

## Homicides in Philly.

By Nadine.

FADE IN:

Panoramic evening shot of Philadelphia USA

EXT. RAIN - NIGHT.

A dead body (black adult male) lays on a street, side road alley, not hidden away, but just about visible to the main street.

A car screeches to a halt, a person gets out of the car, only view is the legs (man or woman) the person drags his body into their car and drives away fast with a screech.

MORNING. DAY.

Different panoramic shot of Philadelphia USA.

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING

INT. GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT

A black woman (Shereen) (short hair, wearing business clothes, trousers, shirt, blazer, she is not feminine, but not manly) in the kitchen putting the coffee pot back on one hand and talking on a cellphone in another hand.

SHEREEN

Well, tell Duncan that the work has to be finished by 2 weeks tops, I didn't work hard for this company to be unreliable to our clients....okay, yeah (chuckles) I'll see you in about an hour.

A pitbull mastiff mix looking pet dog runs into the kitchen lovingly into the lady's arms.... Shereen embraces and strokes / pets her dog lovingly.

SHEREEN

Morning Bruno, you want breakfast?!

CUT TO

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING.

Shereen is walking into the building with her dog.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. OFFICE BUILDING.

Shereen walks into the building.

She is in a high office....a lady (mixed race hispanic and white lady, pale skinned, small build, not very tall) (Gloria) knocks on the already opened door.

GLORIA

So I spoke to Duncan, work should be completed in 2 weeks.

SHEREEN

Good, I like Duncan, and I didn't want to fire his ass for getting me in any potential trouble.

Shereen sits down on a seat / swing office chair, she has a name on a plaque on her desk that says 'Shereen Phillips'.

GLORIA

Shereen, you're the owner of an entire construction company...what trouble could you get into?!

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE - DAY.

INT. ABANDONED WAREHOUSE.

Two black men (Nathan) and (Devon) are in there talking.

Nathan is not light skinned, but not dark skinned, he is medium height, with an afro-mohawk haircut, his attire is shirt and jeans.

NATHAN

Where is she?! (aggressively).

DEVON

I don't know! (answers desperately and slightly scared).

CUT TO

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE

SHEREEN

I'm really happy about this project, homeless animals need more shelters.

DUNCAN

Yeah, sorry about the issue, this place will be done in time.

SHEREEN

Thanks, Duncan.

Shereen walks away back to her car, she gets into the car, looks at her cellphone, she has a message on her answering machine, a man's voice is heard on the message.

MAN ON ANSWERING MACHINE (MARCUS)

Shereen, it's me....i'm sorry to be calling you....but it's extremely important....you need to call me!

Shereen looks concerned, and drives away from the construction site.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. NIGHT - BRUTALIST BUILDING.

Shereen is waiting, Marcus walks out of the building. He is tall, white, average looking, short dark hair, wearing a suit and tie.

MARCUS  
Thanks for showing up.

Shereen nods her head and folds her arms.

SHEREEN  
So what is it?

MARCUS  
Your brother is back....he knows you're here in Philadelphia.

Shereen looks worried

SHEREEN  
Does he know where I live?

MARCUS  
I don't think so, but you should start thinking about leaving town

SHEREEN  
This is insane! I've built a home and a career here, I'm not leaving  
again!

MARCUS  
Look, I've gotta get back to work, I'll call you tonight, we need to talk more

SHEREEN  
Okay, thanks, Marcus

Marcus walks back into the building, Shereen walks back to her car, gets into the car and drives away.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. SHEREEN'S APARTMENT.

Shereen opens the door, greeted by her dog.

SHEREEN

Oh hello Bruno.

Shereen strokes / pets him lovingly.

SHEREEN

Let's take you for a walk.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

Shereen is walking into a nice bar, Marcus is sitting at the bar and waves to her, Shereen smiles (mouth closed smile) and walks towards him and sits down next to him at the bar

MARCUS

Thanks for meeting me again.

SHEREEN

No problem.

A very dark skinned man approaches them.

ANNOYING MAN (speaking to Shreen)

Hello there, pretty lady, can I buy you a drink?

Shereen replies to him calmly with no anger and no emotion.

SHEREEN

Um, no I'm not interested sir. Just having a drink with a friend.

Annoying man smiles (mouth closed smile)

ANNOYING MAN

I'm sorry I bothered you, you guys have a good night

As the man walks away, Shereen and Marcus both say - Thank You

MARCUS

(Lightheartedly says) He wasn't your type?

SHEREEN

No, for real I'm not into relationships, never have been, I guess I'm Asexual, or more specifically *Aromantic-Asexual* as they're calling it these days....it's not just called *Asexual* anymore, there are all these subcategories.

