

911 Stalker

by  
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FADE IN:

EXT. SANTA MONICA - QUICK-STOP MART - NIGHT

A typical corner gas and market stop. An empty parking lot except for the motorcycle parked alongside.

Two GUNSHOTS ring out. One larger than the other.

EXT. SANTA MONICA POLICE DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

A single story complex with a gated entrance. Parked patrol cars around back.

INT. SMPD - DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

A large room with U-shaped consoles. Each is fitted with a keyboard, headphones, a monitor, and 'call' buttons.

It's the busy PM watch, yet there's only five DISPATCHERS working at any time.

At one console is a uniformed CASSIE WOODS, 20s, pretty, natural, hair tied back. Although uniformed in blue, she could pass for a park ranger.

Cassie pushes the call button and speaks into her microphone.

CASSIE

Central Units and One Adam Ten, One Adam Ten, attempted robbery just occurred at Five Hundred Centinela, Five Hundred Centinela at the Quick Stop Mart, suspect male white, still at the location, shot and wounded. See the clerk. One Adam Ten respond Code Three.

OFFICER 1A10's voice comes over.

OFFICER 1A10'S VOICE

One Adam Ten, Roger.

Cassie lifts off the call button and speaks into her mike.

CASSIE

Okay, sir the police are on the way. Is he conscious and breathing?

CLERK'S VOICE  
I don't know. I think he's out but  
I can see him breathing.

CASSIE  
Where did you shoot him?

INT. SANTA MONICA - QUICK-STOP MART - CONTINUOUS

A young CLERK fumbles with both his large handgun and a corded phone. On the floor, a bleeding but unconscious BIKER laying on his back amid strewn bags of potato chips.

CLERK  
In the chest! I can see blood  
coming out of the hole!  
(beat)  
It was me or him, right? I shot  
him in self defense!

CASSIE'S VOICE  
I believe you.

CLERK  
Oh my God! I'm going to jail,  
aren't I?

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Other dispatchers nearby get wind of Cassie's call and try to listen in.

CASSIE  
Sir, relax. You're not going to  
jail.

CLERK'S VOICE  
Promise?

CASSIE  
I want you to grab a compress and  
hold it over the wound.

CLERK'S VOICE  
He tried to kill me! I'm not  
touching him!

CASSIE  
Sir, this is a human life we're  
talking about.

CLERK'S VOICE

So?

CASSIE

So unless you act quickly, he's going to die right there. He can't harm you anymore.

INT. QUIK-STOP MART - CONTINUOUS

CUSTOMERS mill around outside the window. The clerk puts down his gun.

CLERK

What do I do again?

CASSIE'S VOICE

Do you see his weapon? Use your foot to slide it away.

The clerk kicks away a small .22 handgun under a freezer.

CLERK

Done!

CASSIE'S VOICE

Now get a clean cloth and place it down on his chest. Hold it down over top of the wound firmly.

The clerk reaches back to his counter and grabs a cloth. He leans down and places it on the man's chest.

CLERK

Gross. What if he has AIDS?

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie rolls her eyes.

CASSIE

Okay, then try not to get any of his blood on you.

CLERK'S VOICE

I'm pressing down on the hole.  
(beat)  
I think it's working.

CASSIE

Good. Keep pressing down.

CLERK'S VOICE  
I can't believe I'm doing this.

Outside the window, Santa Monica's finest roll up.

CASSIE  
Sir, you probably don't realize  
this, but you may have saved that  
man's life.

CLERK'S VOICE  
Dude. After this, I'm asking for a  
raise.

CASSIE  
One more thing. Put your gun away.

CLERK'S VOICE  
Oh, right. Thanks.

CLICK. Cassie ends the call.

She stares at her monitor. Blank. For now.

SIGHING, Cassie begins flipping through a Surfing Magazine.

EXT. SANTA MONICA - LA MESA MOTEL - SAME NIGHT

Single story cockroach-infested hacienda on PCH trying to  
pass itself off as a Mexican Resort.

INT. LA MESA MOTEL - ROOM 9 - CONTINUOUS

A single lamp on a night stand provides the only light. A  
HOOKER in tight clothes sits atop a squeaky bed. She is  
SYLVIA GREEN, 20s, red hair, bags under heavy, made up eyes.

SYLVIA  
So here we are, Jasper. Again.

JASPER WOBBLY sits in the dark corner. Late 20s, stocky,  
stubble, greasy hair. Mismatched clothes.

JASPER  
Yes. But this is the last time.

SYLVIA  
You mean we're finally gonna do it?

JASPER  
Is that important?

SYLVIA  
Shit, we could play Crazy Eights  
all night as long as you were  
paying. Just so long as you stop  
preaching to me. Preacher man.

JASPER  
You're beautiful, Sylvia.

SYLVIA  
Why don't you come sit next to me?

Jasper fidgets, then moves to the bed next to her.

SYLVIA  
So how come you don't want to fuck  
me? Am I not pretty enough?

JASPER  
Oh, you're...elegant.

SYLVIA  
Then what? You got a teeny pecker?  
Because if that's it, we can work-

JASPER  
Do you like the flowers I sent you?

SYLVIA  
Everything around me dies, Jasper.  
Save your money.

JASPER  
Remember the first time we spoke?

SYLVIA  
You ask me that every time we meet.  
You and me got to talking at the  
vending machines. I was having a  
shitty day, you was having the  
same, both our Momma's died...

JASPER  
I can't stop thinking about it.

SYLVIA  
Whoa, Jasper. I'm only here for  
the money. Understand?

Jasper leaps off the bed.

JASPER  
 What if I could take you away from  
 all this?! The whoring, the drugs!

Sylvia sits up on the bed. Searches for her purse.

SYLVIA  
 Calm down, man.

JASPER  
 I'm going to show you a better  
 life! You and I! Together, like  
 it should be!

SYLVIA  
 I scream and Gus comes running.  
 You don't wanna fuck with Gus so  
 get the hell away from me.

Sylvia gets off the bed, but her exit is blocked by Jasper  
 who suddenly whips out a large knife.

JASPER  
 Ungrateful slut! That's what this  
 is all about, isn't it? Just sex!

He unbuckles his belt as she cowers.

JASPER  
 Let me show you what I'm made of.

INT. SMPD - DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie flips through a magazine.

BOOP! A call comes in.

CASSIE  
 9-1-1 emergency. Operator 729.

Sylvia comes on the line. Shaky.

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 Send the cops! I'm getting fuckin'  
 attacked here!

Loud BANGING can be heard over the line.

CASSIE  
 What seems to be the problem?

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 I'm with a guy here and he's really  
 freaking out! I locked myself in  
 the bathroom at the La Mesa Motel  
 over on PCH! Room nine!

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie looks up at her monitor.

Incident # 224

Location: unknown

Phone: unknown

CASSIE  
 Ma'am? What's your name?

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 Sylvia.

CASSIE  
 Okay, Sylvia. My name is Cassie.  
 How do you know this man?

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 He's just some guy! A customer!  
 Preacher man! He's trying to break  
 in here!

CASSIE  
 Is he white, black, Hispanic, or  
 Asian?

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 White guy! Hurry, please!

CASSIE  
 Can you describe him?

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 He's, uh, he's plain! Nobody! Are  
 you sending the cops or not?

More BANGING over the line.

CASSIE  
 I need more information to assist  
 you, Sylvia. What he's wearing?



SYLVIA'S VOICE  
Jeans, blue shirt, plain...

The doorknob RATTLES.

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
Leave me alone you, dickless  
asshole! God, he won't stop!  
Just send someone soon!

CASSIE  
Sylvia? His height? Weight?

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
Average height, kinda stocky...

INT. ROOM 9 - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sylvia leans against the door as Jasper shoulders it.

JASPER (O.S.)  
Let me in, slut!

Sylvia then CLICKS off the 9-1-1 call. She searches for another number.

SYLVIA  
Don't be high, Gus...not this one  
time...please pick up...

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie keeps trying the dead line.

CASSIE  
Sylvia! Hello? Talk to me!

Cassie puts out the call.

CASSIE  
Any Central Unit, possible assault  
or robbery suspect at four four oh  
nine PCH, four four oh nine PCH in  
room number nine. Suspect is a  
male white wearing jeans, blue  
shirt. Average height, stocky  
build. Person reporting is female,  
hiding in bathroom. Name is  
Sylvia. Code Two high.

OFFICER 1A10 responds.

OFFICER 1A10'S VOICE  
One Adam Ten, I'll handle.

INT. LA MESA - ROOM 1 - CONTINUOUS

A COUPLE lay on a bed. Lines of coke lay on a mirror.

GUS, large, gruff, bloodshot eyes, toys with a drug scale.  
DESIRE, a redhead hooker with long nails, massages his back.

Gus' cell phone BUZZES on the table.

GUS  
That my phone?

DESIRE  
Ain't my vibrator.

GUS  
Where's Sylvia?

DESIRE  
With preacher man.

GUS  
Preacher man. Him again?

And they continue doing what they're doing.

INT. ROOM 9 - BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sudden silence. Then, the front door CREAKS open. She listens a few seconds more. Opens her door a crack.

INT. ROOM 9 - CONTINUOUS

The room is empty, the front door wide open. She bolts out of the bathroom -- but Jasper springs from a closet and throws the bedspread over Sylvia's head. He tackles her and throws her to the floor.

His fist cocks back and KNOCKS her out.

He wraps her up in the bedspread.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - LATER

Cassie hangs up on the call when a RELIEF DISPATCHER sits next to her, puts on her own headphones.

RELIEF DISPATCHER  
How's the PM watch, Cass?

Cassie yawns.

RELIEF DISPATCHER  
That good, eh?

A message pops up on Cassie's screen.

FROM: COMM CTR: U OK 792?

Cassie looks up. Sees SERGEANT ALEC VASQUEZ in an office window facing the dispatchers. He's in his 30s, clean cut. Like a model for police recruitment.

CASSIE  
Sergeant Alec Vasquez? Typing to me?

RELIEF DISPATCHER  
Girl, I wish he'd type to me.

Cassie smiles, types back.

TO: COMM CTR: I COULD USE A DRINK.

RELIEF DISPATCHER  
Careful what you type. These channels have eyes.

A few seconds pass when another message comes across.

FROM: COMM CTR: TAKE A BREAK, PLZ

Bewildered, Cassie cancels the screen. Removes her headphones. The relief dispatcher frowns.

RELIEF DISPATCHER  
I got this quickie break, Cassie. It probably means nothing. Go get some coffee.

CASSIE  
Got any whiskey in your purse to go with it?

EXT. LA MESA MOTEL - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Jasper, carrying Sylvia's limp body wrapped in the bedspread, hikes towards a thrashed Motorhome. He opens the rear door, carries her inside, then locks it.

Moments later, the Motorhome's engine REVS, takes off through the rear exit of the lot...and disappears.

A Police Unit arrives at the front entrance. Too late.

INT. SMPD - BREAK ROOM - LATER

A row of vending machines, candy to soda. A TV, tuned to a talk show, plays to NELL, a slim black dispatcher, who MUNCHES some popcorn at a nearby table.

Cassie selects a cappuccino and listens to the beans GRIND.

NELL

So, this little boy gets me on the phone, asks me to blow him, then hangs up. So I call back and his Daddy answers.

CASSIE

What did the father say?

NELL

What they always say. Ain't my boy, my boy is a choirboy. Then he cusses at me and hangs up!

CASSIE

What did you do?

NELL

I sent a unit to the address. Tell me that choirboy didn't do some praying when he opened up the door.

Alec walks up, drops coins into a nearby machine. Selects a candy bar.

ALEC

Cassie, why'd you place that hooker call Code Two High?

CASSIE

She needed help, Sergeant. I could hear her getting attacked.

ALEC

Code Two High is reserved for immediate public assistance. La Mesa has always had those type of problems. It's a shit cycle.

CASSIE  
Anywhere else I screw up?

ALEC  
You spend too much time on each call. The city is beating down our heads with jammed emergency lines. You know the news loves to bash the inefficiency of this department.

CASSIE  
We were taught to do what is necessary to get as much information as possible for the units that arrive.

ALEC  
This call was nothing more than a pimp and ho ripping each other off.

CASSIE  
I judge the incident, not the people.

Nell CRUMPLES her popcorn bag in disgust and exits the room. Alec watches Nell leave.

And plants a kiss on Cassie's lips.

CASSIE  
I hate this.

ALEC  
Do you want either of us transferred?

CASSIE  
One day they are going to find out. We're in a police department, for crying out loud.

She hugs him and kisses him back.

Alec leaves. But stops at the door.

CASSIE  
Yes, Sergeant?

ALEC  
Good job on the call, Cassie.

CASSIE  
Smart Alec.

EXT. TOPANGA CANYON - JASPER'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A dated, crumbling bungalow among thick trees and a hillside. No curb appeal here. Jasper's Motorhome backs up the driveway. The engine stops. Jasper leaps out the rear door with the bedspread roll hiked over his shoulder. Nothing of Sylvia is visible.

As he walks to his front door, something catches his eye.

A PAIR OF NEIGHBORS, in white robes, watch him from their front door across the street.

ATHENA, 70s, wispy, long gray hair. A dour expression.  
THEO, 70s, thin, bald spot like a Franciscan monk. He's glossy-eyed, as if drugged.

No words spoken, Jasper eyes them back and enters his house.

INT. JASPER'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Hello seventies. Hiking the bedspread, Jasper continues down a hallway, strolls to a bedroom where...

INT. JASPER'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

...he kicks up a trap door with his toe. Pivoting, he drops the bedspread into the hole. It lands somewhere with a THUMP. As he descends down a ladder there, a KNOCK at his front door stops him cold.

EXT. JASPER'S FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Angry, Jasper whips the door open. Athena and Theo are there, surrounded by fellow BRETHREN, all dressed in white.

JASPER  
What is it?

ATHENA  
Your presence is requested at the ceremony.

THEO  
May I ask the dear boy if he knows where the tithes have gone, Athena?

ATHENA

You may, Theo. After all, Jasper serves our cause as the controller.

THEO

Perhaps his work outside our world interferes.

ATHENA

Bah. He is dim-witted at best.

JASPER

All ties to you are severed.  
Consider that my resignation.

Jasper SLAMS the door. The Brethren, aghast, are besides themselves. Fists are raised and they slowly stroll away.

ATHENA

You were responsible for the collections, forsaken one! The Will of God cannot function without!

Theo stares stunned. Athena grabs his arm.

ATHENA

Come, Theo.

THEO

Yes, my dearest admirable.

INT. TOPANGA CANYON - ATHENA & THEO'S HOUSE - LATER

A makeshift temple with podium. Brethren dance in a frenzy. A MALE AND FEMALE MEMBER lay on a table. Content. A sign above states: BAPTISM OF FIRE

The dancing stops. Theo and Athena offer a blessing.

A prominent MAN rises, dressed in a doctor's uniform. He is DR. RAMIREZ. Hispanic, older, mustached.

ATHENA

We of The Will of God are truly blessed that Dr. Ramirez has honored us with this visit. I hope the Good Doctor was also blessed with good traffic from Baja?

Dr. Ramirez waves his hands so-so.

ATHENA  
We shall now proceed.

Dr. Ramirez addresses the members with a Spanish accent.

