

CHANCE MEETINGS

by

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FADE IN:

EXT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

Los Angeles - 1983

DETECTIVE JAMES PHILLIPS, 48 is sitting at his desk looking over papers. He takes a sip of coffee from a coffee mug. He almost spits the coffee back up.

JAMES
Man this is cold.

The phone rings and he sets the coffee mug back on the desk and answers the phone.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Detective Phillips...Hi honey.

A smile comes across his face as he glances at a picture of his wife and son.

JAMES (CONT'D)
That sounds good. I'm finishing up here and I will be home in about an hour...Okay, bye..I love you too.

He hangs up the phone and goes back to looking over the papers on his desk.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

James cuts out the lights and then closes the door to his office. He waves at one of the Police Officers sitting at a cubicle then walks to the office next to his and knocks on the open door.

DETECTIVE BRIAN OLIVER, 54 is sitting behind the desk. James walks into the office and stands in front of the desk.

BRIAN
You ready to go?

JAMES
I came to tell you I can't go tonight. Leslie just called and she wants to go over her Sisters and have a couple of drinks with her and her husband.

BRIAN

I guess I'll be drinking alone
tonight.

JAMES

I told you, we need to get you a
Wife. Leslie's friend Debra would
be...

BRIAN

(smiling)

No, no, no. Thanks Mr. Matchmaker
but no thanks. The last date you
set me up on was a disaster.

JAMES

You sure?

BRIAN

I'm sure. I had my one great love
and when she died...well.

JAMES

I understand. I will see you
tomorrow Brian.

BRIAN

Goodnight James.

James walks out of the office and Brian sits back in his chair and takes a deep breath.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

James walks up to Police Officer Miller whose sitting at the front desk.

JAMES

Officer Miller.

MILLER

How's it going Detective Phillips?

JAMES

Did you catch that game on Sunday?

MILLER

The Raiders vs. the Dolphins?

JAMES

That's the one.

MILLER

I was screaming at the TV when he fumbled on that last drive.

JAMES

(smiling)

I know. I was like..

They're both distracted when the front door of the Police Station opens up. A white male walks through the door with the care free look of a messenger on his face. His name is PAUL MANSFIELD, 33. He walks up to James and Officer Miller.

MILLER

Can we help you?

PAUL

Yes, I would like to turn myself in.

JAMES

Turn yourself in, for what?

PAUL

I killed Nicki Powers.

JAMES

(surprised)

You did what?

PAUL

I just killed her Detective.

James pulls out his gun and aims it at Paul.

JAMES

Put your hands on the desk now!

Paul puts his hands on the desk and James pats him down and puts him in cuffs.

JAMES (CONT'D)

(to Miller)

I'll take him back.

James takes Paul away.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

James is sitting in an interrogation room with Paul. They are sitting across from each other at a table.

JAMES

Frankly, I have a hard time
believing you. You're just so calm
and you don't seem bothered.

PAUL

Nicki was my best friend and I
know she would understand why I
had to kill her. I will always
love Nicki.

JAMES

It sounds like this is someone you
were obsessed with. Was this Nicki
your girlfriend?

Paul laughs.

JAMES (CONT'D)

What's so funny?

PAUL

Nicki always laughed when people
would mistake me as her boyfriend.
Nicki was very beautiful and she
had the prettiest smile in the
world, but I'm gay Detective.

JAMES

What was your relationship with
Nicki?

PAUL

I was her slave.

JAMES

Slave?

PAUL

We lived a S&M lifestyle and I
love to wait on and serve Nicki in
every way. (gets upset) When she
started bringing her boyfriends
around though, she made me wait on
them too and I hated it!

Paul slams his hand on the desk.

JAMES

Calm down Paul, just calm down.

There's a knock on the door and James gets up and walks to
the door. He opens it and sees Brian. He leaves the room----

----and Brian is standing in the hallway outside of the interrogation room. Brian opens up a folder and shows it to James. James closes the door to the interrogation room.

JAMES
What have you learned?

BRIAN
Well, it's confirmed, his name is Paul Mansfield. He's 33 years old. He's been in rehab for drugs and he was diagnosed with schizophrenia.

JAMES
So this could be something he made up?

BRIAN
It could be.

JAMES
Let's go by the apartment and check out his story.

James closes the door and James and Brian walk off.

EXT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

James and Brian drive into an apartment complex and park.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

James and Brian walk into an apartment. The lights are on and the apartment is very clean with boxes in the living room like they were getting ready to move.

BRIAN
It doesn't look like there was a struggle here.

James and Brian put on rubber gloves and they walk to different rooms in the apartment. James is looking around the kitchen. He's looking through cupboards and drawers.

BRIAN (O.S.)
James, come in here!

James walks towards Brian's voice and opens up a door to the wrong room.

BRIAN (O.S.)
I'm in the back room.

James walks to the back room and he's met by a horrible sight. A female is lying face up on the bed and she's covered in blood. There's blood on the bed, headboard and walls. Lying next to her is a bloody wooden bat.

JAMES
(looking around)
Oh my God.

James walks up to the bed and checks for any signs of life. He closes here eyes when he doesn't find any.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Go and radio it in and I will
continue looking around the
apartment.

Brian walks out of the room and James begins examining the room. He looks around the bed and then he remembers something.

He leaves the room---

---and walks back to the room that he first walked into. The room is dark but it's illuminated by the moonlight.

JAMES (CONT'D)
(to himself)
He was obsessed with her.

He walks over to a lamp next to the bed and turns on the light. The devotion Paul gave to Nicki is on full display. His wall above his bed is covered with different pictures of Nicki.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Paul is sitting in the interrogation room drinking a pop. James walks into the room and sits down.

JAMES
I thought you said you loved
Nicki.

PAUL
I do love Nicki.

JAMES
How can you do this to someone
that you love?

James lays out the pictures of a bloody Nicki lying on the bed. Paul looks at them, takes a sip of his drink and stares coldly at James.

PAUL
You just don't understand
Detective. Nicki crossed the line
and you can't do that in our
lifestyle.

Paul starts to cry.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Nicki was like a mother to me and
she promised never to abuse my
gift to her.

JAMES
(confused)
What gift?

PAUL
The gift of submission. I was
there to serve her, not the men
she dated.

James reaches in his pocket and sets a small tape recorder on the table.

JAMES
Start from the beginning and tell
me what happened.

James pushes record on the tape recorder.

PAUL
(wipes his eyes)
Nicki was a very beautiful girl.
She had the prettiest smile in the
room. I just loved it when she
would smile at me. Nicki told me
she came to L.A. to be a model.

INT. LOS ANGELES - 1968 - DAY

NICKI POWERS, 18 and very beautiful and blonde with a smile that will light up any room gets off of a Greyhound Bus. She looks around and smiles, then walks off.

PAUL (V.O.)

Nicki told me how happy she was to be in L.A. and she could smell the opportunity.

INT. MONTAGE OF NICKI MODELING - DAY

Nicki is taking sexy modeling pictures.

PAUL (V.O.)

She said she tried to get modeling gigs but she couldn't find anything steady. I would have hired her in a heartbeat. She had perfect skin and eyes that could melt your heart.

EXT. CHURCH - DAY

Nicki is walking out of a Church with an older man named ED ROBERTS, 40 and they just got Married. People are throwing rice and congratulating them as they walk to the parked Limo in front of the Church.

PAUL (V.O.)

She needed security and she found it with Ed. They got married, but Nicki told me she knew it wouldn't last.

INT. NICKI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Nicki and Ed are sitting on the couch in their apartment. Ed is reading the newspaper while Nicki smokes her cigarette.

NICKI

So, you want to go and get something to eat?

JAMES

I can't today honey. I'm going golfing with some friends in about an hour. You go ahead and go.

NICKI

Okay, see you tonight.

ED

Have fun honey.

Nicki leaves the room and Ed continues reading his newspaper.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Nicki is sitting at a table in the restaurant eating her food.

PAUL (V.O.)

Nicki was bored. She was looking for some excitement and she told me Ed seemed opposed to having fun or doing anything that could spice up their marriage. Things were about to change though and she was about to meet the man that would change her life.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Nicki walks out of the restaurant and stops in her tracks.

NICKI

(to herself)

I forgot my purse.

Nicki walks back into the restaurant to grab her purse that's still on the seat in the booth she was sitting at.

PAUL (V.O.)

Just think. This one moment changed her entire life. If she didn't forget her purse she would have never met him.

She walks out of the restaurant with her purse and she lights up a cigarette. She starts to walk off.

MALE (O.S.)

Excuse me, can I talk to you for a minute.

She turns around and a ruggedly handsome, older man is standing there. His name is FRED BENSON, 52.

NICKI

How can I help you?

FRED

Let me introduce myself. My name is Fred Benson.

They shake hands.

NICKI

Nice to meet you Fred. My name is Nicki.

FRED

This might seem odd, but I just had to tell you that your beauty stopped me in my tracks.

NICKI

(smiling)

Well, thank you.

FRED

Are you a model or an actress?

NICKI

Well I tried to get into modeling but I put that on hold for now.

FRED

Why would you do that?

NICKI

It was just a lot of competition and I couldn't get any steady work.

FRED

I can fix that for you. I have all the connections that you will need.

NICKI

I don't know, everybody is full of promises out here.

FRED

I'm just a wealthy guy that has a successful business and I want to help out a beautiful girl with her dreams. Here, take this.

He reaches in his pocket and pulls out a business card. He hands it to her and then he pulls out a checkbook and starts writing on it.

NICKI

(surprised)

What are you doing?

FRED
Here you go.

He tears a check out of the checkbook and hands it to her.

NICKI
(looking at the
check)
Eight thousand dollars? I think
you have the wrong idea here, I'm
married.

She tries to hand him the check back.

FRED
(holding up his
hand)
No, it's nothing like that.
There's no strings attached. This
is for you and if you want to call
me then that's your choice.

She puts the check in her purse.

FRED (CONT'D)
Thank you for making my day Nicki.

He kisses her on the hand and then walks off. Nicki is standing there surprised and she grabs the check from out of her purse and looks at it while smiling and looking up at Fred as he walks away.

PAUL (V.O.)
She told me that she couldn't
believe that someone would do
that.

Nicki puts the check back into her purse and walks off.