Inaudible conversation and bar noise and music for a few seconds.

MARCUS

Nathan can't get to you if you're careful....I don't think you should go back to work for a while....do you have anywhere else to go temporarily?

SHEREEN

I told you, Marcus, I'm not going anywhere!

MARCUS

He did his time, but my P.I. says he's selling drugs.

Shereen shakes her head in disappointment.

SHEREEN

What kind of drugs?

MARCUS  
Crack-Cocaine.

Shereen sighs.

MARCUS  
He killed your father and stalked you for a year....now he's selling drugs again...this guy has not changed.

SHEREEN  
Look, Marcus! I'm not letting this *thug* scare me away from my home, from my work and from my life okay! I know you care about me and we've been friends for years, but I'll be okay.

DISSOLVE TO.  
PARK - DAY  
Nathan is walking with a chinese-American man (Xander)

XANDER  
She's the owner of a construction company...the address is 1702 Avron Street.

Xander hands him a piece of paper implying the work address is on there.

DISSOLVE TO  
INT. CONSTRUCTION SITE  
Shereen is talking to one of her employees. Inaudible conversation.  
Employees are packing up for the day.

SHEREEN  
Thanks guys, good work.

EMPLOYEES  
Thanks boss...Have a good evening.

The employees leave.

Shereen's mobile phone rings....she takes the cellphone out of her pocket.

SHEREEN

Hey, Marcus....Yeah I'm at the site, I'm leaving now though...okay....yeah speak to you later.

Camera pans around the area....there is a creek....Shereen looks around....shakes her head...puts her bag on her shoulder...starts to walk out....Nathan is standing there....Shereen jumps and is shocked.

SHEREEN

How did you find me?

NATHAN

Wasn't that difficult...got an investigator.

SHEREEN

Look, I don't want anything to do with you....get the hell outta here!

NATHAN

We family, sis.

SHEREEN

It's *we're* family....and blood doesn't mean anything!

NATHAN

I did my time.

SHEREEN



So what?!....Now, what do you want?

NATHAN  
(Chuckles) You were always dad's favorite.

SHEREEN  
So you KILL HIM?!

Nathan threateningly walks towards Shereen...she runs away...he chases her...she grabs a plank of wood...hits him over the head....he falls down and is clearly unconscious....Shereen runs to the car and speeds off. Nathan comes to.

CUT TO  
EXT. SHEREEN'S APARTMENT BUILDING.

Shereen parks her car, walks into her apartment, is greeted by her dog, she strokes / pets him lovingly.

SHEREEN  
Bruno, you wanna stay with grandma and Barry for a little while?

DISSOLVE TO  
INT. HOUSE

Shereen is with an older black lady (Shereen's mom, Tina) and an older black man (Shereen's mom's boyfriend, Barry)

SHEREEN  
Thanks, mom, for letting Bruno stay here with you guys for a while, I need to keep him out of danger.

TINA  
No problem, honey. Are you gonna be okay? Why don't you just stay here as well for a while?

SHEREEN  
No, mom. I can't allow him to scare me into hiding away.

TINA  
But...

Barry interrupts.

BARRY  
Tina, Shereen is a grown woman! Let her do what she needs to do! We'll still be here for her.

Shereen smiles.

SHEREEN  
Thanks, Barry.

Shereen kisses and embraces them both and vice versa.  
Shereen cuddles her dog.

SHEREEN  
I'll be back soon, Bruno, okay?

Shereen leaves the house.

DISSOLVE TO  
STREET - NIGHT.  
Shereen is walking with Marcus.

SHEREEN  
So, I need your P.I. guy....

MARCUS

Yeah, no problem

SHEREEN

You've always had my back, Marcus, you're a good friend.

Marcus gives Shereen a friendly side by side hug and smiles and they continue to walk.

DISSOLVE TO

ELECTRONICS STORE - DAY

Nathan is walking out of an electronics store and walking down the street...a man (P.I. Harry Smith) is across the street from him with a long lens camera behind a wall taking snaps of Nathan. Harry is in his early 50s, Jewish, slightly overweight, gray scruffy hair.

Nathan walks into a bigger electronics warehouse. He walks up to the counter, a white fat man (Raphael) is behind the counter.

NATHAN

I need to speak to Jamal.

Raphael waves / signals at someone behind Nathan...a black man (Jamal) is further down the store and signals to Nathan...Nathan walks towards him.

JAMAL

You got my money?

NATHAN

Yeah.

Nathan hands him a wad of cash wrapped in an elastic band.

JAMAL

We're square. Get the hell outta here.

