

WINE AND DIE

Written by

Tom Stohlgren

Inspired by his original Screenplay, "Murders Don't Have to be
Perfect," as a sequel to "Twisted Vines."

Writer:
Tom Stohlgren
Email: tjstohlgren@gmail.com
Representation:
Eleni Larchanidou, LLM
Literary & Talent Manager
PH: 1 (310) 696-3656
email: managerelenilllm@gmail.com
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FADE IN:

EXT. WINERY - NIGHT

SUMMER YARBROUGH (40s), a stylish but angry woman, swings open the front door and aims the shotgun toward the driveway. She's not wearing a jacket and it's FREEZING RAIN. There are Christmas lights all around the door and winery.

EVAN WRIGHT (30s), her son-in-law, and BRANSON WRIGHT (60s), Evan's father, join in behind her. They are immediately joined by TINA RYAN (30s) a gorgeous blonde sommelier, and CHARLIE TURNER (30s) wearing a chef's uniform. No one has jackets. They are all horrified by Summer's actions.

Summer aims the shotgun from side to side of the motorhome and yells.

SUMMER

I warned you! Stay away from me!

CHARLIE

Don't shoot! It's Christmas!

SUMMER

I'll just send him a reminder!

Summer fires the shotgun toward the motorhome.

We HEAR a huge EXPLOSION.

Evan, Tina, Branson, and Charlie are in shock at the doorway.

Summer's knees are weak and she's horrified.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

I've killed him!

EXT. WINERY - DAY

SUPER: "Earlier"

We SEE spring changing to summer in a lush green vineyard in all its glory against a blue sky and bright sun.

NARRATOR

When we think of wineries, we think of summer tasting tours, lush green vines, and supple grapes begging to be picked and squeezed into the nectar of the gods.

We SEE the same vineyard shifting from fall to a cold, harsh, winter.

NARRATOR (CONT'D)

But the hardiest of those vines,
like the humans who tend them, have
weathered countless harsh winters
and bitter conditions beneath the
surface.

We follow bare, shivering grapevines below the surface, where the roots are stable at first before they begin to quiver and shake in response to a tremendous thunderstorm above them.

EXT. WINERY - EARLY AFTERNOON

Evan and Summer shiver impatiently on a cold, cloudy winter day. Both wear BRAND winter coats but they don't seem to be helping. THUNDER rumbles to excess in the distance. There are Christmas lights all around the door and winery.

EVAN

What was that?

Summer looks away.

SUMMER

That was a microburst, just over
the hill.

They shiver more.

EVAN

A what?

SUMMER

A severe but local storm. My only
other one was 12 years ago, the day
I met that asshole, Jerry. The
entire western half of the vineyard
needed replanting and we lost half
the entrance road and a barn. We
were very lucky!

(laughs)

Maybe it was an omen.

EVAN

(looks away)

I don't believe in omens!

SUMMER

You may after seeing your parents
again.

Evan turns defensive as they see a car in the distance.

EVAN

I still don't think she did those things that she was accused of.

Summer hugs Evan briefly but doesn't sound convinced.

SUMMER

I pray she didn't. Tina and Steph swore not to talk about it, and they haven't.

Evan sees his father's RED SPORTS CAR approaching.

EVAN

We won't either. It's ancient history. Besides, it's Christmas.

The car pulls up, and Summer and Evan force smiles.

Branson Wright, a lecherous Hollywood producer, steps out and holds the door open for his wife, Sheryl. Both are dressed in Hollywood winter fashions and warm long coats. Branson immediately lathers his hands with sanitizer.

BRANSON

There's my boy! Merry Christmas.

Sheryl pushes Branson to the side and jumps ahead of him to give her son an awkward, unwanted hug.

SHERYL

It's good to see you, son. What's it been? A year?

EVAN

Two and a half years, Mom.

Sheryl breaks off her hug and takes a step back.

SHERYL

Who can remember after all that legal and therapy mumbo-jumbo?

Branson moves in for an awkward hug.

They all turn to see a BLACK LIMO racing toward the parking lot.

BRANSON

They made it. My new business partners.

The limo SCREECHES to a stop.

A Chauffeur opens the door for a power couple, MARCEL and AMELIA DUBOIS (28), who exit the limo wearing designer business suits and coats. Marcel is a charismatic Frenchman with a disarming smile. He wears thin-soled black leather shoes, while Amelia, a dark-haired temptress, wears high-platform boots. Marcel links his arm with Amelia's arm like he claiming his territory.

BRANSON (CONT'D)

This is Marcel and Amelia Dubois.
They're the cryptocurrency moguls
buying my company and studio.

Sheryl rolls her eyes with a snarky mumble to herself.

SHERYL

Checks in the mail.

BRANSON

We've become good friends, and they
were dying to meet Sheryl, Evan,
and, especially, the winery.

Marcel shakes hands with the men and kisses each cheek of the females. Sheryl and Summer are smitten with Marcel.

MARCEL

Branson has told me so much about
you, I feel we are family.

SHERYL

(flirts with Marcel)
Aren't you the charmer?

Evan's jaw drops at seeing the gorgeous and mysterious Amelia.

Amelia removes her linked arm from Marcel's tight grasp.

Marcel removes an electric cigarette from his pocket and turns away from the crowd to smoke.

Amelia moves in to double-kiss Evan and he swoons. They make eye contact and share a moment.

Amelia strokes Evan's thigh when no one is looking. Evan's eyes open wide.

Summer glares at Sheryl who looks away.

SUMMER

We didn't expect...

Sheryl strikes up a real cigarette and interrupts with a smirk.

SHERYL

Relax, Summer, I haven't met them either.

(glances at the approaching storm)

Branson's eager to show off our winery all decorated for Christmas.

BRANSON

They'll pay handsomely for their separate rooms.

(loud)

Allow me to introduce everyone.

Sheryl glares at Amelia who flirts with Evan.

SHERYL

(angry to Branson)

Inside where it's warm, Branson!
I'm freezing!

Evan sneaks a look at Amelia.

EVAN

Separate rooms aren't a problem.
There's nobody here but us.

AMELIA

(whispers to Evan)

You're staying here too? How fun!

SHERYL

(bossy tone to Evan)

Evan, be a doll and get the bags.
You know why we're here!

Sheryl struts toward the front door with her head held high.

Evan rolls his eyes in disgust and goes to fetch the bags.

Branson puts his arms around Summer and Amelia and leads them to the front door.

Behind them is Marcel who eyes Summer's blonde hair.

Summer gently pushes herself from Branson causing Marcel to chuckle.

Evan sees that the Chauffeur unloaded the bags behind the limo and regally returns to the driver's seat.

Evan glares at the six suitcases as the chauffeur starts up the limo and RACES away.

He calmly takes out his phone and uses speed dial for "Charlie."

EVAN

Hey, Charlie, I need your help with some luggage out front.

It's clear that Charlie is whispering into his smartphone.

CHARLIE (V.O.)

Remember when we were in Boy Scouts and the scoutmaster told us that a coyote will chew off his leg to escape the sure death of a snare trap?

EVAN

Yes...

CHARLIE (V.O.)

(Interrupts)

Everyone in the Tasting Room is chewing off a leg in here and it's not always their own.

(laughs)

Except for the most gorgeous man I've ever seen. I'd like to chew his...

Charlie appears at the front door in a chef's uniform and dramatically waves his arms as a warning. He ends the call with Evan and whispers.

CHARLIE

Go back. It's Hell in there!

Evan smiles and shakes his head laughing.

EVAN

It can't be that bad.

Charlie points to the top of the closed front door.

CHARLIE

Abandon all hope, all ye who enter here!

EVAN

Come on, Charlie. Help with the bags. I'm sure Tina can handle them.

Charlie runs up to Evan and grabs his arms.

CHARLIE

Evan, you don't understand. Coyotes are smarter than humans. Sometimes we don't even realize our legs are in the snare trap!

Evan escapes Charlie's grasp and grabs a few bags.

EVAN

I really need this deal with Dad to go through so he can buy the winery.

CHARLIE

Ha! You're making wine 'til you're old and gray!

EVAN

That will never happen. That's one snare trap I'll avoid if it kills me. I'm doing this so Summer can retire and can start a new life!

CHARLIE

(comically sarcastic)

You're going to law school. Tina's headed to San Fran, and I'm going to chef school in Paris, Texas.

(serious)

I've heard it all before!

Evan slaps Charlie on the shoulder.

EVAN

Chef school is a piece of cake. Just follow Tina's recipes. Add reduced balsamic vinegar to salads, freshly ground pesto to dinners, and Valrhona chocolate to desserts.

Charlie laughs and grabs the other bags and they head to the front door.

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - DAY

Tina wipes down wine glasses behind the bar in the Tasting Room which is nicely decorated for Christmas. She sneaks glances at the group who just stepped in.

Just inside the doors, Branson, Sheryl, Marcel, Amelia, and Summer stand with their coats on trying to warm up.

Branson again lathers his hands with sanitizer, then steps in the middle of the group with his back to Tina. His voice beams with pride.

BRANSON

This is our hostess, Summer Yarbrough who runs the guest room accommodations. Her ex-husband Jerry built the winery.

SUMMER

Actually, we're still married, and I co-own the winery with Evan.

Sheryl glances at Tina.

SHERYL

Our son inherited this winery.

Marcel whispers to Amelia.

MARCEL

Inherited? From whom?

AMELIA

This is interesting.

Tina and Sheryl glare at each other.

SHERYL

(to Summer)

And Evan asked you to help out while your abusive husband was incarcerated.

AMELIA

(whispers to Marcel)

This is interesting.

SHERYL

(to Marcel)

The winery is in financial trouble so we're buying it and taking over!

Summer gets in Sheryl's face.

SUMMER

Jerry's not in jail where others should be. We're separated and he's under house arrest with a restraining order. I'll kindly ask you to stay out of our affairs and worry more about your husband's affairs.

Evan and Charlie enter from the kitchen and hear everything. Evan races to his parents as Charlie joins Tina behind the bar.

MARCEL

(to Branson)

So, who are you buying the winery from?

(to Tina)

And who is the vision of loveliness?

BRANSON

That's Tina, my daughter, the sommelier.

Tina ignores the comment.

MARCEL

(smiles, flirts)

But of course, Tina.

Marcel glides across to the floor to Tina to kiss her cheeks and then her hand. Amelia is too busy gazing at Evan to notice.

MARCEL (CONT'D)

Marcel Dubois, at your beckoned call, Mademoiselle. Merry Christmas.

Tina uncomfortably cooperates as Marcel kisses her hand, but Tina smells something weird about Marcel and wrinkles her nose.

TINA

Nice to meet you, Marcel. Have you been vaping with flavorants containing diacetyl? They're very dangerous.

Amelia steps between, Marcel and Tina.

AMELIA

I'm Amelia, Tina. Who does a girl have to shag around here for a drink?

Tina pours Marcel and Amelia red wine.

Sheryl squeezes between Marcel and Branson at the bar.

TINA

This is an inviting bottle of
Robert Renzoni Cabernet Sauvignon
Reserve with notes of dense ripe
red fruits...

She glares at Branson as she interrupts Tina.

Tina squeezes a wine glass so tight it BREAKS. Everyone turns
to Tina as Charlie cleans up the broken glass.

Branson turns to Tina.

BRANSON

We thought we'd run it together. As
a family. A new name. "The
Hollywood and Vinery."

Amelia is invigorated by the tension and gulps her wine.

AMELIA

This is getting good!

Marcel whispers into Amelia's ear.

MARCEL

I don't trust Branson's wife.

SHERYL

(yells)

Red carpet throughout the winery!
Movie posters are everywhere! In
honor of me, of course.

Sheryl turns to Marcel and Amelia.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

Oh, you can fan out. I'm sure
you've seen my movies.

Marcel and Amelia shake their heads, stumped.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

The Duchess of Christmas?
(beat)
Spring Flings? Although the
nudity...

BRANSON

(whispers to Sheryl)
Younger generation, dear.

MARCEL
(chuckles warmly)
They sound delightful, Sheryl.

Sheryl smiles at Marcel.

Evan whispers to Tina as Amelia looks on.

EVAN
We'll find a way over this
financial speed bump.
(loudly)
This extraordinary sommelier is my
sister, Tina Ryan.

