

# **"THE PERFECTIONIST"**

By

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## STORY SUMMARY:

Forensic Pathologist Dr. Theodore Hanley spent his life investigating serial killers. He has more experience than anyone else in his field. Including what it's like to lose a wife to one. After her death he turned his pain and grief in to a new manuscript. Now he is ready to go back to work.

Unfortunately his wife's murderer is loose again and Dr. Hanley has his undivided attention. And this killer is doing it by the book.

FADE IN:

OPENING CREDIT SEQUENCE

BLACK SCREEN

Sound fades in of a heartbeat and breathing. Slow at first and then suddenly racing. A flash of something that can't be made out. A scream is heard and then silenced.

FADE TO:

EXT. PHILADELPHIA - DAY

"The City of Brotherly Love." We see the city streets filled with people moving through the morning commute. The downtown market is busy with vendors selling pretzels, the occasional skateboarder splitting through the hustle of foot traffic and people grabbing a paper to go with their coffee. Newsstands are selling papers with headlines like "ANOTHER VICTIM FOUND" and "POLICE FAMILIES IN FEAR."

CUT TO:

INT. PHILADELPHIA RESTAURANT - DAY

A news report plays on the television while diners eat breakfast and drink coffee. It has everyone's attention.

NEWS REPORTER

The fourth victim of a serial killer is being examined today for clues to find out who is murdering the wives of police officers and officials. Joan McGraven, the wife of detective Brian McGraven, was found dead at their home last

night when the detective returned  
home from work.

Pictures of the crime scene and a family picture of the  
victim are shown on the screen

NEWS REPORTER (cont'd)

Police are silent today having no  
current comment other than that  
their investigation is continuing  
but inside sources tell Action  
News that detectives have no solid  
leads.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

The pounding heartbeat and breathing return. This time  
it is immediately racing. Mumbled voices are heard and  
then a loud screaming of "No!" along with a flash of red.  
It fades again to silence.

FADE TO:

EXT. PHILADELPHIA STREET - DAY

Scenes and headlines continue as we see the progression  
of reports of the fifth and sixth victims - "MEDICAL  
EXAMINER'S WIFE FOUND - VICTIM #6." Finally a headline  
reads "POSSIBLE KILLER IDENTIFIED BY ESCAPED VICTIM"

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN

The pounding heartbeat and breathing start fast and then  
slow down. There is a loud scream but no flash of light  
on the screen. The breathing continues as the heartbeat  
fades. The sound of footsteps running away can be heard  
as they flee out of earshot.

FADE TO:

EXT. PHILADELPHIA COURTHOUSE - DUSK

District Attorney BRIAN CARLISLE is addressing reporters on the front steps. CARLISLE is the public face of the office and wears a stylish corporate suit. He is ready for camera at all times with his high profile position.

CARLISLE

A possible seventh victim was attacked by a man we suspect to be responsible for the murders of police and administrators' wives. The victim escaped the man's attack and was able to give us an accurate description. We are using every resource to find this man and place him under arrest.

FADE TO:

EXT. CEMETARY - DAY

Police and Fire Department officers and administrators attend the funeral of a victim. We see the tears of a proud department. Bagpipes sound in the background.

FADE TO:

INT. CITY HALL PRESS ROOM - DAY

CARLISLE and other administrators stand behind THE MAYOR who is addressing the media.

THE MAYOR

I am relieved that we can announce that this afternoon officers placed a man under arrest for the assault of what we believe was the seventh target of a serial killer. Currently, Thomas Derrence of Upper Darby is being held on the assault charge and the District Attorney's office intends to charge him with six counts of murder in the first degree.

CUT TO:

INT. COURTROOM - DAY

We watch as court officers bring THOMAS DERRENCE in to the courtroom. He has long hair but is wearing a nice suit. Court photographers' flash bulbs blind him and he drops his head. He hangs his head and allows the hair to cover his face. What is seen of his face looks angry and ready to kill at any time. The judge asks for a plea. DERRENCE'S ATTORNEY responds for his client.

DERRENCE'S ATTORNEY

Not guilty your honor.

CUT TO:

EXT. COURTROOM - DAY

We see a news reporter addressing the camera being beamed to the studio.

NEWS REPORTER

In a shocking twist of events the judge has thrown out all evidence linking Thomas Derrence to the six murders. Judge Wallace has determined that police were overzealous in their pursuit of evidence against him and failed to follow constitutional procedures. Derrence now only faces the assault charge.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY HALL - DAY

Demonstrators protest asking for administrative firings and for Death for Derrence. Signs say "Fry Derrence," "Untie the Officers' Hands," "Resign Mayor Wallace." There is a public outcry against the police for botching the case.

CUT TO:

INT. COURT ROOM - DAY

THOMAS DERRENCE sits awaiting his sentencing. THE JUDGE sits at his bench reading his statement.

THE JUDGE

I regret that the law enforcement departments of Philadelphia were unable to submit evidence that would prove Thomas Derrence guilty of further crimes. Based on the case before me and the plea agreement, I sentence Thomas Derrence to one year in prison. I do remain hopeful in that time that the district attorney will be able to submit further charges based on additional evidence. I would also submit that Mr. Derrence be subject to psychiatric counseling while he is incarcerated.

THE JUDGE pounds his gavel and leaves the bench. The court erupts with anger at the outcome. DERRENCE is lead away by court officers.

We close up on the one person in the courtroom who is still. DR. THEODORE HANLEY. A man in his early 50's with a look of completely deep thought is oblivious to the surrounding commotion. He sits and stares straight ahead without reaction.

END CREDIT SEQUENCE

FADE TO:

INT - DINER - MORNING TEN MONTHS LATER

A busy diner located on South Street in Philadelphia. The counter is packed with mainly blue-collar workers catching breakfast before their shifts at construction sites, maintenance jobs, etc.

DR. THEODORE HANLEY sits at a booth sipping coffee and looking out the window. Again, he seems to be a steady object amidst the hustle and bustle of the early morning

rush. We zoom in on DR. HANLEY staring in to space wondering what he's thinking.

WAITRESS(O.S.)

Are you ready to order?

DR. HANLEY does not respond lost in his own world. We finally turn to see the waitress.

WAITRESS(cont'd)

Excuse me mister.

No response. The waitress taps him on the shoulder.

WAITRESS(cont'd)

Hey! Are you okay?

DR. HANLEY finally snaps out of his trance startled by the waitress.

DR. HANLEY

Huh? Oh, I'm sorry. Yes I'm fine, just zoned out I guess.

WAITRESS

Yeah, no kidding. Are you ready to order?

DR. HANLEY

Actually, I'm waiting for someone. I'll wait to order.

WAITRESS

Oh, okay. More coffee?

DR. HANLEY looks at his empty cup not realizing he had drank it all.

DR. HANLEY

Yes, please. Thank you

The waitress fills his coffee and walks away to the next table. DR. HANLEY picks up a coffee creamer and opens it. He smells it before adding it to his coffee. He stirs his coffee and sets the spoon on the saucer. DR. HANLEY notices something out the window and turns his attention to the door.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY BRIAN CARLISLE enters the restaurant, approaches the booth and removes his jacket. He greets DR. HANLEY as he slides in to the booth.

CARLISLE

Sorry I'm late doc. Had a SNAFU  
at the office.

DR. HANLEY

That's all right Brian it's good  
to see you again. I'm sorry it  
took me so long to get back to  
you. But, I've been working a lot  
lately.

CARLISLE

Oh yeah? I thought you were still  
on...

He struggles to find the right word.

CARLISLE(contd.)

...leave.

DR. HANLEY

It's a sabbatical. And I'm still  
on it.

CARLISLE

Sorry, It's just that after Mary  
and the trial I figured you might  
have packed it in for good.

DR. HANLEY

I admit it took me a while, but  
I'm thinking of coming back.... on  
a part-time basis.

CARLISLE is a little shocked by this. His approach  
changes from working relationship to personal friend.

CARLISLE

Wow. Are you sure about this  
Theo?

DR. HANLEY

Yeah, I'm trying to get back in to  
my life. I've spent the past few  
months wondering who I am. I  
think I need it again.

CARLISLE

What kind of -

CARLISLE is interrupted by the waitress.

WAITRESS

Coffee?

CARLISLE

Uh, yeah.

CARLISLE flips his coffee cup over and moves it closer so that she can fill it. She fills the cup and they watch like it's an event to be witnessed. Neither says a word, wanting to keep their conversation private. The waitress finishes and hands CARLISLE a menu.

WAITRESS

I'll be back to take your order.

She starts to walk away but CARLISLE stops her.

CARLISLE

Miss? I'll just take a bagel with cream cheese.

The waitress steps back to the table, sets the carafe of coffee on the table and writes down his order. She then turns to DR. HANLEY.

WAITRESS

And for you?

DR. HANLEY

I'll have the same but I'll take jelly instead of the cream cheese.

The waitress adds his order to the slip.

WAITRESS

Okay, That'll just be a minute.

DR. HANLEY

Thank you.

The Waitress grabs the coffee and exits. Both men turn their attention to each other again. There are questions that need to be asked. They look at each other for a moment before CARLISLE resumes the conversation.

CARLISLE

So what kind of schedule are you looking for? You know we could always use another Medical

Examiner. Woods has been keeping up with some temporary help but none of them with your expertise. (beat) Have you told Woods about this yet?

DR. HANLEY

No. I wanted to run it by you first. I know he felt bad having to take over the lead but I'm sure he's made the job his own now. I wouldn't want to change that. I just want to -

A college-aged BUS BOY has approached the two gentlemen. DR. HANLEY stops his conversation and turns his attention. The young man is a little nervous.

BUS BOY

Excuse me, but are you Dr. Theodore Hanley?

DR. HANLEY

Yes, I am. And you are?

BUS BOY

My name is Carl Rivers.

He extends his hand and DR. HANLEY shakes it. DR. HANLEY is a little wary of this stranger.

BUS BOY(cont'd)

I attended your presentation at Temple last year. I've read your book and I want you to know that I decided to become a criminologist because of it. Thank you.

DR. HANLEY

Wait until you read my next one. You may change your mind.

BUS BOY

Another book? What's it about.

DR. HANLEY

Well, it's not quite finished yet but I guess you could call it my greatest hits. It's a profile of my work investigating serial murderers.

BUS BOY

I can't wait to read it. I just saw a bit about you on Action News this morning.

DR. HANLEY

Really, I wasn't contacted.

BUS BOY

I'm sure you will be. Didn't you hear? They're releasing Thomas Derrence today.

DR. HANLEY looks to CARLISLE in disbelief. CARLISLE catches his glance and turns his head to look away out the window, clearly uncomfortable.

BUS BOY(cont'd)

Oh, I'm sorry. I thought for sure you would have heard. I'm sorry doctor. Bastard should be in the ground for what he did.

DR. HANLEY doesn't say anything. He's still in shock. The Waitress brings their food order and shoos the BUS BOY away from the table.

WAITRESS

Carl, will you get out of here? I've got three tables that need clearing. Empty seats mean empty pockets.

The Waitress leaves the frame and the BUS BOY knows he has upset DR. HANLEY. He doesn't know what to say.

BUS BOY

Anyway, again, I'm sorry Dr. Hanley. Good luck with the book. I can't wait to read it.

DR. HANLEY gives him half an acknowledgement and half a smile. The BUS BOY exits the frame and we see the two men unable to look at each other.

CARLISLE

I thought that's why you wanted to meet me. (beat) He got 2 months off his sentence for good behavior. I tried to get it

revoked but the Mayor and the Governor aren't seeing eye to eye these days. He's out as of 10 a.m. this morning.

DR. HANLEY

Ten months for what he did?

CARLISLE

That's not the worst of it. They're making a movie based on his story. Gonna make that piece of shit a millionaire.

DR. HANLEY

Amazing whom we make our heroes.

CARLISLE

Don't worry Theo, He's gonna have a black and white on his ass wherever he goes. He drops a cigarette ash the cops we'll be issuing him a citation within 30 seconds.

DR. HANLEY

It doesn't matter. Nothing's gonna bring Mary back. You can only live on vengeance so long before that's all you are. I'm done with it.

CARLISLE

How can you say that? Look how you reacted when you heard the news. You know this isn't over. (beat) Have you talked to anyone about this?

DR. HANLEY

I've got a degree in Psychology Brian. I don't need a shrink.

CARLISLE

Okay, but if you do I know the police have got a few doctors that deal with special cases.

DR. HANLEY

Thanks, but this book has been my therapy.

CARLISLE

I'm sure it's one of hell of a book then. How far along are you?

DR. HANLEY

I've got 7 chapters to the publishing company. I'm working on the intro & closing chapters now.

CARLISLE now turns to his bagel and begins to put the cream cheese on it with a knife. He has to clean the knife on the napkin first. He tries to lighten the mood. These men were obviously much better friends a year ago.

CARLISLE

Have to talk to your buddy Carl about the silverware here.

DR. HANLEY

Can't you just call the board of health?

CARLISLE

Yeah, but they'd just shut it down and then I'm stuck eating out of the roach coach down the street. Better to stick with the evil you know than the one you don't.

DR. HANLEY does the same with his knife before applying his jelly. CARLISLE's beeper goes off, he grabs the unit and reads the message. CARLISLE has completed topping his bagel and begins to wrap it up in a napkin.

CARLISLE

Sorry, but I have to cut this short doc. (beat) Feel free to stop by the office and talk to Woods about your returning. I'm sure he'd be happy to have you back. I know I am.

DR. HANLEY

Thanks Brian. I'll do that. Take care of yourself.

CARLISLE rises from the booth, puts on his coat and grabs his bagel.

CARLISLE

You too Theo. I'll check in with you after you've settled in. Let me know if you have any problems. Oh, and...

CARLISLE reaches into his pocket and drops a ten-dollar bill on the table.