Nathan gives him a sly smile and walks out of the store.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. CLOSED STORE. RAINING - NIGHT

Nathan is standing there....a car pulls up nearby....someone gets out of the car....camera pans to a person's legs...they walk towards Nathan...pull out a silencer gun...Nathan looks at them shocked...they fire the gun...Nathan falls to the ground.

INT. SHEREEN'S APARTMENT - DAY.

Shereen is in the kitchen....putting her keys in her pocket....her mobile phone rings on the counter top...she picks it up...camera cuts to P.I. Harry Smith, he is in a coffee shop.

P.I. HARRY SMITH

Hi, Shereen....it's the P.I. that you hired, Harry Smith,....there's police and a dead body here at Apollo Road...It looks like *your brother*.

Camera cuts back to Shereen...she looks concerned.

SHEREEN

What?

P.I. HARRY SMITH

Yeah, you should get over here!

SHEREEN

I'll be right there.

P.I. HARRY SMITH

I'm wearing a light gray long coat, I'm at *it's tasty* coffee shop.

SHEREEN

Okay, I'll meet you there.

Shereen hangs up the phone, grabs her car keys and leaves her apartment.

CUT TO

EXT. COFFEE SHOP

Shereen pulls up, gets out of her car, she enters the coffee shop...she sees P.I. Harry Smith, he sees her, she waves to him...he walks up to her.

P.I. HARRY SMITH

Hi, Shereen.

SHEREEN

Hello.

They shake hands.

P.I. HARRY SMITH

I've been following your brother, he's been in and out of a couple of electronic stores. Came here to get my coffee this morning and saw all the chaos.

SHEREEN

Okay, thanks. I need to go over there.

Shereen walks over to the crime scene...there is tape and police. A policeman tries to stop her from getting any closer.

POLICEMAN

Excuse me, you can't be here.

The camera pans to Nathan's dead body...Shereen almost falls over and is upset.

SHEREEN

That's my brother! That's my brother!

POLICEMAN

Okay ma'am are you sure?

SHEREEN  
Yes I'm sure (upset)

POLICEMAN  
Do you have any identification that you are related to this man?

Policewoman hands Nathan's phone over to the Policeman.

POLICEWOMAN  
There's a phone number in here, under the name *sis*.

POLICEMAN  
Okay, let me dial this number.

Shereen's phone rings...the policeman and the policewoman both look at her.

POLICEWOMAN  
Ma'am could you please come with us to the station and answer a few questions?

SHEREEN  
Of course.

Shereen gets into the cop car with the police.

CUT TO  
INT. POLICE STATION

A Detective asks her questions. The Detective is white, medium height, short blonde hair, wearing a suit.

DETECTIVE PHILLIPS

My name is Detective Phillips.  
So you say that your brother was stalking you and attacked you the other day at your work?

SHEREEN

Yes, but I would never hurt him, I just wanted to get away from him.

DETECTIVE PHILLIPS

Do you know if your brother had any enemies?

SHEREEN

He would always be involved with shady people...so I wouldn't be surprised if he had enemies...but apart from the other day, I haven't seen him in years, I don't know about his life.

DETECTIVE PHILLIPS

Okay, well if you know anything, contact us.

Detective Phillips hands her his card.

SHEREEN

Thank you.

Shereen walks out of the police station and gets her mobile phone out of her pocket, she dials a number.

SHEREEN

Hi, mom....you saw the local news?....I'm sorry mom....even though I wanted nothing to do with him, I didn't want him dead....okay...i'm on my way.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. TINA'S HOUSE. KITCHEN

Shereen, Tina, Barry and the dog are all there. The mom is upset and is dabbing tissue to her eyes.

TINA

Why did he have to go that way doing all of that criminal activity?!

Shereen hugs her mom.

BARRY

Honey, Nathan made his own choices.

TINA

I know.

DISSOLVE TO

INT. SHEREEN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Shereen is with Bruno the dog, she is in the living room stroking / petting the dog while talking on her cellphone.

SHEREEN

Yeah, well it's sad but I'm glad that I don't have to look over my shoulder anymore....yeah, I met your P.I. guy Harry Smith....okay....yeah...I'll talk to you later, Marcus...bye.

Shereen hangs up the phone, and throws a dog toy across the room, the dog runs and grabs it and brings it back to Shereen.

SHEREEN

I missed you, Bruno.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. BRUTALIST BUILDING - NIGHT

Marcus is walking out of the building, someone approaches him.

MARCUS

Can I help you?