DR. RAMIREZ  
Behold. This couple wish to become  
pure. Open your arms, everyone.

INT. JASPER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Adjusting his blinds, Jasper stares out at Athena's house.  
Silhouettes of the Brethren dancing behind closed curtains.

He shudders.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. ATHENA & THEO'S HOUSE - 14 YEARS EARLIER

The Brethren circle around a makeshift operating table.

A teenage Jasper is dragged into a room by fellow brethren.  
He fights and struggles. Sweating profusely. Mouthing "No"  
over and over.

Athena holds a PLAYBOY high and RIPS it. Other Brethren  
shake their heads in disgust.

Jasper look to his right. Sees HELEN, late 20's, dressed in  
white, eyes closed, swaying to a CHANT.

Jasper mouths "help" to her, to no avail.

A younger Dr. Ramirez waits for him with open arms.

Jasper begin to cry.

END FLASHBACK

INT. ATHENA & THEO'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

A PAIR OF NURSES carry a tray of medical instruments, laying  
them on a table. Dr. Ramirez fondly strokes the male and  
female members as they solemnly stare back.

The other members begin to SING and dance again.

Dr. Ramirez grabs a scalpel.



INT. ALEC'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Bachelor pad. A queen size mattress, boxes, and blank walls. Cassie and Alec finish making love and cuddle.

His bare walls capture her attention.

CASSIE  
You know what you should hang up  
there?

ALEC  
What?

CASSIE  
A nice picture. Abstract.

ALEC  
You're thinking of that right now?

CASSIE  
I'm thinking you should fire your  
decorator.

ALEC  
This is called impromptu living.

CASSIE  
Maybe a large plant in the corner.

Alec's cell phone RINGS. He checks the display and frowns.

ALEC  
Perfect timing.

CASSIE  
Don't you dare answer it while I'm  
here.

ALEC  
Relax, babe. It will go to  
voicemail.

Cassie rolls on to the floor.

ALEC  
Where are you going?

CASSIE  
Nowhere.

Reaching up, he snatches her, hauls her back to bed.

ALEC

Hey, come on. If it wasn't for my kids, I wouldn't even bother to check it. I have no feelings for her anymore.

CASSIE

Why does she still call? You guys are supposed to be separated. Getting a divorce. Whatever.

ALEC

Cassie, we still have to coordinate visitations. School functions. Hell, that might have been one of my boys calling me to say goodnight and I missed it.

CASSIE

I just hate this sneaking around. Why can't we have a normal relationship?

ALEC

Cass, I was always up-front with you. And I moved out, right?

Rolling her eyes, she gets out of bed and begins dressing.

ALEC

So, I won't be making breakfast then?

CASSIE

I'll bring you bagels in the morning. Then after, we'll hit the waves.

ALEC

Surfing?

She kisses him.

CASSIE

Call your boys back.

INT. JASPER'S UNDERGROUND ROOM - DAY

Twenty by ten, eight feet high, a sink, toilet, a mattress, and a wooden ladder. Solid cement inside with a large vent on a far wall. A single light bulb dangles from a cord.

The room is decorated with baseball cards, army soldiers, and comic books. A prominent picture of Elvis, covered in velvet. Cheesy, like you see in Tijuana.

Chained, on a blanket, Sylvia sleeps. Dried chocolate rims her lips. Movement nearby awakens her. Then a DRIP. She stirs, lifts herself up...and cowers.

A shirtless Jasper watches from a chair.

JASPER

Quite the aphrodisiac, isn't it?

SYLVIA

What?

JASPER

Chocolate. Said to provide the same effect as an orgasm. You might as well enjoy it.

SYLVIA

Please. You're a nice guy, you don't want to hurt me. I won't tell anyone. I swear.

JASPER

I caught a rabbit when I was a kid. In a homemade snare. Rigged two wires across a hole and got him. I then got a knife from Momma's kitchen drawer.

Sylvia's lips tremble.

JASPER

Know why I cut the rabbit up? I wanted to see what was inside.

Jasper lifts his arm up. Bloody slashes from a knife he holds. His blood DRIPS to a puddle below.

JASPER

Catching rabbits is easy. They all run in circles.

EXT. MALIBU BEACH - DAY

Cassie and Alec straddle their boards waiting for their set. A wave begins to roll and she hops up on her board. She takes her ride clean. She ends it, then gently falls into the water.

Alec takes the next wave. Rides it but falls and SPLASHES awkwardly. His board SMACKS his head.

CASSIE

Ouch.

She waits a few moments, doesn't see him come up.

She quickly paddles to the spot.

EXT. UNDER WATER - CONTINUOUS

Alec at the bottom, clawing at the sand, disoriented. Diving, Cassie grabs his arm, and guides him to the surface.

EXT. WATER - MOMENTS LATER

Both GASPING for air. Alec clings to his board. His forehead sports a red bruise.

CASSIE

You won't find any buried treasure down there, Blackbeard.

ALEC

Guess I'm fuckin' rusty. They got bunny waves out here?

She touches his bruise. He winces.

CASSIE

Does that hurt?

ALEC

Of course it hurts. Thanks, though.

CASSIE

So, if that was me, and I was to drown, would I warrant a Code Two High?

ALEC

Code Three. Lights and sirens, Ma'am.

As Alec feels his forehead, Cassie catches a glimpse of his finger. A wedding ring.

Noticing her disappointment, Alec removes it.

ALEC  
Sorry, Cass. I forgot. This hunk  
of silver is nothing more than a  
peacemaker.

CASSIE  
She still has feelings.

ALEC  
One-sided. This bother you?

CASSIE  
Should it?

ALEC  
I was kinda hoping it does.

He dangles it above the water.

ALEC  
Tell you what. You say drop it,  
and its gone.

CASSIE  
You wouldn't let go.

ALEC  
On the count of three then. One,  
two...

CASSIE  
No. Don't. You can't do that to  
me.

ALEC  
Do what?

CASSIE  
Come on. I'll race you back.

EXT. SANTA MONICA - CASSIE'S HOUSE - LATER

A tiny beach house adorned with cheap Ensenada crafts.  
Cassie steps out of her Jeep and grabs her surfboard.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Quaint, some IKEA. As she flops down on her bed, she hits  
her answering machine.

ALEC'S VOICE

Hey, Cassie. Just wanted to thank you for the surfing lesson. Hope I don't OD on Tylenol. Anyway, I can't see you tonight. The ex left me the kids and, um, well I'll just talk to ya later.

CASSIE

What am I doing?

INT. JASPER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Alone on his shag carpet, Jasper wins at a game of solitaire. As if knowing he would, he then reaches for a needle and jabs it into his leg. Moments later, he GRUNTS and struts around the room, flexing.

Behind him are suitcases and boxes.

INT. JASPER'S UNDERGROUND ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A frustrated, desperate Sylvia yanks on her chain but soon gives up and begins to SOB.

SYLVIA

Help me. Someone...

Then, a BUZZING sound. Across the room. Her purse.

SYLVIA

My phone.

Zipped shut, inside is her cell phone. It BUZZES once more. Frantic, she dives for it, but the chain SNAGS, pulling her back three feet short.

Thinking, searching. She RIPS the bedsheet from the cot and begins tying it into a large loop.

INT. JASPER'S UNDERGROUND ROOM - LATER

Now bound by duct tape and sitting along a wall, Sylvia eyes Jasper nervously as he unravels a carpet.

Her bedsheet is back on the cot.

JASPER

It will be a long drive.

SYLVIA  
You can't do this. Please.

He shrugs, then cuts off eight inches of duct tape.

SYLVIA  
Where are you taking me?

JASPER  
To be born again.

Gagging her, she is surprisingly compliant, even when she becomes rolled into the carpet like an enchilada. Only when she is hiked over his shoulder does she wriggle.

Peering through the carpet opening, sees her purse.

Zipped open.

EXT. SANTA MONICA - PCH - LATER

Jasper's Motorhome cruises in the slow lane.

INT. REAR OF JASPER'S MOTORHOME - CONTINUOUS

A full kitchenette, bathroom, closet, and large bed where Sylvia is propped up. A curtain is slightly open and she can see outside. Lights whip by.

She works her hands behind her.

Out of her pocket falls her phone.

INT. JASPER'S MOTORHOME - CONTINUOUS

Jasper drives. Unaware of Sylvia's movements.

JASPER  
Sit back and relax. Long drive.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Wrapping up a different call, Cassie responds to the next.

CASSIE  
9-1-1 emergency. Operator 792.

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 (hushed)  
 Help me! I'm being helped captive!

Cassie looks up at her monitor.

Incident # 101

Location: unknown

Phone: unknown

CASSIE  
 Ma'am? Can you tell me where you  
 are?

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 PCH. I ain't too sure what city.

CASSIE  
 If you're getting me, then you are  
 in Santa Monica.

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 This dude is keeping me caged in a  
 fuckin' Motorhome! Please, just  
 send someone to rescue me!

CASSIE  
 Who's holding you captive?

Cassie can hear Sylvia begin to CRY.

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 Preacher man. I mean Jasper. I  
 don't know his last name. He's  
 just some john.

CASSIE  
 Are you on a cell phone?

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 Yes.

CASSIE  
 Ma'am, then I can't tell where you  
 are.

SYLVIA'S VOICE  
 Shit.

CASSIE  
 What's your name?



SYLVIA'S VOICE

Sylvia.

CASSIE

Sylvia. Preacher Man. Wait, the same Sylvia that called a few nights ago? From La Mesa?

SYLVIA'S VOICE

Yes!

INT. JASPER'S MOTORHOME - CONTINUOUS

The Motorhome brakes quickly. Thrown into "park." Jasper storms to the back.

SYLVIA

Hurry! He's here! He's back!

Jasper whisks the cell phone from her grasp. He listens to the phone.

CASSIE'S VOICE

Sylvia? Are you there?

JASPER

Who is this?

Jasper looks down. Stares at the cell phone call display. It reads: 9-1-1.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Taken aback, Cassie reverses gears.

CASSIE

Sir, this is 9-1-1 emergency. What's going on over there?

JASPER'S VOICE

None of your business.

CASSIE

Sir, you know you can't hold people against their will.

JASPER'S VOICE

Her *will*? How ironic.

CASSIE

Why are you doing this to her?

INT. JASPER'S MOTORHOME - CONTINUOUS

Muffling Sylvia with his hand, Jasper scans outside.

JASPER

Sylvia doesn't love me yet. To her, its all about sex. I caught her with other men at the La Mesa Motel. Is there nothing so vile?

CASSIE'S VOICE

Maybe she isn't the one for you.

JASPER

Oh, but in time. She just needs to know.

CASSIE'S VOICE

Well, apparently you come from two different lifestyles. You should be with someone more like you.

JASPER

I deserve as much.

CASSIE'S VOICE

Move on, Jasper. Don't let her get to you like this. Sylvia isn't worth it.

JASPER

(taken back)

You know my name.

CASSIE'S VOICE

That's not important.

JASPER

Come now. You won't tell me yours. Not your real name.

CASSIE'S VOICE

Actually, its the law. Our names are required if an incident goes to court. I'm Cassie.

JASPER

Well, Cassie. I've never...its not easy for my kind. To meet others.

CASSIE'S VOICE

It's not easy for anyone, Jasper.  
Love is like that. Sometimes it  
comes easily, sometimes you have to  
work at it.

JASPER

You don't understand...

CASSIE'S VOICE

You'll find the right girl one day.  
She's out there, Jasper. And I  
know, I can tell, you really want  
to do good for someone special.

JASPER

I am willing to show the truest  
form of love. A love that is  
eternal.

CASSIE'S VOICE

Lord knows I'd appreciate that.

JASPER

You would?

CASSIE'S VOICE

I know you mean well. So why not  
do the right thing? Let her go.

JASPER

You're right. I require someone  
already pure. Not tainted. But I  
can't allow her to leave.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

SNAPPING her fingers at Alec, Cassie continues sternly.

CASSIE

Jasper. Don't harm her.

JASPER'S VOICE

You've shown me the way.

Her call ends.

CASSIE

Jasper? Are you there?

She checks her monitor.

Blank.

Cassie puts a call out to her units.

CASSIE  
Any central unit, possible  
kidnapping along PCH. Victim is a  
female, possibly in a motorhome.  
Suspect is a male, name is Jasper.  
Code Two High.

Alec's voice breaks in the line.

ALEC'S VOICE  
Dispatch, any further description  
on the motorhome?

Alec, his headphones on, facing her from the window.

CASSIE  
Uh, negative.

ALEC'S VOICE  
Then let's keep the call to a Code  
Two. We can't have the units  
stopping every tourist on that  
road.

He winks.

CASSIE  
Roger that.

INT. JASPER'S MOTORHOME - MOMENTS LATER

Plucking the battery from the cell phone, Jasper gains some relief and tosses it to her.

JASPER  
Here. Try it now.

Both her hands catch it. Her rope strand is cut.

JASPER  
How did you get your hands free?

Flipping her sideways, he's suddenly faced with a stiletto jabbing his shoulder.

EXT. PCH - JASPER'S MOTORHOME - MOMENTS LATER

Vehicles HONK and BRAKE as Sylvia scrambles between cars. A taxi SKIDS to a stop. Sylvia dodges it, runs into an alley.

Jasper storms out the door, clutching his shoulder in pain. The stiletto still embedded.

JASPER

Slut! Whore! I hate you!

Plucking the knife out, he sees no recourse other than to leave. Which he does, pulling a U-turn in traffic.

EXT. JASPER'S HOUSE - LATER

Jasper parks his motorhome. Steps out. Touches his shoulder and winces.

INT. JASPER'S BEDROOM - LATER

The trapdoor is black, empty. Jasper zones, staring at the openness but then snaps out of it as headlights cross his window. Then shut off.

Jasper moves to the window.

A black Caddy parks in his driveway.

EXT. JASPER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Gun in hand, Gus steps out of the Caddy. Sylvia sits in the passenger seat, cowering still.

GUS

You sure this is it?

SYLVIA

Saw enough. Yeah. That's his piece of shit Motorhome too.

GUS

You wait the fuck here.

SYLVIA

Bullet in his brain, Gus.

GUS

Don't you go callin' no 9-1-1.

SYLVIA

Like I wanna see him in jail.

Gus approaches the front door and SPITS. Looks around, no witnesses. He tries the knob.

It opens.

INT. JASPER'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

No movement except his own. Gus tip-toes throughout. A CREAK from a bedroom.

Gus angles in that direction.

INT. JASPER'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Dark inside. Sweeping his gun, Gus is ready for anything.

GUS

Where are you, Preacher man?

The trapdoor. Wide open. Having not looked down, Gus takes a fateful step -- and falls through.

INT. JASPER'S UNDERGROUND ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Feet first, Gus lands with a THUD, falling to his side, his gun CLATTERING on the floor. Rising, however, he staggers. Can't find his gun too. A wetness and pain in is groin area.

GUS

The fuck is this?

Reaching down, he finds blood. A lot of it.

Jasper's face appears under the ladder. Holding Sylvia's stiletto angled up between the rungs.

The stiletto is bloody too.

Gus SHRIEKS.

INT. JASPER'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A TUSSLE. Gus SHRIEKS, then goes silent. Jasper then climbs the ladder and calmly closes the trapdoor.