CARLISLE (cont'd)

Breakfast is on me. See ya.

CARLISLE leaves with a nod and DR. HANLEY turns his attention to the television set in the corner of the diner. The local news is running special coverage of the release of Thomas Derrence. A REPORTER is broadcasting live from the prison's pressroom.

REPORTER

After serving only ten months of his one-year sentence for assaulting the wife of police commissioner Grossman, Thomas Derrence will be a free man within the hour.

CUT TO:

INT - GRATERFORD PRISON PRESS ROOM - TELEVISION REPORT

We are now in the pressroom at the prison and witnessing the report in person.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

As you may recall Derrence was accused of killing six wives of police officers and administration over the course of five months last year. And despite an amazing amount of evidence proving his guilt, Derrence was found guilty of only assaulting his last attempted victim. Since the police had obtained most of the evidence against Derrence without

a proper search warrant all other charges had to be dropped. The negligence led to sweeping changes in the command of the Philadelphia police department.

The WARDEN enters with his staff and THOMAS DERRENCE. DERRENCE. No longer does he look like a burned out hippie. We can now see that he is a tall, very clean-cut looking man in his early thirties. He is dressed in an expensive suit and tie, apparently already processed for release. The reporter notices this over her shoulder and transitions her report.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

The Warden is now entering the pressroom with the soon-to-be-released Thomas Derrence. We're told that the Warden will make a statement and then will allow Derrence to speak. Since the media blackout of the trial this is the first anyone will publicly hear from Derrence since his arrest.

We turn our attention to the podium where the WARDEN is beginning his statement.

WARDEN

I wish I could say good morning to you folks and mean it but today I am doing something I've been dreading for the past few months. Today I am forced to release Thomas Derrence back in to the world.

DERRENCE smiles at this. He loves the spotlight, which is why he committed the murders in the first place. He never guessed that he'd get away with it.

WARDEN (CONT'D)

With that said I will add that, while here, Mr. Derrence was a model prisoner and has been released prior to his December term date due to good behavior. I will now take a few questions before Mr. Derrence addresses you.

The room erupts with reporters seeking the chance to ask their question. The WARDEN points to a reporter and the shouting dies down for the questioning.

PRESS REPORTER #1  
Warden, why the early release?  
Couldn't the good behavior have  
been revoked?

WARDEN  
Unfortunately due to conditions of  
the plea agreement with the State,  
time off for good behavior could  
not be revoked in this case. Next  
question.

PRESS REPORTER #2  
Has Thomas Derrence shown any  
remorse for the things he has  
done?

WARDEN  
None whatsoever. We have spoken  
many times during his time here  
and at no time did he speak of his  
actions with anything but pride.  
He is, in my opinion, a disturbed  
man who will kill again because he  
enjoys it.

PRESS REPORTER #3  
Warden, wasn't psychological  
counseling part of Derrence's plea  
agreement as well?

WARDEN  
Yes. He went through three of our  
psychologists here before we  
stopped his (beat) treatment.  
Derrence likes to play with people  
and our psychologists are here to  
help not to be played with. He  
doesn't think there is anything  
wrong with himself.

PRESS REPORTER #3  
If that's the case, then why the  
time off for good behavior?

WARDEN

Derrence never did anything but refuse to be treated. That's not grounds for punishment. He was always courteous in refusing to answer questions.

PRESS REPORTER #4

Warden, what are the terms of Derrence's parole? Will there be any tracking devices used in order to keep tabs on him.

WARDEN

Unfortunately in this case without a more serious charge than assault no tracking devices or official surveillance can be instituted. Mr. Derrence only needs to check in with his parole officer on a weekly basis and find gameful employment.

Even though the Warden is at the podium the press is now starting to focus on THOMAS DERRENCE who is behind the WARDEN wearing a big grin on his face.

WARDEN(cont'd)

I will now turn the questions over to Thomas Derrence who as of 10 o'clock this morning will be a free man.

The WARDEN steps aside and THOMAS DERRENCE takes his place behind the podium. He is first shocked by the flashing camera bulbs but begins to smile at the attention. He addresses the WARDEN on the microphone for the crowd to hear. DERRENCE is well spoken with a little hint of an accent. His presentation is very professional.

DERRENCE

Thank you Warden for your hospitality and the good treatment I have received during my stay here at Graterford Prison. And thank you to all of the members of the press for coming out today to help me celebrate my release.

The press begins to interrupt with questions.

PRESS REPORTER #1  
Mr. Derrence, will you kill again  
as the warden has said?

DERRENCE pauses before answering the question.

DERRENCE  
The Warden is a very smart man.

PRESS REPORTER #2  
Does that mean you will?

DERRENCE  
I'm not going to answer that  
question. I will say this. My  
goal after my release is to go out  
in the world and achieve  
perfection.

DERRENCE gets a big smile on his face and then says  
nothing else. The press begins to barrage him with  
follow-up questions but he steps back from the podium  
continuing to smile the whole time. The Philadelphia  
Chief of Police, ROBERT GOODE, steps to podium to address  
the crowd.

GOODE  
It appears that Mr. Derrence has  
no further comment at this time.  
I on the other hand would like to  
say that the Philadelphia Police  
will continue to investigate the  
murders that we believe Mr.  
Derrence committed with the hope  
that we will find a way to  
prosecute him in the future.

PRESS REPORTER #1  
Chief Goode, after his comments  
today do you believe that Thomas  
Derrence will kill again and if so  
how do you plan on protecting the  
people of Philadelphia from a  
threat like him?

GOODE  
I have to agree with the Warden's  
read of Mr. Derrence. I believe  
he feeds on the attention that his  
crimes bring him. As to  
protecting the good people of

Philadelphia we plan on doing everything in our power to, again, prove Thomas Derrence's guilt in a court of law and during that process keep an eye on his activities.

PRESS REPORTER #2

Have you instructed Police and administration personnel to protect themselves in the future because of Thomas Derrence's history of attacking the families of police officers and administration?

GOODE

We are making sure that everyone knows that Mr. Derrence is out of prison and is a threat. And, as I said before, we will be keeping an eye on all of Mr. Derrence's activities.

We zoom in over the chief's shoulder to see the continuing smile of THOMAS DERRENCE.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE ADMINISTRATION LECTURE HALL - DAY

A modern lecture hall with theatre seating filled to 50% capacity with 75 students. Some take notes. Others pay courteous attention. DR. JOHN WOODS, the forensic pathologist who took over DR. HANLEY's position after he left, is addressing them. He is an attractive man dressed fashionably in a grey suit but has a little bit of a nerdy tint. He is closing up his presentation.

DR. WOODS

So, that's what I do. Not as thrilling as they make it look on TV but every now and then it can be the most important job in the world. There are murderers, rapists and other criminals serving time thanks to me and my staff's diligent work. That's what makes the job so great and

scary sometimes too. (beat) Okay,  
I've yapped enough. Are there any  
questions?

Some students raise their hands. DR. WOODS points to one  
female student. She stands to ask her question.

FEMALE STUDENT

First I want to say thank you for  
talking to us and for doing the  
job you do.

DR. WOODS blushes and fakes modesty.

DR. WOODS

Oh, no I didn't want to sound like  
I was pleading for gratitude. But  
thank you and you're welcome.

FEMALE STUDENT

Anyway, I want to know how you  
approach a case at the beginning.  
Do you have a checklist of some  
sort?

The FEMALE STUDENT sits. DR. WOODS pauses for a second  
considering the question.

DR. WOODS

Well we have certain standard  
practices whether it's at a crime  
scene or in an autopsy. We need  
to follow these standards rather  
strictly since the O.J. Trial  
taught every defense attorney to  
audit the forensic practices  
first.

The students laugh lightly at this.

DR. WOODS (cont'd)

But, aside from that I find that  
it helps me to separate the body  
or corpse from the person they  
were. It's hard to look at a  
crime scene objectively and  
completely if you focus on the  
fact that it's a human being's  
death. I try to look at the  
corpse as another piece of  
evidence that needs examination.

I think I'd need more vacation  
time if I actually had to do it  
without separating the two.

Some of the students nod.

DR. WOODS (cont'd)  
Anyone else?

More Hands go up. DR. WOODS points out and selects  
another student.

DR. WOODS  
Yes, in the green sweater.

We stay on DR. WOODS as he listens to the question.

FADE TO:

INT. POLICE ADMINISTRATION LECTURE HALL - LATER

Students are filing out of the lecture hall as DR. WOODS  
packs up his papers in to his briefcase. He closes the  
case and heads for the door but stops when he sees DR.  
HANLEY leaning in the doorframe waiting for him. They  
make eye contact and both smile.

(V.O.) DR. HANLEY  
Still doing that same old  
presentation?

DR. WOODS smiles and extends his hand to DR. HANLEY.

DR. WOODS  
Theo! How are you doing?

DR. HANLEY shakes his hand and begins walking with DR.  
WOODS towards his office.

DR. HANLEY  
Good John. How are you?

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE ADMINISTRATION HALLWAY - DAY

DR. HANLEY and DR. WOODS walk down the hallway together.

DR. WOODS

Busy as always. Wish the felons would take a break so I could get caught up.

DR. HANLEY

Running a little behind?

DR. WOODS

It's just very constant and we're finally getting back in the flow since (beat) well, you're departure.

There is a little silence between them as they both are uncomfortable at the mention of DR. HANLEY's situation.

DR. HANLEY

Well, John that's kind of what I came to see you about.

DR. WOODS stops to look at DR. HANLEY in the hallway.

DR. WOODS

Oh, if you need more time, I understand.

DR. HANLEY

No, I have taken my time and I'm ready to come back at least on a part time basis.

DR. WOODS

Really? That's great. It'd be nice to have you around again.

DR. WOODS seems a little tensed by this but tries to be supportive. DR. HANLEY senses this.

DR. HANLEY

John, I'm not looking to take back my old position. You're running the show. With my book and the kids I don't think I could cut the full time work anymore.

DR. WOODS

Oh, you did another book? What's the subject?

DR. HANLEY

Kind of a compilation of cases.  
It's a study of serial crime  
scenes.

DR. WOODS

Great! I'd love to read it if you  
have a pre-press draft.

DR. HANLEY

It's not quite done. Still needs  
some work.

They start to walk again.

DR. WOODS

How are the kids?

DR. HANLEY

They're great. Joanne and  
Michelle actually got a place  
together down the shore this  
summer and so I got to see them a  
lot. And Michael's in his fifth  
year at Temple.

DR. WOODS

Did he pick up another major?

DR. HANLEY

Well, between his mother's death  
and too much partying sophomore  
year another year was required.

DR. WOODS

Kids today can't learn and party  
at the same time. Who says we're  
making better students these days.

DR. HANLEY

So what do you think of me coming  
back part-time?

DR. WOODS

Well, I've had some temporary help  
filling in three nights a week.  
Do you mind a night shift?

DR. HANLEY

That'd be fine. It's a little quieter and less crowded at that time.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. WOODS' OFFICE - DAY

They enter DR. WOODS' office. DR. WOODS goes around the desk and places his briefcase on top. HANLEY stands near the door checking out the office. The office is neat and tidy. The desk is arranged with file baskets filled but not overflowing with folders. A picture of DR. WOODS and DR. HANLEY standing together is hung on the wall behind him.

DR. WOODS

Well, say the word and we'll start you up.

DR. HANLEY

How about tonight?

DR. WOODS pauses.

DR. WOODS

Really eager aren't you?

DR. HANLEY

I'm ready to go.

DR. WOODS looks at him and contemplates for a second.

DR. WOODS

Okay, you're in at 5 o'clock. Should have an autopsy for you by then. Also, you'll be on call for any crime scene investigation.

DR. HANLEY

Okay. What do you want to do about offices? You've gotten pretty comfortable in here.

DR. HANLEY laughs as he scans the room. Obviously this used to be his office.

DR. WOODS

Yeah, well you're the one who took the sabbatical. I'll have one of the guys clear one of the auxillary rooms in the back for you if that's okay.

DR. HANLEY

That'll be fine. John, (beat). I don't want you to worry about me. Right now I'm just trying to get back in the game without getting pulled down too much.

DR. WOODS

I understand Theo. I'll have your office ready by the time you come in tonight.

DR. HANLEY

Thanks. It'll be good to work with you again.

DR. HANLEY shakes DR. WOODS' hand.

DR. WOODS

As always the honor will be mine.

DR. HANLEY

Okay, I'll see you later.

DR. WOODS follows and begins to joke with his old mentor as DR. HANLEY makes his way out of the office and down the hall.

DR. WOODS

I won't have to make you punch a clock will I? Oh, and no long lunches.

DR. HANLEY

Is this some sort of hazing for the new guy?

DR. WOODS laughs and steps back in to his office. DR. HANLEY walks down the hall and notices the bulletin board covered with stories on THOMAS DERRENCE and the murders that caused DR. HANLEY to take his leave.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNIVERSITY AREA TOWN - DUSK

The streets are filled with after-work shoppers and rush hour traffic. Through the sparse crowd on the sidewalks we see a FEMALE JOGGER. She wears a Villanova sweatshirt and running tights. She is listening to a walkman and seems oblivious to everything except the sidewalk in front of her.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNIVERSITY AREA TOWN - DUSK POV OF KILLER

The KILLER follows the FEMALE JOGGER with his eyes from across the street and then begins to jog along with her from the other side of the street. We can hear his constant steady breathing not changed by having to run. She does not see him and he eventually slows, to catch her breath.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNIVERSITY AREA TOWN - DUSK

We start on the eyes of the KILLER and as we pull back we see the smiling face of THOMAS DERRENCE catching his breath but never breaking sight of the FEMALE JOGGER as she makes her way up the street.