INT. NICKI'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nicki is looking through some old newspapers on the kitchen table.

PAUL (V.O.)
When she read his card she saw he
worked at Benson's Department
store. She remembered seeing an
article in one of Ed's old
newspapers about Benson's. She was
lucky that Ed was a pack rat and
it took him about a month to throw
(MORE)

PAUL (cont'd)
out old newspapers.

NICKI
(to herself)
Here it is.

A picture with Fred Benson and another woman accompanies the article. The caption reads: Fred Benson multi-millionaire and heir to Benson Department stores and his wife Maggie Benson.

PAUL (V.O.)
When she saw that he was married,
she thought that maybe he just
wanted to help her out.

INT. NICKI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Nicki is sitting on the couch smoking a cigarette. She sets the cigarette in the ashtray and picks up the phone. She looks at the business card Fred gave her and dials the number on the card.

NICKI
Hello, can I speak to Fred
Benson...Tell him it's Nicki
Powers..Thank you...Hi Fred, it's
Nicki, I hope I didn't catch you
at a bad time.

INT. FRED'S OFFICE - DAY

Fred is sitting in his office behind his desk.

INTERCUT SCENES

FRED
Not at all. I was hoping that you
would call.

NICKI
I wanted to thank you for the
money. I'm also hoping that you
can help me with my modeling
career, if that offer is still on
the table.

FRED
Of course it is. Maybe we can meet
at that restaurant where I met
you. How does Thursday at two
(MORE)

FRED (cont'd)
o'clock sound?

NICKI
That would be great.

FRED
I will see you Thursday and thanks
for calling Nicki.

NICKI
I will see you Thursday.

Nicki hangs up the phone and a big smile comes across her face.

PAUL (V.O.)
She told me that she was thrilled
to get out of her boring routine
with Ed. She wanted to look her
best and hopefully get her
modeling career started.

INT. NICKI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Nicki is looking through her closet and she picks out a flowered dress and throws it on the bed. She grabs a pretty white hat and puts it on. She smiles as she looks at the mirror.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Nicki is sitting in a booth in the restaurant by herself. She has on the pretty flowered dress and the white hat. She looks at her watch and she looks around.

NICKI
(to herself)
I knew it was too good to be true.

She gets up and walks out of the restaurant.

EXT. STREET - DAY

Nicki is on a pay phone and she's dialing the number on the card.

NICKI
(upset)
Can I speak to Fred Benson...This
is Nicki Powers..I'll hold.

INT. FRED'S OFFICE - DAY

Fred is sitting behind his desk and picks up the phone.

INTERCUT SCENES

FRED
Nicki, I tried to reach you at
home to tell you that there's been
a change of plans.

NICKI
What happened?

FRED
Something important came up at
work and I'm so sorry. Instead of
meeting at the restaurant, could
you meet me at my house in
Hollywood Hills in about 30
minutes?

NICKI
I guess I can do that.

FRED
Great, write down this address.

NICKI
Hold up, let me get a pen.

She grabs a pen from out of her purse.

NICKI (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm ready.

She rights down the address.

NICKI (CONT'D)
I got it.

FRED
I will see you there.

NICKI
Okay..Bye.

She hangs up the phone and looks at her watch then walks off.

EXT. FRED'S HOUSE - DAY

Nicki is driving slowly and she's looking at addresses. The Houses are beautiful and you can almost smell the money with the expensive cars in some of the driveways. She almost passes a house then stops.

NICKI
(to herself)
This is it.

She backs up and pulls into the driveway behind a Benz and a Jaguar.

She gets out of the car and then looks at herself in the car window. She admires the house and the cars as she walks to the front door. She rings the doorbell and when the door opens up she's greeted by a surprise.

A pretty female dressed in a sexy leather outfit. The kind of outfit you might see in an S&M video.

NICKI
(shocked)
Umm, I must have the wrong house.

FEMALE
You're here to see Fred Benson
right?

NICKI
Yes.

FEMALE
Come on in. He's been expecting
you.

INT. FRED'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Nicki walks in and the female closes the door.

FEMALE (CONT'D)
Follow me.

Nicki follows the leather clad female and looks around as she's led into another room. She's even more surprised to see two more sexy females walking around and Fred sitting in a chair.

She walks over to Fred and he stands up to greet her.

FRED
I'm so glad you made it Nicki.

He tries to give her a hug but she pulls away.

NICKI
(upset)
What's going on Fred? I told you
I'm married and I thought this was
legit.

FRED
Please, have a seat. I will
explain this to you and if you
don't like what you hear then you
can leave.

Nicki sits down on the sofa and Fred sits down next to her.

FRED (CONT'D)
I wanted to be upfront with you. I
also have a wife and another home
where I live with her. This is
also my life. I come here and I
live what I call the game but most
people call it S&M. Do you know
what that is?

NICKI
I think so, but what does this
have to do with me?

FRED
I want you to be my mistress. You
will be like my second wife and I
will give you everything your
heart desires.

NICKI
But I'm not into anything like
this, and I'm married Fred.

FRED
I know, but will you at least come
with me to get a better idea of
what I'm talking about?

NICKI
I don't think so.

Fred stands up.

FRED
(sticks out his
hand)

Just trust me and if you begin to
feel uncomfortable you can just
leave.

Nicki looks at his hand and then she grabs his hand and
stands up.

FRED (CONT'D)
(smiling)
Let's go.

Nicki follows him to a back room.

PAUL (V.O.)
Nicki told me that she was nervous
but very curious to see what was
next.

They walk into a room and there's two more women lying on
the bed dressed in sexy leather outfits. Nicki stands by the
door as Fred walks towards the bed.

FRED
(to one of the
females)
Tie her up.

The females get off of the bed and one of the females grabs
some rope and ties the other female to a metal bar that's
hanging down from the ceiling.

Fred then grabs some rope and ties up the other female. He
then takes off his belt and begins to spank the females with
it. Nicki watches and sometimes winces as the females
scream.

PAUL (V.O.)
She said that she wanted to run
out of the room but she was
frozen. She said it was like a car
accident and she just couldn't
look away.

Fred then looks over at Nicki.

FRED
I want you to do me a favor.

NICKI
(nervous)
What do you want me to do?

FRED
I want you to take off your
clothes and then sit on the bed.

Nicki pauses for a second and then she takes off her hat and sets it on a chair.

She then takes off her dress and she has on a bra and panties. Fred can't take his eyes off of her beautiful body. She walks to the bed and sits down on the edge of the bed.

Fred sits down next to her.

FRED
(showing her the
belt)
You will never get this Nicki. You will be my number one mistress and slave. You're above them (pointing at the two females). You will be above everyone in this house and I will shower you with the finest things that life has to offer.

He sets the belt down on the bed and gives her a passionate kiss.

FRED (CONT'D)
Now lie down across my lap and lay
on your stomach.

She lays down across his lap. He then begins to spank her on her butt with his hand. Sometimes she winces and sometimes she lets out a gasp.

He then sits her up on the bed and he starts to kiss her passionately. She takes off her bra and reveals her beautiful breasts. He lays her down on the bed and makes passionately love to her while the other girls watch.

PAUL (V.O.)
Nicki told me this was the first time she had an orgasm. She said she was turned on by his power and control and she knew from that point on that she belonged to him.

INT. NICKI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Nicki is sitting on the couch and Ed is standing up and pacing the floor.

PAUL (V.O.)

She said that Ed noticed a change
in her but she didn't care.

ED

What's going on Nicki? You're gone
all the time and you're never here
when I need you.

NICKI

It's not like you were there for
me when I needed you.

ED

I'm always here Nicki.

NICKI

You just don't have a clue Ed. Why
don't you go and play golf with
your friends.

Nicki stands up and walks out of the room.

ED

Nicki come back here. I'm not
finished talking to you!

INT. FRED'S HOUSE - DAY

Fred and Nicki are having sex while other women look on.

PAUL (V.O.)

They continued their sessions and
Nicki gave herself over to him
whenever and however he wanted her
to. She said they were into
bondage.

INT. FRED'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Nicki hands are tied up to the bed as they're having sex.

INT. FRED'S HOUSE - EVENING

Nicki walks into the bedroom in a sexy nurses outfit while Fred is lying on the bed.

PAUL (V.O.)
They were also into role play.

Nicki gets up on the bed on his side and bends over and starts to kiss his chest. Her butt and sexy panties sneaks out of the short nurses outfit that she has on. She puts the stethoscope over his heart.

NICKI
(smiling)
Oh my, it's sounds like something has your heart racing.

He slaps her on the butt.

FRED
You're so fucking sexy.

She straddles him and they start to kiss passionately.

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Nicki and Fred are sitting in a booth at a restaurant with plates of food in front of them.

NICKI
(looking around)
So, you don't have any worries about getting caught?

FRED
Not really. Maggie doesn't have many friends and the few friends that she does have, don't really hang out on this side of town.

NICKI
Okay, so her friends are the snobby types?

FRED
Kind of. Plus, we're just eating together. As long as we're not all over each other in public, people wouldn't know who you were. We could be related.

NICKI
(smiling)
We can say we're father and
daughter.

Fred laughs.

FRED
I think it would be better if we
say we're cousins. I don't want to
get to incestuous.

They both laugh.

INT. FRED'S HOUSE - DAY

Fred is sitting on the edge of the bed and Nicki is kneeling down in front of him while putting lotion on his legs and feet.

FRED
You know what, I think it's time.

NICKI
Time for what?

FRED
It's time for you to leave your
husband. I'm tired of this
sneaking around.

NICKI
Are you going to leave your wife?

FRED
No, but you know that you belong
to me and I want you totally and
unconditionally.

NICKI
I don't know how I'm going to tell
him.

FRED
Don't worry about that, I will
tell him.

NICKI
Okay.

Fred gives her a kiss.

FRED

Now I want you to take care of me.

NICKI

Okay.

Fred lays back on the bed. He lets out a sigh then closes his eyes.

FRED

That's it Nicki, that's my girl.

INT. NICKI'S APARTMENT - DAY

Ed is sitting on the couch next to Nicki. She's smoking a cigarette.

ED

Who are we waiting on?

NICKI

Just be patient.

Seconds later the phone rings. Ed answers it.

ED

Hello...Who is this?

