Five O’Clock
By: Charlie Huckelberry
FADE IN

INT. LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

NICK, Caucasian, late twenties, dressed in a suit. He has a cut on his cheek. His suit is ripped. He looks like he’s been through Hell.

AMANDA, Caucasian, late twenties, dressed in pajamas. She is bruised. Her hair is in disarray. She is staring off into the distance.

Amanda and Nick sit on their couch. There are multiple cops around the house. There is a visible body on the table in the room behind them.

DETECTIVE, in his fifties, dressed in a suit with a badge. He looks solemn but serious.

DETECTIVE
Let’s start from the beginning.

Amanda continues to stare off into the distance. Nick looks at her, sighs, and then back at the cop.

NICK
Well.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. KITCHEN – EARLY MORNING

Amanda is in the kitchen, drinking coffee. She is in her pajamas, looking worried. Nick walks into the room. He is in his suit.

NICK
Morning.

AMANDA
Morning. Remember you can’t be late tonight.

NICK
I won’t be.

Amanda looks as though she wants to believe him, but isn’t sure that she can.
NICK
(Kisses Amanda seductively)
Hey...look. I know these hours have been ridiculous lately. I hate it just as much as you do. But we’re finishing up this account soon. When we finally land it, you and I will go somewhere far away where we can relax and be alone.

CUT TO:

EXT. HOUSE - EARLY MORNING

We are looking into the kitchen from the back yard—almost as if someone is watching from afar. The conversation between Amanda and Nick is continuing, but we no longer hear it.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - EARLY MORNING

Nick looks at his watch while he takes a sip of the coffee.

NICK
I’ve got to get going. I’ll see you tonight.

AMANDA
(Kisses Him)
Five O’clock. Remember

The doorbell rings. Nick looks confused and slightly agitated.

NICK
Isn’t it a bit early?

CUT TO:

INTERIOR - FRONT DOOR

ROCKY, Caucasian, Mid-Thirties, dressed like a package delivery person. He has facial hair and speaks angrily.

Nick walks to the door and opens it. At the front door is an unknown man who is dressed as a delivery service man.
NICK
Isn’t it a bit early?

ROCKY
Agreed. You are the first package of the day. Actually, one Amanda Coleman is. Is she the woman of the house?

NICK
Yep. I can sign for her.

Nick grabs the digital signing system. Inside the house—behind him—he hears his wife scream.

NICK
Amanda!?

When he turns back to look at the delivery man, Rocky slams the package against Nick’s face. Nick falls to the ground, unconscious.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BASEMENT - LATE MORNING

Nicks wakes up. His head is in his wife’s lap. She looks at him, worried. Nick looks around and realizes that they are in the basement. Nick sits up and grabs his head. He has a horrible headache from the hit to the head.

NICK
What’s going on.

AMANDA
(Cautiously)
They locked us in the basement. I tried to find a way out. But...

NICK
How long was I out?

AMANDA
At least an hour or two. I’m not sure. They took my phone.
Nick stands up and tries the door. It’s locked. He looks around before realizing that his wife is bruised. He runs to her.

    NICK
    What did they do to you?

    AMANDA
    (touching her face)
    Oh. Right. They were a bit rough when they brought me down here.

The door to the upstairs opened. A man dressed in black walks in with his gun raised. A few seconds later, the leader of the gang walks in. He is still covered in black clothing. Nick looks angry but doesn’t take a step towards them.

    NICK
    What the Hell are you doing?

    ROCKY
    Do not worry yourself, Nicolas. So long as your wife is willing to do what is asked of her, we will leave you in peace.

Nick takes an aggressive step forward. He stops when the guard points his gun directly at him. Nick relaxes.

    ROCKY
    There is a catch, Nicolas. If your wife refuses, you will be killed. Don’t worry. We’ll make it fast.

    NICK
    Do you really think the police won’t find you.

    ROCKY
    They may. That is not for you to worry about, Nicolas. You have something more important to think about right now.
NICK
(Sarcastically)
What is that?

ROCKY
Your wife can agree or disagree. Either way, you will never see each other again. Time to say goodbye.

NICK
What do you mean?

ROCKY
You have fifteen seconds left.

