

A
Message
From
Beyond

Part 1 of The Double Psychomanteum series

If I can't have you,
then no one can.

Screenplay

By

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TEXT ON SCREEN: 2016

FADE IN:

ROLL CREDITS

While credits roll, we are treated to the tune '*Life is too short girl*' performed by *Sheer Elegance*, along with various scenes of Liverpool in the U.K.

SCENE 1 - EXT. - LIVERPOOL - DAY

NICOLA GILLAN REPORTER
(V.O.)

"All stories have a protagonist or a good guy or gal, and an antagonist or bad guy or gal. This story is no different, except the protagonist is not really a person, as it is GOOD, or BEING GOOD, i.e. CHOOSING THE RIGHT, and conversely, the antagonist, as you have already guessed, is BAD or CHOOSING THE WRONG.

I'm Nicola Gillan, a reporter for the Liverpool Chronicle. Believe it or not, women are three times more likely to report sexual harassment and domestic abuse, be it physical, mental or sexual even if it is founded or not, than men, who are three times less likely to report such abuse and would rather suffer in silence. Hence there are three times more male victims than reported and three times fewer female victims than reported, all owing to the preconditioning of society to be bigoted, racist, sexist and the stigma of the preconceived idea, that it is always the woman who is the victim and **never** the man. The fact is, that there are more women who will harm their babies and partners: physically, mentally and spiritually, than there are male perpetrators in such cases. Just like it's always the blacks who are the guilty ones, never the honkeys.

In books and movies, police investigations are often glorified just like battles in war movies. No one is given the true story, and cases are miraculously solved using advanced technology and 'enhanced' investigation techniques, when the truth of the matter is, it is often down to sheer luck, as our emergency services are stretched out and suffering considerably due to lack of finances and how the law appears to favour the law breakers, like upholding complaints against the use of facial recognition and other tools to combat crime.

COVID-19 was declared to have 'officially' broken out in the U.K. around December 2019, but as a reporter, I can tell you, that it was sooner, much sooner. It along with its related legislation, has also increased the strain on the emergency services, thus impeding their operation.

It was late at night, on October the 12th 2019, just before the 'official outbreak, as I had been looking over the river Mersey near Pier Head, hoping for that break to boost my career as a reporter, while watching the ice-fog creeping in over the city in the shape of a crawling hand, slowly getting a strangle hold of the city and its inhabitants, while up in the sky the moon draped in blood, waded in the clouds. Then as I got closer to Albert Docks, I heard the sound of a siren of an ambulance approaching and saw the flashing lights and the red smoke from an emergency flare, it was at that moment I ran into two friends of mine from my school-days, with whom I had lost contact, namely: Lieutenant Inspector Brianne O'Leary and Sea-Captain Loretta Le May who had just got engaged to her boyfriend Ambrose Bryce, who had broken up with his ex-girlfriend back in 2016. - This is their story I uncovered, as it was related to me:"

SCENE 2- LIVING ROOM - EVENING

Ambrose Bryce sits on the couch watching television in his ex-girlfriend's house.

CJ walks in and stands in front of him.

CJ
(In a threatening tone of voice)
"You raised your hand to my auntie."

AMBROSE
"No, I didn't."

CJ
"Liar. She says you did, and I believe her."

AMBROSE
"Of course, you do. She's your aunt. But that doesn't mean it's true."

CJ
"Are you calling my auntie a liar? - Because if you are..."

AMBROSE
"No, I believe you when you say she says I raised my hand to her, but she didn't tell you the whole story."

CJ
"What do you mean?"

AMBROSE
"I mean she had a stick in her hand, and was going to hit me with it for no reason, and I took it from her, and threw it towards the French Doors; And in that sense, I did raise my hand, but only to throw the stick away from the both of us."

CJ
"One of you is lying."

AMBROSE
"She just distorted the truth, by telling you half the truth, albeit truth by omission."

CJ
"I'm going to find out the truth, and if I find out your lying, I'll kill ya. I'll flaming kill ya."

And with those words, Ambrose leaves the house.

SCENE 3 - EXT. ON THE KERBSIDE OF PEACOCK PLACE - EVENING

As he rounds the corner of Peacock Place, he hears footsteps of someone running. He turns round, only to see CJ with a baseball bat, who raises it above his head, and swings it towards Ambrose's head..

TEXT ON SCREEN: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11th 2019
DR. ROBERTS HYPNOTHERAPY SURGERY

SCENE 4 - INT. DR. ROBERTS HYPNOTHERAPY SURGERY - DAY

Evelyn Kernow is on a couch in the doctor's surgery, where Dr. Roberts is concluding her final hypnosis session.

DR. ROBERTS

"5-4-3-2-1 and your back in the room. Well Ms. Kernow, you seem to have been coping well, after your break-up with Mr. Bryce three years ago."

EVELYN

"Well, time flies when you're having fun, they say."

DR. ROBERTS

"Indeed, they do, indeed they do."

EVELYN

"Got any final pearls of wisdom for me before I go?"

DR. ROBERTS

"No, not really, except that my door is always open if you need me."

