.

JANE

Yes.

RICK

What's that?

CLIFFORD

I need to go to the corridor.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

Clifford and Rick stand looking around. A picture of a knight chopping other knights's heads off with a sword with blood that splashes on the ground is in the Randal's door. Clifford and Rick's eyes are fixed on the picture.

CLIFFORD

What's the title of it?

Rick shrugs.

CLIFFORD

It may be a famous picture.

RICK

Could be.

CLIFFORD

Why does the knight chop their heads off? So violent. Listen, Tessa was stabbed to death by knife.

RICK

She may fear knife. May fear violence. That's why she can't go further.

CLIFFORD

I have no idea. I think we should look for an expert, who can answer our questions.

RICK

Yes.

Clifford glances around. He kneels down to touch the floor and then the wall.

CLIFFORD

What prevents Tessa going further?

He knocks on Billy's door. It is opened.

BILLY

Hi.

CLIFFORD

Come out. Have a look at it.

BILLY

(confused)

What!

CLIFFORD

The picture in the Randal's door.

Billy steps out to study it.

CLIFFORD

What's the title of it?

A pause.

BILLY

I don't know. I'm not interested in picture.

CLIFFORD

We find something that might prevent Tessa from going further. Perhaps, this picture.

BILLY

Oh!

CLIFFORD

Did Tessa mention that she was afraid of the picture?

Billy thinks for a moment.

BILLY
She didn't.

CLIFFORD
What do you think of it?

BILLY
Bloody. I don't like it at all.

CLIFFORD
Randal painted it?

BILLY
I've no idea. He is a weirdo.

The lift door opens. Randal exits. All turn to him. Randal smiles at them.

RANDAL
Hi, what're you doing here?

CLIFFORD
Talking about the picture.

Randal turns to look at it.

RANDAL
You like it?

CLIFFORD
What's the title of it?

RANDAL
Kill The Ghost.

Clifford, Rick, and Billy exchange looks. Randal stares at them strangely.

CLIFFORD
You painted it, Randal?

RANDAL
Yes.

CLIFFORD
Why? So violent.

RANDAL

I like violence.

CLIFFORD

Wow!

RANDAL

Bye. Enjoy the picture. Don't try to do anything to make it... You'll pay the price. I'm serious.

Randal goes into his apartment.

RICK

What should we do?

BILLY

Buy it.

CLIFFORD

What!

BILLY

He may sell it.

Billy heads for knocking on the door. Randal opens it.

BILLY

I want to buy the picture.

RANDAL

Why? You guys look strange.

BILLY

The picture spooks me.

RANDAL

Come off it.

BILLY

Bolt it out with another one.

RANDAL

On one condition.

BILLY

What's it?

RANDAL

Look at it. The knight chop their heads off. I need yours to replace theirs.

BILLY

You're putting me on.

RANDAL

I'm not. One head replaces a few heads. A good buy.

Billy glares at him.

RANDAL

Stop glaring at me.

BILLY

So what!

RANDAL

Good night.

He closes the door.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Roger sits in a chair. Clifford comes carrying two glasses of brandy, handing one to Roger, who takes a sip of it.

ROGER

It must be very expensive. Looks like a VIP. What can I do for you?

CLIFFORD

About the case.

Clifford sits next to him, showing him his video about the sound. Roger watches it.

ROGER

(surprised)

Is it real?

CLIFFORD

Yes.

ROGER

My God.

CLIFFORD

Roger, listen to it carefully.
Especially the end.

Roger complies.

CLIFFORD

Anything different?

ROGER

She tried to go further. She could
not.

Clifford jumps up.

CLIFFORD

You can say that again.

Clifford switches to another screen which shows the picture
of the knight.

CLIFFORD

Ever seen this picture?

Roger watches it. He shakes his head.

ROGER

Is it related to the thing that
prevents her going further?

CLIFFORD

Could be.

ROGER

Why don't you cover it?

CLIFFORD

Oh! My God. Why'm I so stupid? There's
no cure for stupidity.

ROGER

You're not. I'm an outsider. I can see
from a clearer angle.

CLIFFORD

Thanks for your comfort.

INT. CORRIDOR - EVENING

The lift door opens. Clifford and Rick exits. Billy stands waiting for them.

CLIFFORD

Billy, are you sure Randal's in the cinema?

BILLY

Postive.

CLIFFORD

Rick, do it.

Rick, who carries a roll of paper, walks towards Randal's door. He rolls out the paper and puts it up to cover the picture in the door.

CLIFFORD

Well done!

Rick giggles. Clifford glances at his watch that reads: 8pm.