EXT. JASPER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Fidgety, Sylvia searches for any sign of Gus. Out of patience, she reaches for his cell phone and dials 9-1...

Jasper's bloody hand darts inside the window. Grabs the phone out of her grasp.

JASPER  
Silly rabbit.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - DAY

Cassie listens to a call where a DRUNK stammers on the line.

Shown on her console:

Incident # 99

Location: 4555 Main

Phone: (213) 555-9988 (pay phone)

CASSIE  
Sir, where is the assailant now?

DRUNK'S VOICE  
Assail ant? Who's that?

CASSIE  
The person who stabbed you.

DRUNK'S VOICE  
Oh. He down the street. I'm  
lookin' at him right now.

CASSIE  
What's he look like?

DRUNK'S VOICE  
A stealing ass punk.

CASSIE  
Can you describe him to me?

The drunk VOMITS and hangs up. Cassie SIGHS and puts the call out.

CASSIE  
 Central Units and One Adam Thirty,  
 One Adam Thirty, possible  
 aggravated assault Four Fifty Five  
 Main, Four Fifty Five Main at the  
 Chevron Station. Suspect  
 description unknown. See the  
 victim at a pay phone. Victim is  
 inebriated. One Adam Thirty  
 respond Code Two.

OFFICER 1A30 RESPONDS.

Nell, the slim dispatcher from earlier, comes by with a bouquet of roses. Cassie mutes her mike.

NELL  
 Trying to make us all jealous?

Genuinely surprised, Cassie looks around nervously.

CASSIE  
 For me? Who sent these?

NELL  
 Girl, there's talk about you.

CASSIE  
 What kind of talk?

NELL  
 You and a certain Sergeant.

CASSIE  
 We're just friends.

NELL  
 Uh, huh. Then you got nothing to worry about. Unless you're trying to make your friend jealous. These are from some Romeo named Jasper.

CASSIE  
 Jasper?

A note among the stems. She plucks it, reads it.

CASSIE  
*Roses are red, violets are blue,  
 just a small token of friendship,  
 blossoming into something true.*

Cassie immediately trashes the roses as if they were poison.



NELL  
 Uh, oh. What is it? He's gay?  
 Lives with ten cats?

CASSIE  
 A psycho who kidnapped a hooker.

NELL  
 Whatever works. I usually get  
 complaints.  
 (beat)  
 Oh, by the way. The Sergeant?

Nell wiggles her wedding ring.

NELL  
 The tan line fades, but it never  
 goes away.

INT. JASPER'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

A game of solitaire on the carpet. He's got all four aces up, but Jasper's stuck. He can't get another card up and grows frustrated.

A Jack of Spades winks at him. Jasper RIPS the card in half, then swats the rest of the deck aside.

SINGING out his window. Parting the blinds, the Brethren are outside Athena's house, dressed in white again, singing in a semi circle surrounding the same members from the operating table. The singing stops and all heads turn to Jasper.

The male member holds a CHILD high.

It has Jasper's face.

The Brethren slink towards him.

JASPER  
 (backing away)  
 No! Stay away from me!

A rocking chair beside him begins to move.

HELEN WOBBLY "materializes." 30s, hair long and braided. Hippy clothing. Woozy, like she's high.

HELEN  
 My poor little angel.

JASPER

Tell them I am away, Sis. They are wretched sadists. I refuse to hide down below any longer. I will cut them--

HELEN

Look at me.

Reluctantly, Jasper turns, cocks his head.

JASPER

You're so...young.

HELEN

But not so stupid. I was mislead. We all were. I know that now. At least Theo can't take that away.

Jasper PUNCHES the wall.

HELEN

Theo took to me. Before it was his time. I was so weak. He was so strong.

JASPER

I know. You told me. When you passed on. Weeks ago.

Helen nods to his bedroom.

HELEN

What went wrong with the girl you had down below?

JASPER

She did not love me. She was wicked.

HELEN

Never give up. You'll find the right girl. We deserve that much.

EXT. GYMNASIUM - DAY

Cassie thrashes wildly on the gymnasium floor as fellow COWORKERS watch. An INSTRUCTOR kneels down.

Cassie's mouth froths, her eyes roll back in her head. Her face goes red -- and she lays still.

INSTRUCTOR  
That's as real as an overdose  
gets, folks. But, she's not  
out of the water yet.

The instructor whispers to her.

INSTRUCTOR  
Where did you learn to hold your  
breath like that? You had me  
worried.

CASSIE  
Surfer's lungs. And if I take one  
more alka seltzer tab, I'll barf.

INSTRUCTOR  
(to the class)  
Okay, so Miss Woods here has  
stopped thrashing around. She has  
probably gone into shock. The  
first course of business is...?

CASSIE  
CPR.

INSTRUCTOR  
Quiet. You're near death, Cassie.  
Anyway, you're right. Ask the  
caller to perform CPR until help  
arrives. If the caller cannot  
perform it, get the paramedics  
there pronto.

A YOUNG DISPATCHER raises her hand.

YOUNG DISPATCHER  
Can you survive without breathing  
for any length of time?

INSTRUCTOR  
The younger you are, the less time  
your breathing has stopped, the  
less you struggled, and if CPR is  
applied, then yes, you could  
survive. Speaking of CPR...

Cassie rises to her feet.

CASSIE  
Hold it. I think a trainee  
should take my place.

Cassie pats a TRAINEE on the shoulder.

CASSIE  
 Sorry, girlfriend. But this  
 guy had an onion bagel.

EXT. MEXICAN RESTAURANT - MORNING

A cheap restaurant facing the beach. Corona posters line a  
 takeout window.

SIDE WALL

Jasper, smiling, pushes a dolly filled with crates. He stops  
 at some vending machines, jiggles his keys.

VALU-RITE VENDORS is stitched to his uniform.

A pair of HOOKERS round the corner. Desire, seen at the La  
 Mesa Motel earlier, walks with WANDA, a frumpy streetwalker.

DESIRE  
 So, Sylvia just bailed and Gus is  
 trippin'. He thinks she skipped  
 town. She owes him money.

WANDA  
 I wouldn't wanna get on Gus' bad  
 side. Smack your ass up.

DESIRE  
 Where is Gus, anyway? You seen  
 him? It's been, like, days.

WANDA  
 He took off in his Caddy like a bat  
 outta Hell. Didn't say nothin'.

Jasper perks up at the mention of Sylvia's name.

DESIRE  
 You know, Sylvia told me there was  
 this dude who kept sending her  
 flowers and shit. Preacher man.

WANDA  
 For real? You think she get saved  
 and they leave together?

DESIRE

Girl, he a wet noodle I heard. I never saw him up close though. He was like ashamed, hid his face some. Sylvia said he just yak all the time.

WANDA

Those are the dangerous ones.

DESIRE

Shit, she woulda told me if she was goin' someplace. Now I'm worried.

Desire sees Jasper and grows annoyed. She storms over.

DESIRE

Your machine is a piece of shit.

Startled, Jasper stops loading.

DESIRE

I put in two dollars for a Klondike Bar and got nothin'.

WANDA

Hello? Are you gonna do something about it or what?

JASPER

Would you like the money back...or...?

DESIRE

I want the damn ice cream bar!

JASPER

Of course. Sorry.

A Klondike bar changes hands.

DESIRE

Better not be melted.

Jasper talks into his chest as Desire hikes back.

JASPER

Maybe I'll inject some E Coli into these fucking things. That would be good.

Desire heard that, stopping immediately.

DESIRE  
What did you say?

Ignoring her but managing a smile, Jasper resumes reloading his machine.

Desire flips him off. She and Wanda walk away.

Jasper squishes ice cream in his hands. He gawks at Desire and Wanda through the glass machine door and slides his tongue over his wet fingers. He then buries his thumb into his mouth and sucks harder and harder.

His jaw begins to gnaw, and his saliva is replaced by blood.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - NIGHT

Cassie types away as she wraps up a call.

CASSIE  
Sir, I sent animal control out to your address to take care of the opossum trapped in your shed. Please don't try to kill it. They really are harmless.

CLICK. She releases the call.

BOOP! Another call.

CASSIE  
9-1-1 emergency. Operator 729.

JASPER'S VOICE  
Hey, I got you. First attempt. It's Jasper. Remember me?

Cassie is taken back. Stares at her screen.

Incident # 250

Location: unknown

Phone: unknown

CASSIE  
Are you reporting an emergency?

JASPER'S VOICE  
It's wonderful to hear your voice. Allow me to thank you. You got through to me like no other.

CASSIE  
That's very nice of you, but if  
you're not reporting an emergency,  
I'm going to have to end this call.

JASPER'S VOICE  
Wait. Then how about coffee?  
Perhaps dinner?

CASSIE'S VOICE  
Sir, I'm going to have to end this  
call.

CLICK. She does.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - FRONT LOBBY - CONTINUOUS

Jasper listens to a dead tone. He SLAMS his cell phone shut.

In front of him is a wall of various department personnel in  
photographs. Each in uniform. Including Cassie Woods. Her  
name below her smiling face. His finger traces her smile.

A FRONT DESK OFFICER nods to him in the background.

FRONT DESK OFFICER  
Can I help you, sir?

Waving him off, Jasper strolls up the doors and exits.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - OFFICES - LATER

Police radio calls flood Alec's office. Cassie KNOCKS on his  
door as Alec listens in.

CASSIE  
I think I might have a problem.

ALEC  
You got that right.

Pointing, a dozen flower bouquets sit on a table.

ALEC  
So who is this Casanova Jasper and  
why is he making me look bad?

EXT. SMPD - FRONT GATE - LATER

The front gate opens and Cassie's Jeep drives through, passing Jasper's delivery van.

Which STARTS up.

EXT. MALIBU BEACH - DAY

Dropping off a killer wave, a smiling Cassie grabs her board and strolls up the sand to her towel.

The beach is deserted, except for a MAN FLYING A KITE nearby. His back to Cassie. Wearing a thick jacket.

Cassie towels off, watching the kite flutter in the sky. The man flying the kite backs up, almost falling into Cassie.

It's Jasper.

JASPER

Oh, sorry. I didn't mean to crash into you. I thought I was alone.

CASSIE

No problem.

JASPER

Can I ask you a favor? Can you hold the kite for me? I need to tie my laces.

A lace is untied.

CASSIE

Sure.

He hands the kite to her, then bends down to tie his shoe. Cassie takes control of the kite. At first, she is uneasy, but then she beams as the kite swirls high above.

CASSIE

This is kind of fun. I haven't flown a kite since I was--

JASPER

Hello Cassie.

A bouquet of roses and violets in his hands, his jacket open.



CASSIE  
(jumps)  
Do I know you?

JASPER  
It's me. Jasper.

Releasing the kite, Cassie backs away. The handle bounces across the sand, the kite fluttering away. Jasper pays no attention to it.

CASSIE  
I have to be going.

JASPER  
Please, just a moment of your time.

Cassie searches the empty beach.

JASPER  
You are so beautiful. I knew you would be.

CASSIE  
What do you want?

Jasper touches her wrist and hands her the flowers.

JASPER  
I just look at you and I touch your hand, and this ordinary world becomes a wonderland.

She quickly withdraws it.

JASPER  
A boy like me, a girl like you.  
(beat)  
Elvis sang that. I'm a huge fan.  
Of both of you, of course.

CASSIE  
You need to stop sending me these.

JASPER  
They are from the bottom of my heart. However, there is another way I can profess my love.

CASSIE  
I'm not interested.

JASPER  
We are meant to be.

CASSIE  
I like someone else.

JASPER  
You have a boyfriend? A lover?

CASSIE  
Excuse me?

JASPER  
I can take you away from all the  
pain, the hurt. Show you a truer  
form of love.

Cassie reaches down to her board. He grabs it too.

JASPER  
Where the hell do you think you're  
going? To him? Back to your  
lover? Sinner!

CASSIE  
How did you know what I looked  
like?

JASPER  
Sex, sex, sex. You women never  
learn. Its not your fault though.  
TV, magazines, radio -- there's  
smut everywhere--

Cassie throws the flowers at his face, then SLAMS the board  
into his side and sprints for the water.

She dives on top of her board and paddles out quickly.

EXT. OCEAN - MOMENTS LATER

Cassie breaks through the set and turns. Waves roll past.  
The beach is deserted.

A HAND suddenly rises from the water and grabs her ankle.  
Cassie SHRIEKS.

Jasper surfaces behind her board. Cassie kicks with her  
other foot and breaks Jasper's grasp. She paddles out  
further as Jasper stops, balances on his toes.

JASPER  
Come back here! I didn't mean to  
frighten you!

Jasper grows weary of the water and backs towards shore.

JASPER  
You can't stay out there forever!

Cassie sees a wave and catches it. She surfs at an angle to the beach. Jasper tries to catch up to her but he SLOSHES awkwardly in the breaking waves.

JASPER  
You unthankful whore!

A lifeguard SUV parks at a lifeguard tower. Cassie surfs towards it, waving her arms.

EXT. MALIBU BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

Cassie runs up the shore towards the tower yelling at the lifeguard. The LIFEGUARD sees her, jumps down the stairs.

LIFEGUARD  
You okay?

CASSIE  
There's a guy, chasing me...

The lifeguard searches the beach.

LIFEGUARD  
I don't see anyone.

Cassie turns around. Once again, deserted.

However, above the rocks, up on PCH, a white delivery van SPEWS gravel as it merges into traffic.

INT. SMPD - OFFICES - LATER

A SKETCH ARTIST works a note pad next to Cassie. The picture is a close description of Jasper.

CAPTAIN KIM, 40s, Asian, listens nearby.

CASSIE  
Face is rounder. Eyes smaller.  
Five ten maybe, stocky build,  
white male, wore dark clothes.

CAPTAIN KIM  
You know who this Jasper is,  
Cassie?

CASSIE  
He's a guy who may have tried to  
kidnap a girl. For some stupid  
reason, he thinks I like him. He  
went psycho on me and I had to  
escape.

CAPTAIN KIM  
How did he know you were there?

CASSIE  
I don't know. I drive a Jeep, its  
easy to see my board.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Have you reported him?

CASSIE  
No. I couldn't prove he kidnapped  
anyone. We can't locate him nor  
the victim. If there even was one.

The sketch artist finishes. Shows the room. Cassie nods.

SKETCH ARTIST  
Captain Kim, I'll show this at roll  
call.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Pass it around the floor too.

The sketch artist leaves.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Cassie, you have to be careful.

CASSIE  
He caught me by surprise. What  
else could I do?

CAPTAIN KIM  
How about arming yourself?

INT. JASPER'S DELIVERY VAN - NIGHT

Jasper, parked, finishes coffee as watches the SMPD's  
employee lot across the street.

A delivery van approaches, turns into the lot. Another Valu-Rite Vendors Delivery van.

He CRUSHES his Styrofoam coffee cup.

JASPER  
Stan's route.

A nod from the GUARD and the van rolls inside the lot. Just then, Cassie's Jeep leaves the lot opposite the van.

INT. SUPERMARKET - PARKING LOT - LATER

Cassie throws grocery bags into the back of her Jeep. Jasper watches from inside his van, parked a few stalls away.

INT. CASSIE'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

Cassie drinks a beer as she watches a hockey game. The power suddenly goes off. The house goes dark.