CUT TO:

INT. PHILA. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY sits in his new office. A desk has been set-up with a computer, phone and the required supplies. A cactus plant adorns the far corner of the desk. He unpacks a few books from a box and places them on the half-empty book-shelf. He looks at the cactus and smiles noticing a card attached to the pot. He grabs it and opens it up. It reads, "Welcome back Dr. Quincy!" It is signed by DR. WOODS. DR. HANLEY chuckles and puts the card down by the cactus. Suddenly there is a knock on his open office door.

DR. HANLEY

Yes?

DR. HANLEY is greeted by REBECCA SCOTT a 22-year-old lab assistant. She is very pretty and isn't quite able to cover it up with a lab coat and dark rimmed glasses.

REBECCA

Dr. Hanley, I'm Rebecca Scott, the night shift lab assistant.

DR. HANLEY

Oh, Hi it's good to meet you.

They shake hands.

REBECCA

It's more than good to meet you. You're practically a legend in forensic science. Your book was required reading for my major.

DR. HANLEY

Please, stop. I'm just doing my job here like you. Don't put me on a pedestal so high that I might fall off.

REBECCA

I'm sorry doctor. It's just a trip that I get to work with you. Your protégés have gone on to head some of the most prestigious programs in the country. I hope some of you rubs off on me.

DR. HANLEY pauses at the innuendo that the last statement created.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Sorry that didn't come out right. It's just that (beat) I really look forward to working with you. I've only been here a few weeks and this is my first time on call.

DR. HANLEY

Fine Rebecca, I look forward to it too. Give me a minute to settle in the office here and we'll get to work on the order tonight.

REBECCA

Okay, you've got two autopsies on deck. Do you prefer voice recording or actual hand notes?

DR. HANLEY

Both actually. Is that okay?

REBECCA

Fine. I'll prepare the first contestant, uh, I mean corpse.

DR. HANLEY

Okay, let me know when you're ready.

REBECCA leaves and DR. HANLEY turns to look at the picture on his desk of his dead wife. She bears a resemblance to REBECCA. Suddenly the phone rings. DR. HANLEY hesitates and then picks it up on the third ring.

DR. HANLEY

Forensics, Hanley.

We do not hear the other end of the line but DR. HANLEY begins to grab a pen and paper to take down some information.

DR. HANLEY

Okay, I got it. ETA 20 minutes.

DR. HANLEY hangs up the phone and rips the paper from the pad. He reaches for his coat off of the coat rack and heads out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLANOVA DORMITORY BUILDING - NIGHT

The building is surrounded by police cars and onlookers. The Medical Examiner's car pulls up to the front of the building. DR. HANLEY and REBECCA step out of the car and head towards the building.

REBECCA

Wow, I can't believe I get to walk my first crime scene with Dr.

Theodore Hanley. This is truly an honor.

DR. HANLEY  
Rebecca, listen to me now.

They stop and he looks her straight in the eye.

DR. HANLEY(cont'd)  
This isn't some ride at Disney World. There's a dead girl in there and I intend to help find the person that killed her. Now, since this is your first one I want to prepare you. It's gonna be nasty. It's going to be real. It's not a cold corpse on a gurney in there. It's a human being who recently had their life taken away.

REBECCA's excitement has faded and she is trying to take on a serious mode.

DR. HANLEY(cont'd)  
If you feel sick, please leave immediately. I don't want you throwing up on any potential evidence. Also, don't touch anything unless I ask you to and make sure to put on your gloves. You watch what I do and you learn from me. I'm not big on explanation so don't ask me a question unless you've thought it through and can't get the answer yourself. Okay, are you ready?

REBECCA nods and now has her game-face on.

REBECCA  
Yeah, sorry about that.

DR. HANLEY  
Let's go.

DR. HANLEY walks with REBECCA behind him carrying a collection kit. They flash badges to the cops at the tape. REBECCA fumbles hers slightly trying not to look like a kid with her first backstage pass. They are allowed in to the dormitory.

CUT TO:

INT. DORMITORY HALLWAY OUTSIDE ROOM 212 - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY and REBECCA approach the dorm room. There is a uniformed POLICE OFFICER posted outside. DR. HANLEY looks at him and flashes his badge.

POLICE OFFICER

Some fucked up shit in this world.

DR. HANLEY

Tell me about it.

They walk past the officer through the open door. DR. HANLEY pauses for a moment to look at the room number. Then he proceeds in to the room with REBECCA behind him.

CUT TO:

INT. DORMITORY ROOM 212 - NIGHT

A typical female dorm room. There is a small hallway in to the room with a closet on one side and the bathroom door on the other. Both are closed. There are posters on the wall and flowers on the windowsill. A set of bunkbeds on one side of the room and a couch with a coffee table on the other. Desks are positioned in each corner next to chests of drawers. Small picture frames and knick-knacks adorn the surfaces in the room but it is not overdone with decoration. The dead body is in the bottom bunk and is covered with a bed-sheet. There is a small pool of blood on the ground in front of the bunk.

Standing in the middle of the room is Detective MIKE STREET. He is mid-thirties and looks like he is trying too hard to look like a polished detective. He has a nice suit on with a bad tie. He looks to DR. HANLEY and REBECCA as they walk in the room. He speaks with slight New England accent.

STREET

You from forensics?

DR. HANLEY

Yeah, Dr. Hanley and my assistant  
Rebecca Scott.

STREET approaches them at door.

STREET  
Hanley, I've heard of you. Too  
bad they have the big guns out for  
a routine lover's quarrel.

DR. HANLEY  
Oh, did you arrest someone  
already?

STREET  
No, but it seems to me that this  
girl didn't have any enemies. The  
average person doesn't get their  
throat cut unless it's love or  
hate.

DR. HANLEY  
Well, why don't we take a look at  
the evidence before we start  
solving the crime?

STREET  
Okay, but I've seen it before.

DR. HANLEY  
Yeah, me too. (beat) If you could  
excuse us we'll get to work.

STREET  
Oh, sure. I'll be outside if you  
find anything.

STREET leaves the room and stands out in the hall. DR.  
HANLEY comments to himself.

DR. HANLEY  
Good thing Dick Tracy's on our  
side.

DR. HANLEY turns to REBECCA.

DR. HANLEY (cont'd)  
Let's get started. Okay?

REBECCA nods and sets the crime scene kit on the couch.  
She opens it and pulls out a pair of latex gloves, which

she hands to DR. HANLEY. She then pulls a set out for herself. DR. HANLEY puts the gloves on and then pulls back the sheet covering the victim. It is the jogger we saw earlier. She is naked and her throat is cut open. The dried blood covers her chest. There appears to be only one wound. REBECCA turns after putting on her gloves and sees the body for the first time. She quickly averts her eyes, closes them and then concentrates for a moment. She opens her eyes again re-focused on the task at hand. She reaches in to her pocket, pulls out a micro-cassette recorder and switches it on.

REBECCA

(into the recorder)

September 22, 2001 at 7:15 PM.

Victim is a female approximately 21 years of age, dark brown hair, Caucasian, athletic build approximately 5 foot 7 inches and about 125 pounds. Apparent cause of death is a wound at the base of the throat. Evidence of excessive bleeding is present.

She clicks the recorder off.

REBECCA

(to DR. HANLEY)

Did I miss anything.

DR. HANLEY

No. That's fine for an initial evaluation. I'm going to examine the body a little further. Could you check out the rest of the room?

REBECCA

Anything particular I'm looking for?

DR. HANLEY

Blood droplets, something oddly out of place...

REBECCA

Okay.

REBECCA takes a digital camera from the crime scene kit and begins to survey the room. She walks to the victim's desk. She snaps a few pictures before picking up the

calendar book from her desk and opening it to today's date.

REBECCA

She didn't have anything on her schedule for today aside from morning classes. Looks like she's a bio major.

DR. HANLEY doesn't respond. He's focused on his task. REBECCA sets the book down and looks at the photos on the victim's desk. They are all of friends and family. No boyfriend pictures.

REBECCA

Well, if she had a boyfriend he must be new because there are no photos on her desk.

DR. HANLEY

This was no lover's quarrel.

REBECCA

How do you know?

DR. HANLEY

We'll talk about it when we're done with the scene. I don't want the detective picking up any other theories that might confuse him.

REBECCA smiles and continues to walk through the room. She walks to the closet and turns on the light.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM 212 CLOSET - NIGHT

It is filled with clothes and shoes. There are no signs of anything out of the ordinary. REBECCA checks the shelves for anything else but she finds only old class books and sports equipment.

CUT TO:

INT. DORMITORY ROOM 212 - NIGHT

She steps out of the closet and closes the door. She glances back at DETECTIVE STREET who is leaning against the wall across from the open door. He gives her a nod and turns his attention back to DR. HANLEY. REBECCA turns to see DR. HANLEY measuring the wound on the neck and then carefully inspecting the wound with a magnifying glass.

CUT TO:

INT. DORM ROOM 212 BATHROOM - NIGHT

REBECCA opens the door to the bathroom and turns on the light. There is nothing out of the ordinary. Toothbrushes and bathroom items cover the sink. REBECCA notices that there are no towels in the bathroom. She goes to the shower, opens the curtain and jumps back at what she sees. REBECCA takes a second to gather herself and then yells for DR. HANLEY.

REBECCA

Dr. Hanley, I think you better  
take a look at this.

DR. HANLEY pokes his head in to the bathroom and sees her staring at the shower. He steps in and sees what REBECCA is staring at. The base of the shower is covered with blood. On the wall of the shower is one word written in the victim's blood, "PERFECT." STREET pokes his head in and quickly jumps in to see what they are looking at.

STREET

Well, I'll be. What do you make  
of that?

REBECCA looks to DR. HANLEY.

DR. HANLEY

Looks like we're going to be busy.

CUT TO:

INT. DORMITORY HALLWAY OUTSIDE ROOM 212 - NIGHT

The body of the victim is being wheeled out of the room by the coroner's office. REBECCA is crouched on the floor packing up some items in the crime scene kit while

DR. HANLEY talks to DETECTIVE STREET and another detective. REBECCA locks the case up and stands up. She takes a deep breath and sighs. DR. HANLEY finishes his conversation with the detectives and walks towards her.

DR. HANLEY

All packed up?

REBECCA

Uh, yeah. How'd I do?

DR. HANLEY

You did fine. Compared to some others you did great. I've had techs pass out right next to victims. We needed two stretchers once, one for the victim and one for the tech.

REBECCA

Well, I guess the first time's never easy.

DR. HANLEY

It doesn't get any easier. If you get desensitized to the point where you don't see a human being in the victim. It's time to pack it in.

REBECCA

I'll remember that.

DR. HANLEY

Well, let's get back to the lab and start cataloging this stuff.

REBECCA

How did you know before we saw the bathroom that this wasn't a lover's quarrel?

DR. HANLEY

Call it, intuition. (beat) Come on, let's go.

As they are walking down the hallway REBECCA's pager goes off. She reaches down to her belt and picks it up to see the message.

REBECCA

Not so fast, we've got another one.

DR. HANLEY

Another one?

DR. HANLEY grabs the pager from her hand and looks at the message.

DR. HANLEY(cont'd)

This isn't going to be good.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY and REBECCA pull up to the scene. The police officer blocking the parking lot sees their car and waves them in to the lot. They park in front and get out of the car. As they reach the back of the car DR. HANLEY talks to REBECCA.

DR. HANLEY

Make sure we separate the evidence from the dorm crime scene.

REBECCA

It's not a problem, there's always two kits in the car at all times.

DR. HANLEY

I thought this was your first time out.

REBECCA

It is. But who do you think restocks the kits?

DR. HANLEY nods as she reaches in to the trunk for the second kit. He approaches the store and flashes his badge to the police officer (POLICE OFFICER #2) at the front door.

POLICE OFFICER #2

Good Evening, you're from Forensics?

DR. HANLEY

Uh-huh.

POLICE OFFICER #2  
The body's in the back room.  
Detectives are currently en route.  
You can go ahead though.

DR. HANLEY  
The body's in the freezer?

POLICE OFFICER #2  
Yeah, how'd you know?

DR. HANLEY  
It's been that kind of night.

POLICE OFFICER #2 looks at DR. HANLEY funny. He checks his look and then opens the door as REBECCA approaches. She walks through the door and DR. HANLEY follows her in.

CUT TO:

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

REBECCA places the kit on top of the counter and opens it.

REBECCA  
What was that about?

DR. HANLEY  
I'll tell you later. The body's  
in the freezer in the back. Come  
on.

DR. HANLEY grabs a pair of gloves out of the kit and places them on his hands as they walk. REBECCA follows him but has to jump back to the kit to get her own gloves.

CUT TO:

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE BACK ROOM - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY opens the freezer door and we see over his shoulder the body of a 40-year-old woman lying dead. The body is in the convenience store uniform. He sighs and steps back for REBECCA to enter the freezer.

DR. HANLEY

Okay, record the summary info.

REBECCA grabs her recorder again and begins to analyze the scene.

REBECCA

September 22, 2001 at 10:45 PM.  
Victim is a female approximately  
45 years of age, dyed blond hair,  
Caucasian, heavy build around 5  
foot 6 inches and maybe 180  
pounds. Apparent cause of death  
is not immediately evident. No  
visible wounds are apparent.

DR. HANLEY

Check her neck.

REBECCA stops the recorder.

REBECCA

What?

DR. HANLEY

Check her neck for bruising.

REBECCA stoops down and moves the victim's head. There is bruising in the shape of two hands around her neck. She turns her recorder back on.

REBECCA

Apparent cause of death is  
strangulation by hand as indicated  
by the bruising around the victims  
neck and ...

REBECCA lifts the victim's eyelids showing extreme redness.

REBECCA (cont'd)

...Discoloration of the victim's  
eyes.

She looks up at DR. HANLEY and he gives her a nod approving of her work. REBECCA gives a slight smile showing her appreciation. DR. HANLEY then abruptly walks back to the front of the store. REBECCA pauses a moment, looks at the body and then turns to follow him.