INT. FRED'S OFFICE - DAY

Fred is sitting at his desk in his office on the phone.

INTERCUT SCENES

FRED

My name is Fred and I know Nicki.

ED

How do you know Nicki?

FRED

We have been having an affair over
the past six months.

Ed stands up.

ED

(upset)

What? How dare you call me like
this?

FRED

Just calm down Ed. I have a
business proposition for you.

ED

(confused)

What type of proposition?

FRED

Nicki belongs to me now, and..

ED

(interrupting)

Belongs to you? She's not your
property.

FRED

That's not important right now.
What is important, is I will offer
you 25,000 dollars to divorce
Nicki. You can use the money in
any way you wish to.

ED

Sorry, but I'm not for sale and
neither is Nicki.

Ed hangs up the phone and turns his anger towards Nicki.

ED (CONT'D)

(upset)

Who is this guy Nicki and why is
he calling me?

Nicki stands up.

NICKI

You heard him Ed, it's over
between me and you. I suggest you
take the money and start over.

ED

How can you do this to me Nicki?

NICKI

This is life and sometimes things
change. I belong to him and I..

JAMES

(interrupting)

Belong to him? He said the same
thing. What, are you his property?

NICKI

Yes Ed, I am. I don't expect you to understand and frankly I don't care. Like I said, take the money and move on because it's over.

Nicki starts to walk out of the room.

ED

Please Nicki lets talk about this.

Nicki walks out of the room and Ed flops down on the couch. He puts his head in his hands and shakes his head in despair.

INT. LAWYERS OFFICE - DAY

Ed and Nicki are sitting at a conference table signing papers in a Lawyers office. Attorney MARK CLINTON, 58 is sitting there with them.

MARK

Are we finished?

NICKI

Yes.

Nicki slides Mark the papers she was signing and then Ed does the same. Mark looks over the papers.

MARK

Well, we're all done here.

Mark hands Ed a check.

NICKI

Goodbye Ed.

Nicki gets up and Ed watches her as she leaves the room. He then folds the check in half and puts it in his suit jacket pocket.

INT. POLICE STATION - MORNING

James and Paul are sitting in the interrogation room at a table across from each other. James stops the tape recorder.

JAMES

This has went into the early morning, so we will stop right here.

PAUL
Okay Detective.

James stands up and walks to the door. He knocks on the door. A Police Officer walks in.

JAMES
You can take him to his cell.

OFFICER
Okay.

The Officer walks over to Paul and puts him in handcuffs. They then start to leave the room.

JAMES
We will continue you this later.

PAUL
You know, I'm really starting to miss Nicki.

JAMES
Take him away.

They walk out and James shakes his head. James yawn and stretches. He looks at his watch.

JAMES (CONT'D)
(to himself)
I have to get some sleep.

He leaves the room.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - MORNING

James walks into his house and walks to the kitchen. His son SONNY PHILLIPS, 12 is sitting at the table eating breakfast.

SONNY
Good morning Dad.

JAMES
Good morning Sonny.

James walks up to Sonny and kisses him on the top of the head and sits down at the table.

SONNY
Have you been up all night?

JAMES

Yep, a big case came in.

SONNY

I scored 2 touchdowns at practice
yesterday.

JAMES

(smiling)

Sonny, that's great. Are you guys
ready for the big game?

SONNY

Yep, we're ready. I think we're
going to win this championship.

JAMES

I hope so.

His wife, LESLIE PHILLIPS, 43 walks into the room.

LESLIE

I see you finally made it home.

JAMES

Yep and I'm beat. Tell Sharon I'm
sorry we couldn't make it last
night.

LESLIE

Oh, don't worry about that, she
understands.

She turns to Sonny.

LESLIE (CONT'D)

Are you ready to go to school?

SONNY

I'm ready.

Sonny gets up from the table.

LESLIE

I will fix you some breakfast when
I get back.

JAMES

Don't worry about it honey. I will
just fix me some cereal and then
I'm going to bed.

LESLIE

Okay, I will see you later.

JAMES

Okay.

SONNY

Bye Dad.

JAMES

Have a good day Sonny.

Leslie and Sonny leave the room and James stands up and goes to the counter to grab a box of cereal.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - DAY

James and Brian are sitting on the living room couch. They have papers laid out across the table in front of them. Brian takes a sip of his drink.

JAMES

I'm telling you, I have never seen anything like this.

BRIAN

I know, and sometimes the truth can be stranger than fiction.

JAMES

He actually said he misses her and less than 24 hours earlier he bludgeoned her with a bat.

Leslie walks into the room and walks up to the table.

LESLIE

Can I get you guys anything?

BRIAN

I'm fine, thank you.

JAMES

I can use a refill.

Leslie grabs his empty glass from off of the table.

JAMES (CONT'D)

Thanks Honey.

LESLIE

Your welcome.

Leslie walks over to the bar and starts to fix his drink.

LESLIE (CONT'D)
You know, this story was big news.

BRIAN
What story?

LESLIE
The one you're working on. That girl Nicki Powers tried to take the Benson family to court.

JAMES
Really, what happened?

Leslie walks back over to the table and sets his drink on the table.

LESLIE
It was a big scandal and all over the news. I'm surprised you guys didn't hear about this. She said that...

Her story is interrupted when the doorbell rings.

LESLIE (CONT'D)
Oh, I forgot, Debra is coming over to look at the attic.

Leslie walks off to answer the door.

BRIAN
Did you set this up?

JAMES
This isn't me.

BRIAN
James, is this one of your matchmaking schemes?

JAMES
I swear, I didn't know she was coming over.

Leslie and the beautiful DEBRA THOMAS, 46 walk into the room. Brian and James stand up.

JAMES
Hi Debra.

They hug each other.

DEBRA

Hi James.

JAMES

(pointing)

This is my partner, Brian Oliver.

Brian and Debra shake hands.

DEBRA

Nice to meet you.

BRIAN

You too.

James and Brian sit down.

LESLIE

Deb is going to look at the attic
and decorate it for us.

BRIAN

(to Debra)

Is that what you do?

DEBRA

Yes, I'm an Interior Decorator.

JAMES

Let's just keep it modest.

LESLIE

(smiling)

Is that your codeword for cheap?

Everyone laughs.

JAMES

(smiling)

You picked up on the translation
honey.

LESLIE

(smiling)

You're so silly. (she turns to
Debra) Let's go and check out the
attic.

Leslie and Debra walk out of the room and Brian is staring
at Debra walking away.

BRIAN
She's very good looking.

JAMES
(smiling)
I told you. Do you want me to set something up?

BRIAN
Yeah, see what you can do.

JAMES
(smiling)
The matchmaker is back in business.

BRIAN
(smiling)
Don't get happy.

They laugh.

JAMES
On a serious note, we need to see if someone knew Paul was schizophrenic and they were setting him up.

BRIAN
You're thinking about the lawsuit?

JAMES
Yep. We need to take a closer look at the Benson family.

BRIAN
I agree.

JAMES
Are you ready to head back to the station?

BRIAN
Let's go.

James finishes his drink and they start gathering papers on the table.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

James is sitting at a table in the interrogation room. A Police Officer opens the door and escorts a handcuffed Paul

into the room. He sits him down across from James and takes off the handcuffs.

JAMES
Thank you Officer.

The Police Officer leaves the room and closes the door.

PAUL
Did you get some rest Detective?

JAMES
I'm fine and you?

PAUL
I'm glad you asked. I had this crazy dream. I was driving down this empty road and I couldn't find another person. I just kept driving on this empty road looking for another person and I was all alone. It was very disturbing.
What did you dream about Detective?

JAMES
Paul, we're not here to talk about dreams.

He sets the tape recorder on the table.

JAMES (CONT'D)
Let's finish where we left off.

PAUL
Can I at least have a cigarette?

JAMES
Sure.

James takes a pack of cigarettes out of his pocket and Paul grabs one from out of the pack. He puts it in his mouth and James lights it with a lighter. Paul takes a puff of the cigarette.

PAUL
Now, where was I.

JAMES
Nicki and Ed get a divorce.

PAUL

Oh yeah. After the divorce, things
were great for Nicki.

INT. NICKI'S CONDO - DAY

Nicki is sitting on the couch on the phone in the living room of a very nice condo.

PAUL (V.O.)

Fred put her up in an expensive condo.

EXT. CAR - DAY

Nicki is driving in a Jaguar.

PAUL (V.O.)

He bought her a Jaguar to drive.

INT. STORE - DAY

Nicki is shopping in a store.

PAUL (V.O.)

And he would give her five and ten thousand dollars at a time to go shopping.

INT. FRED'S HOUSE - DAY

Fred is spanking three females with his belt who are tied up on the pole hanging from the ceiling as Nicki sits on the bed in her bra and panties and watches.

PAUL (V.O.)

Nicki loved being in submission to Fred. She thought he was so powerful and in control. One day though, he really crossed the line.

Fred finishes spanking the females and walks over to Nicki with his belt in hand. She getting ready for a passionate session of sex but Fred takes the belt and begins to spank Nicki with it.

NICKI
(covers up)
Fred, what are you doing!

Nicki lies on the bed and starts crying and screaming but Fred seems like he's in another world and he hears nothing. He just continues to spank her with the belt.

NICKI (CONT'D)
(crying)
Fred you promised me...please stop it!

Fred finally snaps out of it. He looks at Nicki crying on the bed and then he realizes what he has done. He drops the belt on the ground and hops on the bed and hugs Nicki.

FRED
I'm so sorry baby. I didn't mean to do this. Please forgive me.

NICKI
(shrugs him off)
You hurt me Fred. I thought I was special.

FRED
You are special Nicki. I love you.

He goes to hug her and she slaps his hand away.

NICKI
Don't you touch me..! Don't ever touch me again!

Nicki gets out of the bed and runs out of the room.

FRED
Nicki, I'm sorry!...Damn.

Fred puts his head in his hands and shakes his head in disgust.

EXT. BUS STOP - DAY

Nicki is sitting at a bus stop with a suitcase.

PAUL (V.O.)
Nicki was very upset and she was ready to go home and leave everything behind. She said Fred made her feel cheap and she hated the feeling. She always felt
(MORE)

PAUL (cont'd)
special and she thought she was
different than the other girls.