Sheryl whispers to Marcel and Amelia.

SHERYL
Half-sister.

Tina glares at Sheryl and then smiles genuinely at the others.

TINA
Maybe you'd all like to try some of
our favorite vintages from the Y-
nery, while it still has the name
and reputation for fine wines.

Charlie chuckles holding the wine glass chards and tries to whisper but he's so loud everyone hears him.

CHARLIE
And we've gone two and half years
without an accidental death.

Amelia whips her head around to Charlie who is shocked and embarrassed that he said that.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
Hypnotherapy was supposed to wipe
that memory from my brain.

AMELIA
Who accidentally died?

Evan gently pushes Charlie toward the kitchen and turns sadly to the crowd.

CHARLIE
I'll get the appetizers. I eat when
I'm nervous.

Sheryl moves in to comfort Evan.

SHERYL

The night of my poor son's wedding
and... His wife...

Sheryl makes a "dead person" face.

Evan puts a hand up to stop her as he looks away.

Marcel and Amelia are stunned. Summer's head drops.

Amelia moves in to hug Evan.

AMELIA

You poor man. How did she die?

Evan doesn't resist the hug and Sheryl bites her tongue.

EVAN

The autopsies were inconclusive,
and all the victims...

AMELIA

Victims?

SHERYL

Well yeah, the pastor and the
gardener...

EVAN

(interrupts, angry)
Nico wasn't a gardener.

Tina glares at Sheryl who gently pushes Amelia aside to hug
her son.

Branson steps up to the bar with his booming voice.

BRANSON

But that's all in the past. We're
here to celebrate the future! Tina,
my darling daughter...

Tina cringes at the term.

BRANSON (CONT'D)

Pour us a round of the good stuff.
On me!

Tina angrily pours wine into six wine glasses, as she
whispers to Branson.

TINA

Please call me, Tina, Mr. Wright.
It's what I prefer.

Branson looks shocked. Then, he glares at Tina.

BRANSON
Hopefully, soon, I'll be the new
boss around here, and...

SHERYL
(interrupts)
We'll be the new bosses.

Branson's phone rings. He checks the Caller ID that reads,
"Bank."

BRANSON
That's the bank now.
(answers)
This is Branson.

Branson listens and smiles.

BRANSON (CONT'D)
I'll let them know. Thanks a bunch.

Branson ends the call.

SHERYL
What didn't you disclose this time,
Branson?

SUMMER
I know what the hangup is.

Sheryl glares at Summer.

SUMMER (CONT'D)
It's Jerry's private wine
collection. He owned it before we
were married and specified it
wasn't communal property in our
prenup.

BRANSON
How many bottles? I'll buy it from
him.

AMELIA
What total value are they talking
about?

MARCEL
(to Amelia)
We can work that into our deal.

Amelia drinks more wine.

Evan is anxious but discreet to Branson.

EVAN

Dad, what did he mean by that?

Sheryl yanks Branson to her face.

SHERYL

Yes, Branson, you sneaky bastard.

(smirks at Tina)

No offense, Tina.

(glares at Branson)

What did that charming Frenchman mean by that?!

Everyone HEARS Jerry's loud, obnoxious RV HORN like the DUKES OF HAZARD DIXIE AIR HORN.

SUMMER

It's Jerry! He's here!

Summer races to the front door and opens it a crack. Her jaw drops as she SEES an Airstream motorhome blocking the road about one hundred feet away.

EXT. WINERY - CONTINUOUS

JERRY YARBROUGH (60s) rolls down the window of his retro Airstream RV. He wears a Western shirt, a red ball cap, and a shit-eating grin.

He honks his obnoxious horn again, grins, and waits.

He honks again and yells.

JERRY

Merry Goddamn Christmas, Summer!

Jerry looks to the side of the parking lot and sees a red sports car.

JERRY (CONT'D)

(mumbles)

Sour grapes spreading in my vineyard.

He honks the obnoxious horn again and yells.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Summer!

Summer opens the door wider to reveal Evan and Branson behind her.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Hi ya, Summer. I'm here for my treasure.

SUMMER

Come and take it, Jerry. The minute you're within one hundred feet of me or the winery, your ankle monitor sounds an alarm and...

Jerry pulls out a laser range finder and points the red dot at Summer.

JERRY

(interrupts)

I know. I know. That's why I'm exactly 101 feet away and blocking your exit in civil protest.

(beat)

Until that is, you have someone bring me my wine collection.

SUMMER

My answer is no!

Sheryl appears behind Summer and smiles.

SHERYL

You tell him, girl!

Jerry waves a document with a notary stamp, as Summer begins to close the door.

JERRY

A judge says you can't sell the property until my wine collection is returned to me. Branson, I see you back there.

Branson tries to hide behind Evan.

BRANSON

(whispers)

He's right. That's why the bank called me.

JERRY

(laughs maniacally)

The bank called me too.

Jerry points and laughs at Branson.

JERRY (CONT'D)

Did you tell 'em you need a co-signer, Branson?!

Summer is fuming mad and glares at Jerry and then at Branson.

SUMMER

You're both assholes. My answer is no!

Summer starts to shut the door when Jerry yells his loudest.

JERRY

And Sheryl, I don't care what the cops said. I know you did it!

Sheryl pushes past Summer and stands defiantly in the doorway.

SHERYL

You stay away from me or you're a dead man!

Branson pulls Sheryl back into the winery, and Summer SLAMS the door shut as Jerry yells.

JERRY

(upbeat)

I want my wine collection! Talk it over and get back to me!

(mumbles angry)

I'm gonna get that woman!

INT. WINERY - CONTINUOUS

Marcel and Amelia stare out a side window at the RV and whisper to each other.

MARCEL

Branson told me about him. Pure evil.

AMELIA

Abusive husband.

MARCEL

Even worse. He was a bad businessman.

AMELIA

(angry)

That's not worse!

MARCEL

I was teasing you, dear. But how could he lose money in a beautiful winery like this?

AMELIA

Do you have the revised contract?

Marcel opens his coat to show her his copy of the "purchase agreement" in an envelope.

Amelia smiles as Marcel's smartwatch flashes with a message coming in.

Marcel pulls out his smartphone and turns away from everyone as he checks his phone to see a GRAPH of his cryptocurrency funds plummeting drastically.

He turns with a forced smile to Amelia.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Everything okay?

MARCEL

(whispers)

Just a hiccup. Branson should have his funds by morning. Relax.

Marcel confidently walks back to the bar.

Amelia tries to hide a worried look as she follows him.

From outside, everyone hears Jerry yell.

JERRY (O.C.)

(upbeat)

My wine collection! Talk it over and get back to me!

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tina hooks Summer's arm and guides her smiling to the bar.

Sheryl is ready to punch Branson.

TINA

More wine, anyone?

Marcel and Amelia join the others at the bar.

Everyone is agitated. Tina pours wine from behind the bar to Summer. Evan pours wine to his mom further down the bar. Branson, Marcel, and Amelia whisper in the back corner.

Sheryl whispers to Evan.

SHERYL

Something's crazy about that Jerry,
and Summer knows all about him.

What did he do to her?

(whispers too loudly)

I think Jerry was the poison that
fateful night.

AMELIA

(interrupts)

Poison?

We HEAR Jerry's obnoxious RV HORN again.

Summer grabs a glass of wine and glares at the front door as
Evan moves closer to Amelia.

EVAN

No poison was uncovered, though
Tina smelled something funny from
the bottle they all may have
shared.

SHERYL

(angry)

I think it was meant for me!

Branson looks away sadly.

BRANSON

Let it go, Sheryl. We've got bigger
problems now.

Marcel glares at his phone and then out the window to see
HEAVY RAIN.

MARCEL

Yes, we do. Did anybody else get a
weather alert about a heavy storm
on the way?

Tina and Evan turn to their phones.

TINA

The radar looks threatening.

EVAN

Way below average temperature.

SUMMER

(laughs)

Maybe an ice storm will freeze that bastard to death.

Everyone sees Sheryl turn to Summer with a coy smile.

SHERYL

Who gets Jerry's wine collection if he dies?

Sheryl looks at Summer and smirks.

Evan pleases with Sheryl, as Charlie enters from the kitchen with a smile.

EVAN

Mom, this is inappropriate and not helpful.

Sheryl gets in Evan's face.

SHERYL

That bastard Jerry is holding up the sale of your winery!

(glances at Tina)

That word just keeps coming up.

Charlie tries to ease the tension. He yells.

CHARLIE

Dinner's ready in the kitchen.

Summer slams her wine glass on the table and breaks it.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(mumbles)

Assuming we have enough wine glasses left...

(loudly)

I'll clean that up.

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Everyone trudges into the kitchen to see a beautifully set, candle-lit table with gourmet pizza squares, bowls of salad, a garlic bread. The pizza squares have lines of reduced balsamic vinegar on them. However, the pizza and garlic bread are burnt. There are three pitchers of water (with a slice of lemon in each) and everyone's setting has a water glass.

Branson steps to claim the head of the table, but Charlie pulls out the chair for Summer.

SUMMER

I will not be catfished by my
husband.

The door to the patio is ajar with Sheryl listening in. She enters from the cold, wet patio and exhales smoke from a cigarette as she races to claim the foot of the table before Branson can get there.

SHERYL

Then I guess my son can't sell his
winery and get out of the crushing
debt your husband saddled him with.

BRANSON

(bitter)
It's not as simple as that, Sheryl.

Evan pulls out a chair for Amelia, as Tina brings three bottles of wine to the table.

AMELIA

Marcel, can't we make the psycho in
the motorhome an offer for his wine
collection and be done with him?

Evan sits between Summer and Amelia. Marcel is between Amelia and Sheryl.

Amelia puts a hand on Evan's inner thigh under the table. His eyes open wide again.

Everyone grabs a piece of the awful pizza. They take small bites and look away in quiet disapproval of the taste.

Charlie, fawning over Marcel, serves him extra wine.

CHARLIE

If there's anything else I can get
for anyone, anything at all, let me
know.

Evan glares briefly at Charlie who laughs.

They politely move on to salad and burnt garlic bread.

Summer and Sheryl glare at Amelia as Marcel takes out his smartphone and speaks casually.

MARCEL

I could transfer a few mill in
Bitcoin to his account in a
heartbeat. What's his phone number?

SHERYL

No one trusts Bitcoin transfers
these days.

Branson looks away and Sheryl glares at him.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

Branson, you didn't? Only two
countries in the world accept
Bitcoin as legal tender: El
Salvador and the Central African
Republic!

BRANSON

It's becoming more widely accepted
every day.

Charlie pours lemon water into everyone's glass and chuckles.

CHARLIE

Especially by drug cartels.

MARCEL

(winks at Branson)
We've done well with it.

Amelia glares at Marcel.

Evan raises a water glass to change the topic.

EVAN

Thanks, Charlie. Thanks, Summer.
This looks and smells delicious.

Charlie laughs as he continues to pour water.

CHARLIE

Tina was right about the balsamic.
You could drizzle it on cardboard
and it would taste good.

Tina sits down and starts to eat pizza, but laughs.

TINA

Sorry, Charlie. Can I try the
cardboard?

Charlie looks away with hurt feelings.

Amelia stands and glares at Summer and Evan.

AMELIA

The sale is off then?
 (turns to Marcel)
 We should talk. I'll be in my room.

Marcel removes an electric cigarette from his pocket and points to the door to the patio.

MARCEL

Be right there.

Marcel heads out to a very cold, wet patio.

Summer grieves in the direction of Jerry's RV.

SUMMER

I know why the bastard's here. He's hoping to sell his private wine collection and buy his way back into the winery as a co-signer.

BRANSON

Nonsense. I have co-signers.

Sheryl stomps on Branson's foot under the table. He GROANS.

SHERYL

You never mentioned co-signers.

Branson turns to Evan.

BRANSON

It's a reasonable price, and I thought I could afford it outright, but I couldn't part with my estate in Malibu...

Summer glares at Evan as he whispers to her.

EVAN

We had no other offers.

SHERYL

(glaring at Branson)
 That's our estate! And, I'd rather sell it and buy this winery without co-signers.

Sheryl crumples up her linen napkin and tosses it on her plate. She glares at Branson.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

I've had a trying day. I hope I've made myself clear!