Nick looks taken aback. He turns to his wife. Amanda looks worried. He pulls her into a close hug. He whispers in her ear.

NICK
It will all be okay.

Amanda nods. They kiss. The guard pulls Amanda out of the kiss. She starts screaming. She resists enough that the guard just pulls her up the stairs instead of trying to carry her. Nick tries to chase after her, but the gang leader has a gun out. They stare at each other until Amanda is upstairs. The gang leader follows them upstairs and locks the door.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The Detective looks at Amanda with suspicion.

DETECTIVE
Officer Monroe? Can you come over here?

A young officer comes over to the Detective.

DETECTIVE
Nick. Officer Monroe is going to continue to interview you in a separate room. Unfortunately, since there was a death here
today, we are going to have to interview you and your wife separately.

NICK
Detective. We haven’t told anyone this yet. Actually...

Nick looks at his watch.

NICK
It’s five o’clock. We were supposed to meet our parents for dinner. Amanda is pregnant. We just found out actually. Can you make sure she is looked after?

DETECTIVE
Of course, Nick. And Congratulations.

The officer and Nick go into another room. The detective turns back towards Amanda. His demeanor changes to serious immediately.

DETECTIVE
Amanda. Do you mind telling me what’s going on here?

Amanda eyes the Detective with suspicion. Eventually, she sits up and leans close to him

AMANDA
How did you know?

DETECTIVE
I’m more confused about how your husband doesn’t realize something is off about the situation.

AMANDA
He doesn’t know. Can you promise me that he won’t find out?

DETECTIVE
I cannot promise you. If this situation goes to trial,
everything is made public. What I can promise you is that you will be charged with impeding an investigation if you do not explain what is going on here.

Amanda sits back in her seat. She bites her lips as she tries to figure out what to do. She waits a few seconds before she speaks.

AMANDA
Fine. But I have to start at the beginning. I was 15

CUT TO:

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

YOUNG AMANDA, Caucasian, 15, dressed stylishly.

Young Amanda walks down the alleyway with a big smile. In the distance, she hears a commotion. She sees two men struggling down the alleyway. Young Amanda hides behind a bush.

YOUNG AMANDA
(Voiceover)
I was coming home from my boyfriend’s house. When I heard the struggle, I hid.

A shot rings out. Young Amanda jumps. In the distance, one of the men falls to the ground. The man with the gun (Young Rocky) runs down the alleyway in the direction of Young Amanda. Young Rocky does not see Young Amanda. Young Amanda sees Young Rocky’s perfectly in the light of a lamppost. Young Amanda stays behind the bushes after he leaves. Eventually, we see red and blue lights flickering.

YOUNG AMANDA
(Voiceover)
I stayed until the cops showed up. They found the body. Then they found me. I told them everything.

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Amanda and the Detective are in the same place as when she started telling the story.

AMANDA
I gave them a description. They found him. I testified against him. He was a minor. It was a mugging gone wrong. It didn’t matter. The evidence and my testimony was enough. He was given 25 years for third degree murder.

DETECTIVE
I’ve been with the force for thirty years. Why don’t I know about this case?

AMANDA
I went away for college and stayed away. Too many people back home know my story. At least, that’s what I told myself. I knew that I didn’t want to be accessible when his time was up. Apparently, I was wrong.

DETECTIVE
So this was the same man?

AMANDA
Yes. He tracked me down somehow.

DETECTIVE
So you think he was coming to get revenge?

Amanda leans back in her seat and looks away.

DETECTIVE
Amanda? What am I missing?

AMANDA
(Stuttering)
He-uh-he did come. He got out
early for good behavior. He brought a gun. He was ready to kill me and run. But that was four months ago.

DETECTIVE
Four months ago? What happened?

Amanda stares off. She looks frightened.

INT. KITCHEN – EARLY MORNING

Amanda is making breakfast for herself. She is still in her pajamas. The radio is playing softly in the background. She is singing along. After several seconds, the doorbell rings. Amanda answers it. Rocky stands in the doorway. He has a gun aimed at her. They both look at each other wordlessly. When Rocky doesn’t pull the trigger, Amanda starts talking.

AMANDA
Please.

Rocky shows no sign of hearing her.

AMANDA
Do you—do you want to come inside.