A Limo pulls up to the bus stop and the Limo door opens up
and Fred is sitting in the back of the Limo.

FRED
Please Nicki, talk to me. It's
been a week now and I'm really
sorry. I don't want you to go.

Nicki looks away.

FRED (CONT'D)
(begging)
Just talk to me and if you want to
leave after we talk I will not try
to stop you. Please, just get into
the Limo.

Nicki thinks about it, then she stands up, grabs her
suitcase and gets into the Limo. The door closes and the
Limo pulls off.

INT. LIMO - DAY

Fred and Nicki are sitting in the back of the Limo.

NICKI
(upset)
Fred, you really hurt me. You made
me feel cheap and used.

FRED
I know honey and I'm so sorry. I
can't sleep or eat without you in
my life. Please stay and I promise
that it will never happen again.

NICKI
I will give you everything Fred
and please you in any way that you
want, but I have to feel a certain
way in this relationship and if
you ever do this again, it will be
over for good. Do you understand?

FRED
I understand completely and I
swear, it will never happen again.

NICKI
(smiling)
Promise.

FRED
(smiling)
I promise.

NICKI
(smiling)
Cross your heart and hope to die.

Fred crosses his heart with his finger.

FRED
(smiling)
Cross my heart and hope to die.

They kiss passionately.

FRED (CONT'D)
I've missed you.

NICKI
I've missed you too.

They kiss passionately and her body language shows she's happy to be back in his control.

EXT. BAHAMAS - DAY

Fred is sitting in a lounge chair on the beach. He's watching Nicki play around near the water in her bathing suit.

PAUL (V.O.)
They got back together and he never hit her with a belt again.
They even went on vacation together to the Bahamas.

She runs up to Fred.

NICKI
(smiling)
This place is so beautiful. Thank you for bringing me here.

She gives him a kiss.

FRED
Anything for you baby.

NICKI
I want you to get into the water
with me.

FRED
(shaking head)
No, no, I will watch you from
here.

NICKI
Come on Fred, please.

She leans in and gets close to his face.

NICKI (CONT'D)
After our swim, we can then go
upstairs and have our kind of fun.

He looks around at the other people on the beach then he
looks at Nicki.

FRED
(smiling)
What the hell.

He stands up and takes off his shirt. Nicki claps and
smiles.

NICKI
You just made my day.

FRED
Well let's go.

Fred and Nicki run into the water and splash each other.

EXT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Fred and Nicki are leaving the restaurant and they stop and
kiss.

PAUL (V.O.)
They were really enjoying each
other but they were walking around
together like Fred wasn't married.

A woman named AGNES, 45 is walking out of a store with a
female friend and she stops when she notices Fred and Nicki
kissing. She taps the shoulder of the female that's with
her.

AGNES
(pointing)
Is that Fred Benson?

Fred and Nicki get into the Limo.

FEMALE
That's him.

AGNES
Maggie isn't going to like this.

Agnes and the female walk off.

INT. FRED'S MANSION - DAY

MAGGIE BENSON, 48, a pretty woman with a conservative look is watching TV on the couch when the doorbell rings. She gets up to answer the door.

INT. FRED'S MANSION - DAY

Maggie looks out of the peephole on the door.

MAGGIE
(to herself)
Agnes.

She opens up the door with a smile.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)
Agnes, how are you doing?

They hug.

AGNES
(not smiling)
Hi Maggie, I just had to come and talk to you.

MAGGIE
What's wrong, you look so serious?

AGNES
Can I come in?

MAGGIE
Sure.

Agnes walks in and Maggie closes the door.

INT. FRED'S MANSION - DAY

Agnes and Maggie are sitting at the kitchen table with coffee cups in front of them.

MAGGIE

So, what's wrong Agnes?

Agnes takes a sip of her coffee.

AGNES

I saw Fred yesterday.

MAGGIE

Okay, and what did he say?

AGNES

Oh, he didn't say anything because he didn't see me.

MAGGIE

Where did you see him?

AGNES

At a restaurant. I hate to say this Maggie, but, I saw Fred kissing a younger blonde woman outside of the restaurant. I had to tell you.

MAGGIE

(shocked)

Oh my God...I'm so shocked...please Agnes, you can't tell anyone about this. I would be so embarrassed.

Agnes stands up and so does Maggie. She walks over to Maggie and hugs her.

AGNES

Oh honey, I won't tell anyone and I don't blame you if you decide to leave him.

MAGGIE

Thanks Agnes, you're such a good friend.

They sit back down at the kitchen table.

INT. FRED'S MANSION - NIGHT

Maggie is sitting on the couch with a drink in her hand. She sips her drink then she hears the door open up. Seconds later, Fred enters the room.

FRED

Hi honey, sorry I'm late.

Fred walks up and kisses her on the cheek.

MAGGIE

Sit down Fred.

FRED

(slowly sitting
down)

Okay...is there something wrong?

MAGGIE

Yes, there's something wrong.

She sets her drink on the table.

FRED

Well, what is it?

MAGGIE

Agnes paid me a visit today.

FRED

Okay, and why is that a problem?

MAGGIE

She saw you kissing some young
bimbo outside of a restaurant
today.

FRED

(surprised)

Maggie listen, I was...

MAGGIE

Fred, I don't want to hear your
lies. I just hated I had to act
like I was surprised in front of
Agnes.

FRED

I'm sorry Maggie.

MAGGIE

I don't mind your indiscretions as long as they remain discreet. Why are you running around in public with this girl? Do you care about her?

He doesn't answer.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

Well do you?

FRED

Yes, I do.

MAGGIE

Well, you need to end it with her tomorrow.

FRED

Maggie, I can't do that.

MAGGIE

Sure you can. If you don't, I will divorce you and then tell the world about your strange sexual fantasies. You will embarrass the kids and shame your families business. Is she worth all of that to you?

Fred just remains quiet and in that moment he realizes he has to break up with Nicki.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

I thought so.

Maggie finishes her drink and stands up.

MAGGIE (CONT'D)

(stern)

Tomorrow Fred.

She walks out of the room and Fred flops back on the couch and lets out a deep sigh. He then grabs the empty glass on the table and throws it in anger and it breaks against the wall.

INT. NICKI'S CONDO - DAY

The doorbell rings and Nicki swiftly enters the scene from the back room. She has on shorts and a t-shirt and has the

look of someone running late. She looks the the peephole and opens the door.

NICKI
(smiling)
Hi Fred.

FRED
Hi honey.

He walks in and they hug and kiss. She closes the door.

NICKI
I promise, I'm almost ready. It will just take me 10 minutes. Did you want something to drink while you wait?

FRED
Nicki, can we talk first?

NICKI
Sure we can. Is everything okay?

They walk over to the couch and sit down.

FRED
Sadly, everything isn't okay. A friend of the family named Agnes saw us kissing outside of the restaurant yesterday and she told Maggie about it.

NICKI
(surprised)
Oh no. What does this mean?

FRED
She wants me to break it off with you.

NICKI
Fred, you can't leave me. What will I do? You're everything to me.

She starts to cry.

FRED
(wipes her eyes)
I know Nicki and you're everything to me but she threatened to divorce me and bring shame to my families business. I can't do that
(MORE)

FRED (cont'd)
to my family. You understand don't you?

NICKI
Can't we go somewhere where it's just me and you? There has to be a way Fred.

FRED
Right now, I can only see one way and as much as this hurts me, we have to end our relationship.

NICKI
(begging)
Fred, Please don't do this to me.

FRED
I'm sorry Nicki. I will make sure I leave you with enough money to take care of yourself, but I have to end this today.

He stands up.

FRED (CONT'D)
Goodbye Nicki.

Fred walks towards the door and Nicki starts to cry.

NICKI
Fred, please don't leave
me...Fred!

He opens the door and leaves the condo. Nicki puts her head into a couch pillow and continues to cry.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

James and Paul are sitting across from each other in the interrogation room.

PAUL
Nicki was a mess after Fred left. She got married a couple of times but both marriages ended in divorce. She also developed a cocaine habit and she had spent most of the money Fred had left her. She ended up in rehab and that's where she met me. I'm sorry Detective, can we stop for a
(MORE)

PAUL (cont'd)
minute, I have to use the
bathroom.

JAMES
Okay.

James stops the tape. He walks to the door and opens it and he motions for a Police Officer. The Officer comes to the door.

OFFICER
What do you need Detective?

JAMES
(pointing)
He needs to go to the bathroom.

OFFICER
Okay.

The Officer walks into the room and escorts Paul to the bathroom.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - EVENING

Leslie and Debra are looking over an empty attic.

DEBRA
We have everything thing cleared
out and I want to put a little
nook right over there(pointing). I
also want to add a desk over
there(pointing). This can be like
a room where you can relax or
catch up on some reading.

LESLIE
(smiling)
I love it. I have been waiting to
do something with this room
because there's so much space.

DEBRA
I know and wait until you see the
wallpaper that I picked out.

LESLIE
I can't wait. Now, we need to talk
about some other things.

DEBRA
(smiling)
What other things?

LESLIE
(smiling)
Detective Brian Oliver? James told me that you and him are going on a date. Details please.

DEBRA
I have to be honest, I thought I would give him a call because he's James partner and then I would let him down easily, but our first conversation lasted 2 hours.

LESLIE
Really? That sounds good.

DEBRA
It was. We have a lot in common so I hope our dinner date goes as good as our conversations.

LESLIE
I hope so too. I think you guys look good together.

DEBRA
Well, I will call and tell you all about it.

LESLIE
That will be great. Now back to my attic.

They both laugh and Debra starts telling Leslie more about her plans for the attic.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

James is sitting across from Paul in the interrogation room.

JAMES
Go ahead and continue.

James pushes record on the tape recorder.

PAUL

Like I said, her cocaine habit led her to rehab and that's where I first saw that beautiful smile.

INT. REHAB - DAY

Paul is sitting by himself with his lunch in the cafeteria. There's about 10 other people in the room but it's like Paul is in the room by himself.

PAUL (V.O.)

I was a loner and I didn't say much to anyone. I liked it that way. But Nicki changed that.

FEMALE (O.S.)

Do you mind if I sit down?

Paul looks up and lays eyes on Nicki for the first time. She's standing there holding her lunch tray.