CUT TO:

INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY walks to front of the store and sees that DETECTIVE STREET has just arrived and is walking in the door.

STREET  
Ah, we meet again.

DR. HANLEY  
Small world, huh?

REBECCA now appears from the back and is startled by DETECTIVE STREET's presence.

STREET  
And the rookie too. Amazing.

REBECCA gives him a look and a courtesy greeting.

REBECCA  
Detective.

DR. HANLEY is now inspecting the front door intently.

DR. HANLEY  
Rebecca can you hand me a magnifying glass.

STREET  
Ask for a pipe too. You gonna play Sherlock Holmes?

REBECCA gives STREET a look and hands DR. HANLEY the magnifying glass from the kit. He inspects the door glass closely.

DR. HANLEY  
I need some clear tape and a backing paper.

REBECCA digs through the kit and hands him the 2-inch wide clear tape. He rips off a 6-inch piece and sticks it to the glass very carefully. He then pulls it off and walks towards the counter where REBECCA has laid down the backing paper. He smooths the tape on to the paper and REBECCA and DETECTIVE STREET look closely at the paper. There are lip prints below the words, "PERFECT" written in lipstick.

DR. HANLEY  
Elementary my dear Watson.

DETECTIVE STREET now knows that the two murders are connected. He sighs and drops his head.

STREET  
Shit!

REBECCA  
How did you know it was there?

DR. HANLEY looks at her squarely.

DR. HANLEY  
I'm the only one who would have.

REBECCA stares at him with a questioning look.

STREET  
What do you mean, you're the only one. Do you know who's doing this?

DR. HANLEY  
Nope. But they know me. (beat)  
Very well.

STREET's cell phone rings stopping the conversation. He pulls it from his inside coat pocket and turns it on.

STREET  
(on phone)  
Street. (beat) Yeah. (beat)  
You're kidding me. Hold on!

STREET covers the mic on the phone.

STREET  
(to Dr. Hanley)  
They found another one. This time it's a man who was strangled.

DR. HANLEY  
Odds are he was a gay man strangled with a guitar string.

STREET gets back on the phone.

STREET  
(on phone)

You got any details. (beat) Uh-huh. (Beat) Okay, got it.

STREET hangs up his cell phone and places it back in his coat pocket. He pauses a moment and takes a breath. He turns to DR. HANLEY.

STREET  
You and I have to talk.

DR. HANLEY  
Yes, we do. (to REBECCA). Miss Scott. Could you see to it that everything is dusted for prints, including this door?

REBECCA  
What's going on?

DR. HANLEY  
Rebecca, please do as I ask. I will fill you in later. I want to finish up here as soon as we can so we can get check out the next scene before the next shift.

REBECCA  
Yes doctor.

REBECCA turns to the kit on the counter for the supplies she needs.

DR. HANLEY  
Oh, and make sure you get a copy of the surveillance video from the police.

REBECCA  
Yes doctor.

DR. HANLEY  
Detective Street and I are going across the street for some coffee. Let me know if you have any problems.

REBECCA  
Yes doctor.

DR. HANLEY and STREET walk out of the store and head across the street. REBECCA watches them go. She feels

left out and looks it. She then turns and begins to dust the counter for fingerprints.

CUT TO:

EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NIGHT - POV KILLER

DERRENCE watches from a car parked in the Diner lot across the street. He takes a drag from his cigarette and we hear him exhale. A radio playing easy listening music can be heard in the background. He follows STREET and HANLEY as they cross the street to the other side of the parking lot. As they approach the Diner he places the car in drive and pulls on to the street.

CUT TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY and DETECTIVE STREET sit at a booth and are being poured coffee by the waitress.

WAITRESS

Do you guys know what happened across the street? I heard someone was killed

STREET

We're not allowed to discuss an ongoing investigation ma'am. I'm sorry.

WAITRESS

Just a hint.

STREET

Sorry.

The WAITRESS leaves and STREET turns to DR. HANLEY.

STREET

Okay, I realize that I've only been working Philly homicide for about 3 months now. I've never worked with you before. But I don't believe in psychics and I

doubt you're a murderer so tell me, how did you know?

DR. HANLEY pauses.

DR. HANLEY  
Detective Street, my wife was murdered by Thomas Derrence last year.

STREET  
Yes, I know. I did some checking on you. I'm very sorry.

DR. HANLEY  
Thank you. (beat) Well, tonight is my first night back in the department. I took some time off and wrote a new book.

STREET  
And?

DR. HANLEY  
The subject of that book was all of the serial murderers that I have dealt with over the course of my career and how we caught them through their mistakes. Now, only a few people have seen the seven chapters that I submitted. One of them is the murderer.

STREET  
How do you know that?

DR. HANLEY  
Because tonight we have witnessed the near-recreation of Chapters One, Two and Three.

STREET  
Near-recreation?

DR. HANLEY  
Near because they didn't make the mistakes. And the killer left his calling card, "PERFECT," right where I had found the mistakes at the original crime scenes.

STREET

How so?

DR. HANLEY

The first serial case I worked on was Villanova college student Joan Welling. She was murdered and found exactly the same way as the girl tonight. The killer's mistake was that the knife left an impression in the shower caulk during the incident and we were able to lift the serial number on the blade which eventually led us to the killer.

STREET

And Chapter 2?

DR. HANLEY

Kelly Brown. She was killed by a man dressed up as a woman. The surveillance video had us looking for a woman until after killing a victim and putting her in the freezer the killer accidentally ran in to a locked glass door and left his lip print in lipstick. We were able to use it to get a confession by a suspect.

STREET

That's how you knew that the other call was Chapter 3.

DR. HANLEY

Yeah.

STREET

So who's chapter 4?

DR. HANLEY

It'll be a female psych worker in a mental hospital. She'll be killed with an overdose of heroine and then raped after or while she dies.

STREET

Well I'll get on the radio so that we can get a warning out.

DR. HANLEY

I don't think there will be another one tonight.

STREET

Why not?

DR. HANLEY

Because he's got my attention. He wanted me to see the pattern. The killer wanted me to find and investigate these crimes. But only a few people knew I was working tonight.

STREET

Everybody knows.

DR. HANLEY

How?

STREET

D.A. Carlisle made a statement to the press this afternoon. With all the stuff running on Derrence it made it right to the top of the news.

DR. HANLEY

Great.

STREET

We'll need to know who's got your chapters though.

DR. HANLEY

Call me tomorrow morning and we'll get in contact with the publisher. I hope they haven't been throwing preview copies around or it could be impossible to track.

STREET

Any theories?

DR. HANLEY

Derrence said in his press conference that he wanted to achieve perfection.

STREET

I'll check in with the team covering him and either way have them bring him in for questioning.

DR. HANLEY

Let me know what you find out. I'll go on to the next scene and see how perfect he is.

STREET

You should be careful. If this guy has you in his sights you might be in danger.

DR. HANLEY

I shouldn't have to worry until we reach Chapter 7.

STREET

What's Chapter 7?

DR. HANLEY

The death of my wife.

STREET looks at DR. HANLEY, stands up and walks out of the coffee shop. DR. HANLEY finishes his cup and looks out the window at the scene.

FADE TO:

INT. DR. HANLEY'S BEDROOM

Light finds its way through the window blinds as DR. HANLEY sleeps off the late night work. The phone rings and awakens him. He groggily reaches for the phone on the nightstand.

DR. HANLEY

Hello.

DR. WOODS

Theo, it's John. Did I wake you? I figured you'd still be up. I'm sorry. I wanted to check in with

you this morning to see how the first night back was.

DR. HANLEY

Oh, it was eventful. Haven't you read the summary reports yet?

DR. WOODS

No, I just got in and you were the first thing on my list.

DR. HANLEY

Well, I'm honored but you should take a look at those reports. It looks like the office is gonna be busy.

DR. WOODS

Really, what happened?

DR. HANLEY

Just read the reports. I'll meet with you this morning to discuss my initial findings.

DR. WOODS

Okay, well I'll check them out and see you when you get in.

DR. HANLEY

Okay, I'll talk to you then.

DR. HANLEY hangs up the phone and lies back in bed wiping the sleep from his eyes. He sits up and swings his legs over the side of the bed. He sits on the bed with his head down and then looks up at the picture of his wife on the dresser. We zoom in on the picture of MARY HANLEY.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - INT. DR. HANLEY'S HOUSE ONE YEAR AGO - DUSK

DR. HANLEY walks in the front door of his house. There is no sound but DR. HANLEY's heartbeat and breathing. He pauses in the foyer and then walks in to the kitchen. He places his coat over one of the chairs at the table and sets his briefcase down on the seat of the chair. There is a note on the table with a rose. The note reads, "IN

THE DEN." He smiles, picks up the rose and walks towards the den.

On the coffee table there is another rose and a note reading, "UPSTAIRS." DR. HANLEY adds another rose to his collection and heads for the stairs. His breathing and heartbeat pick up. On the top step there is another rose and note that says, "BEDROOM." DR. HANLEY smiles and collects the third rose. The bedroom door is closed as he approaches it. He pauses to read the note taped to the door. It reads, "CLOSE YOUR EYES AND COME IN." His smile grows.

He pauses, closes his eyes, straightens his face and opens the door. He steps in to the room calling out, "Honey I'm home!" The sound of his voice is muffled and nearly lost in a wash of noise. DR. HANLEY opens his eyes and we hear a large inhale and one last heartbeat, then complete silence. We see his feet that are now standing in a puddle of water on the carpet. We now see what he has seen.

MARY HANLEY is lying dead half-stuffed in the couple's waterbed. She is floating in the shallow pool. The carpet around the bed is soaked with the water displaced by her being in the bed. Her left arm has been placed, sticking up, with a red rose in the palm, her locket and chain wrapped around her fingers and a note reading, "SURPRISE."

CUT TO:

INT. D.A. JOHN CARLISLE'S OFFICE - MORNING

MARY HANLEY's locket spins on its chain as DR. HANLEY stares at it. He is waiting for the D.A. in his office. The door opens and CARLISLE and DETECTIVE STREET enter. They are finishing a conversation.

CARLISLE

...and you've got that covered in your briefing to the men.

STREET

Yeah, along with documentation on the next expected victim's profile.

CARLISLE

Good. No press leaks.

STREET

Yes sir.

CARLISLE and STREET now turn their attention to DR. HANLEY who has put the locket in to his shirt pocket.

CARLISLE(cont'd)

Dr. Hanley. I got a chance to look over your initial reports as well as a full briefing from Detective Street.

DR. HANLEY

And?

CARLISLE

Well, we'll give you our status so far. Detective Street has been put in charge of the investigation. He's an outside guy and the mayor likes it that way. He doesn't want any of the old guard involved if possible. Detective Street?

STREET

I made calls to your publisher, agent and anyone else who was mentioned to have access to your manuscript. 10 paper copies were made of your submitted chapters. Only 9 can be accounted for. Unfortunately, the publisher doesn't track the manuscripts for your book as well as they do for John Grisham. Also, since your book is slated for release in the next six months a chapter list and summary information was available on the company website.

DR. HANLEY

So, we're back to square one. What did Derrence have to say?

CARLISLE

Derrence is MIA. He walked in to an apartment building, rented a

place, went out and got some groceries and disappeared.

DR. HANLEY's head drops.

CARLISLE (cont'd)

There's not a lot in our control right now Theo. But it seems that this is connected to your book and it all began when you went back to work. So, as of right now I'd like you to take another leave. At least until we figure this out.

DR. HANLEY

Brian, I may be the only one who can solve this.

STREET

Doc, face it. This guy wants you to find these people. He wants you to investigate them. We shouldn't give this guy what he wants.

DR. HANLEY

What if by not getting his way he changes his tactic. Maybe he attacks more people or goes after my family or me directly.

CARLISLE

We have your house under surveillance already in case he shows up. Also, I'd like you to be accompanied by someone at all times.

DR. HANLEY

A bodyguard?

CARLISLE

It's not going to be forever. A week, two at the most. It's for your own safety and it may just help break this case.

DR. HANLEY pauses.

DR. HANLEY

I guess.

STREET

Derrence won't slip by us again.  
I promise you.

CARLISLE

I'll make the announcement to the media that you'll be on leave again. I'll say you had some commitments that will delay your return. Detective Street will take you down to headquarters to meet your police escort. We'll contact your children and let them know your situation.

DR. HANLEY

No, I'll call them. If they have to go through this again they're gonna hear it from me.

CARLISLE

Okay.

DR. HANLEY

I know you're just doing your job Brian. But this isn't going to stop him.

CARLISLE

I'm sorry, it's the only solution we have right now. I've got to give it a shot.

DR. HANLEY leaves the room. STREET follows behind him giving CARLISLE a short wave. CARLISLE sits down behind his desk and rubs his temples.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. HANLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

DR. HANLEY sits on his couch surrounded by boxes of forensics reports and medical charts. There are papers everywhere. To DR. HANLEY they are organized but to us it looks like a hurricane has struck. The television is on in the background.

TV REPORTER

It's been ten days since the release of Thomas Derrence from prison. There have been no reports of any activity by police to question him in some recent homicides.

DR. HANLEY sips from a cocktail glass while he compares reports. He is interrupted by a voice entering from the hallway.

STREET

That's someway to spend your time off Doc.

DETECTIVE STREET enters the room and stops to look at DR. HANLEY.

DR. HANLEY

Detective, Have a seat. I see you got past the armed guard. Want a drink?

STREET sits down on the chair across from DR. HANLEY. He grabs the cocktail glass, takes a whiff and sets the glass back down.

STREET (cont'd)

Thanks but I'll pass. Smells like you're drinking turpentine.

DR. HANLEY smiles and chuckles.

DR. HANLEY

It's good for you, in moderation.

STREET

Something tells me you haven't been too moderate lately.