EVELYN

"Thank you, Dr. Roberts your hypnosis sessions have been very helpful."

DR. ROBERTS

"Oh! By the way. I believe it's your grand child's birthday soon."

EVELYN

"That's right. I'm surprised you remembered."

DR. ROBERTS

"I got her a toy Derringer, since she likes Western's so much."

Dr. Roberts gives her the gun, which makes Evelyn smile.

EVELYN

"Thank you, Dr. Roberts, that's very thoughtful of you."

DR. ROBERTS

"Don't mention it, just stay safe, and remember the old Chinese proverb..."

EVELYN

"What proverb is that?"

DR. ROBERTS

"Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars."

EVELYN

"What does that even mean?"

DR. ROBERTS

"It means: Don't tie yourself to worldly things but aim for things spiritual and don't be afraid to have aspirations."

EVELYN

"Thank you Dr. and good-bye."

DR. ROBERTS

"Your welcome. Good-bye and good luck in all your endeavours."

EVELYN

"And you Dr. Roberts."

SCENE 5 - EXT. ALBERT DOCKS, LIVERPOOL - DAY

**TEXT ON SCREEN: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12TH. 2019
ALBERT DOCKS, LIVERPOOL**

Ambrose is listening to *Sheer Elegance* perform '*Life is too short girl*' on the radio, via his mobile phone, where they've just reached the verse, where they're singing: "...*Look for the right one, who'll make you feel happy, because I want to be free...*", when he notices Lorretta. His heart skips a beat, as she is the only woman he feels can set him free, and she's wearing her oh! so fetching nautical attire, so he immediately removes the headphones from his ears, and strikes up a conversation with her.

AMBROSE

"Loretta! It's so nice to see you again."

LORETTA

"So nice to see you too Ambrose."

AMBROSE

"Will you join me for some refreshments at The Smuggler's Cove?"

LORETTA

"I'd love to."

They walk over to The Smuggler's Cove, and place their orders, and take a seat.

LORETTA

"So, what brings you into town?"

AMBROSE

"I was just trying to clear my head."

LORETTA

(Concerned)

"Clear your head??? Is something bothering you?"

AMBROSE

(Sighs)

"Yes, my X has been pestering me, as she wants us to get together again, but I know for a fact, that the relationship is dead in the water, and has been, ever since she told me to leave, and I did - which, by the way, is the best thing I ever did."

LORETTA

(Puzzled)

"So, what's the BIG deal here. Sounds like you did the right thing. Just tell her it's all over and to get a life."

AMBROSE

"This is what is bothering me. I left her around three years ago, and since then, have met you, and would like to take OUR relationship to the next level."

LORETTA

(Pleasantly surprised)

"Ambrose! Do you mean you would like us to get engaged?"

AMBROSE

"That is exactly what I mean. Loretta, will you marry me?"

LORETTA

(Stunned and elated)

"Yes, I will."

Loretta gets up and gives Ambrose a passionate hug and a kiss, to which he responds in kind.

AMBROSE

(With tears of joy)

"Loretta. You've just made me the happiest man on Earth."

LORETTA

"So why the mixed emotions?"

AMBROSE

"Because I have to meet up with that bi-polar bint of a lunatic tonight, to tell her to shove off, once and for all."

LORETTA

"Would you like me to come with you?"

AMBROSE

"That's very kind of you Loretta..."

LORETTA

(Interjects)

"What else is a fiancée for, my dear fiancé?"

AMBROSE

"You don't know how much it means to me, to hear you say that word."

LORETTA

"What? Fiancé."

AMBROSE

"Yes."

LORETTA

"Well, you are... aren't you?"

AMBROSE

"Yes, and you are my fiancée."

LORETTA

"I'm glad we've got that settled.
What I don't get, is why you have to meet up with her at all?"

AMBROSE

"It's because I received a letter from the bank, that they are
refusing to close down the joint account, unless we're both
present. So, I need her to agree to close it down, so I do not
have any connections with her at all. EVER."

LORETTA

"Ah! I see your point."

AMBROSE

"And the worst part is, that she is a raving lunatic. I mean she
goes mad three days before the full moon, on the day of the full
moon, and the three days following it as well."

LORETTA

"That IS disconcerting."

AMBROSE

"So, you can understand my mixed emotions."

LORETTA

"I most certainly can."

AMBROSE

"Besides, she'd probably try and rip your hair out."

LORETTA

"Just let her flaming try, and I'll rip her face of."

AMBROSE

"Always ready to go into battle for me. Eh?"

LORETTA

"You bet ya."

Ambrose looks at her left hand.

AMBROSE

"You know something darling?"

LORETTA
"No, what?"

AMBROSE
"That ring finger on your left hand, could do with a diamond.
What do you say we go shopping?"

LORETTA
"Ambrose. You certainly know how to please a woman.
Why that 'X', of yours ever let you go, I'll never know."

AMBROSE
"Then what are we waiting for. Let's go shopping,
and afterwards, we can find a nice restaurant."

LORETTA
"Ambrose, as long as I've got you,
It can be The Street Food Diner on the other side of Albert
Docks."

Ambrose smiles at her humility.