PAUL

(looking around)

Umm, sure, have a seat.

Nicki sits down.

NICKI

Do you always eat by yourself?

PAUL

Most of the time.

NICKI

Why, I'm Nicki by the way.

She sticks out her hand for him to shake it.

PAUL

I'm Paul.

He shakes her hand.

NICKI

So why?

PAUL

Why what?

NICKI

Why do you like to eat alone?
Isn't it the idea for us drug
addicts to socialize with each
other?

Nicki smiles and Paul is already coming out of his shell as he cracks a smile.

NICKI (CONT'D)

Hey, you have a nice smile.

PAUL

(smiling)

Thank you and to answer your question, I just haven't found anyone I want to talk to in here.

NICKI

(smiling)

Well today, that has changed.

Nicki starts to eat her food and Paul watches her and then eats his food.

PAUL (V.O.)

You know how some people just have an instant connection? That's what happened with me and Nicki. For the first time in my life, I felt comfortable.

INT. REHAB - DAY

Nicki and Paul are sitting on her bed at rehab.

PAUL

(smiling)

I got a surprise for you.

NICKI

Ooh, I like surprises. What is it?

Paul reaches in his pocket and pulls out some pink nail polish.

NICKI (CONT'D)

(grabbing the
bottle)

Nail polish, where did you get that?

PAUL
I stole it from one of the nurses.

NICKI
(smiling)
I really like you Paul.

PAUL
So give me the bottle so I can do
your nails.

NICKI
(hands him the
bottle)
Okay.

They get comfortable then she sticks out her right hand and Paul starts polishing her nails.

NICKI (CONT'D)
So tell me, when did you tell your
parents you were gay?

PAUL
I told my Mom first and she was
okay with it but when I told my
Dad, he disowned me and kicked me
out of the house at 15.

NICKI
Oh no, I bet your Mother was
devastated.

PAUL
She was. You know he didn't even
speak to me at her funeral. That's
when I started heavily using
heroin. I just couldn't stand
losing her. I was even diagnosed
with schizophrenia.

NICKI
Poor baby.

She kisses him on the cheek.

NICKI (CONT'D)
You're going to make me cry.

PAUL
We have to change the subject.
Tell me another story about Fred.

Paul waves his hand over her right hand drying her nails and then he starts to do the left hand.

NICKI

Okay, there was this one day where Fred did the sweetest thing. I woke up one morning and he wasn't there. So I walked around the house looking for him and he was in the kitchen cooking breakfast. Now, Fred never cooks anything, but he found out that it was my birthday and he was cooking me breakfast.

PAUL

Aww, that's so cute.

NICKI

I know. He told me to get back into bed and he brought me the breakfast on a tray and he sang happy birthday.

PAUL

How was the food?

NICKI

Horrible.

They laugh.

NICKI (CONT'D)

I couldn't tell him, it was just so cute. So, I just ate it like it was the best meal that I ever had.

PAUL

Fred sounds like a nice person.
Maybe I will meet him one day.

NICKI

Sadly, that will never happen. I think Fred is out of my life for good.

PAUL

That's fine because now, I'm in your life and I ain't going nowhere.

Paul waves his hand over her left hand and dries the nail polish as Nicki smiles at him.

INT. REHAB - DAY

Nicki and Paul are standing in front of Nurse Johnson's desk in her office and she's sitting at her desk.

PAUL (V.O.)
We laughed together and got in
trouble together.

NURSE JOHNSON
You know we don't allow nail
polish or anything else that can
be sniffed to try and get high in
this facility. So, who stole the
bottle from my desk?

NICKI
(pointing to Paul)
He did.

PAUL
(pointing to Nicki)
No I didn't, she did.

NICKI
What, I saw it near your bed.

PAUL
Nope, I saw you take it out of
your pocket.

NICKI
You're right, maybe I did take it.

PAUL
You can't admit to it, because I
took it.

They both laugh.

NURSE JOHNSON
Okay, okay, I get it. You're going
to protect each other and that's
fine. Just don't let it happen
again. You can go now.

NICKI
(waving, smiling)
Goodbye Nurse Johnson.

They start to walk out and Nicki hops onto Paul's back and he carries her out of the office. Nurse Johnson just watches them leave and shakes her head.

INT. REHAB - DAY

Nicki is lying on her bed looking through a magazine. Paul enters the room with a pop in his hand. He walks up to her bed.

PAUL
(opens the pop)
Here you go.

He hands her the can of pop.

NICKI
(sits up)
Thanks Paul.

She takes a sip of the pop and Paul sits down on the bed.

PAUL
Do you want a massage?

NICKI
Yeah, you can do my feet and legs.

PAUL
Okay.

She sets the pop on the floor next to the bed. They sit back on the bed and she puts her left leg across his lap. He starts to massage her calf and foot.

NICKI
That feels so good.

PAUL
I like waiting on you.

NICKI
I appreciate it.

PAUL
Listen Nicki, I have an idea.

NICKI
What is it?

PAUL
We will be leaving here soon and
I'm about to get a good job at my
cousins travel agency, so maybe,
we can live together.

NICKI
I don't know Paul.

PAUL
Here me out. I will be making good
money so you will not have to
worry about working. I can take
care of you and we will have so
much fun together. Please say yes.

Nicki shrugs her shoulders.

NICKI
Okay. Let's do it.

PAUL
(claps his hands)
Yay Nicki.

NICKI
(smiling)
You're so silly.

PAUL
Now, let me get back to these
feet.

He tickles her foot a little and she tries to move her foot
but he has a hold of it.

NICKI
(smiling)
Paul, don't do it, you know how
ticklish I am.

PAUL
You're ticklish? Let me see.

He starts tickling her foot and she starts laughing as she
tries to get away.

NICKI
(laughing)
Stop Paul!

Paul and Nicki are laughing on the bed and there's a knock
on the door. They stop and look up and Nurse Johnson is
standing there.

NURSE JOHNSON
Nicki, you have a visitor.

NICKI
Who is it?

INT. REHAB - DAY

Nicki can't believe her eyes. She's looking at Fred sitting at a table in the visitors room. She's looking through a window and he can't see her. Tears roll down her face and she wants to run into his arms. She regains her composure and wipes the tears from her eyes. She takes a deep breath and walks into the visitors room and to the table Fred is sitting at.

NICKI
Hi Fred.

Fred looks up.

FRED
Nicki, my baby.

Fred stands up and hugs her. She hesitates but it feels too good, so she hugs him back.

FRED (CONT'D)
I've missed you so much.

They sit down at the table.

NICKI
How did you find me?

FRED
It took awhile but when I found out you were here, I had to come and get you.

NICKI
Come and get me? Fred, I haven't seen or heard from you in almost 3 years.

FRED
I know baby, but things are better now. Maggie is back to her routines and she's less suspicious. We just have to be careful when we're out in the open.

NICKI

I don't think so Fred, I'm just
starting to handle being by
myself.

FRED

I have something for you.

NICKI

What is it?

He reaches into his jacket pocket and pulls out some keys.

FRED (CONT'D)

I got your old condo back.

He slides the keys across the table and sets them in front of her.

FRED (CONT'D)

I also got you a new car and I put thirty thousand dollars into a bank account in your name. I promise baby, things will be different this time. I will also have my Lawyer draw up papers to make sure you're taken care of in case anything happens to me. So, will you come back to me?

Nicki can't control her feelings anymore and she breaks down and cries. Fred moves his chair next to hers.

NICKI

Fred, I've missed you so much.

FRED

(wiping her tears)
I've missed you to Nicki.

NICKI

I can't handle it if you leave me again.

FRED

I'm not going anywhere, I promise.

They hug and kiss and it's like they're oblivious to anyone else in the room.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

James and Paul are sitting across from each other in the interrogation room.

PAUL

When she told me we weren't moving in together I was crushed. I understood it though because nobody could compete with Fred.

JAMES

Let me ask you a question, did you ever meet Fred Benson?

PAUL

Yes I did. When he came to rehab to pick up Nicki.

JAMES

Do you know if Nicki ever told him about you?

PAUL

Later on, she told me that she told him all about our time together in rehab. Why are you asking me this?

JAMES

Just curious. We will stop right here and continue this tomorrow.

PAUL

Okay.

James stops the tape recorder.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Brian is sitting at his desk in his office looking over papers. James comes into view at his door.

JAMES

Are you busy?

BRIAN

Not really, come on in.

James walks into his office and sits in a chair in front of Brian's desk.

JAMES

I think I got a lead on the case.

BRIAN

Okay, what you got?

JAMES

Paul said he met Fred Benson and that Nicki told him all about their stay at rehab. So maybe Fred and other members of the Benson family knew about his schizophrenia.

BRIAN

We need to pay a visit to Maggie Benson.

JAMES

We'll go by there tomorrow.

BRIAN

That sounds like a plan.

JAMES

So, you want to go and grab a drink?

BRIAN

Oh yeah, I can use one of those.

They stand up, Brian puts on his jacket and they leave.

EXT. FRED'S MANSION - DAY

James and Brian are sitting in their car outside of Fred's mansion.

JAMES

I hope this pans out.

BRIAN

Let's go and talk to her.

They get out of the car and walk towards the front door of the mansion. The door opens up as they approach it and Maggie is standing there.

MAGGIE

Detectives, I was surprised to get your call today. How can I help you?

JAMES

Thanks for seeing us Mrs. Benson.
We wanted to talk to you about
Nicki Powers.

MAGGIE

Nicki Powers? Why do you want to
talk to me about her?

BRIAN

You do know that she died, she was
killed?

MAGGIE

Yes, I heard, but again I ask, why
do you want to talk to me about
this?

JAMES

Well, we have a suspect in custody
but we need to look into
everything because that's our job.
We know that Nicki was having an
affair with your late husband and
we just wanted to know if we can
ask you a few questions?

MAGGIE

Look Detectives, you could have
saved yourself a trip if you were
coming out here to ask me
questions about Nicki Powers. I
have nothing to say on the matter
and if you have any questions, you
can go through my Attorney.

BRIAN

Just a couple of quest....

MAGGIE

(interrupting)

Goodbye Detectives.

She slams the door close.

JAMES

(sarcastic)

Well, that went well.

BRIAN

We'll know more when work from the
lab comes back.