Sheryl stomps out, and seconds later, Branson follows her.
Jerry's annoying horn sounds and Summer turns angry.

SUMMER

That's it, I'm done with him!

Summer stands and runs toward the front entrance, but stops at a closet where she grabs a shotgun.

Evan, Tina, and Charlie HEAR Summer cock the shotgun. Charlie YELLS.

CHARLIE

No! Don't fire!

Evan, Tina, and Charlie race toward the front entrance.

INT./EXT. WINERY - CONTINUOUS

Summer swings open the front door and aims the shotgun toward the driveway. She's not wearing a jacket and it's dark and FREEZING RAIN.

Evan, her son-in-law, and Branson join in behind her. They are immediately joined by Tina and Charlie. No one has jackets. They are all horrified by Summer's actions.

Summer aims the shotgun from side to side of the motorhome and yells.

SUMMER

I warned you! Stay away from me.

CHARLIE

Don't shoot! It's Christmas!

SUMMER

I'll just send him a warning shot!

Summer fires the shotgun toward the motorhome.

We SEE and HEAR a huge EXPLOSION. The RV engulfs in FLAMES.

Evan, Tina, Branson, and Charlie are in shock at the doorway.

Summer's knees are weak and she's horrified.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

I've killed him!

EVAN

Tina, call 9-1-1.

Evan races to the burning motorhome, but can't get too close to it.

Tina takes the shotgun from Summer, pulls out her phone, and makes the call.

SUMMER

This is Tina Ryan at the Y-nery.
Send the Fire Department and
Sheriff. There's been an accident.
Someone may have been killed.

Branson, with his long coat in his arms, races up behind Summer. Branson's "purchase agreement envelope," identical to Marcel's, sticks out of his inside coat pocket.

BRANSON

What happened?

Branson sees Tina with the shotgun and tries to comfort Summer but she pushes him away.

SUMMER

You stay away from me too!

Sheryl and Amelia arrive at the doorway next. Sheryl and Amelia aren't wearing coats. They stand behind Branson.

SHERYL

I heard a gunshot and an explosion!

AMELIA

Me too. I'm going to get my coat.

Amelia races off.

Evan comes back freezing cold.

EVAN

Let's get back inside. Nothing we
can do out here.

TINA

The Sheriff's on his way.

Marcel comes up behind Branson.

MARCEL

Let me help you with that.

Branson doesn't need help but accepts it.

BRANSON

Thank you.

Marcel helps Branson put on his coat, and he masterfully switches the purchase agreement envelopes without Branson noticing.

Marcel takes out his electronic cigarette and sneaks off.

Summer, Tina, Evan, and Sheryl watch the RV burn.

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

They all trudge back to the Tasting Room, where Evan is about to have a panic attack.

EVAN

I... can't... breathe!

Charlie comforts Evan.

CHARLIE

This can't be happening to us again!

Charlie is also panicking.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Another accident like...

Evan regains his composure as Charlie loses his.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Cooped up in the winery.

Evan now comforts Charlie.

EVAN

Let's get ahold of ourselves!

Amelia APPEARS in the back of the room and looks around.

BRANSON

Where's Marcel?

Amelia panics and races toward the guest rooms.

AMELIA

I'll check his room.

They HEAR a siren approaching.

Tina races to the front door.

Branson looks out toward the dark patio and slowly walks to the door.

He looks out the window and SEES Marcel's face-up on the wet, cold patio. He SCREAMS.

BRANSON
Somebody help! I think it's Marcel!

Evan and Charlie race to the door and swing open the door to a burst of freezing rain, as Branson backs away.

EXT. WINERY PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Charlie checks for a pulse as Evan looks around and yells to Marcel. The Christmas lights are out around the door and patio.

EVAN
Are you okay? Are you okay?

They HEAR THUNDER in the distance. They both see Marcel's electronic cigarette several feet from the body.

CHARLIE
He's dead. Not poisoned, right?

Evan glances at Charlie, ignoring his last comment, and then he looks up as THUNDER ROARS in the distance.

EVAN
Lightning?

CHARLIE
Maybe? I dunno. Let's get him inside.

They both SEE Marcel's electronic cigarette several feet from the body.

Evan also SEES his mom's cigarette butt by the door in a puddle.

They quickly lift Marcel inside and shut the door.

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Charlie and Evan lay out Marcel on the kitchen floor as Amelia races into the kitchen wearing fashionable slippers and no jacket. She's horrified when she sees Marcel and dives onto his body. She SCREAMS.

AMELIA
Marcel! Marcel! No! No!

Amelia cries on Marcel's chest.

Evan kneels by Marcel's chest.

EVAN
Initiating CPR.

Evan checks for a pulse again and initiates chest compressions.

Charlie pulls back Amelia to comfort her, but she turns away and sobs.

Branson races in to see Marcel on the floor and Evan performing CPR. Branson is upset.

BRANSON
They sent only one deputy to investigate the RV. It's the same worthless one from two years ago.

Tina glares at Branson as he starts to exit.

CHARLIE
Steph? Oh, my God! It is just like last time!

EVAN
What about the fire department?

CHARLIE
(smirks)
Or coroner?

BRANSON
They're overwhelmed and understaffed due to the storm. They'll be here when they can.

CHARLIE
No. No. No. When have we heard that before?

Summer lowers her chin in despair.

Evan checks for a pulse on Marcel again. Nothing.

Amelia SCREAMS again and Evan moves to hug her.

Tina runs in from the front door, stunned to see Marcel dead.

TINA
Oh, my God.

DEPUTY SHERIFF STEPH WINDSOME (30s), a handsome man in uniform, storms into the Tasting Room. He wears a heavy, long, leather coat that is icy and wet.

He stops a few feet away from Tina and stops to gaze at her.

All eyes are on Tina and the Sheriff as Tina glances coldly and then emotionless at the Sheriff.

Evan and Charlie glance at each other and slightly shrug like they don't know what's going on between Tina and the Sheriff.

The Sheriff frowns for a moment then races to Marcel's body.

He feels for a pulse on Marcel's neck.

SHERIFF

This man is dead.

He examines Marcel's head and the soles of his shoes, and then slowly looks around the room.

He sees Branson and Sheryl avoiding eye contact in one corner of the room.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Why don't you all wait in the kitchen?! Tina, would you stay for a second, please?

Tina is uneasy as the others head to the kitchen.

The Sheriff takes off his coat and shakes his head in disgust.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

What the hell are Evan's parents doing here?

TINA

I know we haven't spoken lately. A lot has changed! Evan's parents are buying the winery.

The Sheriff points toward the RV and then to the body.

SHERIFF

This place is cursed!

TINA

All the more reason for Evan to sell the winery to them so we can both get away from here.

The Sheriff looks perplexed.

SHERIFF
We? I'm not going anywhere.

Tina is defensive.

TINA
Me to San Fran and Evan to law
school. Right after Christmas.

The Sheriff looks away and sounds tough.

SHERIFF
Nobody's going anywhere 'til I find
out what the hell is going on
around here!
(softer)
To the kitchen?

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - NIGHT

The Sheriff looks in the direction of the burning RV, then at
Marcel's dead body.

He sees Summer grieving in the opposite corner and tips his
hat to her.

He sees Charlie sitting on the floor next to lifeless Marcel.

He sees Amelia with tears in her eyes cuddling up to Evan.

Tina slowly walks toward Summer with sympathy.

TINA
Are you okay?.

Summer takes slow steps toward the Sheriff.

SUMMER
It blew up after I shot at it with
Jerry's shotgun.

SHERIFF
I'll investigate when the flames
die down. It's too dangerous to get
any closer, even with
extinguishers. Meanwhile, everyone
should stay where I can see you.

Summer stares in the direction of the RV with a worried look.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
(looks at Marcel)
Who is this, and did anyone see
what happened to him?

BRANSON
That's Marcel Dubois.

Amelia bursts out sobbing as the Sheriff approaches the body.

BRANSON (CONT'D)
(points to Amelia)
He and his wife are my guests here.

EVAN
We found Mr. Dubois lying in a
puddle outside. He may have been
struck by lightning.

CHARLIE
(sounding brave)
We tried CPR but couldn't revive
him.

Amelia goes to hug Marcel, but the Sheriff stops her.

SHERIFF
I'm sorry for your loss, Ma'am.

The Sheriff sees that Marcel is sopping wet. He turns his
head to look outside through the windows in the door.

He pulls out his flashlight and steps outside in the freezing
rain where the THUNDER ROARS in the distance.

Tina races to put on her heavy long coat and grabs an
umbrella and flashlight.

EXT. WINERY PATIO - CONTINUOUS

Tina steps out into the cold and points her flashlight
around. It's dark except for the two flashlights. Tina opens
her umbrella but stands a few feet away from the Sheriff.

TINA
Be careful. The porch light is out.

Tina glances inside at Sheryl but sees Evan and Charlie
looking at her, with Charlie motioning for Tina to share her
umbrella with the Sheriff.

Tina doesn't budge.

The Sheriff spots an electric cigarette about seven feet from the door and points his flashlight at it.

SHERIFF

What's this?

Tina shines her flashlight on the vape pipe.

The Sheriff tucks his flashlight under his arm, takes out his smartphone, and takes a photo of the vape pipe.

He takes out latex gloves, puts them on, picks up the pipe, and puts it in an evidence bag.

TINA

What are you thinking?

SHERIFF

The timing is very suspicious. Two deaths at the same time on opposite sides of the winery. The Christmas lights are on everywhere but here.

Tina spots a cigarette butt near the door.

TINA

(accusatory tone)

That's the brand Sheryl smokes.

The Sheriff glares at Tina then he bags the cigarette butt.

Tina points to a slice of lemon in the puddle by the door.

TINA (CONT'D)

How did that get there?

Lightning FLASHES in the distance and THUNDER ROARS.

SHERIFF

When thunder roars.

TINA

Go indoors.

They share a moment under Tina's umbrella and Tina smiles weakly.

SHERIFF

I thought you said it was too quiet around here.

The smile leaves her face.

TINA
For a sommelier, not a coroner!

The Sheriff smiles weakly.

SHERIFF
Touché!

They share another moment, enjoying the banter before the Sheriff opens the door for Tina.

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Tina and the Sheriff enter wet and cold. Tina gazes at the Sheriff.

They all HEAR a second big EXPLOSION from the RV and cower.
Summer runs to the door and sobs facing the carnage.

SHERIFF
(yells)
Stay back, Summer. There is nothing
we can do.

Evan heads to the front door.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
(calmly to Charlie)
How long ago did this happen?

CHARLIE
Branson saw Mr. Dubois lying dead
on the patio a few minutes after
the RV exploded fifteen or twenty
minutes ago.

The Sheriff turns his head back toward the front door as Summer and Evan return with sad faces.

SHERIFF
When did Jerry show up with the RV?

SUMMER
This afternoon. He texted me, so I
have the exact time.

SHERIFF
Where's the shotgun?

Summer points to the closet.

The Sheriff puts on latex gloves, retrieves the shotgun, removes the spent and live rounds, examines them, and then puts the shotgun back in the closet.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
You spoke to him?

EVAN
We all did.

SHERIFF
Why did he come back now?

SUMMER
(interrupts)
He wanted his private wine collection back.

EVAN
It's in a vault in the cellar. Only he had the combination.

Branson liberally applies hand sanitizer.

BRANSON
He won't be getting it now.

The Sheriff paces.

The Sheriff stops and addresses everyone.

SHERIFF
His ankle monitor ceased functioning. I checked. Last recorded location was where the RV burned up.

Summer puts her head down in shame.

The Sheriff holds Summer's shoulders gently.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)
I thought you only used gauge rubber slugs to scare off rats with this shotgun.

SUMMER
That's all I ever use.

SHERIFF
That would barely break a window, but these shells are number one buckshot, the most lethal kind.

SUMMER

Buckshot? I had no idea...

SHERIFF

(interrupting)

I'm afraid you could be held responsible. We'll just have to wait and see what we find. The medical examiner and coroner should be on their way.

(looks around)

I'll need to get statements from each of you in the meantime.

The Sheriff glares at Sheryl who looks away.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I'd like to begin with you, Mrs. Wright.

Sheryl is defensive and points at Summer.

SHERYL

Why me? She shot him!