She hears a CREAK from the kitchen door. She reaches for her purse nearby.

INT. CASSIE'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Cassie crouches and holds her mace out front. She sees the kitchen door open. A small wind toys with her curtains.

Cassie reaches for her wall phone, dials 9-1-1, and leaves the receiver dangling.

CASSIE  
I work for Santa Monica PD! Leave  
immediately whoever you are!

FOOTSTEPS scamper across her floor ahead of her.

CASSIE  
It's no use cutting the power. I'm  
on a land line. My phone still  
works and I already dialed 9-1-1.  
They'll send police whether I talk  
or not.

A blanket is thrown over her and she is tackled to the floor. Fighting for an opening, she finds it, sees Jasper's face, and scratches it. As he WINCES, she frees her hand and MACES him. Jasper rolls off, GROANING.

But the mace spray clouds, and she MOANS as well, still wrapped in the blanket. As she unravels, she sees Jasper heading for the kitchen, but not before BANGING into a wall and stumbling through an open kitchen door.

Cassie rushes to her bathroom and locks the door.

INT. CASSIE'S BATHROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cassie COUGHS as she SPLASHES water over her eyes. A large ENGINE REVS outside in her alley and takes off.

INT. CASSIE'S HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Cassie stoops down to feel for the mace but can't find it. She searches for her purse. Missing too.

A Police Unit SCREECHES to a stop outside in the front.

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - LATER

The house is swarming with COPS. An ambulance is parked out front too. A PARAMEDIC holds a towel over Cassie's face.

Captain Kim paces.

PARAMEDIC  
Just keep flushing your eyes with  
water and you'll be fine. Okay?

Cassie nods. The paramedic leaves.

Alec exits the house.

ALEC  
Whoever did it just flipped the  
main switch in your fuse box. You  
should put a lock on it.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Twice in one day, Cassie?

CASSIE  
I'm not doing this on purpose!

CAPTAIN KIM  
Do we have anything on this guy?

ALEC  
Nothing. No prints, no hairs.

CASSIE  
That's not all. He took my purse.  
I had a tazer in there. And he  
took my mace too. I can't find it.

CAPTAIN KIM  
You got a place to stay tonight?

CASSIE  
I have a house, Captain. And I'm  
staying here.

CAPTAIN KIM  
I'll put round the clock  
surveillance then. You hear  
anything, you call me directly.

Captain Kim leaves.

ALEC  
Cass, why don't you come stay with  
me?

CASSIE  
Not now, Alec.

Some of the other officers look over.

CASSIE  
Please, just go. I'll be fine.

Alec reluctantly goes.

INT. JASPER'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jasper SLAPS cards down while he plays solitaire. He dabs a  
towel on his red eyes. Jasper loses. Can't get an ace up.  
He throws his cards, stands, and walks to the window.

Athena prunes flowers in a garden across the street in her  
nightgown. SNIPPING the same leaf over and over.

JASPER  
Spying on me, aren't you bitch.

Caught, she holds the pruners high for him to see. She SNIPS  
air. Then she SNIPS madly at the row of flowers, shredding  
them into pieces.

A HAND touches Jasper from behind.

Helen "materializes" again. She's in her 40s now. Dressed in white like the Brethren.

HELEN

She was jealous of Theo's  
debauchery and lust! She made us  
all pay the price!

JASPER

Temptation best cured by the  
ultimate celibacy rite.

HELEN

The Will must end.

JASPER

I shall help them find closure.

HELEN

Remember the weapon you hide in the  
closet.

Jasper turns. Stares at his closet door.

HELEN

Be David, to their Goliath.

Jasper turns back to Athena who pays no attention and continues pruning her flowers.

The garden frazzled.

EXT. SMPD - STREET - DAY

Cars pass by. Inside her Jeep, Cassie jots down license plates of men passing by in vans or trucks. Or any man driving a vehicle.

Alec TAPS the door. Climbs in.

ALEC

I'm pretty sure that's illegal.

CASSIE

So is stalking.

ALEC

Usually, we take our breaks in the  
breakroom. You know, where its  
safe.

Cassie pays no attention. A truck passes and she writes the plate down.



CASSIE  
Damn it. Did that end with a 7 or  
a T?

ALEC  
Do you think psycho boy would show  
up here?

CASSIE  
He had no idea where I lived. He  
must've been here, watching me.  
Waiting.

ALEC  
What do you plan to do with that  
list?

CASSIE  
I'm just jotting down the plates  
for male drivers who he resembles.  
I can run their plates and see if  
his name pops up.

Alec flashes a small snubnose revolver.

ALEC  
Palmed it off a seventeen year old  
drug dealer. Serial is filed off.  
I'll take the rap if you get  
caught.

Cassie pushes it away.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS

A Valu-Rite Delivery van cruises down the street. It veers  
to the shoulder, stops, and pulls over.

INT. JASPER'S DELIVERY VAN - CONTINUOUS

Jasper grips the wheel. Wide-eyed. He can see Cassie in her  
Jeep. He panics, yanks the wheel, and pulls a U-turn.

INT. CASSIE'S JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Cassie sees the delivery van turn around. She jots down his  
plate anyway.

ALEC  
Don't bother with that van. That's  
Stan. Our vending machine dude.

CASSIE  
Stan left an hour ago.

ALEC  
Yeah, well, this is his route.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - LATER

Cassie, her hair tied up, TAPS a Surfing magazine as she  
speaks to a frazzled ELDERLY CALLER.

CASSIE  
I'm sorry, Ma'am, but even if I had  
the number to Universal Studios, I  
couldn't give it out. This line..

ELDERLY CALLER  
But I'm lost. Can you send the  
police here to help me at least?

CASSIE  
No, Ma'am. The police are too busy  
to escort you like that and since  
you're on a cell phone, I couldn't  
locate you anyway.

ELDERLY CALLER  
What on earth can I do?

CASSIE  
Ask for directions at a service  
station. A bus stop, I don't know.  
I'm sorry, but I can't keep this  
line open anymore. Good luck and  
goodbye.

Cassie hangs up the call. She looks around the center for  
prying eyes, then lifts a Surfing magazine. Under it, she  
brings out her list of license plates. Five numbers are  
crossed off.

She types in the next plate. 3CFY925 The registered owner  
comes up as; FRED DUNWAY, 333 Main Street. DOB 2/15/42

BOOP! A call comes through. Cassie answers.

CASSIE  
9-1-1 emergency. Operator 729.

JASPER'S VOICE  
I'm disappointed. You wore your  
hair up today. I prefer it down.

Cassie immediately moves her hand to her head. She checks  
the console.

Incident # 643

Location: unknown

Phone: unknown

JASPER'S VOICE  
Anyway, I thought I'd return some  
items of yours.

CASSIE  
Leave me alone!

JASPER'S VOICE  
Just one more thing.

CASSIE  
What?!?

INT. CASSIE'S JEEP - CONTINUOUS

Still parked outside the police yard. Jasper, wearing  
gloves, places her purse on the passenger seat. In his other  
hand, Cassie's cell phone.

JASPER  
I can get to you whenever I want.  
There's nothing you can do to stop  
me. I'll have you soon.

He hangs up, lays the cell phone down, and places a playing  
card on the dash.

The Queen of Hearts.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - LATER

Cassie glares at a blank screen on her console. Alec holds a  
little baggie with the cell phone and playing card inside.

ALEC  
Try the CLETS System for any priors  
on the guy.

CASSIE

I only know his first name. We need his last name and date of birth for that. Jasper's name could even be a alias. Made up.

ALEC

Let me get the cell phone and card dusted for prints.

CASSIE

Don't bother. If he wanted me to know who he was, I'd know by now.

ALEC

Cass, I'm worried about you. I don't want to see this guy get close to you.

(beat)

If you want, you could stay at my place.

CASSIE

I'm going to pull the tapes from his calls. Maybe I missed something.

ALEC

Did you hear me? You don't know what this guy will do. What if this dickhead--

Captain Kim appears. Next to him is DR. ADAMS.

CAPTAIN KIM

Cassie, this is Dr. Adams. She's a psychologist who does liaison work for our department. She might be able to help you cope with your situation.

DR. ADAMS

Cassie, can I buy you a cappuccino?

INT. BREAK ROOM - LATER

Cassie and Dr. Adams face each other across a table, both with cappuccinos. The rest of the break room is empty.

DR. ADAMS

I had them lock the door for us so we can be alone.

CASSIE  
Hope nobody needs a caffeine fix.

DR. ADAMS  
Does the term love-obsessed stalker  
mean anything to you?

Cassie shakes her head.

DR. ADAMS  
It means that the perpetrator  
becomes severely infatuated with  
someone they don't know.

CASSIE  
That's me.

DR. ADAMS  
It happens much more than you  
think. One out of twenty women  
will become stalked in their  
lifetime. Unfortunately, this  
country has thousands of suicide  
prevention centers but not one  
single homicide prevention center.

CASSIE  
He won't stop. He won't listen.

DR. ADAMS  
Stalkers rarely give up on their  
obsession. Rejection just makes  
them try harder. If it takes  
sending you a hundred bouquets and  
you finally reply to him, that just  
tells him how much effort is needed  
to get to you.

CASSIE  
How does he get like this?

DR. ADAMS  
Schizophrenia, child abuse, trauma,  
there are many underlying causes of  
delusional based attachment.

CASSIE  
But why me? I'm nobody.

DR. ADAMS  
You talked him out of committing a  
crime, correct?

CASSIE

I tried but I don't know if it worked.

DR. ADAMS

Somehow, he took that as personal.

CASSIE

I help everyone though. That's who I am. My job.

DR. ADAMS

That was his trigger. He took your caring as a sign of love. From that one incident, he decided you two were a perfect match.

CASSIE

He knows I work for the police and that doesn't bother him.

DR. ADAMS

And it may not. Usually, once the authorities such as police become involved, the situation either goes one of two ways; he'll either grow frightened and leave, or--

CASSIE

Or he'll die trying.

DR. ADAMS

It's not death they're afraid of. It's failing to win.

CASSIE

What should I do?

CUT TO:

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - MOMENTS LATER

Cassie slumps in her chair. Captain Kim and Dr. Adams hover.

CASSIE

You want me to meet him?!?

CAPTAIN KIM

When he calls again, arrange something. Coffee. A drink. We'll be there when you do.

CAPTAIN KIM(cont'd)

(beat)

We'll get him, Cassie.

EXT. SANTA MONICA - SANTA MONICA PIER - NIGHT

Teenagers SCREAM from an actual roller coaster on the pier. Lights from the Ferris Wheel illuminate the throngs of people passing by the various eateries and carny attractions.

Jasper, holding a cell phone to his ear, passes the roller coaster and leans on the pier railing.

JASPER

How are you this fine morning?

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie straightens as she hears his voice.

CASSIE

Jasper. What a surprise.

JASPER'S VOICE

It only took me two calls to get to you this time.

CASSIE

Yeah, well, there's only three of us working the phones right now.

JASPER'S VOICE

You sound different today. I expected another brush off.

A loudspeaker announces the end of the ride for those on the roller coaster.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie jumps at the sound of the loudspeaker.

CASSIE

Memo. We were told to be nicer on the phone.

JASPER'S VOICE

Ask me what my emergency is.

CASSIE

What's your emergency?

JASPER'S VOICE

Someone stole my heart. I'd like her to give it back to me.

CASSIE

Corny. You know, you and I really need to sit down and talk.

JASPER'S VOICE

You do? Wonderful.

CASSIE

I'll come meet you in a few minutes. I get a break. What are you wearing?

JASPER'S VOICE

Why do you want to know that?

CASSIE

So wherever we meet, I can spot you across a crowded room.

She almost gags on that.

JASPER'S VOICE

Well, just normal clothes unfortunately. Some blue jeans, black shirt.

(beat)

I know a great Mexican place.

Cassie pushes the call button. Jasper cannot hear this.

CASSIE

Central Units and One Adam Eleven, possible kidnap suspect at Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica Pier. Male suspect, medium build, near roller coaster, wearing blue jeans and black shirt. Code Two high.

OFFICER 1A11 answers.

OFFICER 1A11'S VOICE

Roger.

EXT. SANTA MONICA - SANTA MONICA PIER - CONTINUOUS

Jasper taps his cell phone.



JASPER  
Cassie? Are you there?

CASSIE'S VOICE  
Yes, a coworker was just telling me  
a joke. Sorry.

JASPER  
Let's hear it.

CASSIE'S VOICE  
Hear what?

JASPER  
The joke.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Fidgeting, Cassie tries to downplay it/

CASSIE  
It wasn't very funny.

OFFICER 1A11'S VOICE  
Dispatch, we're approaching suspect  
vicinity.

JASPER'S VOICE  
Try me.

CASSIE  
I can't repeat it over the air.  
I'll get in trouble. It has some  
bad words.

EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER - CONTINUOUS

Jasper sees TWO OFFICERS walking quickly down the pier about  
one hundred yards away.

JASPER  
You lied to me, Cassie.

CASSIE'S VOICE  
And we have a sub station at the  
pier. Don't do anything stupid.  
Turn yourself in.

Jasper looks down at his clothing. Blue jeans, black shirt.  
He flips off the phone, looks for an escape. There is none  
except--the railing.

Looking down, the ocean waves CRASH against the pilings below. The ocean depth here is deep. He backs away from the railing in fear.

The officers are closing in, scanning the crowd.

Jasper runs along the railing, coming towards the officers. Watching the sea depth. Jasper sees the waves break down below. The officers look up simultaneously. See Jasper approaching and they grab their holsters.

Jasper climbs the railing.

And jumps.

EXT. WATER - MOMENTS LATER

Jasper SPLASHES into the water.

EXT. SANTA MONICA PIER - CONTINUOUS

Stunned, the two officers stare down at the sea below. Jasper surfaces.

Grabbing their rovers, they run back to the pier entrance.

EXT. WATER - MOMENTS LATER

Jasper thrashes in the water and scrambles up the shore, zigzagging across the sand, and then up on to the strand. Finally, he disappears into an alley.

Moments later, the two officers arrive.

INT. JASPER'S MOTORHOME - MOMENTS LATER

The two officers run down the street and unknowingly pass Jasper's Motorhome. Jasper GASPS as he peeks over the dash, sees one officer yelling into his rover.

Exhausted, Jasper collapses on the floor. The two officers turn a street corner and disappear from view.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie throws her headphones aside as he hears the police not finding their suspect.

CASSIE  
 How can he get away? He jumped off  
 the fucking pier!

Cassie's coworkers look over.

EXT. SANTA MONICA - VALU-RITE WAREHOUSE - LATER

Hand-held forklifts WHIR with loaded merchandise. SHIPPERS  
 insert them into the open doors of reversed Minivans.

INT. LOADING DOCK - CONTINUOUS

STAN checks his inventory. He's the same delivery man Jasper  
 had recognized before, who serves the SMPD. Bearded, long  
 hair, looks like a rocker.

A pair of tickets TAP his shoulder. He turns to see Jasper.

JASPER  
 I want your run.

STAN  
 Get the fuck outta here.

JASPER  
 Two tickets to the Monster Truck  
 Pull at Staples Center.

STAN  
 My run sucks. Nothing but cops and  
 schools. You got all them beach  
 babes. What gives?