DR. HANLEY takes a look around the room for what seems to be the first time and notices the mess.

DR. HANLEY

Oh, it would appear so. But this is my first of the day. Mary used to say that I should have two living rooms, one for me when I'm investigating a case and the other for everyone else to use. She

knew there was a method to my  
madness.

STREET

She sounds like my mother,  
patience of a saint.

DR. HANLEY

Yeah, she was patient just like  
our boy Mr. Derrence.

DR. HANLEY pauses, thinking to himself.

STREET

Dr. Hanley?

There is no response.

STREET

Doc, are you okay?

DR. HANLEY snaps out of it.

DR. HANLEY

I'm sorry. I've been trying to  
develop theories to explain this  
in my head. The problem is that I  
keep disproving them. This jumps  
in the face of any logic. Why  
would he stop? Because of me? It  
seems like he was more determined  
than that.

STREET

We'll at least he stopped. It's  
been over a week and no Chapter 4  
victim. Maybe Derrence got  
spooked and left town. Who knows?  
As long as no one's dying I'm  
happy with the status of the  
investigation. Who knows, maybe  
Derrence is dead somewhere.

DR. HANLEY

It'd be nice to think that. But I  
can't stop until I'm sure. You  
can take your bodyguard back if  
you want. The only action he's  
seen is me turning this room in to  
a man-made disaster area.

STREET

I'm gonna keep him with you a little longer. I want to be sure. You said that he's patient. Maybe he's trying to wait us out.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORRISTOWN STATE HOSPITAL - DAY

A MALE PSYCH WORKER is leaving out of the front door. He is wearing baggy medical attire. He carries a personal thermos in one hand and is playing with his keys in the other. He approaches his car and puts the key in the door. He unlocks the door and pulls it open. In doing so he opened it too far and it slams in to the car next to his.

MALE PSYCH WORKER

Shit!

He tosses his thermos in to the passenger seat of his car and then closes the door to further inspect the damage to the car next to his. As he looks closely at the scratch and dent in the car door he notices something in the back seat. He gasps!

MALE PSYCH WORKER

Oh my God!

He takes off running back towards the hospital building. His keys are still swinging back and forth in the door of his car.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. HANLEY'S HOUSE - DAY

DET. STREET is still sitting in the chair across from DR. HANLEY. They are discussing the case.

STREET

...Why would Derrence choose you? No offense, but you're wife was only one of the six murdered.

DR. HANLEY

I don't know. Maybe they were all for me before. It wouldn't be the first time a killer tried to beat the investigators trying to catch him. Killing only to prove that he's better or smarter than us.

STREET

Is he better and smarter? How would you have caught him last time?

DR. HANLEY

That's what scares me. The only reason we found him last time was that he let someone get away from him. Before that we had no idea who was committing the crimes. He's smart, he's done his homework he's waiting out there for someone.

DET. STREET's cell phone rings. He pulls it from his jacket pocket and answers it.

STREET

(into phone)

Street.

DET. STREET is listening intently and pulls out his pad and pen to write down some information.

STREET

(into phone)

Yeah (beat) Okay (beat) I'll be there in 15 minutes.

DET. STREET hangs up the phone and looks squarely at Dr. Hanley.

STREET

Looks like he got tired of waiting.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORRISTOWN STATE HOSPITAL - DUSK POV OF KILLER

The KILLER watches DET. STREET's car pull in to the lot. DR. HANLEY is in the passenger's seat. We hear the breathing and heartbeat. The KILLER is somewhere in the crowd of on-lookers. STREET and HANLEY get out of the car and walk past the on-lookers and are guided under the police tape by the officers on the scene.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORRISTOWN STATE HOSPITAL - DUSK

HANLEY and STREET approach the car and see that DR. WOODS is already on the scene with REBECCA and another tech assisting him. DR. WOODS notices them and meets them at the back of the car.

DR. WOODS

Theo, what are you doing here?

STREET

I brought him. Do you have a problem with that?

DR. WOODS

Oh, not at all. I thought he was on leave to prevent all of this.

STREET

Doesn't look like that plan worked.

DR. WOODS

Maybe he's just testing your resolve.

DR. WOODS looks squarely at DET. STREET. STREET pauses trying to keep himself calm. DR. HANLEY says nothing. He is more interested in surveying the crime scene.

STREET

Looks like I failed. Now what have you got?

DR. WOODS

Fine. Well it's an exact copy of the chapter four crime scene. Her name is Carrie Tafferro. Cause of death is an apparent heroine overdose administered by the

killer. There are also signs of sexual assault.

STREET  
Suggestions Doc?

DR. WOODS  
Well, after I..

He is interrupted by STREET.

STREET  
Not you.

He turns to DR. HANLEY.

STREET(cont'd)  
Dr. Hanley, any suggestions?

DR. WOODS is miffed but remains quiet. REBECCA rises up from the car door where she has been dusting for fingerprints. They are all awaiting DR. HANLEY's response.

DR. HANLEY  
Well, you can start by making sure you get a rape kit done on this woman. Then you will need blood samples from every patient at this hospital to compare to the semen sample you'll get from the kit.

DR. WOODS  
We know Derrence is not in that hospital. What's the point?

DR. HANLEY  
Because it's got to be perfect! The original killer was a patient here. He killed 5 women in this parking lot. His mistake was that he raped the last one and left his DNA inside her.

STREET turns to one of the officers on the scene.

STREET  
Officer!

An officer, BOBBY, runs over to DET. STREET.

BOBBY

Yeah.

STREET

Hi, I'm Detective Street. What's your name?

BOBBY

Officer Robert Dramer, sir.

STREET

Bobby okay?

BOBBY

Yes, sir.

STREET

Bobby, can you get the hospital administrator or whoever the supervisor on duty is?

BOBBY

Yeah, she's right over here.

BOBBY walks over to DR. MARGARET BAINES, a black woman in her mid-forties, who is answering questions for the police. He says a few words to her and then walks her over to DET. STREET.

BOBBY

Detective Street, this is Dr. Baines. She's the supervisor on duty today.

STREET

Thanks.

DET. STREET turns to MARGARET BAINES. BOBBY returns to the rope line to keep the crowd back.

STREET (cont'd)

Dr. Baines we're going to need blood samples from every patient and employee as soon as you can get them.

DR. MARGARET BAINES

I'll have the duty nurses collect them tonight. Is there anything else I can do?

STREET

Unless you have any eyewitnesses  
there's not much more you can help  
us with.

STREET turns to DR. WOODS and DR. HANLEY.

STREET (cont'd)

We're gonna see how perfect this  
son of a bitch is. Did you find a  
calling card on this one?

DR. WOODS

Nothing yet.

DR. BAINES overheard them and turns back to DET. STREET.

DR. MARGARET BAINES

I'm sorry detective, what did you  
mean by 'Perfect'?

STREET turns to DR. BAINES.

STREET

Why do you ask?

CUT TO:

INT. NORRISTOWN STATE HOSPITAL - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY and DET. STREET are walking with DR. BAINES  
down the hallway.

DR. BAINES

It was in the morning reports  
today. That's why I remember it.  
Melvin is one of our quieter  
patients. You know, not all there  
but harmless.

They have now entered the cafeteria where some patients  
are having dinner. DR. BAINES leads them to one table  
where a patient, MELVIN, is eating. He has long hair and  
looks to be in his 50's, possibly too many acid trips.

DR. BAINES (cont'd)

Well, this morning he showed up  
for breakfast with a word etched  
in his forehead.

DR. BAINES puts her hand under MELVIN's chin to have him lift his head up. She then moves the long hair that has been obstructing the view of his forehead. Etched in MELVIN's forehead is the word, "PERFECT." MELVIN smiles like he is being looked at for a beauty contest.

CUT TO:

INT. NORRISTOWN STATE HOSPITAL - NIGHT

DET. STREET and DR. HANLEY are in a MELVIN'S room with MELVIN and DR. BAINES.

STREET

Melvin. Who wrote the word on your forehead? Did you do that?

Melvin is a little shy and wary of these strangers. DR. BAINES assures him.

DR. BAINES

It's okay Melvin. These men are with the police. They're not going to hurt you. They just want to ask you some questions.

MELVIN

I don't like the police. They hurt me.

STREET

Not all police hurt people Melvin.

DETECTIVE STREET attempts to put his hand on MELVIN's shoulder for reassurance. MELVIN pulls away before he touches him. MELVIN then look straight in to DET. STREET's eyes. There is a look of recognition.

MELVIN

You. You've hurt me before.

DET. STREET turns to DR. BAINES and DR. HANLEY.

STREET

I've never seen this guy before in my life.

DR. BAINES motions for DET. STREET to step back and she takes a seat next to MELVIN, who now sits with one foot on his seat resting his chin on his knee.

DR. BAINES  
Melvin? I want you to tell me what happened last night. Who touched your forehead?

MELVIN pauses and then seems to ramble his answer.

MELVIN  
He was nice at first. He told me he'd get me more pudding. He gave me my pills and then everything got blurry. Those were good pills. Can I have some more?

DR. BAINES  
Can you tell us what he looked like?

MELVIN  
He looked like.(beat) He looked like. (beat) I can't remember. They were really good drugs.

DR. BAINES  
Okay Melvin. If you remember anything let me know, okay?

MELVIN  
Okay. (beat) Is he going to be back with my pudding?

DR. BAINES turns to DR. HANLEY and DET. STREET.

CUT TO:

INT. NORRISTOWN STATE HOSPITAL HALLWAY - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY, DET. STREET and DR. BAINES walk down the hall discussing the interview with MELVIN.

DET. STREET  
What kind of drugs are you giving him?

DR. BAINES

I checked his chart and he doesn't get nightly medication. He's administered only at meals and nothing that would cause the symptoms he described.

DR. HANLEY  
The killer doped him.

DR. BAINES  
Looks that way.

DR. HANLEY  
We'll check his blood sample for drugs while we're comparing DNA.

They stop at the front doors. Red and Blue strobes still shine through the doors from the parking lot crime scene. DR. HANLEY turns to DR. BAINES.

DR. HANLEY(cont'd)  
Thanks for all your help doctor. Here's my card. Please call me if you find anything else.

DR. BAINES takes the card.

DR. BAINES  
I'll do that.

DET. STREET  
Thank you.

DET. STREET and DR. HANLEY walk through the doors.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORRISTOWN STATE HOSPITAL - NIGHT

DET. STREET and DR. HANLEY are walking down the steps of the hospital.

DET. STREET  
What are you doing?

DR. HANLEY  
What do you mean?

DET. STREET

What are you doing telling her to call you?

DR. HANLEY

Why not?

DET. STREET

Doc, you are not running this case. Everything goes through me. You are only here because I brought you in. Remember that.

DR. HANLEY is angered by what he sees as meaningless power play. He stops and looks squarely at DET. STREET.

DR. HANLEY

I'm sorry Detective. I wasn't thinking of etiquette, I was trying to solve this case and find the killer.

DET. STREET goes on the defensive and raises his hands that he's backing off.

DET. STREET

So am I doc. So am I.

DR. HANLEY

Then don't play for position. We've got to stay together on this (beat) or he wins.

They stand on the steps staring at each other for a moment. DR. HANLEY then steps off the last step and proceeds up the walkway toward the parking lot. DET. STREET stands there a little longer watching him walk away.

FADE TO:

INT. MEDICAL EXAMINER'S LAB - DR. HANLEY'S OFFICE - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY is sitting in his office chair reviewing some notes. DET. STREET is asleep on the couch in his office. REBECCA walks in with a file folder in her hand.

REBECCA

Here are the preliminary DNA results.

DR. HANLEY

A match?

REBECCA

Looks like it.

DR. HANLEY opens the file to investigate the report further. REBECCA looks over to DET. STREET.

REBECCA

How long did he last?

DR. HANLEY doesn't take his eyes off the report.

DR. HANLEY

He was snoring within 5 minutes of sitting down.

REBECCA

How about you?

DR. HANLEY

Oh, I can never sleep during a long case.

REBECCA

Well if you'd like to get some coffee later let me know. I'll be processing fingerprints for the next three hours.

DR. HANLEY

Thanks.

She gives his shoulder a squeeze, turns and walks back to the lab. We pan to see that DET. STREET has been awake for all of this and is smiling.

DET. STREET

You dog! How long's this been going on?

DR. HANLEY is slightly shocked and not amused.

DR. HANLEY

It just happened and nothing is going on. Besides, I thought you were sleeping.

DET. STREET

I guess I woke up just in time.

DR. HANLEY

I won't entertain this. We got the report back on Melvin's DNA.

DET. STREET

And?

DR. HANLEY

It matches the semen found in the girl.

DET. STREET

I don't get this. The guy disguises himself as an orderly, dopes up Melvin, jerks him off, carves him up and then rapes and kills this poor girl. This one fucked up bastard.

DR. HANLEY

Actually he killed her and then raped her.

DET. STREET

Oh that's nice. He's more fucked up than I initially thought. We can now add necrophelia to his list of unique characteristics.

DR. HANLEY

You're getting frustrated Detective. You should go to your house and sleep. That's where I'm going.

DET. STREET

Doc if you went to my house to sleep my wife would probably call the cops.

DR. HANLEY is exhausted and is about to react to DET. STREET's remark.

DET STREET (cont'd)

I'm kidding Doc. I hope you're more open to humor after a good night's sleep.

DR. HANLEY

I don't foresee a good night's sleep.

DET. STREET  
Okay, I'll check in with you tomorrow at your house.

DR. HANLEY  
I'll be here tomorrow.

DET. STREET  
How'd Dr. Woods take that news? He didn't seem to be thrilled to see you tonight.

DR. HANLEY  
He'll have to deal with it.

DET. STREET  
Okay, I'll catch up with you tomorrow.

DR. HANLEY  
Goodnight Detective.