CLIFFORD

Hope Tessa'll make it.

They hear the sound of her roller skating. It lasts a moment. Clifford videotapes it with his cell phone. The sound dies down. The three watch the video.

RICK

Again, it can't go further.

BILLY

What prvents her from going further.

CLIFFORD

This mystery is killing me.

BILLY

Why don't you go into my place to talk about it?

They start to go.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM. LATER

They sit down on the couch.

RICK

It doesn't work. What's wrong?

CLIFFORD

Perhaps, Tessa still sees it even though we have covered it.

RICK

Yeah. She is a ghost, different than us.

CLIFFORD

I need to find a way out.

Clifford and Rick are meditating. Billy goes into the kitchen. He exits carrying three cans of beer, handing them to Rick and Clifford, who take them.

BILLY

Do you regret taking this job, Clifford?

CLIFFORD

No, I don't.

BILLY

Is it the most difficult job you've ever done.

CLIFFORD

Yes, but it's challenging. To be honest, I really want to help Tessa. I can't see a woman weeping without doing anything. I'm a man.

BILLY

A good man.

CLIFFORD

Yes.

BILLY

Who is the prime suspect?

CLIFFORD

I've one.

BILLY

Who?

CLIFFORD

I'll tell you later.

The doorbell RINGS. Billy goes to open it. It is Gary. He steps into.

GARRY

Hi, Billy. Have you made the decision?
The lease?

BILLY

I'll renew it.

GARRY

You made the wise decision. The rent's
reasonable. By the way, do you know
anyone who wants to rent an
apartment? Cindy's going to move out
this Friday.

BILLY

I don't know.

Clifford gets up quickly and moves towards Garry.

CLIFFORD

Did she say the reason?

Garry shakes his head.

GARRY

Actually, she tried to terminate the
lease two months ago. I rejected her.

CLIFFORD

Really?

GARRY

Yes.

Clifford moves closer to Garry.

CLIFFORD

Did she say the reason for her
terminating the lease?

GARRY

No, she didn't. Anything wrong with
the lease?

CLIFFORD

No.

GARRY

Okay. I have to go.

He opens the door and exits.

RICK

Why're you so interested in the lease?

CLIFFORD

You'll know later. Billy, do you have any ways of making Cindy stay here?

BILLY

Why?

CLIFFORD

It is important. I suspect her killing Tessa.

Billy and Rick look at each other.

BILLY

If Garry was willing to reduce the rent, she might. Garry won't. A miser.

CLIFFORD

Billy, do your best.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Clifford paces, deep in thought. Jane and Rick watch him. Clifford stops.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

I can't let her go. She must stay or our effort'll go down the drain.

Jane looks at Rick.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

Billy, try your best. The killer's on the run. We've to bring the killer to justice. Billy, we're counting on you.

A sound of a phone RINGS. Clifford takes out his cell phone from his pocket.

CLIFFORD
(into phone)
Billy, did she promise to stay? Hello,
hello.

JANE
Clifford, it's from my phone.

A moment later, A sound of Clifford's phone RINGS.

CLIFFORD
(into phone)
Yes, nice going. See you later.

JANE
Good news.

CLIFFORD
Garry'll persuade Cindy to renew the
lease. He promised to reduce the rent
by 40%

RICK
Garry is a miser.

CLIFFORD
Billy'll pay it back to him plus two
thousand bucks as a reward.

INT. CINDY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Cindy sits on the couch watching TV. She has drinks and
snacks. The doorbell RINGS. Cindy opens it. It is Garry.

GARRY
Hi, Cindy. Good evening. Glad to see
you. May I come in?

She hesitates.

GARRY
I've something important to talk to
you.

CINDY
What is it?

GARRY

May I?

Cindy nods. Garry enters. They sit down on the couch.

GARRY

Cindy, I really hope that you'll renew the lease. You're a good tenant. Paid on time. To encourage you, I'm gonna reduce the rent by 40%. What do you think of it?

Cindy is puzzled.

CINDY

What! 40%. Are you serious?

GARRY

Yes. I'm serious.

Cindy thinks for a while.

CINDY

No. I won't take it.

GARRY

40% is attractive.

CINDY

Why're you doing this to me?

GARRY

As I mentioned before, you're a good tenant. Oh! I take it back. You're the best.

CINDY

I don't think so.

GARRY

You're too humble.

CINDY

Sorry, I won't renew it.

GARRY

Take it into account. You can't rent another one at such a low price.

CINDY

The rent is tempting. But I won't consider it.

GARRY

Think it over.

CINDY

I won't.