JASPER  
 I need a change.

STAN  
 You weirded someone out, I bet.  
 Probably that hooker you're always  
 talking about.

Jasper rushes him and pushes him against his Minivan.

JASPER  
 If you don't give me your run,  
 I'll skin your dick and feed it to  
 your dog.

Stan shoves him back.

STAN  
Throw in a limo and you got a deal.

Jasper hands his tickets over and snatches the clipboard.

STAN  
You seriously need your head  
examined, you sick bastard.

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A spotlight from a SMPD patrol unit shines on Cassie's house as it cruises by the front and parks.

INT. PATROL UNIT - CONTINUOUS

Alec switches off the spotlight, kills the engine. He opens up a thermos and pours himself some coffee.

His passenger door opens. Cassie steps inside. Holds a bag.

CASSIE  
You're like a big Christmas  
ornament out here.

ALEC  
That's the idea.

He nods to the bag.

ALEC  
What's in there?

She opens it, shows him some clothes and a toothbrush.

CASSIE  
I can't sleep.

INT. SMPD - OFFICES - MORNING

Cassie sets up her tape recorder. Inserts a tape. She hits "play" and waits.

JASPER'S VOICE  
I'm disappointed. You wore your  
hair up today. I prefer it down.

Cassie moves her hand to her head again.

JASPER'S VOICE  
 Anyway, I thought I'd return some  
 items of yours.

She hits "stop" and removes the tape. She inserts another,  
 the call from the Motorhome.

CASSIE'S VOICE  
 Move on, Jasper. Don't let her get  
 to you like this. Sylvia isn't  
 worth it.

JASPER'S VOICE  
 You know my name?

CASSIE  
 Wait.

She rewinds. Stops. Hits play.

JASPER'S VOICE  
 Sylvia doesn't love me yet. To  
 her, its all about sex. I caught  
 her with other men at the La Mesa  
 Motel. Is there nothing so vile?

Cassie removes her headphones.

CASSIE  
 Sylvia. La Mesa Motel.

EXT. SIDE OF MANUEL'S MEXICAN FOOD - DAY

Desire strolls up to a pay phone nearby. She dials 9-1-1.

MALE DISPATCHERS' VOICE  
 9-1-1 emergency. Operator 777.

DESIRE  
 Yeah, um, I'd like to report a  
 missing person.

MALE DISPATCHER'S VOICE  
 How old are they?

DESIRE  
 Twenty-two. Why?

MALE DISPATCHER'S VOICE  
 Because if they're under 16, I can  
 take that information.

MALE DISPATCHER'S VOICE(cont'd)

If they're over 16, you have to come into the station with a photo of the missing person and file a report at the front desk.

DESIRE

I ain't gonna bite no bullet!

Desire hangs up. Wanda walks over.

DESIRE

They want me to come in and file a missing persons report for Sylvia. In person.

WANDA

Girl, they bust you as soon as your ass walk in that door.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Cassie flips channels on a TV. Alec appears from down the hall, holsters his gun.

ALEC

I walked the perimeter. House is secure. No crazies out there.

CASSIE

This is ridiculous. My own home, and I don't feel safe.

ALEC

He did attack you here, Cassie. You should feel vulnerable.

A photo on the night stand grabs his attention. He takes it, sits down next to Cassie.

JOHN DAVID WOODS (RETIRED). In police uniform. A memorial is engraved honoring his death five years earlier.

CASSIE

Thirty years on the job.

ALEC

I bet he was proud of you.

CASSIE

He wanted me to follow him, but I never made it through the police academy. I couldn't pass the physical agility tests.

ALEC

You guys save our butts many times.  
Dispatch is a very tough job too.

Cassie stands. Puts the photo back.

CASSIE

Am I responsible?

ALEC

For what?

CASSIE

Him. Jasper. Stalking me.

ALEC

Why do you think that?

CASSIE

You take a call, you become  
instantly involved in someone's  
personal tragedy.

ALEC

Believe me, some of these calls you  
don't want to be a part of.

CASSIE

But then, I can push another  
button, and the caller goes away.  
I decide their fate, just like  
that.

ALEC

So, this is fate?

CASSIE

I don't carry a gun, I don't arrest  
people, I don't carry a badge. I  
can talk someone out of a suicide,  
I can send an ambulance to save a  
life, or I can screw up an address  
and have someone die.

ALEC

Why are you talking about this?

CASSIE

Because I hold the power of life or  
death at the end of a phone. And  
yet, I can't even protect myself.

Alec stands, grabs her arm.

CASSIE  
No, Alec. I have to beat him. I  
can't leave. This is my house.

ALEC  
I don't want you alone.

CASSIE  
I never said I wanted to be alone.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - LATER

Alec strokes Cassie's arm as they spoon on the bed, clothed.  
She breathes heavily, sound asleep.

A twig SNAPS outside the window.

Alec hears it, slowly rises without waking Cassie.

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Jasper peers into one window. Moves to the next one. He  
rounds a corner when --

ALEC  
Roses are red...

Alec throws a right cross SMASHING Jasper's nose. Jasper  
falls to his back. Blood gushes from his nostrils.

ALEC  
...violets are blue...

He KICKS Jasper in the gut. Jasper GRUNTS and rolls over.

ALEC  
...I'm gonna kick your ass and  
there's nothing you can do.

Jasper gets to his knees and stands. He wipes the blood on  
his sleeve.

ALEC  
What were you going to do tonight?  
Attempt another chickenshit  
kidnapping? Huh?

Jasper turns around but averts his eyes.

ALEC  
No means fuckin' no.



Alec JABS hard with his left, and CONNECTS with right uppercut. Jasper's head snaps back and again he falls. Alec pounces on him, jabs his gun onto Jasper's forehead.

ALEC  
Move and I give you a third eye.

Alec searches his pockets.

ALEC  
Where's your ID? What's your last name? Talk.

A car cruises by slowly, momentarily distracting Alec.

Jasper digs into his own pocket. Comes out with mace. SPRAYS Alec in the face.

Alec leaps off Jasper, covering his eyes. He rolls around on the ground.

Alec wobbles, rises to his feet. He looks to the ground. Jasper is gone.

Cassie appears behind him.

CASSIE  
Alec?!? What's going on?

INT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - LATER

Cassie helps Alec flush his eyes with water from the sink.

CASSIE  
What were you thinking?

ALEC  
Cass, I told you. I heard a noise, I went outside to investigate.

CASSIE  
You went out armed. You knew he was out there.

Alec grabs a towel.

ALEC  
So what if I did? What if I could nail him right then? Shit, I was this close. Fucker surprised me.

CASSIE  
You should have called for backup.

ALEC  
Yeah, well, I doubt he'll be a  
problem anymore.

CASSIE  
How would you know?

ALEC  
Because nobody is that stupid. Not  
after the ass kicking he just got.

CASSIE  
What if he comes after me again?  
Maybe harder now?

ALEC  
Why can't you thank me? I tried to  
make the fucking guy uglier and you  
want to punish me for it. If it  
wasn't for me being here tonight--

CASSIE  
You're right. Sorry.

They hug.

ALEC  
I want this asshole more than you  
do.

INT. JASPER'S LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A bruised Jasper plays solitaire. He loses.

Helen "materializes," sitting quietly in a chair. In her 50s  
now. Tired. Worn.

HELEN  
My poor angel. You are hurt.

Jasper shrugs.

HELEN  
No wonder you hid down in that room  
so often as a boy.

JASPER  
Not all Brethren were nice. They  
did awful things to me.

HELEN  
Is part of your hurt reserved for  
me?

JASPER  
I think I always knew. I don't  
blame you, Sis.

HELEN  
Now you know I'm not really your  
sister. You have to stop calling  
me that.

JASPER  
Sorry.

HELEN  
The Will robbed us of our identity.

JASPER  
But we have a chance now.

HELEN  
She's beautiful. This new girl.

JASPER  
She is divine.

HELEN  
Time is running out. They might  
catch on to you.

JASPER  
I will never quit.

HELEN  
Don't let the handsome cop stand in  
your way, my son.

JASPER  
I won't, Mama.

EXT. QUICK-STOP MART PARKING LOT - NIGHT

A patrol car is parked along the side of the building. The  
lot is empty, otherwise.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie dispatches the fire department for a car fire and ends  
the call.

Her monitor comes to life.

FROM: 1A6: HOW R U TONIGHT?

Cassie smiles, replies.

TO: 1A6: I COULD USE A DRINK.

A few seconds pass when another message comes across.

FROM: 1A6: GOT SOMETHING FOR YA

She types:

TO: 1A6: OH U DO?

INT. ALEC'S PATROL UNIT - CONTINUOUS

Alec types back...

FROM: 1A6: HES CUDDLY AND ALMOST CUTE AS ME

She responds.

TO: 1A6: ALMOST???

Alec smiles and types...

FROM: 1A6: I CALL HIM ALEC THE APE

Alec reaches into a bag, pulls out a stuffed Ape. He presses the stomach.

ALEC THE APE  
I go Ape for you!

He presses it again.

ALEC THE APE  
Ooh! Ooh! Lower, lower...

Alec smiles, turns the engine off, and shoves Alec the Ape back in his bag.

INT. QUICK-STOP MART - MOMENTS LATER

The young clerk, seen in Cassie's first scene, holds a roll of scratchers up to the light. Beside him, on a small TV, a soccer match plays.

Alec, in uniform, places a soda on the counter.

ALEC  
If it was only that easy.

CLERK  
My student loan? Cost as much as a  
house in the Midwest.

The clerk RINGS him up.

ALEC  
You the one? Nailed the biker with  
the three fifty seven?

The clerk rolls his shoulders.

CLERK  
Ah, wasn't nothin'. He had to  
coming, you know what I mean?

ALEC  
Right.

Alec smirks, takes the change, and leaves.

EXT. QUIK-STOP MART - MOMENTS LATER

Alec POPS open the soda as he walks to his car. Takes a  
swig. He then sees a DISHEVELED MAN, in tattered clothes and  
a hood, propped against the store wall, his hands covering  
his face.

ALEC  
You okay, bud?

The disheveled man MOANS. Falls to his knees. Alec  
approaches the disheveled man -- but the disheveled man  
whirls around.

Two tazer darts ZAP Alec in the chest.

Alec drops instantly.

INT. QUIK-STOP MART - CONTINUOUS

The clerk continues to flip through scratchers, unaware of  
what's happening outside.

EXT. QUIK-STOP MART - MOMENTS LATER

Alec convulses while on the ground. The disheveled man pounces on him. Searches Alec's pockets.

Finds Alec's car keys.

CUT TO:

INT. ALEC'S PATROL UNIT - CONTINUOUS

A dazed Alec wakes, searches his surroundings. He's lying on his side, his hands cuffed.

Cuffed to the door handle. A rear door handle.

Of what? A patrol unit. HIS patrol unit!

Alec tries to sit up. Tries to talk, but he can't. His mouth is duct taped.

The car pulls over. Gear shoved into Park.

Alec struggles against his cuffs. Searches for a weapon. His belt is gone. No gun either.

The rear door opens.

Jasper. Dressed as the disheveled man.

JASPER  
You can't love her too!

Jasper punches Alec on the cheek.

INT. JASPER'S BEDROOM - LATER

Alec, groggy, struggles against ropes tied to a chair. Dried puke on his shoulder.

Jasper storms into the room. Eyes Alec with pure hate. He jabs his needle into his leg and then tosses it aside.

JASPER  
What is it? The hair? The suave  
Latin charm? The uniform?

Jasper holds a very large .44 Magnum revolver.

ALEC

Don't...

JASPER

A tiger, born in captivity, is still wild at heart. It can love you, lick you, absolutely depend on you. But you give it a toy, a simple little ball, and if the tiger claims it, the tiger will kill you instead of giving it up.

Jasper knocks the chair forward. Alec CRASHES onto his face.

ALEC

They'll come looking for me!

JASPER

The ball doesn't mean anything, really. It's just in his nature. The ball is his. Only his. It's called possession.

Jasper pulls out a tube of KY Jelly and smears the barrel.

JASPER

Beg me to end it and I'll pull the trigger. Beg me.

Jasper UNSNAPS Alec's belt.

Pulls his pants down.

Jasper cocks his gun and shoves.

Alec SCREAMS.

EXT. LA MESA MOTEL - DAY

Cassie steps out from her Jeep, looks around at the shabby surroundings. Sees a MOTEL CLERK dozing on the counter through a window.

She feels her back. Alec's snubnose revolver is tucked in her belt.

A SCUMMY JOHN rubs his knuckles as he exits Room #1. Stares at Cassie, spits, and leaves. The door stays ajar.

Cassie looks inside. Eases the door open. A HAND reaches out, grasps her wrist. Cassie jumps back.

Desire appears, her face freshly bruised.

DESIRE

You a cop?

CASSIE

No.

DESIRE

Then go back to Oklahoma and forget your dream. It ain't here.

CASSIE

I do work for the Santa Monica PD. I'm looking for Sylvia Green. I think she's missing.

DESIRE

Oh, so now you folks is gonna do somethin'? I only been callin'.

CASSIE

Tell me about her.

EXT. MONA LUAU APARTMENTS - LATER

1920's Hawaiian type complex surrounded by wilted palm trees and cracked bamboo struts. Dimly lit.

INT. RENTAL OFFICES - CONTINUOUS

Filled with cheap, Hawaiian knockoffs. Cassie watches an APARTMENT MANAGER, Indian, study Sylvia's driver's license.

Outside the window, a YOUNG TAGGER sprays his gang sign and bails. This annoys the apartment manager.

APARTMENT MANAGER

Yes, Miss Sylvia live here. Two-two one. Her rent is late too.

CASSIE

Can you take me to her apartment?

APARTMENT MANAGER

Are you police?

CASSIE

No, but I work for the Santa Monica Police Department as a dispatcher. Please, this girl may be missing.



APARTMENT MANAGER

Sorry. My boss, he says police officers only. Nothing I can do.

CASSIE

Look sir, the next time someone from this office calls regarding police assistance, I could easily screw up the address or downplay the call. The police may not respond for hours. Are you prepared to handle an emergency on your own?

The apartment manager thinks a moment.

APARTMENT MANAGER

Follow me.

INT. APARTMENT 221 - MOMENTS LATER

A messy studio with meager digs. Old acting class manuals lay open on a coffee table next to porn scripts.

The apartment manager opens the door. Cassie steps in.

APARTMENT MANAGER

Lock up when you are finished.

He disappears. Cassie calls out.

CASSIE

Hello! Santa Monica PD!

Silence. Cassie peeks into the bathroom, then comes out.

On a night stand close by, an answering machine blinks:  
Messages: 24

Cassie opens the fridge. Pulls out a milk carton and SNIFFS.

CASSIE

Pew. Really bad.

She goes to throw it in the trash. But -- dead flowers lay inside. A torn card is partially visible. It begins...

*Roses are red, violets are blue...*

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - OFFICES - LATER

A frantic Cassie sprints into Captain Kim's office. Inside are a bunch of department PERSONNEL.

Captain Kim parts the crowd when he sees her.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Cassie. Sergeant Alec Vasquez is missing. Do you know where he might be?

CASSIE  
Missing? Did you try his--

CAPTAIN KIM  
Ex-wife? Yes, she hasn't heard from him. He usually calls the kids before they go to school. We checked his apartment. Nothing.