(points to Amelia)

And she's the Frenchman's wife. Aren't they always the main suspects?!

Sheryl glares at Amelia.

SHERIFF

No one's calling you a suspect, Mrs. Wright. I want to learn why everyone's here and what they may have seen or heard so I can make sense of it all.

BRANSON

(defensive)

It's just a coincidence that Marcel got struck by lightning tonight...

SHERIFF

(interrupts suspiciously)

I don't believe in coincidences.

SUMMER

You can use my office...

CHARLIE
 (interrupts)
 Don't you dare finish that
 sentence.

CUT TO:

INT. WINERY OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff paces as Sheryl blabs on about the freezing weather in a low voice.

SHERYL
 Branson didn't tell me to
 dress for Alaska. This
 freezing rain is making
 everyone go crazy! That's why
 all this shit is happening.
 And why is Tina ghosting you?

SHERIFF (V.O.)
 I really hate being back
 here. This is where innocent
 people come to die!

The Sheriff makes eye contact with Sheryl.

SHERIFF
 Tina is not ghosting me and I'm
 only interested in what you
 actually saw or heard, and when!

BACK TO:

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - SAME

Evan, Branson, and Charlie cover Mr. Dubois with a tablecloth and reverently move him toward the walk-in fridge.

EVAN
 I agree. We can't leave him out
 here.

Amelia glances at Evan as he, Charlie, and Branson begin to move Marcel. Charlie sees this.

CHARLIE
 Don't worry, Mrs. Dubois. He'll be
 fine in the fridge.

Evan glares at Charlie.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)
 (embarrassed)
 I meant instead of out here on the
 floor with everyone looking at him.

Evan hangs his head in complete despair.

EVAN
Jesus, Charlie!

Amelia sobs.

They re-enter the Tasting Room from a kitchen moments later.

Sheryl enters the Tasting Room and struts up to the bar where Branson is drinking whiskey, Amelia is drinking wine, Evan and Charlie drink coffee, and Tina drinks tea.

SHERYL
He wants you next, Branson! This is
all your fault!
(to Tina)
I'll have a glass of your cheapest,
high-alcohol wine.

Tina glares at Sheryl.

TINA
The bar is closed.

Branson ignores Tina and addresses Sheryl.

BRANSON
What did you tell him?

SHERYL
I said I didn't see nothing, I
didn't hear nothing, and that it
was his job to do something, not
mine.

Branson shakes his head in disgust as he trudges to the office.

Evan stares to the far end of the bar where Sheryl pours herself a tall wine and slowly enjoys it.

Tina pats Evan's hand.

TINA
You didn't stay sober just for your
wife or me for three years now.
Stay strong. You got this!

Evan smiles at Tina. Sheryl sneaks a glance at them.

INT. WINERY OFFICE - NIGHT

The Sheriff sits behind a big desk, listening intently. Branson sits on the couch across from the Sheriff. The Sheriff is recording the interviews with his iPhone.

BRANSON

... So, that's about it.

The Sheriff reads through three pages of notes.

SHERIFF

Thanks very much for the thorough recount of tonight's events.

Branson stands and the Sheriff shuts off his iPhone.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Can I ask you a few questions entirely off the record?

Branson sits back down with a worried look, but nods 'yes.'

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Your wife wasn't what I would call helpful.

BRANSON

She can be that way.

The Sheriff leans in and whispers.

SHERIFF

Does she harbor ill will toward anyone here?

BRANSON

She never talks about it.

SHERIFF

She would be correct in assuming that the D.A. lacked enough evidence needed to charge her or anyone else with any crimes.

BRANSON

I think she understands that.

SHERIFF

I'm telling you this in the strictest confidence that blood and tissue samples from the victims were collected and stored properly and can be re-examined when laboratory techniques have advanced to detect certain chemicals...

BRANSON

(interrupts)

What are you suggesting, Sheriff?

Branson stands and takes a step toward the door, but his eyes are locked on the Sheriff's eyes.

SHERIFF

I'm suggesting that justice delayed is better than justice denied.

Branson shakes in anger but doesn't lose his temper.

BRANSON

Don't threaten us, Sheriff! Not now! Not ever!

Branson opens the door.

SHERIFF

Send in Charlie, will you Mr. Wright?

INT. WINERY OFFICE - NIGHT

Charlie lays on the couch with his feet up and speaks casually in an unconcerned voice.

CHARLIE

So I knew when I saw Evan's folks drive up there was going to be fireworks of some kind, but I didn't think that witch could control lightning.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. WINERY - DAY

With no one looking, Charlie switches out the 12-gauge rubber slug shells for number 1 buckshot.

END FLASHBACK

SHERIFF

So it was you who switched out the harmless rubber slug shells for number 1 buckshot.

Charlie sits up, worried.

CHARLIE

When I saw Jerry drive up, I wanted Summer to be able to defend herself. She's innocent, ya know.

The Sheriff looks at five pages of notes as Charlie lays back down.

SHERIFF

That will be for the courts to decide. But thanks for your help with the timeline, Charlie.

(more serious)

Do you think Tina was ghosting me before tonight?

Charlie sits up, excited.

CHARLIE

That's what I thought too. For about a month, she's hardly mentioned you except when she compared you to the box wine of law enforcement.

The Sheriff looks away.

SHERIFF

Thanks, Charlie. That will be all for now.

Charlie smiles as he exits.

CHARLIE

Who's next in the hot seat?

SHERIFF

Summer.

CHARLIE

(winks with a smile)
Hope you got tissues.

INT. WINERY OFFICE - NIGHT

Summer wipes tears from her face as the Sheriff reviews ten pages of notes (more notes than he has from anyone else).

SUMMER

I'm not blaming Charlie. He told me not to shoot. I shouldn't have fired. It's the shooter's responsibility to check his or her load.

(beat)

I killed him. How much trouble am I in?

The Sheriff sits back in the chair and sounds a little suspicious.

SHERIFF

The investigation is far from over. You could get manslaughter, but the courts might consider his past abuse. Maybe three to five years.

Summer sobs.

SUMMER

He didn't sign the divorce papers and I think he loved his wine collection even more than me.

The Sheriff looks around.

SHERIFF

Is there any other way into the wine collection other than through the front door and kitchen, and then down to the cellar?

He sees that Summer isn't listening.

The Sheriff stands with a worried look.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Thank you for your time. I'll be meeting you all in the tasting room in a minute.

SUMMER

But you haven't interviewed Evan and Tina.

He doesn't acknowledge her comment.

Summer hurries out as the Sheriff makes a call.

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - LATER

The Sheriff steps into the Tasting Room to see Sheryl and Branson face-to-face in a heated argument.

SHERYL

I want to go home now! Not tomorrow. Now!

SHERIFF

I'm afraid that's impossible, Mrs. Wright. Those roads are an ice rink.

Everyone glances toward the windows.

BRANSON

It's getting worse.

Summer, Evan, Charlie, Tina, and the Sheriff get "buzzed" with a STORM ALERT on their phones.

SUMMER

Thunderstorm with heavy hail and lightning.

EVAN

Stay in the interior of the building, and we'll be fine.

SHERIFF

Evan's right. Relax. They'll send backup and a coroner when it's over.

Charlie freaks out as he checks his weather app.

CHARLIE

We're trapped again! Just like last time.

(paces randomly)

I need something for my nerves.

Charlie tosses the last piece of cheese on a charcuterie board into his mouth as Evan looks on.

EVAN

Charlie, have you ever shown courage?

Charlie grabs the charcuterie board and pretends it's a shield.

CHARLIE

I was born a chicken. I once took a charcuterie board to a knife fight.

Sheryl is furious.

SHERYL

I'm getting out of the loony bin unless we're under arrest...

LIGHTNING FLASHES in the windows and THUNDER ROARS seconds later.

Evan shakes his phone.

EVAN

We lost Wi-Fi.

Charlie stops pacing, looks up, and yells.

CHARLIE

What could be worse?!

The lights FLASH and BLINK before the electricity goes out in the entire winery and everyone turns anxious and a bit frightened.

TENSE SILENCE.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

(amazingly calm)
My fault.

SUMMER

I'll fetch the generator.

Evan follows Summer. She sees this and smiles.

They stop just out of earshot of the others. Evan stops Summer and whispers to her.

EVAN

I won't let anything bad happen to you.

Summer hugs Evan. They don't see Sheryl eavesdropping.

SUMMER

Likewise. We're a team.

EVAN

We're more than that. We're family.

The remainder of the group huddles in the Tasting Room. LIGHTNING FLASHES in the windows and again THUNDER ROARS seconds later. Amelia clings to the Sheriff's arm.

AMELIA

Does this happen here very often?

SHERIFF

No. At least, I don't think so.

Severe weather...

(glances at Tina)

Can be unpredictable.

SHERYL

(sarcastic)

Well, isn't that wonderful!

Evan returns carrying a small generator. Summer is right behind him.

The Sheriff looks at everyone slowly, seriously. He turns on his flashlight and heads to the kitchen.

Tina bends her head to see where he's going.

THUNDER ROARS a little further in the distance.

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff pulls Marcel's body from the walk-in refrigerator into the kitchen. He scans the heels of Marcel's shoes with his flashlight and sees slight burn scars on the soles.

Another flashlight beam suddenly appears on the body.

The Sheriff turns to see Tina. He nods that he's not surprised to see her. He whispers.

SHERIFF

Just double-checking something.

Tina bends slightly to smell Marcel's hair and clothes.

Their eyes meet in terror.

TINA

No exact cause of death.

The Sheriff puts one finger to his lips.

Tina nods in agreement.

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff and Tina return from the kitchen and everyone surrounds them with angry faces.

BRANSON

We have a right to know what's going on!

SHERYL

We sure the hell do!

CHARLIE

I want to know if he's still dead, because if he isn't...

Evan slaps Charlie on the arm.

All eyes are on the Sheriff.

SHERIFF

First, the RV fire.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. WINERY - NIGHT

SHERIFF (V.O.)

I sent the fire department the videos I took. They said it was burning so fast there was no way to extinguish it. They saw that no other structures or trees were in danger of igniting and asked that we stay back because of the propane tanks.

END FLASHBACK

CHARLIE

They guessed right on the propane tanks.

TINA

It's just sad.

Summer looks away.

SHERIFF

At the present time, there is no determination of what caused the explosion and fire. I doubt a shotgun blast from a hundred feet could have caused the explosion.

Summer breathes a sigh of relief.

SHERYL

(laughs)

Just a coincidence?! Ha! That's about the flimsiest...

The Sheriff glares at Sheryl and she hushes up.

SHERIFF

However, the gunshot from Summer could have ignited an existing gas leak. We won't know until I can send videos of the interior.

Summer sobs.

They observe a moment of silence.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I'll get a closer look when the fire goes out.

Amelia begins to sob.

AMELIA

And, Marcel?

The Sheriff paces and looks around.

SHERIFF

Mr. Dubois' death is not as simple to us.

AMELIA

What do you mean?

CHARLIE

There was a lot of lightning out there tonight.

SHERIFF

That's true. A lightning flash is about 300 million Volts of electricity.

The crowd gasps.

Tina stares at her phone.

TINA

And indirect lightning strikes,
like lightning-to-ground, have been
known to kill hundreds of deer in
an area far bigger than our patio.

Sheryl smirks at Tina.

SHERYL

Little miss know-it-all.

Tina glares at her.

TINA

I'm sure you've done your research
in the past!

Sheryl stomps toward Tina, but the Sheriff stops her.

SHERIFF

I ruled out an electric short from
the 120 Volt outlets on the patio.
That wouldn't do the job.

EVAN

So, it was lightning?

BEGIN FLASHBACK

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - NIGHT

Marcel lays dead on the floor. The Sheriff examines his head.

SHERIFF (V.O.)

But there's one problem. Direct
lightning often leaves a
considerable burn scar usually on
the top of the head. Mr. Dubois did
not have a major burn scar.

TINA (V.O.)

And no singed hair or clothing.

The Sheriff examines the soles of Marcel's shoes. We SEE
small brown spots on his soles.

SHERIFF (V.O.)

Even indirect lightning from the
ground usually leaves burns on the
feet.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (V.O.) (CONT'D)

Mr. Dubois did show mild burn scars, probably because he was standing in water, and that's consistent with an indirect lightning strike.