Rocky slowly lowers the gun and walks into the house. Amanda directs him to sit down at the dining room table. She puts the meal she was preparing on a plate and gives it to him. Amanda takes the seat across from Rocky. Rocky puts his gun away and starts eating.

AMANDA
When did you get out?

ROCKY
Last week.

AMANDA
Are you going to kill me.

ROCKY
I thought I was. I guess I
forgot how hard it is to kill a person.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. LIVING ROOM – NIGHT

Amanda and the Detective are in the same seats as before.

DETECTIVE
So what happened? Why now?

Amanda starts crying silently. Tears roll down her cheek

AMANDA
I didn’t mean for it to happen. Nick was working 12 or 14 hours a day. He was never here. I was so lonely. At first, it was just talking. But then...

The Detective leans back in his chair and rubs his face—stressed.

DETECTIVE
An affair? That still doesn’t explain why Rocky tried to kill you.

AMANDA
He didn’t try to kill me. When he found out I was pregnant, he asked me to run away with him. When I told him no, he took things into his own hands.

DETECTIVE
Did he think the baby was his?

AMANDA
Detective. Look. I’ve been married to Nick for six years. We’ve been trying to conceive for five years. Rocky has good reason to believe this baby is his.
The Detective taps his fingers anxiously as he takes in the information. The officer that took Nick away earlier enters. He tells The Detective that Nick admitted to killing Rocky. The Detective looks at Amanda. He stands up and walks into the separate room. Nick is sitting there upright.

DETECTIVE
Would you mind retelling the story you just told Officer Monroe?

NICK
Is my wife okay?

DETECTIVE
Your wife is doing fine. Please tell me what happened.

INT. BASEMENT - LATE AFTERNOON

Nick paces in the basement alone. He hears people moving about the house. Eventually, he spots a shadow cross in front of the door to the upstairs. He walks silently to the top of the stairs. He waits for a shadow to cross in front of the door again. When it does, he slamms his body against the door as hard as possible. It smashes open. The man behind the door falls to the ground. He is still dressed head to toe in black. Nick wrestles the gun away from him. Nick aims the gun at the man. The man holds up his hands.

MAN IN BLACK
Please.

Nick hits the man with the butt of the gun. The man goes limp. Nick looks around the room to make sure Rocky isn’t around. Nick drags the man in black to the living room. He goes through the man’s pockets. It doesn’t seem like the man has any identification on him. Then Nick finds a picture in his pocket. The picture is of Amanda. He flips the picture over. On the back it says: “Scare her. Do not hurt her in any way.” After reading this, the man in black groggily starts to wake up. Nick takes a couple steps back and raises the gun to him. Rocky appears in the room behind Nick.
ROCKY
It didn’t have to be this way, Nicolas.

Nick turns towards the dining room. Rocky is holding a gun against Amanda’s head. Nick keeps his gun aimed at the man in black. Amanda looks surprisingly calm. Rocky is shaky. They stare at each other for several seconds before speaking.

NICK
Let her go. Let her go and I’ll let him go.

ROCKY
(laughing)
What makes you think I care about that man?

Without warning, Rocky shoots the man in black. The man in black goes limp. Nick looks taken aback. Nick points his gun at Rocky. Rocky points his gun at Amanda.

ROCKY
You can’t win this one, Nicolas.

NICK
(Walking forward slowly)
You’re right. You have control over the situation, don’t you? Except, in order for you to maintain control, you have to prove to me that you are able to hurt Amanda. Can you? Because, if you can’t, you have no leverage.

Rocky looks worried. Nick pulls out the picture while still aiming his gun at Rocky.

NICK
(Reading)
Scare her. Do not hurt her in any way.

Rocky tries to aim his gun away from Amanda and at Nick. Nick shoots. Rocky falls backward onto the dining room table.
Amanda looks at Rocky’s dead body. Nick comes up behind her and envelopes her in a hug. They break away after several seconds.

NICK
Who the Hell was he?

AMANDA
I have no idea.

INT. SITTING ROOM – NIGHT

Nick looks up, past The Detective. He sees that Amanda is standing just outside the room. She heard the whole story. Nick and Amanda stare at each other. The camera zooms up on Amanda’s face. Her face holds the emotion of the situation.

THE END