CASSIE  
What about his patrol car?

CAPTAIN KIM  
We can't find it.

CASSIE  
What?! How can a police car disappear?

Nell runs over, flustered.

NELL  
I just got a call. Sergeant Vasquez. His vehicle was found. Topanga Canyon.  
(beat)  
At the bottom of the canyon. They are searching it now.

Captain Kim grabs Cassie.

CAPTAIN KIM  
I'm driving.

EXT. TOPANGA CANYON - CURVY ROAD - LATER

Captain Kim's car zigzags through stopped traffic. Stops outside the perimeter, behind a parked fire truck. Other units are present as well.

A tow truck winches Alec's damaged car to the canyon rim.  
Captain Kim and Cassie leap out, but the Captain slows her.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Cassie. Give me a sec.

Captain Kim inspects the car, finds the bag with the stuffed animal, but leaves it. Nothing else relevant, he then walks to the edge of the canyon.

A FIREMAN walks up to him from below.

FIREMAN  
I understand the unit belongs to an  
Sergeant Vasquez. Right now, we  
can't find him.

CANYON SLOPE

FIREMEN and POLICE search the thick brush.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Could Sergeant Vasquez survive an  
accident like that and walk away?

FIREMAN  
Not very likely. That's a good  
hundred feet down.

CAPTAIN KIM  
So where the hell is he?

ALEC'S CAR

Cassie's turn to canvass the car. She, too, finds the bag holding Alec the Ape.

She looks at the MTD. Turns it on.

Typed on the monitor is:

Roses are red, violets are blue, loverboy is out of the way,  
now its only me and you.

CASSIE  
Jasper has him.

Stunned, she WHISTLES to Captain Kim, and cradles Alec the Ape. Captain Kim reads it.

CAPTAIN KIM  
We'll get him, Cassie. Mark my  
words.

A a small baggie is then placed in his hand.

CASSIE  
This could help.

CAPTAIN KIM  
What is it?

The flower card from Sylvia's apartment inside.

CASSIE  
Romeo's other victim.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - HALLWAY - LATER

Cassie buries her head in her arms. Captain Kim and Nell  
watch over her.

CAPTAIN KIM  
We'll set you up in the cot room.  
Stay as long as you like.

NELL  
I got you off the floor. Take some  
time off and rest, okay?

CAPTAIN KIM  
But first we'll need to debrief you  
on everything. Put out an all  
points bulletin. Let the floor  
know that any call from Jasper is  
priority.

CASSIE  
I have to stay by the phones. Can  
we do all that later?

NELL  
Cassie, you aren't well...

Cassie rises in her chair.

CASSIE  
Please! I have to do my job!

Cassie turns to leaves.

But not before Captain Kim notices a bulge hidden in the small of her back. A partial rubber grip peeking out.

CAPTAIN KIM  
Cassie. Wait.

Cassie stops, looks at him.

Captain Kim reaches around her for a small hug and tucks her shirt over the grip without Nell seeing.

CAPTAIN KIM  
For good luck.

CASSIE  
Thanks.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - LATER

Cassie, dreary, sips a cappuccino. Her license plate list is in front of her. Only two plates left on the list.

She types -- 4NKW667 Josephine Emily Tracy...

She crosses that off.

EXT. SMPD - FRONT GATE - CONTINUOUS

A Value-Rite Vendors delivery van is waived through.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie types the last entry;

2NAS202 Value-Rite Vendors, Inc. 2300 Airport Avenue.

Cassie reaches for her phone and dials the number. An AUTOMATED VOICE comes over the line.

AUTOMATED VOICE  
Thank you for calling Value-Rite  
Vendors. Our offices are now  
closed. Regular business hours...

Cassie SLAMS the phone down.

Nell runs over.

NELL

We got prints off the flower card you found at Ms. Green's residence. His name is Jasper Wobbly. No criminal record, but he renewed a permit for his church some years ago.

CASSIE

Church?

NELL

State law requires all church officers to be printed. He is their controller.

(beat)

LAPD is checking out the address on the permit. The address is out of our jurisdiction.

EXT. SMPD - PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

A DELIVERY DRIVER, wearing a baseball cap, head down, pushes a flat dolley through a set of doors. The dolley is covered by a large tarp.

A FEW OFFICERS sidestep him. Mutter "hello."

The delivery driver casually lifts his head. Fake moustache, glasses. A sticker over his name tag: HAVE A NICE DAY.

Jasper, incognito.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - LATER

Nell and Cassie listen to a police radio.

NELL

West Valley has units on their way to Mr. Wobbly's last known address.

CASSIE

I hope we're in time to save Alec. And Sylvia. I feel like I'm going to throw up.

NELL

Go get some water. Crackers. I'll listen in.

Cassie nods and stands.

NELL  
Don't be long. He's ours now.

INT. BREAK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cassie, alone in the room, stops at a machine and selects a soda. She POPS the can and stares at it.

Then stares at the other vending machines. She sees a company sticker for Valu-Rite Vendors.

She moves to a phone hanging on the wall.

INT. FRONT GATE - CONTINUOUS

A young guard named BEN flips through the sports section of the Los Angeles Times. His phone RINGS. He answers.

BEN  
Front gate.

CASSIE'S VOICE  
Ben, this is Cassie. I need to ask you a question.

BEN  
Shoot.

INT. BREAK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Cassie turns her back.

CASSIE  
Do you know the name of the vending machine delivery guy?

BEN'S VOICE  
Regular guy or new guy?

Behind her, the dolly comes into view. The break room door gently closes. A subtle CLICK as if a door is locked.

CASSIE  
New guy?

BEN'S VOICE  
Yeah, Stan was our regular guy until a few days ago.

BEN'S VOICE(cont'd)

We got this new guy now. Matter of fact, he just entered the building. Why?

Cassie thinks, straightens. FOOTSTEPS close in on her.

CASSIE

His name is Jasper, isn't it?!? Oh my God!

ZAP! Jasper tasers her and she drops instantly, letting go of the phone.

BEN'S VOICE

Cassie? Are you there?

The cart is then wheeled next to her.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Her arm dangles outside the dolley. Jasper stops, tucks it back in just in time, as an OFFICER strolls by.

A nod back and forth and Jasper continues out the doors.

EXT. FRONT GATE - MOMENTS LATER

Jasper's minivan cruises up to the crossing arm. Ben steps out, his hand on his holster.

BEN

Stop the vehicle! Show me your hands!

JASPER

How about I give you a Zinger instead?

Jasper whips out Cassie's snubnose revolver and FIRES. Ben goes down.

Jasper CRASHES through wooden crossing arm.

INT. JASPER'S MINIVAN - REAR - CONTINUOUS

The dolly rocks side to side. Cassie's limp hand slips out from under the tarp once more. Not moving.



EXT. CANOGA PARK - MINI MALL - LATER

Los Angeles Police Units have a Mail Boxes Etc. surrounded but the activity there is anything but chaotic.

A confused BUSINESS OWNER talks to police. A WEST VALLEY LIEUTENANT speaks into a police radio.

WEST VALLEY LIEUTENANT

The address you gave was correct but its just a donations drop for a religious group called The Will. The owner says Athena Righteous rented the box for years. Paid in full for another year.

CAPTAIN KIM'S VOICE

Does the owner know the perp?

WEST VALLEY LIEUTENANT

Affirmative. Says he comes in once a week to pick up the mail but hadn't been by in awhile.

INT. JASPER'S UNDERGROUND ROOM - LATER

Cassie wakes, jumps back in surprise at her surroundings. She is chained to the wall.

Jasper descends the ladder with a plate of food.

CASSIE

This is where you kept Sylvia, isn't it?

JASPER

You'll need your strength.

CASSIE

What happened to her? Where's Alec?

Cassie bats the plate away with her head. Jasper stares at the spilled food.

JASPER

I have to admit, you almost had me at the Santa Monica pier. I cannot swim.

Cassie struggles against her chain.

JASPER  
I can show you the truest form of  
love. Soon, you will understand.

CASSIE  
If you love me so much, untie me.

JASPER  
Now is not the time.

CASSIE  
It will never be the time.

JASPER  
Let me show you what I'm made of.

Jasper UNZIPS his pants. Lets them drop to the floor.  
Cassie looks away.

JASPER  
It is good for man not to touch a  
woman.

Cassie looks up and sees Jasper nude.

No genitalia.

Just a hole and scarred red tissue.

JASPER  
I'm a eunuch. I don't have any sex  
organs. I have no sex drive.

CASSIE  
Oh God.

JASPER  
When I say I can offer you  
something, you act like a typical  
tramp. My love for you is not  
physical. It's metaphysical.

Jasper pulls his pants back up, then climbs up the ladder.

JASPER  
I was dock and gelded at only  
fourteen years old. I now take  
steroids to compensate for the loss  
of testosterone. Something the  
wise elders conveniently forgot.

Cassie looks away.

JASPER  
 If you'll excuse me, I must make  
 preparations for Judgment Day.

Seconds later, she hears the front door SLAM. The motorhome engine REVS soon after.

Cassie yanks on the chain but she's there for good.

INT. SMPD - BREAK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Nell zones as she scans the snacks. The machine is the type like a large lazy Susan; the tray inside rotates and the doors slide open.

Captain Kim rushes enters the room.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 Where's Cassie?

NELL  
 I don't know. Her Jeep is still  
 here.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 We're on tactical alert so nobody  
 gets in or out of the station now.  
 We're searching every room.

NELL  
 She's gone. I can feel it.  
 (beat)  
 At least tell me Ben is okay.

CAPTAIN KIM  
 The round passed through his arm.  
 He's fine. He id'd the shooter as  
 the new delivery guy Jasper.

Nell stops pushing the button.

Captain Kim freezes. Shock fills his face.

NELL  
 What?

Nell looks down.

At the bottom of the tray. Where the bigger snacks are.

Sylvia's head.

Nell SCREAMS.

EXT. JASPER'S HOUSE - LATER

A curious Theo stands at Jasper's empty driveway.

EXT. SIDE OF JASPER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

A not-so-stealth Theo peeks inside a window. Tries to open it but its locked. But another window nearby slides open.

In the distance, Jasper's Motorhome can be seen approaching down the street.

INT. JASPER'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Theo inspects the house, stopping at playing cards on the carpet. A sound, coming from the bedroom, draws him.

INT. JASPER'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Like someone GRUNTING below. Theo stares at the linoleum. Peels it back. Sees the trapdoor and opens it.

INT. UNDERGROUND ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

A shaky Theo descends the ladder, takes it in for the first time. He spots Cassie under a blanket. Theo pulls it off.

Cassie stares wide-eyed, her wrists red from pulling.

THEO

There, there. It's alright.  
What has he done to you, my  
precious creature?

Theo bends down, hugs her, then gives her a kiss.

Cassie struggles, grows squeamish.

Jasper suddenly appears behind Theo, startling him.

JASPER

You can't have her, Theo.

Theo stands, brushing himself.

THEO  
 What is this secret room? Is this  
 a chamber of defilement?

Theo then looks back to Cassie and his wrinkly lips quiver.

THEO  
 Forbidden fruit.  
 (turns back to Jasper)  
 Perhaps we could share earnestly in  
 this best gift?

Jasper places his hands on the old man's shoulders.

JASPER  
 Is that what my mother was to you?  
 A best gift?

THEO  
 You know the truth then, my son?

JASPER  
 Where there's a will, there's a  
 way, father.

A GUNSHOT.

Theo falls into Jasper's arms, heaving his last breath.  
 Smoke rises from Jasper's right hand. Cassie's gun.

Jasper hoists the dead man over his shoulder and climbs up  
 the ladder.

A rapid KNOCKING stops him midway. The front door. Annoyed,  
 Jasper scrambles the remaining rungs.

Cassie takes advantage of the distraction and begins YELLING.

But the trapdoor SHUTS.

EXT. JASPER'S FRONT DOOR - MOMENTS LATER

Athena shakes an accusing finger at the door.

ATHENA  
 Open up, Castrato! I know you're  
 in there, you stupid lout!

Angry, Jasper whips the door open.

ATHENA

What was that loud noise? It sounded like a gun.

(beat)

And where is my Theo? I saw him wandering these decrepid premises not long ago. Is he inside?

JASPER

Theo and I were just discussing our past. It seems he has agreed to absolve his sins.

ATHENA

His sins? What's this nonsense?

JASPER

Quite the revelation. He admitted to several intimate encounters with my mother.

ATHENA

But we were sworn to secrecy. My Theo would never divulge such tales without my consent.

JASPER

Ah, so he betrayed you with a kiss. Well, his confessions have left him death warmed over.

Jasper eases the door wide.

JASPER

Won't you join him? Auntie?

Athena storms inside.

JASPER

The truth has set him free. And that is an everlasting gift...

Athena WAILS as she sees Theo slumped dead in a chair.

JASPER

That shall never be cut off.

A knife emerges in Jasper's hand as he closes the door.

INT. UNDERGROUND ROOM - LATER

Cassie's in a tug-of-war with the chains. Somehow, she's gained an upper hand. The plate crumbles with each pull off the wall. Drywall CRACKS and CRUMBLES.

The plate POPS off suddenly.

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

A large cooler is filled. Empty grocery bags and survival gear lay about.

A deck of cards appears in Jasper's hand. New, still wrapped in plastic. He shoves it aside. But the temptation to play is too great.

He shreds the plastic wrap and shuffles.

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

The King of Hearts mocks him after he's lost. Blood appears on the face. Jasper stares at it oddly. Looks at another card. Blood on that too. King of Hearts again. He checks the rest of the deck. All King of Hearts, all bloody.

Jasper RIPS up the cards.

A voice calls to him.

CASSIE (O.S.)  
Oh, Jasper...

He walks to the bedroom. Opens the trap door.

INT. UNDERGROUND ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Jasper floats down the ladder. Zoning. Bewildered. Cassie waits for him. In the nude. The chain gone.

Jasper rushes to her and they grope each other. Jasper becomes visibly turned on. He backs up and stares down at himself in shock as his pants pop out like a tent.

Cassie suddenly wields a scalpel high. She swipes downwards, the scalpel slashing at his groin. Jasper SHRIEKS.

Cassie is gone.

But a RABBI "materializes" behind him. Hip, young.

RABBI

They call it ghost limbs. Amputees often report they feel the lost limb although its clearly not there.

Aghast, Jasper whirls around. Confused.

RABBI

Castration is a form of control. Men of power used Eunuchs to watch over their women when they were at war. Called them bed keepers.

JASPER

I read they severed their enemies to make fools of them too.

RABBI

True. And in recent times, Castrati were also primed for the opera for their angelic voices. Let us not forget those who created eunuchs for their own carnal desires and pedophilic horrors. It happens even now. Today.

Jasper bows his head.

RABBI

The first time you came to my office, you sought a different path. Today, you came seeking a way out. You have doubts on your faith.

JASPER

We both do.

RABBI

You and your mother. Who is now deceased.

Jasper nods.

RABBI

Well, your church does exercise some extreme methods, I'll give you that.



RABBI(cont'd)

But your church believes in a certain ideology. Unequivocal interpretation of the Bible.

JASPER

Helen says it was all deception.

RABBI

She passed, when?