END FLASHBACK

BRANSON

So, lightning killed him. End of story.

SHERIFF

However, the burn spots on his feet didn't look severe enough to kill him.

SUMMER

Maybe because he was standing on stone pavers.

Tina stares at her phone again.

TINA

Stone might have some resistance.

SHERIFF

But the stone was wet, a puddle actually, so Mr. Dubois should have shown pronounced burn scars after a hundred thousand volts and wearing thin-soled shoes in water.

Branson gets in the Sheriff's face.

BRANSON

Where are you going with this, Sheriff?

SHERIFF

I'm afraid I have to treat Mr. Dubois' death as suspicious. That will require a medical examiner and a crime scene investigation team, neither of which we have because of the ice storm.

AMELIA

Suspicious?

SHERIFF

We'll need the help of a medical examiner and coroner.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I asked each of you if Mr. Dubois
or Mr. Yarbrough had any enemies.

The Sheriff looks at Sheryl.

SHERYL

Better be careful, Sheriff.

SHERIFF

(to Sheryl)

Several people witnessed you
threatening Jerry directly.

The Sheriff reads from his notebook.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Something to the effect, quote,
"You stay away from me or you're a
dead man!"

SHERYL

I don't recall...

SHERIFF

Several others said you resented
needing co-signers on the loan to
buy this property.

Sheryl slowly glares at Branson, Tina, and then Amelia.

TENSE SILENCE

CHARLIE

(smirks)

It's as freakin' cold and icy out
there as it's getting in here!

SHERIFF

We did find the victim's electric
cigarette several feet from the
body.

(turns to Sheryl)

And we also found a cigarette butt,
consistent with the cigarettes that
you smoke, Mrs. Wright.

SHERYL

I had a cigarette before dinner, if
you can call that dinner, and I
believe Mr. Dubois died after
dinner!

SHERIFF

Don't worry, yet, Mrs. Wright, I'm still looking into motives you or others may have. For example, we found a slice of lemon...

Charlie raises his hand like a scolded schoolboy.

CHARLIE

After dinner, I emptied a tiny bit of water from a pitcher outside to let the cold air in so Marcel would want to vape in the kitchen with me instead.

(disappointed)

He was cute, but he went outside anyway.

Amelia turns angry.

AMELIA

My husband was not murdered! He could have slipped on the wet patio and hit his head!

SHERIFF

Your husband does have a contusion on the back of his head but it didn't look too severe. My investigation is far from over.

Everyone looks at each other suspiciously.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

And two deaths in the span of a few minutes still sounds suspicious to me! I'll continue to request backup.

Summer is overcome with anxiety and has to leave.

SUMMER

I'll put extra blankets in your rooms.

She trudges off.

EXT./INT. WINERY SHERYL'S ROOM - NIGHT

Summer knocks politely carrying extra blankets. No answer.

She enters the room and spots a STUN GUN on the bed.

Her eyes open wide.

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - SAME

SHERIFF

The rest of you can go to sleep.
Lock your doors just to be safe.
Evan and Tina, I'd like you to stay
behind. I haven't interviewed you
yet.

SHERYL

You think we have a murderer among
us, Sheriff?

SHERIFF

I'm still gathering the facts, Mrs.
Wright.

BRANSON

Let him do his usual inept job,
Sheryl.

Evan looks away, embarrassed. Tina glares at Branson and Sheryl.

Sheryl slowly starts to exit.

SHERYL

I'll be in my room.
(snickers)
My locked room.

The Sheriff looks helpless as Sheryl, Branson, and Charlie trudge off to their rooms.

Tina heads to the kitchen.

TINA

Something tells me we're in for a
long night.

The Sheriff follows Tina leaving Evan and Amelia alone. Amelia moves in and whispers in his ear.

AMELIA

Have you ever been truly in love,
Evan?

EVAN

Only once. But it seems to last
forever in my memories. It's all I
think about.

AMELIA

(holds his hand)

You poor boy.

(flirts)

I won't feel safe in my room alone.
If you could just stop by and check
on me, I'd be grateful.

She kisses his cheek.

AMELIA (CONT'D)

Very grateful.

She turns and walks seductively away.

Evan looks at her with suspicion, then he heads to the kitchen.

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Evan serves coffee or tea around a small table. Their backs are to the Tasting Room.

Tina is drawing on a tablet computer, under the Sheriff's direction. The image has a black circle for "Jerry" and a black circle for "Marcel" in the middle with orange boxes around the perimeter of the drawing with the names: Sheryl, Branson, Amelia, Summer, and Charlie already drawn.

EVAN

I think you have to add us as
suspects to be complete.

SHERIFF

It's just an exercise.

Tina adds two more orange boxes for "Tina" and "Evan."

Tina and Evan stare at their boxes.

The Sheriff glances over at the evidence bag containing the cigarette butt. Tina and Evan stare at it for a long time.

Tina draws a thicker box around Sheryl. Evan looks away.

Tina, the Sheriff, and Evan suddenly HEAR a NOISE from the wine cellar. It sounded like the "CLICK" of a door shutting.

Their eyes open up wide.

The Sheriff stands and motions for Tina and Evan to follow him.

He takes out his pistol, grabs a flashlight, and tiptoes to the cellar stairs.

The Sheriff tiptoes down the stairs slowly, listening at each stair. Tina and Evan are right behind him.

The door to the cellar is ajar. The cellar is pitch dark.

INT. WINERY CELLAR - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff peeks in the cellar and shines the flashlight around but sees nothing.

He pauses and listens. Silence. He motions for Tina and Evan to follow him closely.

Evan points to Jerry's vault in the back of the cellar. It's a metal door with a combination lock embedded.

The Sheriff puts his ear to the door and listens. Silence.

They all look around and see nothing unusual.

They return upstairs to the kitchen.

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Evan, Tina, and the Sheriff take their seats to discuss Tina's diagram on her iPad. Their backs remain toward the tasting room.

SHERIFF

Let's add the webs between suspects and victims. First, who might benefit from Jerry's death?

Tina adds a line from Jerry to Summer.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

She could more easily sell the place and move on. Maybe life insurance too, I don't know.

EVAN

And he did abuse her.

SHERIFF

And she shot in his direction.

The Sheriff whispers to Evan.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Would she inherit his wine collection?

SUMMER

Yes, I would.

The Sheriff, Tina, and Evan turn to see Summer glaring at them and holding a STUN GUN.

SHERIFF

We're sorry, Summer We're just thinking out loud. How long have you...?"

SUMMER

(interrupts)
Long enough.

EVAN

I'm so sorry.

Tina points to the stun gun.

TINA

What's that?

SHERIFF

It's a stun gun. Where did you get it?

SUMMER

I found it in one of the rooms.

SHERIFF

Who's room?

Summer looks sadly at Evan.

SUMMER

Your mom's.

EVAN

(angry)
You were searching my mom's room?

SUMMER

(defensive)
No, she asked for extra blankets. I let myself in when she didn't answer. I found it on the bed.

The Sheriff drops his chin sadly.

Summer studies the chart on Tina's tablet computer, turns away sadly without a word, and exits.

Tina tries to comfort Evan.

TINA

Evan, we're all on edge.

Evan's and Tina's eyes follow the Sheriff and he steps to the walk-in fridge.

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - NIGHT

Marcel is placed just outside the walk-in fridge.

The Sheriff lifts Marcel's shirt to reveal no stun gun burn scars on his chest.

SHERIFF

No burn scars on his front torso.

Evan breathes a sigh of relief.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Evan, help me turn him over.

As they turn Marcel over, we see no burn scars on his back.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

None on the back.

(disappointed)

This is going nowhere. Help me get him back in the fridge.

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - NIGHT

Back at the table, Tina draws six more "dotted lines" from Branson, Sheryl, Evan, Marcel, Amelia, and herself to Jerry. Evan looks away.

SHERIFF

Let's focus on Jerry's demise.

TINA

We would all benefit financially from the sale of the winery.

EVAN

Why are they dotted lines?

SHERIFF

Statistically, the spouse is more likely, but no one is excluded as a suspect.

TINA

Doesn't narrow it down much.

The Sheriff points to Marcel's circle.

SHERIFF

The spouse might have the most to gain from Mr. Dubois' death.

TINA

Right. Communal property and life insurance.

Evan turns upbeat.

EVAN

That's right. And she could probably still co-sign the loan for my parents, so my mom would gain nothing from his murder.

The Sheriff stares toward the front door with a suspicious look.

SHERIFF

Keep your phones on. I'll call if I see anything. I'm going to check out the RV and the outbuildings.

EVAN

Do you want company?

SHERIFF

I got this.

The Sheriff grabs his coat and flashlight and heads out the front door.

EXT. WINERY - CONTINUOUS

It's cold and rainy when the Sheriff exits.

SERIES OF SHOTS

-- The RV is still burning and the Sheriff can't see inside the burned wreckage. The Sheriff gets colder and more miserable in the rain.

-- He circles the RV and sees nothing of interest.

-- He looks down the road for a campfire or light and sees nothing.

-- He checks out the garage and sees nothing.

-- He checks out the barn and storage shed and sees nothing.

-- He shivers as he walks to the patio in the back of the winery.

-- He sees Tina and Evan inside the kitchen looking worried at him in the cold.

-- He tries to enter but the door is locked.

-- Tina jumps to the door to unlock it.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff, Tina, and Evan have their backs to the Tasting Room.

SHERIFF
I didn't see anything.

EVAN
We checked all the other doors
while you were gone.

TINA
Only the front door that you exited
was unlocked, so we locked it.

The Sheriff glances at the door to the walk-in fridge.

SHERIFF
I have to examine Marcel's body
again.

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - NIGHT

Marcel's body is dragged from the fridge again, and Evan and Tina help remove his shirt.

They all examine the body for scars.

Tina points to a red and black dragon tattoo on his right arm.

TINA

Look carefully at the tattoo.

Tina zooms in to see two small red dots, about one inch apart in the tattoo. They all see them.

SHERIFF

That's why we didn't see the stun gun scars.

The Sheriff takes a photo of the tattoo and the scars.

Evan's chin drops.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I have a bad feeling about something but I can't explain it.

SUMMER

(angry)

I couldn't sleep. I heard noises.

They turn to see Summer in a black bathrobe with a hood. She looks sad and as frightening as the Grim Reaper at the same time.

TINA

So did we.

SUMMER

What if the patio door was open when Mr. Dubois was outside smoking? Everyone was distracted by the RV fire. What if Jerry escaped in the dark before the fire, ran to the back patio, killed Mr. Dubois, snuck in the door, and went down to the cellar to retrieve his wine collection?

SHERIFF

And then escaped? To where? How?

TINA

The floors would be sopping wet through the kitchen and to the wine cellar. Did you see any water?

SHERIFF

No. He could have wiped it up with a towel. How big is his wine collection? One case? Two?

SUMMER

He never spoke of it. I always thought his wine collection was a suitcase of cash he'd been skimming all along. This winery was leaking cash for a long time but I couldn't prove it.

Evan is perplexed and sad.

EVAN

That's why we ran into financial trouble?

Summer hugs Evan.

SUMMER

I think so.

SHERIFF

Either way, he could be long gone!
(paces and thinks)
But how?

SUMMER

My eBike was in the garage!

SHERIFF

I'll check it out. What's the range of those things?

EVAN

Up to twenty miles depending on the road, weather conditions, and load.

SUMMER

I bet ten miles max on a night like this. With icy roads, maybe less. I hope he freezes to death.

The Sheriff races out.

Moments later he returns holding the battery for the bike.

SHERIFF

The eBike is untouched. It wouldn't carry his wine collection, anyway.

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amelia SCREAMS!

The Sheriff, Tina, Evan, and Summer race in to see the two glasses of wine, each with a cocktail napkin next to it with a woman's name on it: "Summer," and "Amelia," But each name is in a different handwriting.

Branson and Sheryl march into the tasting room (wearing matching bathrobes).

BRANSON
What's this about?

AMELIA
I heard noises. I came downstairs,
and I saw these two wine glasses.

Charlie enters wearing silk pajamas and rubbing his eyes.

CHARLIE
Is it time for dessert?