The unidentified person has half a mask on at the lower part of his face and attacks Marcus...punches Marcus in the face and pulls out a gun (a silencer)...Marcus wrestles the person...knocks the gun out of the person's hand....punches the person twice in the face....the person grabs the gun off of the pavement / sidewalk and runs off.  
Marcus is out of breath while grabbing his cellphone out of his coat pocket.

DISSOLVE TO  
INT. POLICE STATION. MAIN DESK

MARCUS

I didn't see his face properly, it was dark, his face was half-covered.

DESK OFFICER

Fill out this form, Sir, we'll look into it.

Marcus looks slightly annoyed and disappointed at the officer behind the desk while filling out the form.

DISSOLVE TO  
EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET

The same legs (implication of the murderer) is walking up some steps towards a house...the person puts the key into the door, walks into the house, shuts the door....the light switches on.....

TINA

Where have you been?....It's late.

Plot-twist reveal...camera pans to BARRY...he has a red mark on his left eye and a cut lip.

BARRY

Oh, I had some extra work at the office.

TINA

What happened to your face?

BARRY

Fell down some stairs...I'm okay.

Barry removes his coat....puts in on the hallway rack....walks towards the bathroom.

CUT TO

INT. HOSPITAL MORGUE

Detective Phillips is talking to the mortician, the mortician hands him some stuff inside a plastic see-through bag.

MORTICIAN

This is Mr Johnson's belongings that were on him.

DETECTIVE PHILLIPS

Thank You.

Detective Phillips is walking out of the morgue section, takes the mobile phone out of the plastic bag, switches the phone on and looks at the contacts...the last number received....Detective Phillips dials the number...camera pans to TINA AND BARRY'S HOUSE....BARRY'S MOBILE PHONE RINGS...the phone is on the living room mantle, no one answers it. Camera pans back to Detective Phillips at the hospital, he looks concerned as he hangs up the phone and walks out of the hospital...he dials another number while getting into his car...Camera pans to Shereen's house...Marcus is there with her and the dog...Shereen's phone rings...she answers the phone.

SHEREEN

Hello?

DETECTIVE PHILLIPS

Hello, Miss Johnson? It's Detective Phillips...I've just left the hospital and have your brother's belongings...I dialed the last number that he received.

Detective Phillips reads the number out loud.

DETECTIVE PHILLIPS  
Do you know this number?

SHEREEN  
No.

DETECTIVE PHILLIPS  
Is it okay if I stop by? Just to ask you a few more questions?

SHEREEN  
Of Course.

Detective Phillips hangs up the phone and starts his car.

CUT TO  
INT. SHEREEN'S APARTMENT  
Shereen dials the number.

CUT TO  
INT. TINA'S HOUSE  
Barry answers the phone.

BARRY  
Hello?

CUT TO - SHEREEN'S HOUSE  
Shereen looks confused and shocked.

SHEREEN  
Barry??

Shereen hangs up the phone.

SHEREEN  
Oh my God!

MARCUS  
What is it?

SHEREEN  
It was Barry...Barry killed my brother....and I think it was Barry who attacked  
you tonight.

MARCUS  
Whoa, Whoa, are you sure?

Shereen walks towards the hallway and grabs her coat off of the rack.

SHEREEN  
I need to go over there, my mom could be in danger.

MARCUS  
Okay, now hold on, let's wait for the Detective to get here first.

SHEREEN  
I'm not waiting, I have to go.

Shereen grabs her keys and leaves the apartment.

MARCUS  
Wait...

Marcus grabs his coat and his keys from the rack and leaves the apartment.

MARCUS

Let me go with you.

They both get into Shereen's car and drive.

CUT TO

EXT. TINA'S HOUSE

Shereen and Marcus pull up, they exit the car, they walk up to the door.

Shereen knocks on the door.

Tina opens the door.

TINA

Shereen (surprisingly).

Honey, what are you doing here? It's late.

Shereen walks past her mom straight into the house, Marcus follows.

INT. TINA'S HOUSE

SHEREEN

It's Barry....he's dangerous, mom.

TINA

What? Honey, what are you talking about?

Tina shuts the front door.

Barry walks out of the bedroom.

BARRY

Shereen...how are ya?

SHEREEN

Cut the crap, Barry...I know it was you!

BARRY

Excuse me?

SHEREEN

You killed Nathan (angrily) and you attacked Marcus!

BARRY

Why would I do that, Shereen?!

SHEREEN

*You* tell me.

CUT TO

EXT. SHEREEN'S APARTMENT

Detective Phillips knocks on the door...the dog is barking...no answer.

Detective Phillips takes his mobile phone out of his pocket and dials a number.

CUT TO

INT. TINA'S HOUSE

Shereen's mobile phone rings...she answers it.

SHEREEN

Hello?....Detective Phillips...