DET. STREET leaves the office and DR. HANLEY leans back in his chair examining the collage of photos on his bulletin board. He is searching for a link. We pull back to reveal the entire board is covered with photos and reports tacked up in the sponge board.

FADE TO:

INT. FORENSICS LAB - DR. HANLEY'S OFFICE - MORNING

We see DR. HANLEY asleep on the couch in his office with an open manila folder file open on his chest. He apparently fell asleep while looking at some case files. A hand taps him on the shoulder.

VOICE  
Doc! Doc wake up!

DR. HANLEY awakes to find DET. STREET is the one tapping him on the shoulder.

DR. HANLEY  
I'm awake. What time is it?

DET. STREET  
It's 9:15. I thought you were  
going home last night.

DR. HANLEY  
I wanted to look through the case  
files one more time.

DET. STREET  
How far did you get?

DR. HANLEY looks down at the file laying on his chest.

DR. HANLEY  
Not very far.

DET. STREET  
Well we've gotta meet with  
Carlisle in ten minutes.

DET. STREET eyes up DR. HANLEY's appearance.

DET. STREET (cont'd)  
You may want to find an iron for  
your shirt and a comb for your  
hair.

DR. HANLEY rises from the couch and straightens out his  
shirt.

DR. HANLEY  
I'm sure I'll be fine Detective.

DET. STREET catches a whiff of DR. HANLEY's breath and  
makes a face.

DET. STREET  
You may want a mint too.

DR. HANLEY gives DET. STREET a glance and walks out of  
the room unamused.

DET. STREET  
(to himself)  
Somebody's not a morning person.

CUT TO:

INT. CARLISLE'S OFFICE - MORNING

D.A. CARLISLE is sitting at his desk reading from a report. STREET and HANLEY sit in the two chairs on the other side of the desk. HANLEY has adjusted his appearance and is wearing a lab coat to cover his wrinkled shirt.

CARLISLE

Four murders and not one mistake?

STREET

That seems to be his goal.

HANLEY

We're still analyzing the evidence, but nothing yet.

CARLISLE

Dammit, I don't know why we couldn't get a tracking device on Derrence. He's off on a field trip now.

HANLEY

Have all the area schools been contacted to warn their teachers?

STREET

All the public schools are aware and have accounted for all of their faculty. Derrence was schooled in Baltimore so we have warned that school district and placed surveillance on his alma mater.

CARLISLE

What about the private schools?

STREET

They're all done except one.

CARLISLE

Which one?

STREET

Mercy Catholic. They were off yesterday for a retreat day so the offices were closed.

HANLEY

The next one after that is gonna be in a courthouse. Have we issued warnings?

STREET

We've warned all potential target groups. It's been hard to keep all of this out of the media though. I'm thinking we may have to get this out to the press. At least let them know we're looking for Derrence.

CARLISLE

The mayor wants to keep this as quiet as we can. Derrence caused a lot of trouble for a lot of officials in this city.

HANLEY

Brian, we can't...

DR. HANLEY is interrupted by one of CARLISLE's aides entering the office.

AIDE

It's out there.

CARLISLE

What?

AIDE

Somebody spoke to Channel 6. And they've got a lot of information.

CARLISLE

Well, I guess that conversation is now moot. What do they have?

AIDE

The murders, Derrence's disappearance, the connection to Dr. Hanley. They've got everything. Should be everywhere by the noon broadcast.

STREET

Great. Here comes the panic. Do they have the possible future targets?

AIDE

I don't know. With everything else they have I wouldn't doubt it.

CARLISLE

All right. I have to go meet with the mayor. You two...

CARLISLE looks STREET and HANLEY squarely.

CARLISLE (cont'd)

I want Derrence within 24 hours. And Detective...

STREET looks directly to CARLISLE.

CARLISLE (cont'd)

Make sure I can prosecute him this time.

CARLISLE grabs his jacket from the coat rack in the corner and exits the office.

CARLISLE (cont'd)

Page me when you have something.

STREET and HANLEY are left alone in the office.

STREET

Any idea on a next move?

HANLEY

I was only able to get some of the Derrence case file. Can you get the rest? I'm trying to find out where he might be hiding.

STREET

Whatever's not in the archive may still be in the active files since they never officially closed the case.

STREET and HANLEY stand up and start out of the office. STREET's pager goes off. He reaches for it and checks the message.

STREET

Shit.

CUT TO:

INT. MERCY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM - DAY

Tenth grade students are filling a classroom of a coed Catholic school. The boys are wearing school sweaters over shirts and ties with khaki pants. The girls wear similar sweaters over white shirts with plaid skirts. The bell rings and the kids take their seats but continue to talk. An adult enters the room and calls them to attention.

SUBSTITUTE

All right ladies and gentlemen.  
Mrs. Delmano is out today and I  
will be covering her classes.

The students are happy and look forward to torturing a young substitute. Two boys high-five and the girls all begin to change seats to sit near their friends.

SUBSTITUTE

Okay, no assignment was left so  
who can tell me where you are in  
your reading?

As the SUBSTITUTE is instructing the class we pan around the room at all of the students opening books and talking quietly. We focus on one FEMALE STUDENT who glance over to the bulletin board. We follow her gaze and see that the bulleting board is covered with Polaroid photos and is designed with the word "PERFECT" made out of construction paper. The FEMALE STUDENT gets out of her chair and walks to examine the bulletin board more closely. The SUBSTITUTE calls after her.

SUBSTITUTE

Excuse me, miss? Please take your  
seat.

The FEMALE STUDENT ignores her and reaches the bulletin board. Her face goes pale and she screams. All the students turn their attention to her.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

Policemen are scattered throughout the hallway. One of them is interviewing the witnesses. The SUBSTITUTE and the FEMALE STUDENT are both speechless standing in the hall outside of the classroom. DR. HANLEY walks towards them. They notice him and turn back to the policeman asking them questions. They provide nothing but shakes of their heads, too in shock to utter verbal answers. DR. HANLEY enters the classroom.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

DR. WOODS and REBECCA are already taking fingerprints and gathering evidence from the room. DET. STREET sits on one of the student's desks taking in the scene. He notices DR. HANLEY's entrance.

STREET

Hey Doc! Well, here's an argument against school vouchers.

DR. HANLEY turns to DR. WOODS and REBECCA. REBECCA gives him a caring glance while DR. WOODS gives him only a simple nod and returns to his work.

DR. HANLEY

Polaroids on the bulletin board?

STREET

Yep.

DR. HANLEY

You have your men checking the woods next to the school.

STREET

Sent them out five minutes ago.

DR. HANLEY

Shouldn't take them too long. Whoever did this wants us to find her.

STREET

Well, Derrence is certainly keeping up the pace. Only two more left.

DR. HANLEY

It's the last one that I'm worried about.

DR. HANLEY lowers his voice to make sure only STREET can hear him.

DR. HANLEY(cont'd)

And Detective, I don't think we should narrow our potential suspects anymore.

STREET looks at DR. HANLEY not sure of what to say. His radio breaks through the silence in the room.

VOICE ON THE RADIO

Detective Street?

STREET picks up his radio and responds.

STREET

Yeah, what do you got?

VOICE ON THE RADIO

Sir, we've found something. You'll want to see this.

STREET walks past DR. HANLEY toward the stairs.

STREET

This must be like Deja Vu for you.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS NEXT TO THE SCHOOL - DAY

STREET and DR. HANLEY spot OFFICER WALKER waving to them. He is a young fresh-faced cop with barely a year in the department. His partner is standing 15 feet behind him over an area of disturbed earth where the victim's body has been buried. Other police officers walk around the area attempting to spot further clues. STREET and DR. HANLEY approach him.

STREET

What's your name officer?

WALKER

Walker, sir.

STREET

What'd ya find Officer Walker?

OFFICER WALKER begins to speak nervously as he leads STREET and DR. HANLEY towards the scene.

WALKER

We all spread out to cover the area like instructed and my partner noticed the new dirt under the tree here. We scraped away a layer and found the victim's hand. I felt for a pulse but there was nothing. We figured we shouldn't move anything else until you showed up.

STREET

Thanks guys, good work. Can you go to the edge of the woods and lead the M.E. team here when they head over.

WALKER

Yes, sir.

WALKER and his partner head in the direction that STREET and HANLEY came from. HANLEY crouch's down and feels the dirt covering the body. He grabs some in his hands, smells it and then shakes it from his hands. STREET is standing at the base of the fresh grave looking around at the surrounding area. He then takes notice of HANLEY's methods.

STREET

You thinking something?

DR. HANLEY

A lot of things actually.

STREET

Some pretty dense woods here. I doubt anyone saw anything. With all the developing they've been doing around here I'm shocked this isn't some yuppies lawn.

DR. HANLEY

Do you see anything strange here?

STREET

Besides the dead body? Isn't the scene identical to your chapter four?

DR. HANLEY

It is.

He looks up at STREET from his crouch.

DR. HANLEY (cont'd)

But I never included the fact that the victim was covered with store-bought top-soil. It wasn't how we caught him.

STREET

It was never mentioned in any of the papers?

DR. HANLEY

It was a minor point in the crime scene reports. I doubt anyone picked up on it. I only noticed it after I saw Officer Walker's footprint in it.

STREET

Furthering your theory that it's not Derrence.

DR. HANLEY

Unfortunately.

STREET

Any new theories?

DR. HANLEY

This killer has something to prove. He wants to beat us, beat me. And he wants us to think it's somebody else.

STREET

And he apparently has no problem killing people.

DR. HANLEY

I don't think he sees them as people. They are a means to an end.

STREET

Well, if the rest of our theory stands there are only two more means until the end.

DR. HANLEY

Let's hope he sticks to the plan.

STREET

Can I ask? (beat) You're sure you only submitted 7 chapters?

DR. HANLEY

That's it.

STREET

What happened to 8 and beyond?

DR. HANLEY

Writers block.

DR. HANLEY walks past STREET away from the site. WOODS and REBECCA can be seen approaching. We close up on STREET's face his face goes from a slight grin at DR. HANLEY's off-beat response to a look of anger.

CUT TO:

INT. FORENSICS LAB - DR. HANLEY'S OFFICE - LATE DAY

DR. HANLEY is at his desk reading a case file. He is leaning back in his office chair flipping through pages looking for something. DR. WOODS enters.

DR. WOODS

This isn't getting any easier. You're lucky you left before we exhumed her. He did a little more work on her than the original killer did.

DR. WOODS hands DR. HANLEY a few crime scene pictures.

DR. HANLEY

These were processed quick.

DR. WOODS

Oh, we're all digital now. No more waiting for the photographers. We installed that a few months ago.

DR. HANLEY is looking at the picture.

DR. HANLEY

He is really getting a knack for this. If we don't catch him he may start writing his own chapters.

DR. WOODS

Well, they'll find Derrence soon. He can't keep disappearing now that it's all over the news.

DR. HANLEY doesn't react to this statement. REBECCA enters the office.

REBECCA

DR. WOODS there's a phone call for you on line 7.

DR. WOODS acknowledges her for a moment before turning back to DR. HANLEY.

DR. WOODS

Wait a minute. You don't think someone else is doing these murders do you?

DR. HANLEY

I have doubts.

DR. WOODS

The press conference? His disappearance? Just a coincidence? Who else could it be?

DR. HANLEY

Someone who does a lot of research.

DR. WOODS is agitated.

DR. WOODS

When were you gonna let me in on this? I'm still in charge here. You're freezing me out here.

DR. HANLEY reacts with nothing but a stare. REBECCA decides to step in.

REBECCA

Hey. This isn't a contest here. We've all been working hard and a lot of hours. Dr. Hanley's just been a little closer to this case than us. I'm sure he's not hiding anything from us.

DR. HANLEY and DR. WOODS continue their stares until WOODS finally breaks away.

DR. WOODS

Line 7 you said?

REBECCA

Yes.

DR. WOODS leaves in a huff leaving REBECCA now exchanging eyes with DR. HANLEY.

DR. HANLEY

Quite the peacekeeper.

REBECCA

I just hate fighting. Especially amongst two friends. You should hear how he used to talk about you. "Oh, if Theo were here we'd have more of these cases solved." "Dr. Hanley would know how to approach this."

REBECCA moves to the guest chair in the office and sits down.

REBECCA(cont'd)

He just feels left out now that you're back and he's not your co-pilot anymore.

DR. HANLEY

Honestly I haven't had time to think about that. I really surprised he's acting this way. I guess I didn't realize how much pressure I put him under when I left.

REBECCA

And why would you? Your wife was murdered. Her killer went unprosecuted for the crime. You did what you had to.

REBECCA rests her hand on his knee and this does not go unnoticed by DR. HANLEY. REBECCA gets up and looks over her shoulder at him as she leaves.

REBECCA (cont'd)

I'll have the initial scene report to you in an hour.

DR. HANLEY is alone again in his office. He keeps his eyes on the leaving REBECCA until he glances down at the gruesome crime scene photos now in his possession. His examination does not last long as the phone on his desk rings. He picks it up.

DR. HANLEY

(in to the phone)

Hanley.

It is STREET.

DR. HANLEY

Yeah. (beat) Already, huh? (beat)  
Okay, I'll be there in 15 minutes.

DR. HANLEY puts the case file down and stands. He reaches for his coat. As he leaves we turn back to his desk at the open file. The crime scene picture is nearly identical to the one early in the day.

CUT TO:

EXT. CITY COURTHOUSE - FRONT STEPS - DUSK

DR. HANLEY pulls up to the curb and is besieged by reporters as he approaches the courthouse stairs. Microphones are shoved in his face as camera flashes light up around him. This is similar to some of the opening shots of the film when he was testifying in the Derrence case.

REPORTER #1

Dr. Hanley, Is Thomas Derrence coming after you?

REPORTER #2

Why did you write the book Doctor?