Everyone stares at the two wine glasses and cocktail napkins, as Tina sniffs Summer's wine glass.

SHERIFF
This isn't good.

BRANSON
What's it mean?

TINA
It means Jerry isn't dead, and he's
recently been in this room!

Sheryl snaps her angry face toward Tina.

SHERYL
There's no way you can tell all
that by sniffing a damn wine glass.

Tina slowly picks up Summer's wine glass, swirls it, sniffs it, and finally takes a small sip.

Tina spits it out in a bucket.

Sheryl is angrier.

SHERYL (CONT'D)
What's that supposed to mean?

Tina glares at Sheryl.

TINA
It's not poison. It's good wine.

Tina smiles at Summer.

TINA (CONT'D)

It's a Chateau D'Yquem Premier
Grand Cru Sauternes from Bordeaux.

Summer yanks the glass out of Tina's hand and carefully sips
the wine.

Summer smiles big, and takes a huge gulp from her glass.

SUMMER

The bastard served this wine at our
wedding! You're saying it's good...
it's great! It's the best wine in
the world.

(to Tina)

You think he's alive and well. Oh,
my God. What do we do?

BRANSON

We don't know Jerry's alive! Nobody
could have survived an explosion
like that!

SHERIFF

Who else would have pulled this
stunt with special wine?

TINA

That wine isn't stocked anywhere
inside this winery.

The Sheriff paces, thinking out loud.

The Sheriff looks around at a security camera in the corner.

SHERIFF

Evan, can you plug the security
system and Wi-Fi router into the
generator?

EVAN

I can try.

Evan and Charlie grab coats and boots and race out.

SHERIFF

Jerry is sending us a message.

Amelia sneaks up on the wine glass set for her.

Sheryl points at Amelia's wine glass.

SHERYL

Might not be safe to...

They HEAR Jerry's obnoxious HORN. They are stunned. The Sheriff pulls out his pistol and runs to the front door. Tina, Summer, Sheryl, and Branson, are right behind the Sheriff.

Amelia's phone buzzes with a text message from an "Unknown Caller." It reads, "You should be ashamed of yourself."

Amelia looks around, deletes the text message, and then runs to the front door.

EXT. WINERY - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff opens the door to see the cab of the RV is still burning.

Tina, Sheryl, Amelia, and Branson are more on edge.

SHERIFF

The battery connected to that stupid horn was the last thing to short out.

SUMMER

It's Jerry making us look stupid.

They turn and trudge back to the Tasting Room.

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Amelia returns to her wine glass and takes a sip of wine when Tina knocks it out of her hand sending it crashing to the floor.

TINA

I didn't smell your glass yet.
Sheryl's right. That might be...

Amelia begins to choke and cough as everyone watches helplessly.

Her eyes open wide and she collapses to the floor.

Evan and Charlie return wet and cold and see Amelia suffering.

Charlie stands over Amelia in panic.

CHARLIE
Oh, no! Not again.

Evan bends down close to Amelia, but her arms are flailing.

SHERIFF
Do something. Give her water.

Amelia stops flailing little by little.

Branson glares at Sheryl.

BRANSON
You did this!

Sheryl steps back and shakes her head 'no' as everyone looks at her with suspicion

Anxious moments as the Sheriff finally dives in to give Amelia water.

Amelia's eyes remain closed but one hand slowly feels around for Evan's hand and squeezes it.

Evan squeezes her hand back, as Amelia slowly opens her eyes.

Amelia needs Evan's help to stand, and shifts from being disoriented to being angry, while Tina smells pieces of Amelia's glass shards from the floor.

EVAN
Are you okay?

Amelia weakly points to Sheryl.

AMELIA
She tried to poison me!

Evan tries to comfort Amelia and defend his mom.

EVAN
No, she didn't. She couldn't.

Branson glares at Sheryl who glares at Amelia.

SHERYL
Don't look at me. We need you to co-sign our loan. And, if it was the same poison someone used two years ago, she'd be dead already.

Amelia charges Sheryl but the Sheriff steps between them.

SHERIFF

Any one of you could have slipped the poison in her glass while we were distracted by Jerry's horn.

AMELIA

(pointing to Charlie)
Or it could have been Charlie, the weirdo!

Charlie's eyes open wide, stunned by the accusation.

SHERIFF

He doesn't have a motive. Jerry might have wanted you dead too. Or even Summer. Hell, we don't know! No security cameras!

Amelia glares at Charlie who starts to clean up the broken wine glass.

AMELIA

Who else would hire such a bad cook? We sure the hell won't!

Charlie looks at Evan.

CHARLIE

It wasn't me, okay? I just wish I had thought of it first.

The Sheriff slumps in a chair as everyone regains composure.

SHERIFF

Charlie, save all that mess in an evidence bag. God, I hate my job! What does Jerry want?

Amelia glares at Summer at gets in her face.

AMELIA

I'll tell you what he wants! He wants his dignity back after being arrested for spousal abuse and being pushed into divorce! He wants his winery and his wife back!

The Sheriff hops up and gets in Amelia's face, but he pauses and thinks before speaking.

SHERIFF

So, you've met Jerry? How well do you know him?

AMELIA

Jerry became interested in Bitcoin and wine trading two years ago when he contacted Marcel.

BRANSON

(concerned)

You never mentioned it.

AMELIA

That's the nature of Bitcoin trading. It's secretive because cryptocurrency owners become their own banks. They become instant targets for shysters, money launderers, and former wives!

Amelia glares at Summer.

SHERIFF

So you've been business partners with him for two years and you didn't tell anyone?

Amelia paces sadly.

AMELIA

He and my husband were partners, not me. And Jerry lost a lot of money when Bitcoin values plummeted.

SHERIFF

Making him more desperate for money.

Summer gets in Amelia's face.

SUMMER

How much money did he lose?

AMELIA

Marcel told me he lost everything! Jerry hated him.

SHERIFF

That's a motive for murder!

The Sheriff turns and makes a phone call.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

I need backup and an arrest warrant for Jerry Yarbrough.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

He's on the grounds of the Y-nery
and may be armed and dangerous.

Silence.

SHERYL

He's a nutcase. We have to protect
ourselves!

SUMMER

(angry)
He's not a murderer!

TINA

I agree. Why else would he leave us
clues that he's still around here
and still loves his wife?

BRANSON

Maybe he blew up his RV without
anyone's help. To make a statement.

The Sheriff completes his call.

SHERIFF

Or as a diversion.

SUMMER

I'm never taking him back.

EVAN

And he's not taking back the Y-
nery.

Sheryl grabs her wine glass and pours it into the bucket.

SHERYL

I'm not falling for any of this
shit! That man is a lunatic!

Tina searches frantically behind the bar. She finds a small
TRANSMITTER. She shows it to the crowd.

TINA

And he's been listening to
everything we've said.

Charlie points to the transmitter.

CHARLIE

The NSA used to pay two hundred
bucks for those. Now they're online
for \$39.99, but they're only good
for two-hundred feet.

Everyone looks at each other, frightened.

The Sheriff leans into the transmitter and cocks his pistol.

SHERIFF

Jerry, you've tampered with your ankle monitor, broken your restraining order, and you're a person of interest in a murder investigation! It's best that you surrender before things get worse!

Amelia is stunned.

AMELIA

Murder?

BRANSON

Jerry's dead, I tell ya!

Branson glances at Amelia before looking away.

Evan moves to comfort Amelia.

Summer looks frightened at the front door.

Sheryl smirks and leans into the transmitter.

SHERYL

You're going to prison, and we're buying your winery, asshole!

CHARLIE

Is there any of that cheesecake leftover from yesterday?

Everyone turns to Charlie with a perplexed look.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

I eat when I'm nervous. Okay?

The Sheriff drops the transmitter on the floor and crushes it with his boot.

SHERIFF

Let's stay together! Got it? And start looking for other listening devices or small cameras!

CHARLIE

I'm on it.

TINA

Me too.

Charlie and Tina spread out quickly.

SHERIFF

Summer, Jerry was listening in, and he's out there right now planning his next move.

Summer looks around and points to each door in the building.

SUMMER

What do we do?

The Sheriff races to the kitchen.

Summer's voice tails off.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

He can sneak in anytime he wants!

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

The Sheriff checks the delivery door and it's locked.

He turns and runs to the patio door... and finds that it is unlocked.

The Sheriff rolls his eyes in disgust and stomps into the Tasting Room and sees Charlie and Tina holding up listening devices with one finger to their lips.

The Sheriff gives the "slice the throat" sign.

Tina and Charlie drop and crush the devices.

SHERIFF

We have to assume Jerry is armed and dangerous!

EVAN

What can I do to help?

The Sheriff looks around and yells.

SHERIFF

Be on the lookout. Everyone. But don't panic, if that makes sense.

CHARLIE

(sarcastic)

It makes no sense to me, but that's me.

Amelia sobs and looks away.

The Sheriff looks around the room and takes out his pistol.

SHERIFF

(to Evan)

Evan, get the guest room keys and follow me.

(to Summer)

Grab that shotgun and secure the Tasting Room.

CHARLIE

(mumbles)

Are you sure we can trust Summer with the shotgun

The Sheriff and Evan exit.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Last time it was BOOM!

INT. WINERY GUEST ROOM HALLWAY - NIGHT

The Sheriff creeps down a hallway with four doors on each side. The Sheriff has a flashlight and a drawn pistol. Evan is behind him with a baseball bat in his hands.

They stop at the first door on the left. Evan whispers.

EVAN

Summer's room.

Evan unlocks the door.

The Sheriff motions for Evan to be silent and to stay in the hallway.

The Sheriff opens the door wide and enters the room expecting danger.

Evan peeks in watching the Sheriff search the room and bathroom and checking to see that the windows are locked.

On the way out, the Sheriff checks under Summer's pillow and finds a pistol, which he confiscates.

The Sheriff exits the room and Evan moves across the hall.

EVAN (CONT'D)

My room.

The Sheriff enters and checks the window locks and bathroom.

On the way out the Sheriff shines the flashlight on a nightstand and sees brochures for law schools.

He smiles at Evan as he exits the room.

They move down the hall.

SHERIFF

Tina's room.

The Sheriff enters with some familiarity. He quickly shines the light on a photograph of Tina and him on the bedside table. He checks the window locks and bathroom.

He sees a guidebook on the restaurants of San Francisco.

As the Sheriff exits he sees the dark figure of a man sneaking up behind Evan.

TENSE MOMENTS

He cocks his pistol and shines his flashlight in the man's face. It's Branson who looks like a deer in the headlights.

They whisper.

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

Jesus, Branson!

BRANSON

Thought you might need backup. My room's next.

The Sheriff motions for him to be silent.

CUT TO:

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - SAME

Summer rests the shotgun on the bar. Sheryl and Amelia sip wine. Tina eyes her tablet computer from behind the bar. Charlie eats cheesecake nervously.

SHERYL

I'd say, shoot first and ask questions later.

SUMMER

I'd say innocent until proven guilty.

AMELIA

I feel trapped.

Charlie speaks to the cheesecake he's eating.

CHARLIE

Did you know that a coyote with his
leg in a snare trap will chew off
his leg to get away?

Charlie looks up to see the women glaring at him.

BACK TO:

INT. WINERY GUEST ROOM HALLWAY - SAME

The Sheriff is exiting Branson's room when he spots Branson's packed suitcases behind the door.

Evan moves to Sheryl's room, unlocks the door, and the Sheriff enters. Branson sticks his head in the door and follows the Sheriff's flashlight.

Branson sees that Sheryl has unpacked entirely like she's moving in.

The Sheriff quickly checks the window and finds it unlocked. He locks it and checks the bathroom with his pistol drawn and ready.

Branson whispers to the Sheriff.

BRANSON

My wife has our copy of the
purchase agreement for the winery.
I'd like to make sure it's safe.

Branson pulls out a small flashlight and enters the room as the Sheriff exits. He whispers to Branson.

SHERIFF

Be quick about it.

Evan moves down the hall and unlocks a door for the Sheriff.

EVAN

Marcel's room.

The Sheriff enters Marcel's room and finds his bags are packed and there is a receipt for limousine service on the nightstand.

As the Sheriff pockets the receipt, he and Evan hear a LOUD fight going on in Sheryl's room.