BARRY takes a SILENCER GUN out of his shirt behind his back, CHARGES towards Shereen and tries to take the phone out of her hand.

SHEREEN

DETECTIVE, HELP!! I'M AT 204 BOVINGTON DRIVE...HELP...

Barry GRABS the CELLPHONE and THROWS it on the floor.

BARRY

I had a daughter once...you remind me of her...she was like the younger version of you! She got mixed up with the wrong friends and got killed....got caught up in the middle of something that had nothing to do with her...all because of the bastards that she was hanging with....not even a boyfriend...just a male friend....Men and women *shouldn't be friends*...it only leads to trouble!

SHEREEN

Why did you kill my brother? (tearfully) you know I wanted nothing to do with him..and I can take care of myself! (tearfully and angrily).

BARRY

I was tracking Nathan, the moment he got out...you didn't know how dangerous he was! He hired a man to *kill you!*

SHEREEN

What? (Tearfully)

BARRY

Yeah...well I took care of that guy. He's at the bottom of the river by now.

Flashback to the scene of the beginning of the movie....extra scene - man unidentified meets black man (Troy) in a street side road alley.

TROY

What up, dawg...So who you want me to get rid of?

Unidentified man SHOOTS Troy with a SILENCER gun...he turns around....his face is REVEALED to be BARRY. He quickly and calmly walks away...he returns in a car...drags the DEAD body into his car and drives away fast with a screech.

TINA

WHY KILL HIM? WHY NOT GO TO THE POLICE! WHY KILL MY SON?!  
YOU SON OF A...

Tina charges towards Barry angrily. Barry pushes her away. Marcus grabs her.

BARRY  
Woman, what don't you get?! (Shouts) HE WAS GONNA HAVE SHEREEN  
KILLED!

TINA  
Then, why didn't you tell me all of this? We could have gone to the police!

BARRY  
He would have just hired another guy, and another...I had to get rid of the  
source...YOUR PRECIOUS BOY! (Shouts).

There is a loud knock on the front door.

DETECTIVE PHILLIPS (O.S. - OFFSCREEN)  
DETECTIVE PHILLIPS! OPEN THE DOOR (Shouts).

Barry runs out the back via the garden.

DISSOLVE TO  
Morning scenery time lapse from winter to spring.

INT. POLICE STATION  
Detective Phillips is talking on his cellphone.

DETECTIVE PHILLIPS  
We haven't caught him yet, but we will let you know...the moment we do.



CUT TO

INT. SHEREEN'S APARTMENT

Shereen and her mum and the dog are in the kitchen. Shereen is on her cellphone.

SHEREEN

Okay, thank you Detective Phillips.

Shereen hangs up her phone, looks at Tina.

SHEREEN

They haven't caught him yet, mom. (worriedly).

TINA

Don't worry...they will.

Tina gives Shereen a side by side hug.

DISSOLVE TO

EXT. BICYCLE SHOP - DAY

The bicycle shop has a sign on it that says 'Bicycles For All'.

CUT TO

INT. BICYCLE SHOP.

An older black lady (Mavis), a younger adult black lady (Elaine) and a little black girl (Shannon) are looking at little girls' bikes in the girls section.

MAVIS

Look, this one is just fine!

ELAINE

Mom, it doesn't have that many gears...let's keep looking.

Shannon runs up to her mom (Elaine).

SHANNON  
Mommy, I like that one.

She points to a yellow bicycle that is behind them.

ELAINE  
(sighs) Okay, let's check it out.

MAVIS  
Where are the helmets and knee pads? I need to go and find someone.

Mavis walks up to the front desk.  
A man has his back to her stacking shelves.

MAVIS  
Excuse me, where are the helmets and knee pads?

The man turns around....it is BARRY!

BARRY  
They're further down that aisle, ma'am and to the right.

MAVIS  
Okay, thank you.

Mavis turns to walk away...

BARRY  
I couldn't help but notice you and your daughter arguing over the bikes (kindly and lightheartedly).

Mavis chuckles and tucks her hair behind her ear.

MAVIS

Oh (chuckles) sorry about that...we're trying to get a bike for my granddaughter...she just had a birthday.

BARRY

That's sweet.

MAVIS

I was in here the other day, and I didn't see you here...

Barry interrupts.

BARRY

Oh, I just moved down here from Philadelphia.

MAVIS

Wow, the east coast...How do you like California?

BARRY

Oh, I really like it out here.

MAVIS

That's good.

BARRY

Your daughter reminds me so much of my daughter....beautiful...just like her mother. (smiles)

Mavis smiles back at Barry...and tucks her hair behind her other ear.

FADE TO BLACK.