INT. BILLY'S APARTMENT - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Billy and Clifford sit on the couch.

CLIFFORD

Garry is a mushhead. I thought he'd make it.

BILLY

What should we do?

CLIFFORD

I rely on you.

Billy appears confused.

CLIFFORD

You try to pretend to be having a crush on her and ask her to stay.

BILLY

(eyes widen)

What!

CLIFFORD

You have to do it because I haven't come up with another way.

BILLY

Is it essential?

CLIFFORD

What do you suggest?

There is a pause.

BILLY

She won't believe it.

CLIFFORD

You say you are shy. This's the last
chance to express your love for her.
You can't miss it.

BILLY

Any other choices?

CLIFFORD

No.

INT. CORRIDOR - MORNING

Billy stands at the lift door. Cindy comes out.

BILLY

Cindy, good morning.

CINDY

Good morning.

BILLY

You look great.

CINDY

You too.

Billy points at the lift. He shakes his head.

BILLY

It's quite slow. Always out of order.

CINDY

Yes, it's.

BILLY

You don't need to worry about it
because you'll be moving out.

Cindy flashes a smile.

BILLY

You don't like the apartment?

She shakes her head.

BILLY

Is the rent too high?

She shakes her head.

CINDY

I've my personal matter to take care of.

BILLY

Oh! I see. Are you doing anything tonight?

She appears bewildered.

BILLY

I want to invite you to have dinner as your farewell. Don't turn me down. I'll break down.

Cindy chuckles.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

It is an expensive restaurant with grand decorations. All customers dress up. Billy and Cindy are drinking soup.

BILLY

I like lobster soup. What do you think of it?

CINDY

Good. The atmosphere here's nice. Not too noisy. Not too quiet.

BILLY

Yes, I don't like a restaurant that's too quiet. It seems anyone could hear what you say.

CINDY

If it's too noisy, you've to speak loud.

BILLY

That's right. It's so good to have dinner with a woman I admire.

Cindy stops drinking.

BILLY

Maybe, I can't see her.

CINDY

You have a crush on a woman?

Billy nods with his head bending down.

BILLY

I couldn't get to sleep in the past few days. She's going to leave.

CINDY

You can talk with her on the phone in the future.

BILLY

I don't like it. I want to see her face to face every day.

A pause.

BILLY

She's very attractive. I'm shy. I've no guts to express it to her.

CINDY

Women are sensitive to it.

BILLY

She isn't...because I'm hiding it in my heart, which is like a ship sinking down into the ocean. Now the ship's doing something to get out of it.

Billy's head still bends down while speaking.

EXT. STREET - CONTINUOUS

Billy and Cindy saunter down.

BILLY

I enjoyed the dinner very much.

CINDY

Me too. Thanks for it.

BILLY

You're welcome. It's a pleasure to have dinner with you.

CINDY

Thanks.

It starts to drizzle.

BILLY

It is a wet blanket.

CINDY

I like walking in the rain. Feel great.

BILLY

Walking in the rain's so romantic.

CINDY

Yes.

Billy looks up at the sky.

BILLY

I like watching stars.

Cindy stares up at it.

CINDY

No stars.

BILLY

It would be better if it wasn't drizzling.

CINDY

Yes.

Billy points at the sky.

BILLY

What if there were two stars? What if they were separated?

CINDY

That's too bad.

Billy stops. He makes eye contact with Cindy. She tries to avoid it.

BILLY

Cindy, please don't go. Please. I want to see you every day.

CINDY

I have made the decision.

BILLY

For God's sake. Change it.

She thinks for a moment.

CINDY

I'll consider.

They start to walk.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Clifford looks out the window. Jane is typing on the computer screen. Rick surfs the Internet. There is a silence. A phone RINGS. Clifford pulls it out of his pocket.

CLIFFORD

(grabs it)

Oh! My God. That's all right. I know you did your best. Okay. Bye.

Jane and Rick stop working, watching Clifford.

RICK

If my guess's right, it must be bad news.

CLIFFORD

Cindy hasn't changed her mind.

JANE

One day left.

Clifford nods. He looks upset.

RICK

What should we do?

JANE

Clifford, no worries. You've done your best.

RICK

Yes. We haven't had this experience before. Without a doubt, it's hard nut to crack.

CLIFFORD

I'm going to a place. My last chance.

Clifford exits.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The lift door opens. Clifford exits and sees a pair of roller skates in the corridor. Then they disappear. He stands in the middle, looking around.

CLIFFORD

Tessa, I know you're here. I'm in difficulty. Can you bail me out? You can. Show me who killed you

Clifford scans.

CLIFFORD

Is Cindy the killer?