They start to walk towards their car.

JAMES

(smiling)

I hope your date with Debra ends up better than this.

BRIAN

(smiling)

I hope so.

They laugh and get into their car.

EXT. JAMES HOUSE - DAY

James is watering his grass and Sonny is walking with a friend home from school. They stop in front of the house.

SONNY

Man, that guy acts like a girl.
He's just so weird.

FRIEND

(laughing)

I know, and I have some good jokes to say tomorrow. Maybe we will make him cry again.

SONNY

I can't wait. I will see you tomorrow.

They shake hands and Sonny's friend walks off and waives at James. James waives back. Sonny walks up to James.

SONNY

Hey Dad.

JAMES

You know Sonny, I'm disappointed in you.

SONNY

(surprised)

What did I do?

JAMES

I just heard your conversation.
Why are you teasing someone to the point where you make them cry?

SONNY

Because, he's so different and
everybody does it.

JAMES

I thought you were a leader.

SONNY

I am a leader.

JAMES

You don't sound like a leader to
me. You sound like you're
following everyone else and
teasing someone who you think is
different. Have you ever thought
about how he feels?

SONNY

No.

JAMES

Well, I want you to think about
how he feels and then tomorrow, I
want you to go to school and be a
leader and get the other kids to
ease up on him. Okay?

SONNY

Okay Dad.

JAMES

Now go to your room and do your
homework.

Sonny walks off and James continues watering the lawn.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

Brian and Debra are sitting across from each other at a
table in a restaurant.

BRIAN

That was good.

DEBRA

Yes, it was.

BRIAN

I really enjoyed your company
tonight.

DEBRA
You want to know something?

BRIAN
What?

DEBRA
I never planned to go out with you. I thought we would talk on the phone for a few minutes and that would be it.

BRIAN
Really, well what changed your mind?

DEBRA
You. I just really feel comfortable talking to you about anything. I usually don't feel that way about people so quickly.

BRIAN
It's funny you mentioned that, because James tried to set me up with you and I told him no.

DEBRA
Why?

BRIAN
He set me up on a blind date and I told him it didn't go to well but honestly, I have had a hard time moving on in the dating department after my wife died. This is the first time I have felt like, there could be a future between me and another woman.

DEBRA
(smiling)
Well, I'm glad you feel this way.

BRIAN
(smiling)
Me too.

A Waiter comes over to the table and fills their glasses with wine.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Thank you.

The Waiter walks off.

BRIAN (CONT'D)
Let's have a toast.

They pick up their glasses.

DEBRA
What do you want to toast to?

BRIAN
We'll toast to, chance meetings.

DEBRA
Okay, to chance meetings.

They toast there glasses and drink some wine.

DEBRA (CONT'D)
I like that.

BRIAN
Me too.

They finish drinking their wine.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

James and Paul are sitting across from each other in the interrogation room. Loud thunder crackles through the room and Paul jumps.

JAMES
Are you okay?

PAUL
I hate thunderstorms.

JAMES
Are you ready to continue?

PAUL
I'm ready.

James pushes record on the tape recorder.

PAUL (CONT'D)
I moved into an apartment and
started working for my cousin.
Nicki moved back into her condo
and she told me things were even
better than before.

INT. FRED'S HOUSE - DAY

Fred is hitting two girls that are tied to the pole with the belt as Nicki sits on the bed in her panties and underwear and watches.

PAUL (V.O.)

They were careful about being seen
in public and they continued their
sessions.

FRED

Come here for a second Nicki.

Nicki gets up and walks over to Fred. Fred turns away and coughs.

NICKI

Are you okay Fred?

FRED

I'll be fine.

NICKI

What do you want me to do?

FRED

(holding out the
belt)

I want you to spank them.

NICKI

(surprised)

Me, I can't do that.

FRED

Sure you can. Take the belt.

Nicki grabs the belt from Fred.

FRED (CONT'D)

(pointing)

Go ahead, spank them.

Nicki starts to hit them softly like she's scared to hit them to hard.

FRED (CONT'D)

Come on Nicki, you can hit harder
than that. They won't break.

NICKI
This is hard for me Fred. Let's just have sex.

She tries to give him the belt but he holds up his hands so she can't give it to him.

FRED
Nope, not until you do this right.

Nicki starts to spank the girls.

FRED (CONT'D)
Harder.

Nicki begins to spank them harder and she's getting into it. The girls scream and wince as Nicki spans them.

FRED (CONT'D)
That's it. That's my girl.

Fred turns away and coughs again.

NICKI
(concerned)
Fred, do you need some water?

FRED
(motioning to
continue)
I'm fine, I'm fine, just continue.

Nicki continues to spank them as Fred looks on and she has a big smile on her face.

PAUL (V.O.)
Nicki said she loved the way it made her feel. She liked the control and she joked that Fred was creating a little monster.

INT. NICKI'S CONDO - DAY

Fred is sitting on the couch coughing and Nicki walks over to the couch with two glasses of wine. She sets the wine on the table and sits down next to him.

NICKI
(concerned)
Fred, it sounds like that cough is getting worse. You need to get that checked out.

Fred takes a sip out of the glass of wine.

FRED
I already had it checked out.

NICKI
What did they say?

He turns to Nicki and grabs her hand.

FRED
Look honey, there's no better way
to tell you this, so I'll just
tell you...I have cancer.

NICKI
(shocked)
What!..Oh my God, Fred.

She starts to tear up and she hugs him.

FRED
I wanted to tell you sooner but I
just couldn't.

NICKI
Well, when are you starting
chemotherapy? You know I will be
with you every step of the way.

FRED
There wont be any chemotherapy.

NICKI
(surprised)
What, why not?

FRED
It's inoperable and the Doctor
gave me 4 to 6 months to live.

Nicki breaks down and starts to cry profusely.

NICKI
Oh no Fred, I can't live without
you.

She puts her head into his shoulder and weeps.

FRED
I know baby, but everything will
be alright.

Tears start to roll down Fred's face and we see a vulnerability that we haven't seen since the first time we met him.

FRED (CONT'D)

I..I will to my Attorney...like I said..you..you will be..Oh Nicki, I don't want to die!...I don't want to die!

He breaks down and cries as they hold each other.

INT. LAWYERS OFFICE - DAY

Fred is sitting in a chair across from Mark's desk. Mark is sitting behind his desk.

MARK

Are you sure you want me to do this?

FRED

Yes. Nicki means a lot to me and I want her to be taken care of.

Mark looks down at a paper on his desk.

MARK

Okay, so it's \$10,000 a month for 4 years and you want to also pay for her condo.

FRED

Yep, that's what I want.

He turns the paper towards Fred.

MARK

Just sign the paper at the bottom near the x.

Fred signs the paper and turns it back to Mark.

INT. NICKI'S CONDO - DAY

Nicki walks into her condo and she has a bag in her hand. She closes the door and walks to the kitchen and sets the bag on the counter. She takes out a box of food from the bag and sets it on the counter and opens the box.

NICKI
(looking at the
food)
This looks good.

She closes the box and walks to the refrigerator. She opens the refrigerator and takes out a gallon of juice and sets it on the counter. She open up one of the cupboard doors in the kitchen and the phone rings. She closes the door and goes to answer the phone.

NICKI
Hello.

INT. LAWYERS OFFICE - DAY

INTERCUT SCENES

Mark Clinton is sitting behind his desk in his office on the phone.

MARK
Is this Nicki Powers?

NICKI
Yes, this is Nicki, who is this?

MARK
This is Mark Clinton. Fred's
Attorney.

NICKI
Oh, hi Mark, is everything okay?

MARK
No, it's not okay, and, I hate to
be the one to inform you of this,
but Fred died earlier this
morning.

NICKI
(shocked)
What?...That can't be. I just
talked to him this morning and he
said he was just going in to see
the Doctor.

Tears start to run down Nicki's face as Mark speaks.

MARK (O.S.)

He was, but he collapsed at the Doctors office and they couldn't revive him.

NICKI

I can't believe it, he has left me again.

MARK

Well, I just wanted to let you know that Fred has left behind instructions and money to take care of you, okay?...Nicki..Nicki, are you still there?

Nicki hangs up the phone.

NICKI

(slamming hand on
the counter)

No, No, No..I can't take this.

She screams and knocks the box of food and the gallon of juice off of the counter onto the kitchen floor. She breaks down and sobs and drops down to the kitchen floor. She's curled up and leaning against the kitchen counters.

NICKI (CONT'D)

My Fred is gone.

INT. LAWYERS OFFICE - DAY

Mark is sitting behind his desk in his office.

FEMALE (O.S.)

Mr. Clinton, Maggie Benson is here to see you.

MARK

Send her in.

Seconds later Maggie walks into his office. Mark stands up and walks from behind his desk to greet her.

MARK

Maggie, how are you?

They hug.

MAGGIE
It's tough, but we have a lot of
family to lean on.

MARK
I understand. Have a seat.

Maggie sits in a chair in front of his desk and Mark sits at his desk.

MARK (CONT'D)
How can I help you today?

MAGGIE
I was going through some of Fred's
papers and I found this.

She reaches in her purse and hands Mark a paper. He looks at it.

MARK
Oh, okay, I'll just file this.
It's nothing for you to worry
about.

He puts the paper in his drawer.

MAGGIE
Well of course I'm going to worry
about it. Why are you paying this
Nicki Powers \$10,000 dollars a
month and paying for her condo?
Who is she?

Mark leans back in his chair.

MARK
Look, I was trying to be discreet
about this, but Nicki Powers was
Fred's mistress.

MAGGIE
Oh no.

MARK
I'm sorry Maggie.

MAGGIE
Is this the blonde bimbo?

MARK
Yes, she's blonde. Wait a minute,
you knew about her?

MAGGIE

Yeah I knew about her, I just
didn't know her name. Well, you
might as well tear that up.

MARK

What? I can't do that Maggie. This
is something I promised Fred.

MAGGIE

Well Fred isn't here right now, I
am. You're going to put a stop to
this right now.

MARK

I just can't do ...

MAGGIE

(interrupting)

You can and you will. Remember
Mark. There's things I don't know,
but there's a lot of things that I
do know. And the things I do know
can get you disbarred. So, do we
have an understanding?