REPORTER #3

Do you know where Derrence will  
strike next?

DR. HANLEY is trying to push his way through but these  
reporters are relentless.

DR. HANLEY

I have no comment. This is an  
ongoing investigation.

This does not satisfy them and the questions continue  
until DET. STREET and two officers break through the mob  
and clear a path for DR. HANLEY.

STREET

Let the man do his job people.  
We'll have a statement for you  
soon.

DR. HANLEY reaches the top of the steps and looks back as  
DET. STREET is coming up behind him.

DR. HANLEY

Thank you Detective.

STREET

Vultures. They won't leave you  
alone. If I did that in an  
interrogation I'd have a civil  
rights lawyer up my ass for  
months.

They enter the courthouse.

CUT TO:

INT. CITY COURTHOUSE - HALLWAY - DUSK

DR. HANLEY and STREET proceed down hall past police  
officers questioning witnesses and security personnel  
sealing off the crime scene area.

STREET

I've put all officers on alert that he may attempt to complete Chapter 7 tonight. Is there anyone home at your house?

DR. HANLEY

No, the kids have been notified but they're still at their places.

STREET

I've advised their local police to contact them and put them under protection just in case. I hope you don't mind.

DR. HANLEY

Not at all. Thank you.

They have reached the women's bathroom in the main courthouse corridor. The large oak door is propped open and guarded by a police officer. CARLISLE is there. DR. HANLEY sees him.

DR. HANLEY

Brian?

CARLISLE motions him to the side for a private conversation. DR. HANLEY takes a glance in to the bathroom before moving on to join CARLISLE.

CARLISLE

Tell me you have something for me here.

DR. HANLEY

Brian, I have theories and nothing else right now.

CARLISLE

Well, hit me with one of them would you? I lived through this once and that was enough. Now Derrence is trying to fuck us twice.

DR. HANLEY

You may not believe this. But It's entirely possible that Derrence had nothing to do with this.

CARLISLE is a little taken back but intrigued.

DR. HANLEY(cont'd)

I believe that someone is targeting this city, either for messing up the case the first time or simply because they wanted to take me on. I don't know. But I can tell you that this person has done some serious homework and has inside information on these crimes.

CARLISLE

And how did you come that conclusion?

DR. HANLEY

One, Derrence's disappearance. Two, Derrence hates cops not innocent people, not people like these victims. Three, the killer made it personal between himself and me. Derrence never got emotionally involved in his crimes. He saw them as tasks to be accomplished. And last...Whether the killer had the chapters or not, there are details that I did not include in my book that are present in these crimes. Somebody got the actual case files.

CARLISLE

Your saying we could have a maniac on the loose who's getting a paycheck from the city? A cop or something?

DR. HANLEY

Well, he's only gotta kill one more and then disappear and he's beaten us, beaten me.

CARLISLE

That's not gonna happen.

DR. HANLEY

Are you saying you didn't have this place covered for the past

week? You took every precaution short of shutting this place down and still there's a body in the bathroom with his signature on it.

CARLISLE doesn't know what to say. He turns to the wall and leans in to it with his head. He is defeated. DR. HANLEY leans in to talk to him.

DR. HANLEY

I'm not saying we won't get him. Hell, he'll probably turn himself in soon enough. There's no fun in winning for him if he can't gloat. Don't lose hope we'll find him.

CARLISLE turns his head to look at him still resting his forehead on the wall.

CARLISLE

Something in me is hoping he shows and gives us a reason to shoot him. I don't know if this city could take another trial, especially if he finds a way to get off.

DR. HANLEY looks around to make sure no one heard the last statement.

DR. HANLEY

I'd keep your voice down about that. That's not the kind of talk that's gonna keep you in your job.

CARLISLE finally turns around to rest his back on the wall.

CARLISLE

Yeah, I guess. I don't see either of us keeping our jobs too much longer if we can't get this psycho in front of a jury.

DR. HANLEY puts his hand on his shoulder to assure him.

DR. HANLEY

We're doing our best Brian.

CARLISLE

I know.

CARLISLE looks him up and down.

CARLISLE(cont'd)  
You're the only one around here  
who looks like he's gotten less  
sleep than me.

DR. HANLEY breaks a slight grin.

CARLISLE(cont'd)  
Go do your job. Let me know if  
you find anything.

DR. HANLEY  
You got it boss.

DR. HANLEY leaves CARLISLE leaning against the wall and  
heads back to the crime scene. STREET is at the bathroom  
door.

STREET  
You don't even have to go in there  
do you?

DR. HANLEY  
She's been strangled with a belt  
and the killer scraped the word  
"Perfect" in her thigh with her  
own hand.

STREET just nods his head.

DR. HANLEY  
No other bodies found in the  
building?

STREET  
No, why?

DR. HANLEY  
The courthouse killer murdered  
three people here the day he  
murdered Elizabeth Sconto. Two  
guards were found in a courtroom  
that was being painted.

STREET turns to one of the courthouse security guards.

STREET  
Hey, any courtrooms closed for  
maintenance today?

The GUARD turns to him inquisitively at first and then has a thought.

GUARD

Yeah, the district justice's office is being renovated. It's a smaller room but technically it's a courtroom.

STREET

Show it to me.

The GUARD leads DET. STREET down the hall. DR. HANLEY watches them go and then turns to enter the crime scene.

CUT TO:

INT. COURTHOUSE BATHROOM - DUSK

DR. HANLEY surveys the bathroom. The body of a dead courtroom reporter is in the center of the room. DR. HANLEY doesn't look immediately at it. He hears a noise and turns his attention to the door. DR. WOODS and REBECCA enter the bathroom.

DR. WOODS

Theo.

DR. HANLEY nods. REBECCA gives him a look of compassion and then turns to the body. DR. WOODS moves to talk to DR. HANLEY.

DR. WOODS(cont'd)

Theo, I wanted to apologize for my outburst today. I know this can't be easy for you but I can't do my job if I don't know what's going on. I've got people to answer to on this. I hope you understand.

DR. HANLEY

It's fine John. I know I said you were running the show but I guess it's tough for me to go back and not be in charge.

The two colleagues share a moment as friends without the need for apologies. They turn their attention back to the scene.

DR. WOODS

So, anything here besides the body  
that needs special attention?

DR. HANLEY

I just walked in here before you.  
Let's take a look.

DR. WOODS turns his attention to the body and begins  
putting on his gloves. DR. HANLEY continues to survey  
the room. He stops at one of the mirrors when he sees  
that it is slightly off. He can see some of the old  
paint around it. He turns to REBECCA.

DR. HANLEY

Rebecca, can you hand me a glove  
please.

REBECCA hands one over and DR. HANLEY puts in on and  
proceeds to move the mirror. All but the top screw have  
been removed allowing it to easily slide. As he does he  
begins to see the beginning of writing.

DR. HANLEY

Dr. Woods. You may want to look  
at this.

DR. WOODS stands up from the body and moves closer. He  
gets around DR. HANLEY to see scrawled behind the mirror  
being held up by DR. HANLEY, "By the book, one more to  
go."

DR. WOODS

He's writing notes now. Taunting  
us.

DR. HANLEY

Taunting me. I really would like  
to know what I did to deserve  
this.

STREET enters.

STREET

You called it Doc. Two more in  
the D.J.'s office. This guy is by  
the book.

DR. HANLEY

His words exactly.

DR. HANLEY points towards the message. STREET moves to see. His head drops.

STREET  
I'm gonna get this bastard.

DR. WOODS  
You can't stop him.

STREET and DR. HANLEY look to him not believing he just said that.

DR. WOODS (cont'd)  
Chances are he's already done.

CUT TO:

INT. CITY BAR - NIGHT

The bar is lightly crowded. The long oak bar has 24 seats but only 4 people are at the bar. There are a few tables occupied. The local news is on the television. DR. HANLEY and DET. STREET share a drink at the bar. They are beat and looking defeated.

STREET  
I guess you're in no hurry to get home now.

HANLEY  
I go there every time I close my eyes Detective.

STREET  
Sorry, I didn't mean to joke. This has been a pretty intense stretch for me. Being an outside guy I don't have a lot of people to lean on for help.

HANLEY  
I've known you for a few weeks Detective. You wouldn't lean on anyone even if they were there.

STREET  
You're probably right. So we've got everyone on high alert or whatever the next step past that

is. Every major level of the local government, police and fire department have sent their wives out of town. With luck there may not be any more targets left for our boy.

HANLEY

How often does that luck thing work out for you?

STREET

Being a Red Sox fan I'd say never.

HANLEY cracks a slight smile and downs his drink.

HANLEY

Well, I guess it's time to go home and see how the game ends. I assume that you'll be following right behind.

HANLEY steps off his stool and begins to put on his jacket.

STREET

We've got a man stationed at your house already but I'll be by later tonight for a walk-through. I have to check in with Carlisle in the morning.

HANLEY

Alright. You know I forgot how tiring it can be.

STREET

What?

HANLEY

Playing these games. This game of chess we're playing with the killer. He moves a rook, we move a pawn. The only problem is that he's looking at the whole board. We can only see what he shows us.

STREET

That's one way to put it. All I know is, he may get checkmate.

But eventually we're gonna see all the pieces.

HANLEY

I surely hope so.

STREET

How often does that hope thing work out for you?

HANLEY

It always works just not always with the desired result.

HANLEY begins to walk out.

STREET

Goodnight Doc.

HANLEY raises his hand without turning around as he heads towards the door. STREET moves his gaze to the TV screen watching the reports telling the story of his investigation.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. HANLEY'S CAR - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY is behind the wheel driving home. His cell phone rings. He answers.

DR. HANLEY

Hello?

We can hear the conversation.

LEO

Dr. Hanley. It's Leo at Barlow Publishing.

DR. HANLEY

Yes, Leo. What can I do for you?

LEO

Well we wanted to let you know that we're increasing the first print of your book. But we need your introduction and closing in the next week or so to make our window.

DR. HANLEY

Window?

LEO

I'm sorry doctor, but this is a big story. We want to get this out to the market as soon as possible. This could be our biggest seller ever. We've already got the covers and sleeve's done. Got some great recommendations from your colleagues and the people you trained.

DR. HANLEY

Really? Who?

LEO

Well, Dr. Mark Handzus had one that we're pegging for the ad campaign, very complimentary. Dr. Woods also had great things to add.

DR. HANLEY

Dr. Woods?

LEO

Yeah, Dr. John Woods. Aren't you still working with him?

DR. HANLEY

Yes. When did you contact him for the quote?

LEO

Oh, I guess these requests went out about a month ago.

DR. HANLEY is quiet. Thinking.

LEO

Dr. Hanley?

CUT TO:

EXT. DR. HANLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY pulls up to his house and in to the driveway. A patrol car is clearly visible outside. There is no one inside of it. All the outside lights are on and everything looks okay.

DR. HANLEY steps out of his car closes the door and surveys the area. He knows something is wrong. He slowly walks towards the porch. He reaches in to his pocket for his cell phone and starts to dial. He does not hit the "Send" button.

DR. HANLEY checks the front door knob. It is still locked. He seems slightly relieved until he peers through the door and sees a candle lit in the hallway with a note.

DR. HANLEY  
(to himself)

Damn!

DR. HANLEY hits the send button on the phone as he leans backwards against the front all next to the door. He waits a few rings.

DR. HANLEY  
(into the phone)  
It's Theo. Have you checked in  
with your officer here.

We can hear only HANLEY's side of the conversation.

DR. HANLEY  
I'm gonna have to go in to check.  
Whoever's in there may still be  
alive.

A pause while STREET answers.

DR. HANLEY  
Then you better hurry up. I'm  
gonna take a lap around the house  
to check it out and then I'm going  
in.

DR. HANLEY continues to survey the front yard while STREET speaks to him.

DR. HANLEY  
You know I don't carry a gun.  
(beat) I'll see what I can find.  
Just hurry up. Hey, no sirens  
when you get close. If he's here

I don't want him spooked and running.

DR. HANLEY hangs up the phone and puts the cell back in his pocket. He peers in through the front door window. No movement, just the candle. He moves down the front steps and towards the patrol car parked out front. He checks over his shoulder looking for other lights on in the house. The house looks normal but he knows there something and someone waiting inside for him.

CUT TO:

INT. POLICE PATROL CAR - NIGHT

HANLEY opens the door and climbs in. All of the electronics are on. The scanner can be heard lightly and the computer is on. The last message from the patrolman is still on the screen:

"11:06 - Sounds heard from rear of the house. Leaving car to investigate."

HANLEY looks up at the clock in the patrol car. 11:35. He looks around the car for anything that may be useful. He checks the glove compartment before looking straight at the shotgun cradled in the front seat. He removes it from the metal holster. HANLEY takes a deep breath and steps out of the car with the shotgun.

EXT. HANLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

HANLEY walks back towards the house. His steps are constant but not fast. He holds the gun in a defensive position, ready for something to jump out at him. Once he is near the house he turns to walk around the right side. He keeps close so he cannot be seen out of any of the windows. He turns in to the darkness.

EXT. HANLEY'S HOUSE BACK - NIGHT

HANLEY continues his walk/crouch around the side of the house and emerges around the corner in to the back yard.

The glass-enclosed back porch is dim but it looks like someone is there. He slowly approaches with the shotgun raised at his side. He wants to be sure so he calls out in case it is the patrolman.

DR. HANLEY

Officer is that you? It's me, Dr. Hanley.

There is no response. He continues to the porch and opens the door and peers inside.

INT. HANLEY'S BACK PORCH - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY

Officer?

He approaches the shape and pushes it to the side. It is the patrolman. He has no expression and has been propped up on chair. Hanley's nudge causes him to collapse to the floor with a loud thud. Hanley stoops down and checks for vital signs. Surprisingly he is still alive. HANLEY sighs with relief.

DR. HANLEY

Hold on officer.