He moves up to the door slowly.

CLIFFORD

Is the picture that prevents you telling us?

He goes closer to the picture.

CLIFFORD

Are you afraid of the knight holding the sword?

He points to the blood in it.

CLIFFORD

Are you afraid of the blood?

He whirls around.

CLIFFORD

What are you afraid of?

He returns to the middle.

CLIFFORD

I'm running out of time.

It is silent. Clifford stands helplessly.

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

The door is opened. Clifford comes into with a tired look on his face. He plops down in a chair. Jane and Rick watch him.

JANE

Clifford, would you like coffee?

CLIFFORD

No.

RICK

Take a break, Clifford.

The phone RINGS. Clifford takes it out of his pocket.

CLIFFORD

(grabs it)

Hello. I'm sorry. I can't tonight. A
bit tired. Next time. Bye.

Clifford watches the screen. He changes to watch the video
of the sound of Tessa's roller skating.

CLIFFORD

Tessa, what are you doing in the
corridor? I don't get it.

On the video: A corridor. Six apartments. A picture of a
knight chopping off a few knights's heads with a sword in
Randal's door. A dustbin next to Tracy's doorway. A doormat
in Cindy's doorway. A shoe rack next to the couple's
doorway.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

Picture, dustbin, doormat, shoe rack.

Clifford stops. A moment later. He goes on.

CLIFFORD

(to himself)

Picture, dustbin, doormat, shoe rack.

Clifford pauses. His eyes widen. He dashes to open the door
to exit.

INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

The lift door opens. Clifford exits. Billy stand waiting
for him.

BILLY

What'd you get?

He glances at his watch that read 7:58pm.

CLIFFORD

There is something that prevents Tessa going further. Eureka!

BILLY

What's it?

CLIFFORD

You'll see it later.

Clifford walks up to the door of Cindy. Billy follows him. Clifford knocks on it. It is opened. In the doorway is Cindy.

CINDY

Billy, I have told you I'm gonna move out. Don't try to...

CLIFFORD

Of course. You're gonna because you want to get away with what you did to Tessa, right?

CINDY

What are you talking about?

CLIFFORD

It was you who killed Tessa.

CINDY

If I killed her, why do I still live here?

CLIFFORD

If you did that immediately, the cops'd suspect you. You tried to move out two months after the death of Tessa. But Garry rejected you.

CINDY

I did that because this building is very dirty and the rent is high.

CLIFFORD

Garry was willing to reduce it by 40%. You turned him down. Why?

CINDY

It is my personal matter.

Clifford looks at his watch that reads 8pm.

CLIFFORD

You deny it. Let me show you the evidence.

Clifford takes two steps back and kicks the doormat away.

CLIFFORD

(loud)

Tessa.

No sound is heard.

CLIFFORD

(loud)

Tessa.

No sound.

CINDY

I don't want to play with you. Good night.

When Cindy tries to close the door, the sound of roller skating is heard. It grows louder and louder. Cindy SCREAMS. She kneels down. She cries.

CINDY

Tessa, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to kill you. Sorry, I was in debt. I needed money.

Clifford and Billy watch Cindy crying loud.

SUPER: ONE MONTH LATER

INT. CLIFFORD'S OFFICE - DAY

Clifford comes out of his room with a CLIENT. They shake hands. Rick opens the door for him to leave.

RICK

New case?

CLIFFORD

Yeah. We'll be busy at it. Maybe, we need to sleep here.

JANE

Including me?

CLIFFORD

Yes. You're responsible for making
breakfast, lunch and dinner.

JANE

My God.

The doorbell RINGS. Rick opens it. It is Billy, who enters.

RICK

Hi, Billy. How you doing?

BILLY

Fine.

CLIFFORD

You look wonderful.

Billy smiles.

BILLY

Thank you for the case.

CLIFFORD

Problem solved. Glad to see it. How
about the sound?

BILLY

I haven't heard it for a month. I
think Tessa may be in heaven

CLIFFORD

Hope so.

BILLY

I forgot to ask you. Why'd you suspect
Cindy?

CLIFFORD

Whenever I mentioned Tessa, she looked
too calm. That was unusual. She's a
woman but wasn't fearful of the
incident at all...even though she
passed the apartment every day. She
pretended she didn't kill Tessa.
Fortunately, Garry's miserliness
helped us out.

BILLY

You're so smart.

CLIFFORD

Thanks.

BILLY

I must go now.

Billy shake hands with Clifford, Jane and Rick.

BILLY

Goodbye.

ALL

Take care.

Billy walks out of it. They watch him leaving.