INT. WINERY SHERYL'S ROOM - SAME

Jerry has Branson in a tight headlock.

JERRY

Listen to me, Branson! Amelia and her husband are crooks! They'll kill you and Sheryl to get this winery!

They HEAR Sheriff stomp to Sheryl's room to find the door locked as they continue fighting.

Sheriff kicks open the door.

We see loose papers (the winery purchase agreement) scattered on the floor.

The Sheriff uses his flashlight to point his pistol at Jerry who has Branson in a bearhug in front of him. They freeze. Branson yells at the Sheriff.

BRANSON

You forgot to check the closet, idiot!

Jerry throws Branson at the Sheriff and races to the window.

Branson flies into the Sheriff and Evan and they fall back into the hallway.

The Sheriff's pistol goes off. BAM!

The Sheriff shakes off Branson, drops his pistol, and leaps and dives at Jerry who can't get out of the window.

The electricity comes back on in the winery, and we see the Sheriff wrestling with Jerry in the room. Jerry is wearing an all-black ninja suit with black sneakers and a black face mask with only his eyes showing.

Jerry looks to be winning the wrestling match, and has the Sheriff beneath him. The Sheriff is worn out. Jerry moves to choke him but doesn't.

The Sheriff flips Jerry over and subdues him.

SHERIFF

Jerry Yarbrough, I'm placing you under arrest for tampering with an ankle monitor, breaking your restraining order, breaking and entering, and assaulting Branson Wright.

(MORE)

SHERIFF (CONT'D)

You're also a person of interest in the murder of Mr. Marcel Dubois.

JERRY

Murder?

SHERIFF

You heard me. Let's go.

The Sheriff slaps handcuffs on Jerry.

JERRY

Wait! You're making a huge mistake! I know who did it!

SHERIFF

You have the right to remain silent...

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - MORNING

The storm is over. Blue skies are above the patio.

Charlie brings in a plate of blueberry scones. They are only half-burnt. He sets them down next to two carafes of coffee and coffee cups.

A cheery voice greets him.

JERRY

Good morning, Charlie!

Charlie looks to the corner of the Tasting Room and smiles at Jerry who is tied to an overstuffed chair and handcuffed.

CHARLIE

Top of the morning to ya, Mr. Y.

JERRY

Let's dispense with the formalities, Charlie. Call me, Jerry. Bring me some coffee if you will.

Charlie chuckles as Sheryl walks in, tastefully dressed, and pulling her suitcase.

CHARLIE

That's not gonna happen, Jerry. You're the bad guy, remember?

JERRY

(glares at Sheryl)
I take mine with cream and two
sugars. Like Summer. White and
sweet.

Sheryl and Charlie glare at Jerry.

SHERYL

That will be your name in prison.

Charlie sees that Jerry is bound too tightly to drink the
coffee. Charlie laughs.

CHARLIE

Nice try, Jerry. I'm not untying
you.

Charlie pours coffee for Sheryl.

Sheryl takes a sip and studies the taste.

SHERYL

It's a little better today!

Charlie smiles.

CHARLIE

Wait until you try my scones.

Jerry glares at Sheryl.

JERRY

Maybe she did it! Again!

Charlie looks at Sheryl with suspicion.

SHERYL

You can speculate all you damn well
please, Jerry. You're the one who's
going down for all of this!

Charlie whispers.

CHARLIE

Shhh. The Sheriff and Tina are in
the kitchen. They might hear you.

JERRY

(loud)
I don't give a...

CHARLIE

(interrupts)

And you shouldn't be saying a word
without your lawyer present.

Tina and the Sheriff stomp in angrily from the kitchen.

Tina glares at Jerry, as Summer enters.

TINA

That wine from your wedding day
wasn't on hand in our cellar. It
must have been in your vault!

JERRY

(gazes at Summer)

It was my most prized possession
after I lost Summer and my
daughter.

SUMMER

We were never your possessions,
asshole!

Summer points her fingers (like a gun) at Jerry.

SUMMER (CONT'D)

If the Sheriff didn't confiscate my
guns, you'd be dead right now!

JERRY

(glares at Sheryl)

She's the one who should be shot! I
lost my daughter to that murderous
wench!

The Sheriff yells in anger at Sheryl, Summer, and Jerry.

SHERIFF

What part of 'the right to remain
silent' didn't you people
understand?!

(angrier)

Jerry, Sheryl, and Summer, each of
you is a person of interest with
various serious charges. I've got a
call into a detective who's on her
way. I suggest none of you say
another word until she gets here!

The Sheriff storms out to the patio (where he can't hear the
continuing conversation in the Tasting Room).

Sheryl takes center stage with great confidence.

SHERYL

Now that the Sheriff's gone, I want a trial! Like in the movies. I always wanted to play a prosecuting attorney.

Everyone looks bewildered, especially Evan who enters the room and hears his mom.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

Charlie, you be the Judge. Son, you be the defense attorney. You want to go to law school! Here's your chance to practice.

Evan looks more puzzled.

EVAN

Who do I defend?

SHERYL

Anybody who needs you. Me first. Ask me if I killed anybody!

CHARLIE

(to Sheryl)

Do you swear to tell the truth?!

SHERYL

Honey, I swear a lot!

Evan sounds sincere and troubled.

EVAN

Mom, did you kill anyone?

Sheryl paces as she rants.

SHERYL

I did not kill anyone! Though I wanted to!

We SEE scenes from "Twisted Vines" as we HEAR Sheryl.

-- We see Rachel flirting with Evan on the patio.

SHERYL (V.O.)

No one thought to investigate the nutcase psychologist, Rachel, who admitted loving Evan.

-- We see Rachel trying on the wedding veil and looking at herself in the mirror.

SHERYL (V.O.)

She was also insanely jealous of Tina. She had no idea Tina was his half-sister.

-- We see Rachel peeking into the Tasting Room glaring at Tina confiding in Evan.

END SERIES OF SHOTS

Sheryl glares at Jerry.

SHERYL

I think Rachel sent the bottle of poisoned Champagne to Tina that your daughter stole and took up to her room! She knew Tina wasn't gonna drink it! That Rachel bitch wanted to marry my son!

Sheryl glares out the window at the Sheriff.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

And he's the country bumpkin Deputy Sheriff who botched the investigation.

Tina gets defensive.

TINA

The Sheriff did the best he could. He had no way of testing for poisons, drugs, or alcohol. Just like yesterday with the ice storm.

Sheryl glares at Tina.

SHERYL

And no one thought to ask about who stole my Epipens. Those bees could have killed me!

SILENCE

Amelia walks in and links arms with Evan. They smile weakly.

Branson enters and sits down quietly, looking away.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

I'm not your murderer.
(controlled anger)
But someone here is a murderer!

Everyone looks suspiciously at each other.

Jerry looks away.

JERRY
Evan, ask me if I killed anyone.

CHARLIE
Jerry, do you swear to tell the truth?

JERRY
I do.

Evan strolls next to Jerry and gets in his face.

EVAN
Jerry, did you kill anyone?

Jerry turns sad.

JERRY
I killed my marriage. I injured my winery beyond repair. I've done so many bad things in my life, I deserve to be hanged and shot ten times over.
(to Summer)
But hurting you was my greatest crime of all.
(looks down)
You are my only treasure.

Summer looks away.

JERRY (CONT'D)
I had anger issues, especially when I drank but that's no excuse.
(remorseful)
There's no excuse for abuse. Verbal abuse, physical abuse, or mental abuse.
(to Evan)
Losing my daughter to whoever killed her...

SHERYL
(interrupts)
That psycho bitch psychologist.

JERRY
Made me crazy with guilt for her past drug use, alcohol abuse, and total distrust of men... until she met Evan.

Evan sobs. Amelia glides over to him to comfort him before Sheryl could reach him.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I got therapy for anger management.
I joined A.A. and a men's domestic
violence group, and I volunteered
for two years on the National
Domestic Violence Hotline.

Summer fights back tears. Tina comforts her with a hug.

Summer makes eye contact with Jerry. They share a moment.

JERRY (CONT'D)

I knew I could never get you back.
(Jerry sobs)
You deserve better.

Branson stands and stomps toward Jerry.

BRANSON

Then why did you come back?

Sheryl joins Branson and glares at Jerry.

SHERYL

That's a good question!

Jerry looks away and regains his composure.

Jerry glares at Branson.

JERRY

Two reasons. One, to prevent my
winery from falling into the wrong
hands.
(glares at Amelia)
She and her husband conned me into
buying cryptocurrency to be able to
escape anywhere in the world and
retire a multi-millionaire like
them. She played the temptress.

Evan steps away from Amelia.

AMELIA

(calmly)
That's a lie. You begged Marcel and
me to invest. You bought high and
sold low like thousands of other
financial losers.

JERRY

I got out when I found out their
cryptocurrency pyramid scheme was
robbing thousands of innocent
senior citizens of their retirement
accounts through banks in Central
America to buy wineries all over
the world!

Evan races to the kitchen to retrieve the two sales documents
for the winery.

SHERYL

Is that a fact?
(glares at Branson)
What do you know about this?

The Sheriff steps in from the patio and everyone shuts up and
looks "normal" like nothing is going on.

SHERIFF

Backup is still on the way. Jerry,
your lawyer is on the way, so keep
your mouth shut until then, okay?

Charlie enters with a platter of perfectly cooked scones.

CHARLIE

We're fine in here, Sheriff. Would
you like a scone?

SHERIFF

No thanks, Charlie.
(to everyone)
Sit tight.

Everyone nods 'yes', and the Sheriff steps out.

Charlie offers scones and Sheryl takes one and chews it.

SHERYL

(smiles)
These aren't half-bad, Charlie!

Sheryl glares at Branson as Evan holds up two copies of the
sales document.

EVAN

Jerry is right. Mr. Dubois and
Amelia wrote themselves in as co-
owners, not just co-signers on
their copy of the sales agreement.

BRANSON

That's impossible! We had no such agreement.

EVAN

And they added a "survivorship clause" to their copy. In the event of your deaths, Mom and Dad, they assume full ownership of the winery.

Sheryl is livid.

SHERYL

They were going to switch out the sales agreement before we signed!
(to Branson)
You're such a fool!

Branson looks away.

Tina shows a map of wineries in the area on her tablet computer.

TINA

And their cryptocurrency shell company has partial ownership of our winery's sleaziest competitors, selling out to a conglomerate that sells box wine to big box grocery outlets.

Amelia slaps the laptop computer out of Tina's hands.

Tina reaches across the bar, pulls Amelia close, and punches her in the face.

Amelia falls back on her butt.

AMELIA

You all saw that! I have witnesses.
Evan, won't you defend me?

Evan looks away, Branson glares at Amelia, and the others shake their head 'no.'

Jerry speaks softly to Amelia as she helps herself up.

JERRY

And my second reason... I may have seen something I shouldn't have seen.

TINA

Wait until your lawyer is present.

JERRY

(angry)

My only lawyer took Summer's side
in my abuse trial and helped her
with her divorce papers.

SHERYL

(sarcastic)

That's the Jerry I know!

SUMMER

(angry)

She made sure you kept your stupid
wine collection.

Jerry struggles with the ropes that bind him.

JERRY

(angrier)

With no way to get to it with that
damn restraining order!

SHERYL

Okay, Big-shot Jerry, I'll bite.
What do you claim you saw?

Evan smiles at his mom.

EVAN

I'll ask the questions, Mom. What
do you claim you saw, Jerry?

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. WINERY PATIO - NIGHT

Jerry sneaks up on the patio from fifty yards away. He's cold
and wet in the freezing rain. He wears a long black plastic
poncho with a hood over his black ninja suit.

Suddenly, Marcel opens the door to the patio and steps out
wearing a warm coat. He lights up an electronic cigarette.

Jerry hides behind a tree and watches Marcel smoke.

JERRY (V.O.)

I saw Mr. Dubois smoking away. I
hoped he'd get lung cancer and die
on the spot.

Marcel is joined by Amelia who moves in close.

JERRY (V.O.)
Then his con artist wife joined
him.

EVAN (V.O.)
(in disbelief)
Are you sure it was her?

JERRY (V.O.)
I'm sure. I saw her face very
clearly from the kitchen lights.

AMELIA (V.O.)
(yells)
That's a lie! It was pitch dark!