MARK

Maggie, listen to me....

MAGGIE

(stern)

Do we have an understanding?

MARK

Yes, we do.

MAGGIE

Good.

Maggie gets up and walks out. Mark leans back and lets out a sigh.

INT. NICKI'S CONDO - DAY

Nicki is sitting on her couch smoking a cigarette. She glances at a picture of Fred, then takes another puff of her cigarette. The doorbell rings. She sets her cigarette into the ashtray and gets up to answer the door. She looks through the peephole.

NICKI
(to herself)
Oh my God.

She grabs a bottle of spray next to the door and starts to spray it.

NICKI (CONT'D)
I'm coming!

She sets down the can of spray and opens the door. Maggie is standing there.

NICKI (CONT'D)
Maggie, I mean Mrs. Benson come in.

Maggie walks in and Nicki closes the door.

NICKI (CONT'D)
It's so good to meet you. I'm Nicki by the way.

Nicki sticks out her hand to shake hands with Maggie but Maggie just ignores it.

MAGGIE
I know who you are, I found out your name earlier today.

NICKI
(pointing to the couch)
Do you want to have a seat?

MAGGIE
No, I will not be here that long.

NICKI
Okay. Look Mrs. Benson, I know this is awkward but I was hoping after what happened to Fred, that we can be friends, or, at least be cordial to one another.

Maggie is looking at the picture of Fred next to the couch. She turns to Nicki.

MAGGIE
Look Ms. Powers..

JAMES
(smiling)
Nicki is fine.

MAGGIE
I know Fred had certain sexual needs. Needs that I wouldn't fulfill because I wouldn't degrade myself like that. So he found desperate women like you that he could use.

NICKI
(surprised)
Wat a minute, that's not fair. Me and Fred loved each other.

Maggie laughs.

MAGGIE
Love? That wasn't love. Fred used you like a person uses a car they like or they to go to a certain restaurant from time to time. At the end of the day, they always go home.

NICKI
Fred told me the only reason he didn't leave you is because he didn't want to hurt his families business.

MAGGIE
(smiling)
And you believed him? Really? Fred always liked his whores dumb.

Nicki slaps Maggie across the cheek and Maggie grabs her cheek.

NICKI
(upset)
Oh, I'm so sorry.

MAGGIE
(rubbing her face)
It's fine, because I have the satisfaction of knowing that you will be thrown out of this place at the end of the month.

NICKI
Thrown out?

MAGGIE
I know about the arrangement you
made with Fred but that's over.
There will be no more money.

NICKI
(upset)
You can't do that. Fred promised
me that money. How am I going to
survive?

MAGGIE
Do what you do best. Find someone
else's husband and sleep with him.
I'll let myself out.

Maggie opens the door and leaves. Nicki rushes to her bedroom.

PAUL (V.O.)
Nicki told me, she couldn't take
life anymore and she needed an
escape.

Nicki is in her bedroom rummaging through her drawers.

NICKI
(to herself)
Where did I put it?

She walks to her closet and opens it up. She takes some shoe boxes off of the top shelf and walks them over to the bed and sets them on the bed. She starts looking through them then she stops.

NICKI (CONT'D)
Here it is.

She takes out a vial from one of the boxes and sits on the bed. She opens it up and pours cocaine onto the night stand next to the bed.

She looks through the boxes again and grabs a playing card. She starts to chop up the cocaine into lines. She then snorts a line.

NICKI (CONT'D)
(relief)
I needed that.

She snorts another line.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Nicki and Paul are sitting on his couch. Nicki has been crying and she's wiping her eyes with a napkin.

NICKI

I can't believe she's stopping the money that Fred promised me. Now, I'll have to move out of my condo. Where am I going to live?

PAUL

(rubbing the side
of her face)

Don't even worry about that Nicki, you know you can move in with me.

NICKI

Thanks Paul. You're a good friend.

PAUL

(smiling)

This is what I always wanted and it will be like old times. In fact, you can move into the master bedroom and I will move into the second bedroom.

NICKI

I don't want to put you out of your room.

PAUL

I want to move. It's time for you to be pampered.

NICKI

Aww, I love you.

PAUL

I love you too.

They give each other a hug.

PAUL (CONT'D)

Now, you were telling me that Fred's Lawyer called you and said that Fred left instructions to pay for the condo and leave you some money?

NICKI

Yeah, he called me on the day that
Fred died.

PAUL

You may be able to take her to
court. I will talk to my cousin
and get the name of his Lawyer so
you can talk to him.

NICKI

That'll be great. I'm not going to
let her get away with this.

PAUL

(smiling)

Now, lets go see how we're going
to fix up your bedroom.

NICKI

(smiling)

Okay.

Nicki and Paul get up and walk off.

INT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Nicki is sitting across the desk from Attorney VICTOR CRUZ,
57.

VICTOR

So you say all of this was written
down in instructions?

NICKI

Yes, his Lawyer Mark Clinton
called me the day he died and told
me he had these instructions and
that everything would be okay.
Fred also told me the instructions
were to pay for my condo and I was
to get \$10,000 a month for 4
years. Do you think you can help
me?

VICTOR

I think you have a case. We just
need to get his Lawyer in front of
a Judge and we will look over the
instructions.

NICKI

(smiling)

That's great Mr. Cruz. It feels
like a huge weight has been lifted
off of my shoulders.

VICTOR

It's no problem.

They shake hands.

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Nicki and Victor are walking down the halls of the Courthouse. Nicki pauses when she sees Maggie and Mark standing outside of the Judges chambers. Victor stops and waits for Nicki to catch up to him and they walk up to Maggie and Mark.

NICKI

Maggie, can't we just settle this?
We both loved Fred, so there's no
need to go through all of this.

MAGGIE

(cold)

You will get nothing, because you
deserve nothing.

Maggie walks into the Judges chambers and Mark follows her.

NICKI

Well, I tried.

VICTOR

You did, and now it's time for me
to handle this.

Nicki and Victor walk into the Judges chambers.

INT. COURTHOUSE - DAY

Nicki and Victor are sitting in chairs next to each other and Maggie and Mark are sitting in chairs next to each other in front of Judge DONALD REINHOLD'S, 65 desk. Victor stands up.

VICTOR

Your Honor, the deceased, Fred
Benson, left instructions to his
Lawyer, Mark Clinton, to leave
Nicki Powers with \$10,000 a month
(MORE)

VICTOR (cont'd)
for 4 years and also to pay for
her condo. They were in love and
it was one of his dying wishes
that Nicki be taken care of.

DONALD
Well it seems pretty cut and dry.
If Mr. Benson left these
instructions, then they should be
carried out.

VICTOR
Mr. Clinton has the instructions.

Victor sits down.

DONALD
Mr. Clinton, can I see them.

Mark stands up.

MARK
I'm sorry your Honor, but there
aren't any instructions. As far as
I know, Ms. Powers was just one of
many mistresses that Mr. Benson
had.

Nicki is caught off guard and she looks at Mark in disgust.

DONALD
Wait a minute, the way I
understood this is that you had
gotten specific instructions from
Mr. Benson to carry these things
out after his death.

MARK
No your Honor.

Nicki hops up in anger.

NICKI
Mark, why are you lying! Did this
bitch put you up to this!

DONALD
Please, sit down Ms. Powers!

Victor grabs her arm and urges her to sit down.

VICTOR
I'll take care of this.

Nicki sits down in her chair and Victor stands up.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Mr. Clinton knows that it's a
serious offense to lie to the
court.

DONALD
He's right Mr. Clinton. You're an
officer of this court and if these
instructions were Mr. Benson's
last wishes, I suggest you honor
them.

MARK
I take my oath seriously and I
would never lie about this. There
were no instructions.

DONALD
Okay then, there isn't any case
here and if further evidence comes
up, you can always come back and
refile this claim. Your dismissed.

MARK
Thank you your Honor.

Mark and Maggie get up first and Maggie shoots Nicki a quick
smile and Nicki tries to get up but Victor stops her as Mark
and Maggie leave the room.

NICKI
She can't get away with this.

VICTOR
Don't worry, this is just the
first round.

Nicki stands up.

VICTOR (CONT'D)
Thank you your Honor.

Nicki and Victor walk out of his office.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

James and Paul are sitting at a table across from each other in an interrogation room.

JAMES

Okay, we'll stop right there.

James stops the tape recorder.

PAUL

We're ending kind of early tonight.

JAMES

Yep, I have to be well rested for tomorrow.

PAUL

Another case?

JAMES

Nope, a big game. My son plays in a football championship for little league.

PAUL

(smiling)

Oh, okay. Can he play?

JAMES

(smiling)

Of course, he's the star of the team.

PAUL

You must be proud.

JAMES

I am. (looks at his watch) Now, let me get out of here.

PAUL

See you tomorrow Detective.

James gets up and walks to the door and gets the Officer to take Paul to his cell.

INT. JAMES HOUSE - DAY

Leslie and Debra are in the attic and a nook, desk and a book case filled with books are now in the room.

LESLIE
It's really starting to shape up.

DEBRA
This will be a nice room to relax
in.

LESLIE
Let's go sit on the nook.

They walk over to the nook and sit down.

LESLIE
So, tell me about this date.

DEBRA
(smiling)
I had a great time with Brian. The
conversation in person was just as
good as the conversation on the
phone.

LESLIE
(smiling)
Aww, I'm so happy for you. Maybe
one day we can all go out
together.

DEBRA
I would love that.

LESLIE
I will talk to James and we can
set something up.

DEBRA
Okay, and I will talk to Brian.

Leslie looks at her watch.

LESLIE
Oh my, I didn't know it was this
late. I have to get ready for
Sonny's big football game.

DEBRA
That's right, the championship
game. I hope they win.

LESLIE
Me too.

They get up and walk out of the attic.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

James and Leslie are sitting in the stands with the rest of the parents and they're cheering on the team.

JAMES
(stands up)
Come on Sonny, get the 1st
down!...He got it!

He sits back down and Sonny runs off the field.

JAMES
Hey, why are they taking him out?

Leslie stands up.

LESLIE
(concerned)
Oh my God, is he hurt?

JAMES
Oh, they just had to adjust his
shoulder pads.

Leslie sits back down.

JAMES (CONT'D)
(pointing)
See, he's going back in.