JASPER

Day before last.

RABBI

Was it difficult to learn the truth? That your sister was, in fact, your own mother?

JASPER

She was not much older than I. They all held the truth from me. Helen was threatened. She would lose me if I ever discovered the truth.

RABBI

Your real parents?

JASPER

Brethren who came and went. Left us to the others. Supposedly.

RABBI

And what of your home? How did you and Helen survive? Financially?

JASPER

The Will sustained us.

RABBI

And what of your father, Theo? Does the charge of incest bother you? That prior to him being castrated himself, he raped his own daughter and had--

JASPER

Me.

RABBI

Jasper, I can't tell you which faith is right or wrong. I can only tell you what we believe.

JASPER

But *the word* is definitive.  
Whatever is in the Bible, is.

RABBI

Well, no. Take eunuch for example.  
In our faith, a man is not fully a  
man until marriage. Hence, an  
unmarried man could be termed  
"celibate." A eunuch need not be  
cut.

Jasper clutches his fists -- but then begins to LAUGH.

RABBI

Jasper. This is just one  
interpretation. I'm sorry you had  
to hear this.

JASPER

I am severed because of one insane  
woman's revenge? All of us, due to  
her husband's infidelity? The Will  
is nothing more than a lie!

He grabs a lamp and throws it down. He sees a mirror and  
cracks it with his fist.

The Rabbi backs away.

RABBI

Jasper! They too are lead astray!  
Violence is not the answer! Let  
God judge them!

JASPER

And what can I do, Rabbi? What can  
I do that cannot be undone?

CUT TO:

INT. KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

A drooling Jasper springs up to his feet, now fully awake.  
Playing cards stick to his face.

A CREAK behind him. Then the RATTLE of a chain. Turning,  
it's Cassie. The chain balled in her fist, SMASHING his jaw.

Jasper CRASHES into his table. Cards spill everywhere.

Cassie runs to the front door but claws at the dead bolt.

A dead bolt which requires a key.

Rubbing his chin, Jasper rises calmly.

CASSIE

Let me out! Damn you!

Cornered, she backs to a table and chair. Looks for a weapon. Any weapon.

Sees only a phone.

CASSIE

Why are you doing this to me?

Cassie slides towards the phone and stands in front of it. She fidgets behind her back.

Jasper gathers the cards. Stacks them neatly.

JASPER

The Will of God was founded on the belief that man serves in God's true image. The ultimate sacrifice. Lust is sinful in God's eyes, except for procreation.

Jasper shuffles his deck.

JASPER

It was the fall of sin that made clothes necessary. Were you aware that God allowed man to invent clothes?

CASSIE

You're going to preach to me now?

JASPER

He gave Adam and Eve the sacrificial skins to hide their shame.

Cassie's hands continue to work behind her.

CASSIE

Fascinating.

JASPER

I don't carry lust or sins of the flesh. Love is oneness. I, therefore, am taking you with me. Where love is eternal.

CASSIE  
Tempting. But I don't think so.

JASPER  
Oh?

CASSIE  
You see, I happen to love sex. And  
I'm not living without it.

Jasper catches on to Cassie's movements...

JASPER  
What are you doing behind your  
back?

...and KNOCKS her aside. His cordless phone is in her hand.  
He reads the display:

**911**

CASSIE  
Police are on their way, asshole.  
This is a landline.

As Jasper tries to interpret what was done, Cassie runs past  
him to another bedroom door and barges in.

INT. JASPER'S MOTHER'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Alec's body is hung on the wall. Dressed as the Jack of  
Spades. On the bed below him, Athena's body is bowed, as if  
in prayer.

CASSIE  
Alec! No!

Cassie leaps back in shock as Jasper wraps his arm around  
her, showing the gun.

JASPER  
He was but a knave, a scoundrel.

EXT. JASPER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Like a man on a mission, Jasper exits the house quickly,  
jumps into his Motorhome, starts the engine, backs out. At a  
stop sign, which he ignores, he veers a quick right.

EXT. SIDESTREET - MOMENTS LATER

About a hundred yards in, at a predetermined spot, he stops, kills the engine. Then, he watches the road for any activity. Seeing none, he relaxes.

A trail next to his Motorhome captures his attention.

EXT. JASPER'S HOUSE - LATER

A Los Angeles Police Department unit arrives and parks on the empty driveway. TWO OFFICERS exit the vehicle.

INT. JASPER'S KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

As Jasper gathers his supplies, a pair of doors SHUTTING stops him cold. Moving to a window, he spies POLICE exiting their car. A dufflebag next to him, open, makes him smile.

Inside is an AK-47. Two clips.

And a receipt from the Ventura Gun Show.

JASPER

Come against me with sword and  
spear, I come against you armed  
with a sling.

EXT. JASPER'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The TALL OFFICER, unlatching his gun, motions to THICK OFFICER as the stroll up.

TALL OFFICER

I got the front. Hang back and  
watch the rear.

THICK OFFICER

Roger that.

The living room window opens up.

TALL OFFICER

Let's get this over with. I'm  
starving.

THICK OFFICER

I'm thinking Cupid's Hot Dogs.

Jasper's AK-47 barrel slips out the open front window.

Tall Officer sees the barrel too late.

The AK-47 FIRES. RAT-TAT-TAT-TAT! Slugs spank the ground. One strikes Tall Officer in the leg. Thick Officer shoulders one, spinning him.

Tall Officer limps back into his vehicle. Thick Officer commando crawls back as well.

Ammo STRAFES the hood of the car. The windshield cobwebs.

INT. POLICE UNIT - CONTINUOUS

Both officers make it inside. Tall Officer starts the engine, SLAMS the car in reverse. The driver's door SHEARS off as it clips a tree. The unit backs out into the street.

Thick Officer reaches for his radio.

THICK OFFICER

Shots fired! Shots fired! Officer  
down! I repeat! Officer down!  
Send backup now! Now! Send the  
RA! We're hurt! Unit location is  
...one thirty three Sandbrush Road!

INT. JASPER'S BEDROOM - SECONDS LATER

With the FLICK of a lighter, Jasper torches the curtains, moving then to furniture. A wide-eyed Cassie watches in horror, tied and gagged.

EXT. JASPER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Flames erupt from windows that POP out and CRACKLE.

INT. JASPER'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Smoke wafts throughout the house. Fire ROARS. Furniture and fixtures topple.

Jasper grabs Cassie and descends down into the room, closing the trapdoor behind him.

EXT. JASPER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Jasper's house becomes an inferno. Both Tall and Thick Officer watch bewelidered.

INT. JASPER'S HOUSE - HOURS LATER

Walls are flattened, burnt, and smoldering. FORENSIC TEAMS sift through the rubble. Roof shingles litter the ground.

Two yellow body bags are laid.

Fire engines, ambulances, and gas company truck hover in the background. NEWS CREWS set up shop down the road. Brethren mingle nearby, heads bowed low in confusion and wonderment.

A stiff, authoritative LAPD SERGEANT surveys the scene. A YOUNG LAPD OFFICER walks up.

YOUNG LAPD OFFICER

Neighbors say a Helen Wobbly lived here with her son, Jasper, but she passed away weeks ago. Heart attack. Jasper has been living here alone ever since.

The LAPD Sergeant strolls through the smoldering mess.

LAPD SERGEANT

We get our man or what?

The LEAD FORENSICS shrugs as she peeks under one tarp.

LEAD FORENSICS

Too early to tell. We'll have to look at dentals, DNA definitely. Bodies are crispy.

A FORENSIC ASSISTANT carries some samples when she steps on a certain part of the weakened floor.

CRACK! Her lower half suddenly disappears. She SQUEALS, snagged halfway down. Others come to her aid and lift her.

The LAPD Sergeant lifts some wood. The trapdoor is visible. The LAPD Sergeant takes out his gun and grabs his radio.

INT. UNDERGROUND ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The LAPD Sergeant scans the walls with a flashlight at the bottom of the ladder. The Young LAPD Officer finds a light switch. CLICKS it on. The room lights. They see Jasper's childhood collections.

LAPD SERGEANT  
What the hell is this?

LEAD FORENSICS  
A place for a child to hide.

YOUNG LAPD OFFICER  
What a stench!

The Young LAPD Officer moves to the corner where a blanket covers something large underneath.

YOUNG LAPD OFFICER  
Sir, the smell is coming from here.

He pulls the blanket off.

Sylvia's headless corpse. Decomposing. Re-chained.

LAPD SERGEANT  
I hope that isn't our Miss Woods.

The young LAPD Officer points to Sylvia's inside elbow. Full of pinpricks.

YOUNG LAPD OFFICER  
I think we're safe unless Miss Woods used needles.

The LAPD Sergeant studies the room. He touches walls.

LAPD SERGEANT  
I haven't seen one of these in years.

YOUNG LAPD OFFICER  
Sir?

LAPD SERGEANT  
Back in the fifties, many people had these installed. You could buy a manual and do it yourself. This room is a bomb shelter.



He stops at a large vent. Removes his gun and flashlight and motions the others aside.

LAPD SERGEANT  
And one thing all these rooms had?

The LAPD Sergeant yanks off the vent. It comes off easily.

LAPD SERGEANT  
Was a ventilator shaft.

The shaft, four feet round, is empty but goes on and on.

LAPD SERGEANT  
Son of a bitch.

EXT. JASPER'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

The LAPD Sergeant angrily lifts himself out of the hole. The lead forensic follows him out.

LAPD SERGEANT  
How tall is this male corpse?

LEAD FORENSICS  
Roughly six two, six three.

YOUNG LAPD OFFICER  
According to Jasper Wobbly's driver's license, Jasper is only five foot ten.

The Lead Forensic holds a wedding ring in his tweezers.

LEAD FORENSICS  
Sergeant? Found this in the male vic's back pocket. Initials A.V. inscribed inside. And a date.

YOUNG LAPD OFFICER  
A.V....Alec Vasquez?

The LAPD Sergeant descends the ladder quickly.

LAPD SERGEANT  
Call the K-9 unit.

EXT. OUTSIDE JASPER'S HOUSE - WOODS - LATER

Officers stalk through trees, searching for an opening of any kind. Search dogs BARK.

INT. SHAFT - CONTINUOUS

The LAPD Sergeant and others, on hands and knees, follow the shaft as dirt falls and roots crawl over their faces. Their flashlight beams pass over garbage, discarded toys.

And bones. He picks one up.

LAPD SERGEANT  
Small. Probably rabbit.

The men come to the end, a piece of sheet metal hung like a door. The LAPD Sergeant pushes it out, surprising two officers who leap back in surprise.

The LAPD Sergeant climbs out. He and the officers discover a trail leading a side street.

LAPD SERGEANT  
Check for tire prints somebody.

The Young LAPD Officer runs up.

YOUNG LAPD OFFICER  
Sir, we may have a something.  
Dogs picked up a scent. Coming  
from a house across the street.

INT. THEO AND ATHENA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

The door is splintered in two. Police wander around the perimeter. Theo's corpse is slumped over a podium with THE WILL banner draped over him.

The LAPD Sergeant takes a seat. Looks up at the wall.

Inscribed there, in blood:

I AM KEEPER OF THE HAREM!

EXT. BAJA, MEXICO - DIRT ROAD - DAY

Pure desert. A bumpy, desolate road. Jasper's Motorhome RUMBLES along kicking up dirt and dust.

INT. JASPER'S MOTORHOME - CONTINUOUS

Jasper at the wheel. Cassie, under a blanket, is asleep next to him, her head resting on a pillow. The Motorhome bounces off a pothole. Cassie stirs, still in a drugged haze.

Jasper glances over and LAUGHS.

She blinks in confusion. Her movements are slow, weak.

CASSIE  
Handcuffs?...

Her blanket falls off. Her wrists are cuffed behind her.

They pass a small sign outside: SANTO VERDE 5 KMS.

CASSIE  
Kilometers? Where...? Mexico?

JASPER  
Ole.

CASSIE  
You killed Alec, didn't you? These are his cuffs. You fucking murderer! I hate you so much!

He points to Alec's rover between the seats.

JASPER  
We weren't followed. Not even close. My getaway was a success.

EXT. CURVY ROAD - LATER

The Sea of Cortez appears on the left. In the distance, there's the small fishing village Santo Verde.

INT. JASPER'S MOTORHOME - CONTINUOUS

Crosses zoom past on the side of the windy road, some in makeshift graves. Cassie zones, watching each one pass.

Jasper turns down a dirt road that hugs the cliffs. A house is perched on a hill.

CASSIE  
What is this now?

JASPER

Union.

Cassie tries to sit up but the seat belt holds her in check.

EXT. BAJA HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Bright white stucco, red-clay arches out front. A typical Baja coastal home. Dr. Ramirez, from early scenes with the two volunteers, walks outside.

Jasper parks. Dr. Ramirez approaches the Motorhome.

JASPER

He looks ancient, but his hands are still good. I've seen him work many times over the years doing work for the Brethren.

(beat)

Meet Dr. Ramirez. My creator. And possessor of many fine narcotics.

Dr. Ramirez stops at Jasper's door. He smiles at first, but then Cassie's state causes some concern.

DR. RAMIREZ

Jasper. Always a delight. Yet, I am confused. Was there an appointment? You should have ample medication.

JASPER

We require surgery.

DR. RAMIREZ

Surgery? I am not prepared...

Jasper toys with Cassie's gun.

JASPER

Be.

INT. BAJA HOUSE - OPERATING ROOM - LATER

Cassie, dressed in a hospital gown, dozes on an operating table. The room is filled with medical equipment. Her legs are in the air, her feet lying in stirrups.

JASPER

Cassie? Are you awake?

Stirring slowly, she hears waves CRASH outside, seagulls CRY.

JASPER

Take these.

Pills are dropped onto her tongue, followed by a Dixie cup of water. Quick to rise, the water spills.

CASSIE

What the fuck are you doing to me?

Dr. Ramirez wheels in a tray of medical devices into the room and parks it next to the table. On the tray are a needle, scalpel, gauze, and tweezers.

Jasper holds her arms.

DR. RAMIREZ

Buenos Dias, Senorita. Under different conditions, this would be a pleasure.

CASSIE

What did you just give me?

DR. RAMIREZ

Tranquilizer. It will help you relax.

CASSIE

Relax? Relax for what?

JASPER

Dr. Ramirez is going to perform a small operation on you.

CASSIE

Operation? What the hell?

JASPER

You are about to find out what true love really is.

DR. RAMIREZ

I must prepare the anesthetic.

JASPER

No. She must feel pain.

DR. RAMIREZ

Jasper, this is outrageous! Do the Brethren know of this?

CASSIE  
 What are you talking about? Why  
 are my legs in stirrups?

JASPER  
 Dr. Ramirez is going to circumcise  
 you.

CASSIE  
 What?!? Don't you fucking touch  
 me!

Cassie struggles against Jasper's grip. She then glares at  
 Dr. Ramirez.

CASSIE  
 I work for the police, Senor!  
*Federalis!* I demand you stop this!  
 Let me go!

JASPER  
 When its over, you won't even miss  
 your clitoris, Cassie. And then he  
 shall scrape your inner walls. Sex  
 has infected your brain. You don't  
 need it.

DR. RAMIREZ  
 The patient is becoming unstable.  
 You told me she would cooperate.