JERRY (V.O.)
The lights were still on then! She
was mad as hell about their crypto
crashing and for him not telling
her or Branson.

We clearly see Amelia take a stun gun out of her coat pocket
and stun Marcel in the right arm for a long time.

Marcel shakes and falls to the ground slowly onto his left
shoulder.

JERRY (V.O.)
I saw her take out a stun gun and
jab it onto his right arm. The stun
gun lit up and I saw her face. She
just kept it there! He lit up like
a Christmas tree with epilepsy. He
fell onto his left shoulder.

AMELIA (V.O.)
He's a lying criminal trying to
save his own skin. I don't own a
stun gun.

TINA (V.O.)
Only she knew that tattoo was on
his right arm and would hide the
stun gun scars!

EVAN (V.O.)
He didn't fall back, face-up?

JERRY (V.O.)

No. He fell on his left arm and side and Amelia pulled out an envelope in his coat and switched it for one she had in her coat.

EVAN (V.O.)

The purchase agreement switch!
That's business fraud on top of assault!

We see Branson enter the patio with a heavy black coat with the collar pulled up obscuring his face.

JERRY (V.O.)

Then a man in a dark coat came out. Amelia pointed to her husband like he was the devil and whispered something to the man in the dark coat who bent over to check Marcel's pulse while Amelia smiled. The man threw Marcel's pipe away from the body. His fingerprints will be on Marcel's pipe.

AMELIA (V.O.)

He's crazy!

JERRY (V.O.)

Then the man rolled Marcel onto his back and grabbed Marcel by the hair, picked his head up, and slammed it on the patio again and again.

EVAN (V.O.)

Who was the man?

JERRY (V.O.)

I never saw his face. They both went inside.

END FLASHBACK

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - MORNING

Amelia charges Jerry and chokes him.

AMELIA

Liar! You're a liar! I told you, I don't own a stun gun.

(points to Sheryl)

But she does!

(MORE)

AMELIA (CONT'D)

And someone here slipped me rat
poison. Maybe it was the same
person in both crimes!

Evan pulls Amelia off Jerry.

TINA

There's no evidence of rat
poisoning. Zinc phosphine smells
like garlic or fish. You wouldn't
drink it! The glass pieces and the
floor had no such smell.

Evan races to the bar to fetch the two cocktail napkins with
the names "Summer" and "Amelia" on them.

He shows them to everyone.

EVAN

The handwriting is different on
these two napkins.

JERRY

I wrote Summer's name on the one
napkin, but never saw the other
one!

TINA

Amelia wrote the other one!
(angry, points at Amelia)
You faked being poisoned to look
like a victim instead of a villain!

SUMMER

I found a stun gun in Sheryl's
room. I gave it to the Sheriff.

Tina holds up the evidence bag with the stun gun in it.

SHERYL

That model stun gun has 20,000
Volts max and my fingerprints won't
be on it.

Sheryl pulls out a bigger stun gun from her purse, steps to
Amelia, and ZAPS her in the chest.

Amelia falls to the floor and shakes like crazy.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

My model has 50,000 Volts. Still
not enough to kill anyone.

Evan stares at his mom's stun gun and smiles.

EVAN

Note that the electrodes are two inches apart, not one inch apart like Amelia's model.

Sheryl points to the evidence bag with the stun gun.

EVAN (CONT'D)

(to Amelia)

Who else would benefit from planting a stun gun in my mom's room?

SHERYL

(to Evan)

I knew she did it.

(to Tina)

The Sheriff needed our help on this case.

Tina's eyes open wide.

Evan turns to his mom, sad.

EVAN

The Sheriff and I thought you tased Mr. Dubois because you knew he wanted to be a co-owner of the winery. I'm sorry we didn't trust you more.

TINA

There's still a piece of the puzzle we don't have. We'll need a hair sample from Mr. Dubois for more evidence.

Tina grabs scissors from behind the bar. Tina and Evan exit to the kitchen.

SHERYL

(smirks)

What's that supposed to prove?

TINA

Maybe nothing.

She returns with a small lock of hair in an evidence bag.

Evan and the others look at it, puzzled.

Tina opens the bag, closes her eyes, and sniffs.

She closes the bag, turns her head, and smells the air, then opens the bag and sniffs again.

She hands the bag back to Evan, who sniffs the bag, as Tina steps out from behind the bar and walks directly to Branson.

Tina pulls Branson's hands up to her nose.

Branson tries to pull them back, but Tina holds on to get a sniff.

Sheryl steps between Branson and Tina and gets in her face.

SHERYL

Not the magic nose B.S. again!

TINA

You smell it!

Sheryl puts her nose in the evidence bag.

SHERYL

Faint smell of hand sanitizer?

TINA

Who is the only germaphobe here?

BRANSON

That's ridiculous.

TINA

I suggest you place Mr. Wright's hand sanitizer into evidence. Each brand has its unique chemical signature.

Evan races to his dad.

EVAN

Dad? Say it isn't so.

Amelia panics and sobs.

AMELIA

I didn't want you to kill him!

Sheryl laughs.

SHERYL

A crime of passion and stupidity.

Everyone turns to see Amelia staring at Branson.

SHERYL (CONT'D)

(to Branson)

Make that two crimes of passion and stupidity.

(beat)

Branson! Shut her up!

Branson looks away as the Sheriff steps in.

EVAN

(sad)

Dad?

SHERYL

Your father's a fool.

(points to Amelia but
speaks to Evan)

All the time he thought she'd run away with him, she was running after you! She played you both!

Evan glares at Amelia who looks away.

The Sheriff looks around the room and sees everyone is stunned.

SHERIFF

What did I miss? You all look like you've seen a ghost!

SHERYL

Jerry was about to confess.

SHERIFF

Wait until your lawyer gets here.

ALL

Too late!

JERRY

I got one more thing to say.

SHERIFF

(puzzled)

One more...

JERRY

(interrupts)

My wine collection in the vault? My treasure?

Everyone's eyes are on Jerry.

JERRY (CONT'D)

No money in suitcases. No jewelry.
No stocks and bonds. The only thing
in the vault is a case of...

TINA

(interrupts)

Chateau D'Yquem Premier Grand Cru
Sauternes from Bordeaux.

SUMMER

(softly)

The wine you served at our
Christmas wedding.

Sheryl steps over to Jerry and starts to untie him.

SHERYL

One last futile grand gesture to
gain your wife back, and maybe your
winery.

SHERIFF

Hey, he's still in a lot of trouble
for tampering with an ankle
monitor, and breaking his
restraining order...

SHERYL

(interrupts)

My idiot husband's in a lot more
trouble. He and Amelia killed that
con man shyster, Marcel Dubois.

The Sheriff looks puzzled.

SHERIFF

What the hell did I miss here?

Tina picks up her tablet computer and Evan and Tina pull the
Sheriff aside for a recap.

TINA

I have a video of the entire trial.

SHERIFF

What trial?

Sheryl stomps over to Branson and gets in his face.

SHERYL

Evan told me your bags were packed.
(glares at Amelia)

(MORE)

SHERYL (CONT'D)

You weren't thinking with your brain again, Branson!

(whispers to Branson)

Listen and listen good. You'll sign the house in Malibu over to me.

I'll buy the winery for Evan, Summer, Tina, and me; and in exchange, I'll get you the best defense attorney we can afford.

Your story is that you felt no pulse and you dropped his head when you rolled him over. Her attorneys will claim you killed him, and she'll have better lawyers. You'll cooperate with authorities and turn on her for a plea deal.

(gazes at Evan)

And you'll pay for our son's law school too!

Branson doesn't say a word, but he nods 'yes,' and lowers his eyes.

The Sheriff takes the handcuffs off Jerry.

SHERIFF

Did Summer's shotgun cause your RV to explode?

JERRY

No way! I had a remote set up. I honked my horn to get everyone to the front door. I had already cut the wires to the security cameras and I was in the garage waiting to see everyone at the front door.

BEGIN FLASHBACK

EXT. WINERY - NIGHT

We see Summer raising the shotgun, and firing as Jerry is in the background dressed in an all-black ninja suit pressing the remote control.

The RV EXPLODES.

JERRY (V.O.)

(sad)

I didn't think she'd shoot. I was devastated, but I deserved it.

END FLASHBACK

SHERIFF

So, you admit to tampering with the ankle monitor and breaking your restraining order?

JERRY

(resolved)

I had to stop Branson, Sheryl, and the con artists from taking over the Y-nergy at any cost!

(to Sheryl)

But now, I'm beginning to like you.

Sheryl smiles at Jerry, but Summer growls.

SUMMER

Too little, too late, Jerry.

SHERIFF

He'll be back in that ankle monitor in no time.

Sheryl puts an arm around Summer as they stare at Jerry.

SHERYL

Maybe we can hire him to work the parts of the vineyard that are more than one hundred feet away. He did all this for you! His pitiful way of seeking redemption at Christmas.

Summer looks upon Jerry with pity.

SUMMER

You'll sign those divorce papers, you'll stay one hundred feet away, and my shotgun is not going to have rubber pellets next time.

CHARLIE

(laughs)

At least, we hope not.

Summer hugs Sheryl.

Tina moves in to hug Sheryl with Evan smiling at her side.

TINA

I owe you an apology for not trusting you earlier.

SHERYL

I owe you a bigger thank you for watching over my son and your brother.

(to Evan and Tina)

It's your winery too. You're welcome back anytime.

(looks up)

God forbid there should be another murder here.

Everyone smiles as the Sheriff holds up his handcuffs, looks around, and panics.

SHERIFF

Where's Amelia?

They HEAR Branson's car start in the parking lot. They race to the front door.

EXT. WINERY - DAY

They see Amelia backing up Branson's car.

Branson races after her.

BRANSON

Stop! That's my car! It's all I have left!

Branson is about thirty yards away when Amelia picks up Summer's shotgun and fires at him. BAM!

Branson falls back. Sheryl runs to Branson as Amelia races away.

CHARLIE

He'll be fine.

(laughs)

I switched the shells back to the rubber pellets.

Amelia can't get past the burnt RV in the driveway!

Amelia pounds on the steering wheel in anger.

They hear a SIREN in the distance.

A Police Car races to the far side of the RV.

Amelia puts her hands in the air.

Everyone at the door laughs and looks out to the vineyard.

NARRATOR

It couldn't be more true that the
hadiest of vines, like the humans
who tend them, have weathered
countless harsh winters and bitter
conditions beneath the surface. It
pays to look beneath the surface...
even at Christmas.

FADE OUT.

ROLL CREDITS

EXT. WINERY - MORNING

We see the Sheriff loading Amelia and Branson, handcuffed,
into the back of his Sheriff's car. Tina kisses the Sheriff
long and hard before he gets in the driver's seat.

TINA

Only thirteen days on our two
weeks' notice, Steph. We got this.

Tina waves insincerely to Branson and Amelia in the back
seat.

We SEE Evan driving away in Branson's red sports car with law
school brochures on the seat.

INT. WINERY TASTING ROOM - DAY

We SEE Summer happy as can be behind the bar in the Tasting
Room working as the sommelier and serving wine to three Wine
Tasters (Hollywood types). Movie posters are on the walls.

We SEE Sheryl, impeccably dressed walking a Red Carpet from
the front door to the Tasting Room.

SHERYL

Welcome to "The Hollywood and
Vinery."

Summer raises a glass to toast the new co-owner (Sheryl) with
the Wine Tasters.

INT. WINERY KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

We SEE Charlie in a new Chef's Uniform speaking to the fourth
wall. We see Sheryl sneaking up behind Charlie with her stun
gun.

CHARLIE

I was offered a position back with
the National Security Agency... as
Head Chef in their cafeteria.

(laughs)

I declined. It's too exciting here!

Sheryl ZAPS Charlie in the butt with the stun gun. Charlie
collapses behind the range as Sheryl laughs and walks away.

CHARLIE (CONT'D)

Damn it, Boss!

EXT. WINERY - DAY

Way out in the vineyard, we SEE the back of a farm laborer
with a dirty blue shirt, jeans, and a floppy hat. He's
trimming vines. The sign behind him reads, "The Hollywood and
Vinery." Upon closer examination of the worker's leg, we SEE
his ankle monitor with a blinking green light.

FADE TO BLACK.

THE END