LESLIE
Oh, okay.

James notices Brian standing at the side of the bleachers and he has a manila folder in his hand. He holds it up for James to see.

JAMES
Honey, I will be right back.

LESLIE
Tell Brian I said hi.

JAMES
I will.

James gets up and walks down the bleachers to meet Brian.

EXT. FOOTBALL FIELD - DAY

James and Brian are standing on the sides of the bleachers and James makes sure they're in view of the football field. Brian has the folder open and he's showing the content to James.

BRIAN

We got some of the preliminary reports back from the lab and everything points to Paul. It looks like he was telling the truth and he killed her.

JAMES

Good, I will wrap things up later tonight.

BRIAN

I knew you wanted to see this report, plus I wanted to catch the game. (pointing) Look at Sonny!

James looks to the field and Sonny is running for a touchdown. James starts jumping up and down and the parents in the stand get up and cheer.

JAMES

Go Sonny!..Go Sonny!..Go Sonny!..Touchdown!

James and Brian celebrate.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

James and Paul are sitting across from each other at a table in the interrogation room.

PAUL

So, how did your sons football team do?

JAMES

They won and he scored the winning touchdown.

PAUL

(smiling)

Aww, good for him.

JAMES

Now, everything about your story checks out, so tell me why you and Nicki fell out and what led to her murder.

James pushes play on the tape recorder.

PAUL

Well, things started off rocky and they never got much better. She started partying and doing drugs and she was really abusive to me.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Paul goes into Nicki's bedroom with a can of pop and Nicki is on the bed.

PAUL

(opens the pop)

Here you go.

He hands her the pop and then sits on the edge of her bed.

NICKI

What are you doing?

PAUL

Oh, I thought we could just talk for a little while.

NICKI

I don't feel like talking Paul, so would you please get up and leave.

Paul stands up.

PAUL

Maybe later?

NICKI

Probably not. I just don't feel like listening to you go on and on about things I'm not interested in right now.

Paul starts to walk out.

NICKI (CONT'D)

Close my door, I don't want to be bothered.

Paul closes the door and leaves.

INT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Nicki is sitting in Victor's office across from his desk.

PAUL (V.O.)

I think a big part of the problem
was that Nicki kept going to court
and she kept losing.

NICKI

Can we please try again? I don't
want to stop trying.

VICTOR

I will keep going back for you but
I don't see us getting a different
result.

NICKI

I just can't let her win.

EXT. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - DAY

Nicki is storming out of the Attorney's office and walks
down the street.

PAUL (V.O.)

She even left Victor because she
found out he went to a fund raiser
for Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

INT. OVAL OFFICE - DAY

Ronald Reagan is sitting at his desk and Nancy Reagan is
standing up next to him. Fred and Maggie are sitting in
chairs in front of his desk.

PAUL (V.O.)

Fred and Maggie Benson were good
friends with President Reagan and
Nancy. She said he was part of his
inner circle or kitchen cabinet,
it was something like that. This
is why the story about Nicki and
Fred became big news.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - DAY

Nicki is sitting on the couch watching TV when Paul walks through the door. He walks up next to the TV.

PAUL

Do you mind if I turn this down
for a second, I really need to
talk to you?

NICKI

(upset)

I'm watching this Paul.

PAUL

This is important.

NICKI

It better be.

Fred turns down the TV then walks over to the couch and sits down next to Nicki.

PAUL

I don't know how to tell you this.

NICKI

Just tell me.

PAUL

My cousin is closing down the
travel agency, so I'm losing my
job.

NICKI

(upset)

How are we going to pay the bills
Paul? How are we going to afford
this place?

PAUL

I'll find another job, I promise.

NICKI

I thought you were going to take
care of me?

PAUL

I will. I'm going to start looking
for a new job tomorrow.

NICKI

You're useless.

Nicki gets up and starts to walk off.

PAUL
Nicki, please come back.

Nicki leaves the room.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nicki is doing cocaine in her bedroom on the bed with a guy named Steve.

PAUL (V.O.)
Things really got bad when she began to make me do things for her boyfriends. I hated that.

They kiss.

STEVE
Damn, I have gotten kind of hungry. I think I'll go to McDonald's real quick.

NICKI
You don't have to go, I will send Paul. Paul, come here for a minute!

STEVE
You sure.

NICKI
Of course.

Seconds later Paul walks into the room.

PAUL
Did you call me Nicki?

NICKI
Yeah, I want you to make a run to McDonald's and get some food for Steve.

PAUL
But I'm watching something right now.

NICKI
So, I need you to go now before it closes.

PAUL

Okay, I'll go. What do you want?

STEVE

Get me a Big Mac, Fries and a coke.

He reaches in his pocket to grab some money and Nicki stops him.

NICKI

Paul will pay for it.

PAUL

(upset)

Why can't he pay for it?

NICKI

Because, I don't want him to.

Paul storms off and Nicki laughs.

NICKI (CONT'D)

I told you he was my lap dog.

Nicki and Steve start to kiss.

INT. POLICE STATION - EVENING

James and Paul are sitting across from each other at the interrogation table.

PAUL

That morning started off really good. It was just like old times.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - MORNING

Nicki and Paul are in the kitchen. Paul is sitting down at the table and Nicki is getting some coffee. Nicki sits down at the kitchen table.

PAUL

Nicki, we need to talk.

NICKI

I know and I want to apologize for last night.

PAUL

You really made me feel bad and I thought you liked me.

NICKI

I love you Paul, I have just been going through so many problems and I just take it out on you. I'm so sorry for that.

PAUL

(smiling)

I'm so glad to hear you say this.

NICKI

I promise, when we move into our new place I'm going to change. Can I have a hug?

PAUL

Of course you can.

Nicki and Paul hug.

PAUL (CONT'D)

I love you Nicki.

NICKI

I love you too.

Nicki sips her coffee and her and Paul talk and laugh like old times.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - EVENING

Paul is taping up boxes in the living room.

PAUL (V.O.)

That night, things began to spiral out of control and I knew Nicki would never change.

Paul slams down the tape on top of the boxes.

PAUL

Nicki, are you going to help me pack things up!...Nicki!

Nicki doesn't answer and Paul walks to her room. She's sitting on the bed snorting cocaine.

PAUL (CONT'D)
Nicki, did you hear me?

NICKI
I heard you, but you see I'm busy.

PAUL
I think getting ready to move is
more important than you getting
high.

NICKI
(upset)
Fuck you Paul. We're only moving
because your sorry ass can't find
a job.

PAUL
You know I'm trying.

NICKI
Well you're not trying hard
enough.

PAUL
I'm out here everyday looking for
a job while you do nothing but get
high and sleep with different men.

NICKI
Those DIFFERENT MEN, have been
helping us pay our bills around
here. You know what, you're just a
sorry excuse for a man and it's
beneath me to even live with you
anymore.

PAUL
Well we don't have to live
together anymore.

NICKI
That's fine with me. So just get
out of my face you faggot!

Paul storms off and sits in a chair in the living room.

NICKI (O.S.)
That's right, I called you a
faggot and I hope you die of AIDS.

Paul covers his ears and starts to cry as he rocks back and forth in the chair.

PAUL
(to himself)
Please shut up..please shut
up...please shut up.

NICKI (O.S.)
The worst decision I ever made was
living with you! You mean nothing
to me!

PAUL
(to himself)
I can't take this.

Paul gets up and walks quickly to his room. He grabs a wooden bat and walks to Nicki's room. Nicki is on the bed.

NICKI
(scared)
Paul, what are you doing?

Paul hits her in the head with the bat and she's laid out on the bed as Paul hits her with the bat. Blood is flying on the walls and onto Paul.

PAUL
(hitting her)
Shut up! Shut up! Shut up!

Paul stops hitting her and he's standing there breathing heavy with blood on his shirt and on his face and he's looking at a bloody Nicki lying on the bed.

PAUL (V.O.)
I just didn't want to hear her voice anymore. It was the first time I felt at peace since she moved in.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Paul is taking a shower then he's putting on some clean clothes.

PAUL (V.O.)
So, I took a shower and changed clothes.

INT. PAUL'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Paul is sitting at the kitchen table with a plate of food in front of him.

PAUL (V.O.)
I then fixed me a nice steak and some potatoes and enjoyed my food.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

James and Paul are sitting across from each other in the interrogation room.

PAUL
I then came here and turned myself in.

JAMES
So you never thought about running?

PAUL
No, I'm tired of running Detective. My life, it has seemed like one big marathon and I just want to slow down. Also, I have HIV. Nicki didn't know this but when she said she hopes I die of AIDS, I knew I was going to kill her.

James cuts off the tape recorder.

JAMES
Well, that's it. You will be assigned to a Public Defender and all of this will end up in the hands of the Jury.

PAUL
I'm fine with that. You know, sometimes I wonder what my life would be like if I wasn't gay or if I never met Nicki, and I have come to realize that thinking about these things is pointless. I was born gay and I killed Nicki Powers. I accept that and I'm going to live out the rest of my life in peace.

JAMES

It seems like you, Fred and Nicki couldn't let go. No matter how much you didn't like the situation, you still could have just left. You didn't have to kill her. Now she's dead, Fred is dead and you will probably spend the rest of your life in jail. Are you really fine with that?

PAUL

I am fine with it Detective.

JAMES

Well, that's between you and God, if you believe in one. We're done here.

James gets up and goes to the door to let the Officer in that will take Paul back to his cell.

INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT

James, Leslie, Brian and Debra are sitting together and smiling at a restaurant.

LESLIE

(smiling)

This was a great evening.

BRIAN

I agree.

JAMES

I propose a toast.

They all grab their glasses of wine.

DEBRA

What are we toasting to?

JAMES

To my friend and partner Brian, and his beautiful new girlfriend Debra who did a great job on our attic and she kept it, cheap, I mean modest.

They all laugh and toast their glasses.

INT. POLICE STATION - NIGHT

Paul is lying in his bed in his cell and tears rolls down his face.

FADE TO BLACK

Nicki Powers eventually was awarded \$200,000 but it was after her death and the money went to her estate.

Paul Mansfield was sentenced 26 years to life for the murder of Nicki Powers. He died 7 years into his sentence from complications from AIDS.

ROLL CREDITS

FADE OUT.