JASPER  
 Cassie, the love you know is an  
 aberration, clouded by delusions of  
 lust. Think about it; if you  
 remove sex from the equation, would  
 pure love remain?

Cassie begins to LAUGH.

JASPER  
 What's so funny?

CASSIE  
 You're fucking neutered!

JASPER  
 Don't say that!

CASSIE  
 This whole time I thought you  
 wanted to fuck me, but all you want  
 to do was cuddle!

JASPER  
Ungrateful slut. All I can do for  
you and this is how you show me?

Cassie suddenly goes into convulsions. She spits at the  
mouth, throws her head back. Dr. Ramirez tries to hold her  
still but can't.

DR. RAMIREZ  
She's reacting to the medication!  
Jasper, what did you give her  
before you arrived?

JASPER  
Novril.

DR. RAMIREZ  
I prescribed that to your Mother!  
With the tranquilizer I just gave  
you, the patient has cross  
medicated! I must contact the  
hospital!

Jasper points the gun at Dr. Ramirez.

JASPER  
Operate. Now.

Dr. Ramirez releases her.

DR. RAMIREZ  
As you wish.

Jasper snarls. Gets close to Cassie's face.

JASPER  
Pain cleanses! Pain vindicates!  
Pain is your gate to immortality!

Cassie springs up and spits the tranquilizer pills at  
Jasper's surprised face. As the two men are momentarily  
distracted, she grabs a scalpel from the tray nearby and  
slashes Jasper's neck. Jasper topples to the floor.

Dr. Ramirez grabs a needle, holds it high, and jabs the empty  
mattress just as Cassie rolls off. The needle breaks off.

Scalpel in hand, Cassie rounds the table. She eyes the door  
behind Dr. Ramirez. Dr. Ramirez tries to bar her way.

DR. RAMIREZ  
I cannot allow you to leave...

Cassie buries the scalpel into Dr. Ramirez's chest. He SQUEALS and staggers against the wall. Shoving him aside, Cassie darts out of the house.

Slowly, Jasper gets to his feet. While his throat is cut, it's not dire. Just a slash.

INT. REAR OF HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Seeing as the house is virtually isolated, with no homes or structures surrounding, she opts to head for the cliffs. Waves BREAK along the shore nearby.

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Dr. Ramirez wobbles, clutching the scalpel still embedded. Jasper, meanwhile, dabs at his wound with a cloth.

DR. RAMIREZ  
That bitch must die! She cannot  
get away! Others must not know!

JASPER  
She can't get far.

DR. RAMIREZ  
I know another Doctor. He will  
help me. The Federalis, they will  
look the other way.

Stumbling forward, Dr. Ramirez grips Jasper tight.

DR. RAMIREZ  
Kill her, Castrato! If the Will  
means anything to your worthless  
life, slice the *putas* throat! I  
demand it!

Jasper yanks the scalpel out of Dr. Ramirez's chest and slashes Dr. Ramirez's neck. Dr. Ramirez drops to his knees as blood gushes over his hands.

JASPER  
The Will is dead, Good Doctor.  
I've attacked the heart of the  
congregation. And how ironic...  
(beat)  
This instrument, this scalpel that  
once killed me, now kills you.

Dr. Ramirez falls face first to the floor.



EXT. CLIFF - CONTINUOUS

Rocks and dirt tumble with Cassie as she descends a steep hill. At the sand, she turns to see a bloody Jasper at the top of the hill.

JASPER

Cassie!

Running in the sand, she realizes she is alone, except for a FISHERMAN, in a rowboat, about one hundred yards out. She calls for him but his back is turned.

A battered pier lays just beyond in the sand. Another small boat is docked at the end.

EXT. WATER - BOAT - CONTINUOUS

Earphones in, the fisherman listens to a Mariachi band while cutting bait with a knife.

EXT. BEACH - CONTINUOUS

Cassie SHOUTS and waves to the fisherman...to no avail. She then heads for the pier....

EXT. PIER - CONTINUOUS

...which has been eroded by the elements. The planking is full of gaps and rusty nails. Barnacled pilings teeter and she stops, concerned, midway.

EXT. END OF THE PIER - MOMENTS LATER

Creeping, Cassie finally reaches the end. Old wood CRACKS and SPLINTERS under her. The row boat, she discovers despairingly, is full of sea water. Only the tight rope keeps it afloat.

JASPER (O.S.)

Cassie!

Turning, she sees Jasper on the pier as well, making his way down it.

JASPER

This ends nothing. I can find another Doctor to finish the job.

Planks of wood WHINE under his feet. Some fall off, SPLASHING into the sea.

Jasper realizes where he is. He looks around and backs up from the ledge. His foot CRUNCHES through.

CASSIE  
Can't swim, can you?

JASPER  
If I die, I take you with me. I  
will win this.

Jasper flashes Cassie's gun.

JASPER  
Are you coming back with me or not?

A large CRACK appears under his feet.

CASSIE  
Not.

The planking BREAKS underneath Jasper. Jasper FIRES, but falls through and SPLASHES into the sea below.

Cassie teeters. Feels her shoulder. A bullet hole and she's bloody. She then hears a CRACK.

The planks beneath her SNAP.

Cassie SPLASHES into the sea as well.

INT. UNDER THE PIER - UNDERWATER - CONTINUOUS

The current spins her and the fallen wood underwater. Amid the mess, Jasper clamps on to her, giving her a bear hug.

His shirt caught on a nail behind his back.

Cassie struggles to swim up for air but Jasper squeezes tighter and tighter. She can't break the hold but then suddenly stops moving. A cold smile at Jasper. She grows confident and goes still. Limp even.

Surfer's lungs.

Jasper sees her bravado. Begins to worry for himself. Time is running out! Straining, the water...gushes inside his mouth. He twists in agony. Thrashing, then slowing. His eyes, barely lifeless, take one last look at Cassie.

Cassie shoves off him easy enough, then swims for the surface. Below her, Jasper's body convulses in shock.

Jasper goes still.

EXT. UNDER THE PIER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie breaks the surface GASPING air. She treads water in pain then sees movement to her side.

The fisherman PADDLES to her then lends a hand. Cassie takes it, and climbs into his boat. She collapses inside.

The fisherman readies to jump in to save Jasper. Cassie holds his arm.

FISHERMAN

Senorita?

CASSIE

No mas.

FISHERMAN

There is time.

He breathes in and out to simulate CPR.

CASSIE

Not for him.

Cassie passes out holding tight to his arm.

INT. SANTA MONICA - CITY HALL - DAYS LATER

Inside an auditorium, an AUDIENCE surrounds a stage where Cassie is presented an award for bravery by the CHIEF OF POLICE. The audience CLAPS. NEWS CAMERAMEN video the event.

EXT. AUDITORIUM - LATER

A bandaged Cassie walks to her Jeep. Captain Kim approaches with flowers and hands them to her.

CAPTAIN KIM

Welcome back, Cass. Good to hear you're working right away.

CASSIE

Thank you. Yes, I need to move on. Keep busy. Time to heal.

CAPTAIN KIM  
How's the shoulder?

CASSIE  
Just a graze.

They continue to walk.

CAPTAIN KIM  
The Federalis in Santo Verde still haven't found Jasper's body. Or what's left of it.

CASSIE  
Well, he was dead when I left him. He's fish shit for all I know.

CAPTAIN KIM  
They say he murdered a well known Doctor and are doing their own investigation.  
(beat)  
Good thing that fisherman went and got help for you.

CASSIE  
I never got to thank him. I woke up in a police boat and he was gone. The police said he called from a bus station and disappeared.

CAPTAIN KIM  
He was fishing illegally. That area is protected.

They arrive at Cassie's Jeep.

CAPTAIN KIM  
You know, I did some research on the whole eunuch topic. It turns out Jasper's group wasn't the only one that performed open castration. There was the Skoptzy in Russia, even some members of Heaven's Gate in San Diego had their genitals removed.

CASSIE  
Stop. You're grossing me out.

Cassie gives him a hug.

CAPTAIN KIM  
I'm sorry about Alec.

She nods.

CAPTAIN KIM  
You need anything, let me know.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - NIGHT

Cassie works the phones. COWORKERS stroll by, pat her arm. She takes a call.

CASSIE  
9-1-1 emergency. Operator 729.

A FRAZZLED CALLER, excited. Male. High pitch.

FRAZZLED CALLER'S VOICE  
I'm gonna end it.

Cassie straightens in her chair.

CASSIE  
Sir? Can you repeat that?

FRAZZLED CALLER'S VOICE  
I failed. Failed at love.

CASSIE  
What seems to be the problem?

FRAZZLED CALLER'S VOICE  
Someone stole my heart. I'd like  
her to give it back to me.

Cassie is speechless. She stares at her console.

Incident # 276

Location: unknown

Phone: unknown

The Frazzled Caller LAUGHS.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jasper sits on Cassie's bed. The cordless phone cupped in his neck. He is sweating, haggard, his clothes torn.

He plays solitaire while on the line.

JASPER  
It's the least you could do. Since  
this time, I saved your life.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. SEA OF CORTEZ - DAYS BEFORE

Cassie passes out holding the fisherman's arm. The fisherman watches her, then looks back at Jasper underwater.

INT. UNDER THE PIER - MOMENTS LATER

The fisherman dives under, grabs Jasper's slumped body. Removes the nail holding Jasper down.

EXT. BEACH - MOMENTS LATER

The fisherman gives Jasper CPR on the sand. Jasper finally stirs. COUGHS up seawater. Startled, but able to clench the fisherman's neck.

From his pocket, he produces the scalpel and SLASHES the fisherman across his neck. Shoves him off.

Jasper SPEWS more seawater. Leans over the bleeding, writhing fisherman ready for a final cut.

But the fisherman SLAPS Jasper in the stomach.

Jasper backs off from the blow. Looks down. Blood, from a knife still embedded. A fish knife.

The fisherman's knife sheath is empty.

EXT. END OF THE PIER - MOMENTS LATER

Jasper, still damp, stares out at the rowboat a good hundred yards out. Cassie's arm is draped over the side.

Floating safely in the sea.

Jasper SIGHS as blood oozes out of his wound. He bends down, picks up the fisherman's body, and tosses the fisherman into the sea with a SPLASH.

EXT. SANTO VERDE - BUS STATION - LATER

Jasper grabs a public phone inside a dirty bus station. Speaks into it, hangs up, and strolls off.

EXT. SEA OF CORTEZ - LATER

A PAIR OF FEDERALIS lift Cassie out of the rowboat and into a police boat.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie looks around at her coworkers for a possible joke. No one is looking her way.

JASPER'S VOICE  
You would have floated out to sea  
if it weren't for me.

CASSIE  
Who is this?!?

JASPER'S VOICE  
I'm on a cell phone. I could be  
anywhere.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jasper gets stuck in the game, can't get anymore cards up.

JASPER  
Roses are red, violets are blue,  
try not to control your destiny,  
destiny controls you.

He leans back on her pillows. Suddenly--

ALEC THE APE'S VOICE  
Ha! Ha! Monkey business!

Alec the Ape, jammed in-between the pillows. Angry, Jasper flings it across the room, then quickly grabs Alec's rover. And listens in.

INT. DISPATCH CENTER - CONTINUOUS

Cassie jolts back in shock. She quickly hits the mute button, about to put the call out when she stops.

She types -- All Units! Do not, repeat, DO NOT answer this call over the radio! Respond via MDT ONLY! SUSPECT IS ON THE AIR!

Murder suspect Jasper Wobbly is inside residence at 777 Horizon, 777 Horizon! Code Three! Code Three! He is armed and dangerous!

She pauses, then puts another call out.

CASSIE  
All Central Units, murder suspect  
Jasper Wobbly is at the Santa  
Monica Pier...

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jasper listens to Cassie's call on the rover.

CASSIE'S VOICE  
...suspect is armed and dangerous.  
Suspect is five ten, medium build,  
probably wearing bland clothes. No  
distinguishable features. Code Two  
High.

Jasper smiles. Returns to playing and speaking.

JASPER  
We don't learn, do we Cassie? We  
want what we can't have. Round and  
round we go. We are all rich  
fools.

CASSIE'S VOICE  
Why don't you turn yourself in?  
You sound hurt. Is something  
wrong?

JASPER  
I need you to heal me, Cassie.

CASSIE'S VOICE  
I heal only those I sleep with.



JASPER

You better change that attitude.

CASSIE'S VOICE

I can hear you breathing heavy.  
Are you touching yourself?

JASPER

You're going to regret saying that.

CASSIE'S VOICE

After a shower, I like to lie down  
on my bed. Kind of relax, let my  
fingers explore, you know?

JASPER

Foul harlot!

CASSIE'S VOICE

My finger slides between my legs,  
slowly caressing my thighs. My  
mouth goes dry, my nipples hard...

JASPER

Whore! I will crucify you!

The SCREECHING of tires erupt outside the front of her house.  
Gravel SPEWS as more tires brake in the alley behind.

Jasper looks out her window. Sees OFFICERS scurry and  
surround the house.

Alec's rover CHIRPS.

CASSIE'S VOICE

Got you, motherfucker.

Jasper slumps on the bed.

CASSIE'S VOICE

The stuffed animal that gave you  
away? Alec gave me that. Alec  
just killed you.

JASPER

I told you I offered my heart. I  
meant that.

(beat)

Tell me you're an Elvis fan. If  
you are, you'll understand my  
message. Part of a song he did  
called Solitaire.

CASSIE  
You are so going down.

JASPER  
Just one more thing.

CASSIE  
No!

JASPER'S VOICE  
I win.

CLICK. The line goes dead.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jasper, dispirited, stares at the game before him. He's stuck. Can't win.

Helen "materializes" at the foot of the bed. Head bowed, skin frayed. Decayed, decomposing. Long dead. Not moving.

JASPER  
Momma? I'm going to win this time.

But Helen doesn't answer.

Jasper opens his shirt. The fisherman's knife wound is scarred, a bloody mess. Pus oozes. Gangrene sets in.

JASPER  
(imitates Elvis)  
A heart that cared that went  
unshared, until it died within his  
silence...

Jasper takes out his scalpel.

JASPER  
Silly rabbit.

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Units have Cassie's house surrounded. Captain Kim, fuming, leaps out of his car. He sees Jasper's motorhome parked in the alley.

CAPTAIN KIM  
You got to be fucking kidding me.

INT. CASSIE'S LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The officers clear room by room. They then come to Cassie's bedroom door. Captain Kim parts them, lays into the door with a stiff kick.

INT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Gun leveled, Captain Kim barges in. The other officers stream in behind him.

Everyone's mouth opens in shock.

EXT. CASSIE'S HOUSE - LATER

Cassie's Jeep SKIDS to a stop. She leaps out and runs to her front door. Officers try to stop her but she pushes past.

EXT. CASSIE'S BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Cassie barges into her room -- and then instantly regrets it.

CASSIE'S BED

Jasper's body is sprawled on the covers. His chest is cut open, his hand frozen to a muscle inside.

His heart.

Scrawled on the wall above his head, in blood, is:

*A little hope goes up in smoke,  
Just how it goes, goes without saying  
There was a man, a lonely man  
Who would command the hand he's playing*

A deck of cards is spilled on the bed.

All King of Hearts.

FADE OUT

THE END