HANLEY reaches in to his jacket and presses "SEND" on his cell phone. There is a slight pause before STREET answers.

DR. HANLEY

Detective, you've got a man down here on the back porch. He's alive but barely. I don't see any major injuries so he may be drugged. You'll want to call an ambulance.

STREET says something inaudible on his side.

DR. HANLEY

I'm going in.

HANLEY hangs up the phone and pockets it. He places a pillow from one of the padded porch chairs under the officer's head and stands up. Gun at his side again he walks towards the back sliding door. It is open and he enters the house.

INT. DR. HANLEY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY leaves the door open behind him, takes one glance back at the unconscious officer and then proceeds through the living room.

The case file still remains littered throughout the room. Nothing appears disturbed. He walks towards the front door and finds the candle still burning on the table next to the stairs. The note reads, "Perfect."

DR. HANLEY looks back towards the stairs and begins his ascent to the second floor.

INT. DR. HANLEY'S HOUSE - SECOND FLOOR - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY emerges from the shadow of the unlit stairway to find another candle burning in the hallway. Another note reading "Perfect." He pays it little mind and heads directly for the master bedroom.

Another note is found on the bedroom door. It reads, "Waiting for you. Come on in!" HANLEY takes a look over his shoulder and down the hall. He then turns back and grips the doorknob. He takes a deep breath and opens the door.

INT. DR. HANLEY'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

DR. HANLEY steps in to the room to find a near recreation of his wife's death crime scene. He turns to the bed and finds in his wife's place the body of REBECCA. Her hand is extended up and holds a locket and chain. DR. HANLEY looks closer and sees that REBECCA is dead. He feels her wrist for a pulse. There is nothing. Water spills out of the bed frame with the movement.

He looks up from the body and surveys the room. Everything is as it was when his wife died. There is a closet in one corner of the room and a bathroom in the other.

He turns his attention back to the body and focuses on the locket in REBECCA's dead hand.

DR. HANLEY

(out loud)  
Okay, it's the last chapter. When  
do I get to meet the author?

There is no response.

DR. HANLEY (cont'd)  
I know you're here so let's get on  
with it.

The bathroom door opens and out steps...THOMAS DERRENCE.  
HANLEY is shocked. He is trying to put it together in  
the back of his mind. He can only say one thing.

DR. HANLEY  
Derrence?

He smiles at him.

DERRENCE  
What, surprised? I told you I was  
gonna seek perfection. How'd I  
do?

HANLEY is still trying to process it. She says nothing,  
just watches him for a few seconds.

DERRENCE  
Still trying to figure it out?  
Well while you're doing that you  
can thank me.

DR. HANLEY  
Thank you?

DERRENCE  
Yeah. I'm ensuring that your book  
will be a best-seller. Not just  
another boring textbook. I have  
provided the perfect introduction  
and closing.

DR. HANLEY  
You killed her? (beat) And the cop  
downstairs?

DERRENCE  
He's not dead just doped beyond  
belief. Unless you shot him  
thinking he was me. No, that's  
not possible. (beat) You can put

the gun down. There aren't any shells in it anyway.

HANLEY checks the magazine of the gun and he's right. No bullets. He sets it down on the floor.

DERRENCE

That's better. Pretty tidy, eh? Unlike you, do you ever clean that living room? Geez.

DR. HANLEY

It's a work in progress. So what's the next step in your perfect plan? If it ever was your plan.

DERRENCE

And what's that supposed to mean?

DR. HANLEY

Well, this last scene isn't really completely perfect.

First kink in the armor, DERRENCE begins to get agitated.

DERRENCE

And how is that?

DR. HANLEY

The locket is in the wrong hand. You should know that. You killed my wife didn't you Thomas? I removed it before any of the crime scene photos were taken so only you and me know it's wrong.

DERRENCE looks uneasy and pears towards REBECCA and then towards the bathroom side wall.

DR. HANLEY(cont'd)

Unless...

DERRENCE

Unless what?

DR. HANLEY

Unless Dr. Woods wants to come out here and join you.

DERRENCE breaks out in to a nervous laugh.

DERRENCE

Just me here. Afraid of being  
beaten by me again?

DR. HANLEY

You think you've won something  
here Thomas? Nine people dead.  
Besides you're not this smart and  
you don't have access to the full  
case files.

DERRENCE

You want me to kick your ass  
before I kill you?

DR. WOODS steps out of the bathroom behind REBECCA.

DR. WOODS

That won't be necessary Thomas.  
You're very convincing but this is  
Dr. Theodore Hanley. The best.  
He wasn't going to be fooled for  
long so it's better this way.

DR. WOODS looks smugly at DR. HANLEY as he pats DERRENCE  
on the back. He then grabs the gun out of his back  
waistband. He points it at DR. HANLEY.

DR. WOODS(cont'd)

I knew you'd come back. Every day  
I was running things they were  
more and more mine. But I knew  
the clock was ticking. So I  
worked out this little plan just  
in case.

DR. HANLEY

You killed nine people because you  
want my job?

DR. WOODS

It's not that simple and you know  
it. Besides Derrence did all of  
the killing.

DR. HANLEY

John, I still don't get it. We  
worked together for six years.

DR. WOODS is becoming unstable. He starts screaming and gesturing with the gun. DERRENCE becomes slightly wary of WOODS and moves slowly away.

DR. WOODS

Six years!! Six Years Theo!!!  
The longest you ever had an  
assistant was three years. They  
all went on to big positions in  
big cities. You kept me around  
for what? Wasn't I good enough?  
Did I not live up to the standards  
of the great Doctor Hanley?

DR. HANLEY

Calm down John. I seem to recall  
a lost grad student begging me to  
take him on. I thought you were  
happy.

WOODS fires a shot in to the floor startling everyone.  
DERRENCE jumps to the back corner of the room.

DR. WOODS

Do I look happy?

WOODS stares at HANLEY for a moment and then down at  
Derrence.

DR. WOODS (cont'd)

You never gave me a chance. So I  
had to make you.

HANLEY is processing all of this and realizes what is  
coming next.

DR. HANLEY

John, what are you saying?

There is a slight pause before WOODS addresses the  
question.

DR. WOODS

She invited me in you know. She  
barely noticed when I pulled out  
the syringe.

FLASH TO:

INT. DR. HANLEY'S HOUSE ONE YEAR EARLIER - DAY

HANLEY'S WIFE answers the door to find DR. WOODS. He smiles as she lets him in the door. We don't hear their dialogue. She turns to walk toward the kitchen and DR. WOODS produces a syringe out of his pocket and before she knows it he has stuck in her neck. His pleasant face turns to near rage as he depresses the plunger to deliver the lethal dose. As she is falling down he gives her a forearm to the back of her neck to finish the job. His eyes match the look of his current state.

CUT TO:

INT. DR. HANLEY'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - PRESENT NIGHT

DR. WOODS shows no remorse on his face. The eyes are the same as a year earlier. It's as if he's reliving it as he reveals the truth to his former mentor.

DR. WOODS (cont'd)

The drug worked so quick that she barely struggled. A few whacks to the head to make it match the others. (beat) I didn't want to do it Theo. But you wouldn't give me your job so I had to take it.

DR. HANLEY

Why Mary? You could've have just killed me.

DR. WOODS

They wouldn't have blamed Derrence. You didn't fit his M.O. They would have looked for someone else and I couldn't risk them bringing someone else in. With you out of the picture temporarily I'd have a chance to show them what I can do.

DERRENCE smiles and turns to HANLEY.

DERRENCE

See doc, all this time you've been blaming me. You've been giving me extra credit.

DR. WOODS

That's great. It's good to let  
the truth out.

DERRENCE

But you messed up my perfection!  
You got the hand wrong.

DR. WOODS

What's it matter now? The book is  
complete. No more chapters  
Thomas. Only the obituary left to  
write.

He raises the gun preparing to shoot DR. HANLEY.

DR. WOODS (cont'd)

Any last words you want included.

He suddenly turns the gun on DERRENCE and shoots him  
right in the chest. He goes down with a shocked look as  
blood pours from her wound. DR. HANLEY moves toward the  
door but is stopped by DR. WOODS taking aim at him.

DR. WOODS

Victim number one apparent GSW to  
the chest. And for victim number  
two?

HANLEY turns his attention from DERRENCE's body back to  
DR. WOODS.

DR. HANLEY

How do you think you'll get away  
with this? This is sloppy work  
John. What story are you going to  
make up that explains all of this?

DR. WOODS

Are you kidding? I'm the hero!  
And who do you think will handle  
the investigation? Me. I've  
proven myself to these people.  
Again, perfection. They'll puzzle  
about this for years. Maybe I'll  
write my own book to explain it.  
Of course I'll have to leave it  
for after I die. But I'm sure  
it'll be a bestseller.

DR. WOODS raises the gun again at DR. HANLEY.

DR. WOODS (cont'd)  
I'm sorry Theo, no wait. I'm not  
sorry at all. I gonna enjoy this.  
Victim number two...

DR. HANLEY suddenly jumps behind the bed as DR. WOODS  
fires at him. The bullet glances off the wall. As he  
turns to re-aim DETECTIVE STREET breaks through the door  
takes one look at WOODS and before WOODS can aim at him  
STREET hits him in the shoulder with a round.

WOODS drops the gun from the injury and falls to the  
ground. STREET is quickly around the bed and kicking the  
gun out WOODS' reach. WOODS is shocked and in serious  
pain holding his shoulder.

STREET quickly handcuffs WOODS' good arm to the radiator  
under the window and turns his head to see DR. HANLEY's  
head peer above the bed where he had dove.

STREET  
You okay Doc?

HANLEY is still pretty wound but the tension is easing.

DR. HANLEY  
Yeah, thanks.

STREET  
Not a problem. The ambulance  
should be here soon.

HANLEY comes back to reality and rushes to DERRENCE. He  
feels for a pulse or signs of life. There are none.

HANLEY  
He's dead.

STREET  
What happened?

HANLEY looks over to DR. WOODS in cringing in pain  
involved only with himself.

HANLEY  
Woods and Derrence were together  
on this. Rebecca made the mistake  
of getting a job in his office.

STREET stands up and finally realizes the crime scene.

STREET

Holy Shit! That's Thomas  
Derrence! Is he?

HANLEY

Dead? Yeah, quite the finale huh?

STREET

I thought he was fucked up but  
your protégé here takes the cake.  
WOODS did all of this?

HANLEY looks at the locket in REBECCA's dead hand.

DR. HANLEY

And more.

FADE TO:

INT. COLLEGE LECTURE HALL - DAY (SIX MONTHS LATER)

DR. HANLEY is addressing a hall full of students and  
faculty. Presentations behind him indicate he is  
lecturing on his new book.

DR. HANLEY

That is why I continue to do the  
work I do. The crime scene is a  
puzzle that takes time to solve,  
but eventually you find the key  
piece and the whole picture is  
realized. Thank you.

The room is filled with applause. DR. HANLEY takes a  
moment to take a sip of water from a nearby glass. THE  
MODERATOR approaches the podium and says something to DR.  
HANLEY as the applause continues. DR. HANLEY nods and  
backs away from the microphone as THE MODERATOR  
approaches the microphone.

THE MODERATOR

(to HANLEY)

Thank you Dr. Hanley. You are  
truly a hero to this city and  
leader in your field.

DR. HANLEY acknowledges the praise and mouths the words, "Thank you." THE MODERATOR turns back to the audience.

THE MODERATOR

Dr. Hanley will take a few questions. Please raise you hand and one of the people with the microphones will get to you.

Nearly the entire audience has a question. DR. HANLEY points to a young man in the front row. One assistant puts a wireless microphone in front of him.

QUESTIONER #1

Dr. Hanley it's a great honor to hear you speak. Your book is amazing and a true reference for criminologists and coroners. I have one question after reading it. Why didn't you change the chapter on your wife's murder to reflect what you know to be the truth? That your assistant Dr. Woods murdered her.

DR. HANLEY pauses for a moment.

DR. HANLEY

Two reasons. One being that since Dr. Woods plead innocent and his trial is not over yet. Thus even though I know it to be true, any printing could be labeled libel if for some reason he was not found guilty.

Second, and I thought hard about this. I think it's important to present the original findings of the case. Sometimes we can be wrong. We're human. If we fail to look at things from an unlimited realm of possibility we fail to allow options to present themselves.

And I'd like to add this. These are people we deal with. Even though they are no longer inhabited by a soul, these are people. When we stop seeing them

that way, we stop seeing others  
and ourselves that way. I believe  
that's what happened to my friend  
Dr. Woods.

A slight pause as he allows his last statement to sink  
in.

DR. HANLEY

Anyone else?

The hands are a little slower to rise but we recognize  
the busboy from the opening scene.

DR. HANLEY

Yes, you.

An assistant gets a microphone in front of him.

BUSBOY

Dr. Hanley, I'm not sure if you  
remember me or not but I wanted to  
thank you for all your hard work.  
With all the recent events and  
your return to the office, I'm  
just about to graduate and I'll be  
looking for a job. I would assume  
you have some openings.

DR. HANLEY laughs and is joined by the rest of the  
audience.

DR. HANLEY

Wait a minute. You were working  
at the diner that morning?

The BUSBOY nods and smiles.

DR. HANLEY

Yeah well, I have a good staff in  
my office but we've always got  
room for more so feel free to drop  
me a resume. I may have to start  
instituting a psyche test though  
for applicants.

The audience laughs. As DR. HANLEY requests another  
question we pull back through the audience and settle on  
one non-descript gentleman in one of the back rows. He  
does not look like a student or teacher. He is slightly  
out of place and seems to be scribbling in a notebook.

Underneath the notebook we see DR. HANLEY's book along with THOMAS DERRENCE's biography. He pauses and stares towards the podium. Slightly disturbed looking.

FADE OUT:

THE END