AMBROSE
"C'mon then. Let's get you that diamond."

Both stand up and head towards the door.

SCENE 6 - EXT. AMBROSE WALKING - EVENING

TEXT ON SCREEN: 19:27 hrs

Ambrose is walking towards the restaurant, in wrapped
contemplation.

AMBROSE
(V.O.)
*"How come I always choose the wrong women to be with. After all,
I've been told many times, that I could've had my pick of them,
and here I am once again, on the wrong side of the tracks."*

Ambrose looks towards the sky, and notices blood on the moon.

AMBROSE

(V.O.)

"If I were superstitious, I'd be worried having to meet up with that bi-polar lunatic bint when there's blood on the moon, not to mention how thick this ice-fog is getting."

SCENE 7 - INT. LIGHT OF BENGAL RESTAURANT - EVENING

As he walks in, Shiraz the waiter, picks up a menu from the bar and walks up to him, and greets him with a Bengali accent.

SHIRAZ

"Good Evening sir. Table for one?"

AMBROSE

"Table for two actually. I made a reservation for eight o'clock."

SHIRAZ

"This way please. Will the lady be joining you later?"

AMBROSE

"Yes, I assume she has been delayed."

SHIRAZ

"Very good sir. Would sir care for a drink while he waits?"

AMBROSE

"Yes please. I'll have a high ball of ginger ale and tonic water in the same glass, with a slice of lemon and lime please."

SHIRAZ

"Very good sir."

It is as if the waiter senses the occasion, for the table is decorated with a flower; Yet, for some strange reason, Ambrose has the feeling that Evelyn really doesn't want to show up, any more than he wants to be here to meet her. He is just fed up of her always talking about *working things* out, and wanting them to live together while doing so. - Not a chance.

SHIRAZ

"Your drink sir."

AMBROSE
"Thank you."

SHIRAZ
"Would you care to order sir..."

AMBROSE
"Pardon me, but I see, that the lady has just arrived".

Ambrose stands up for Evelyn and motions for her to sit opposite him.

SHIRAZ
"Very good sir. I shall get another menu for Madam."

AMBROSE (V.O.)
(Thinks to himself)
"You got that right. She is a right little Madam. Unless you look at her from side to side of course, then you could say she was BIG; especially her buttocks."

Ambrose stifles a laughter and tries not to smile, as he tries to stop his mind from wandering, as the waiter leaves, to get another menu, while the exchange of pleasantries commences.

AMBROSE
"Good evening Evelyn."

EVELYN
"Good evening Ambrose."

AMBROSE
(Trying to be polite)
"Is that a new outfit your wearing?"

EVELYN
(Nonchalant)
"What? This old thing?"

AMBROSE
(Facetiously)
"At least it's not as old as you. - Sorry! Did I say that out loud?"

The waiter arrives with the menu for Madam.

SHIRAZ
"Your menu Madam."

EVELYN
"Thank you."

SHIRAZ
"Would Madam care for an *apéritif*?"

EVELYN
"Yes please. I'd like an Aperol spritz please, as I am in the mood for Lamb Tikka Masala."

SHIRAZ
"Excellent choice Madam. I shall bring it to you right away."

AMBROSE
"I really don't know why you bother asking for a menu here, you always order Lamb Tikka Masala anyway."

EVELYN
"Did you invite me here to start an argument?"

AMBROSE
"No! THAT's your department. The reason I invited you here tonight, is that you are always talking about, that we need to talk things over, but that is all you ever say. Yet we never do, so I thought it might be refreshing to *actually talk* things over, for a change."

Evelyn is not impressed with his attitude.

EVELYN
"Well you haven't moved back in, for us to talk things OVER."

AMBROSE
"In case you've forgotten, it is YOU, who told ME to leave; Besides, I don't need to move back in for us to talk, we can talk right here. Neutral grounds. If you don't like what you hear, you can always leave, and that will be the end of it."

If looks could kill, he would be dead right now. She isn't pleased. She is out of her comfort zone, but she will be damned, if she is going to give *him* the upper hand. - At which point, the waiter returns.

SHIRAZ

"Can I take your order?"

EVELYN

"Yes, I'll have Lamb Tikka Masala with boiled Pilau Rice, please."

SHIRAZ

"Very good choice Madam; And what would Sir like?"

AMBROSE

"I'll have Chicken Rogan Josh with boiled Basmati Rice, and some Peshwari Nan, please."

EVELYN

"Can I have some Nan bread as well, please."

SHIRAZ

"Would that be normal Nan bread, or Peshwari Nan, like Sir?"

EVELYN

"Normal Nan bread, please."

AMBROSE

"Oh, by the way..."

SHIRAZ

"Yes Sir?"

AMBROSE

"Could we also have some poppadoms and a selection of chutney and sauce while we wait please."

SHIRAZ

"Certainly, sir. Will there be anything else?"

AMBROSE

"Yes, I'll have another High ball of ginger ale and tonic water with a slice of lemon and lime, please."

EVELYN

"And I'll have a bottle of the House Claret please."

SHIRAZ

"Very good Madam."

And with that the waiter leaves them. - The air is so tense you can almost cut it with a knife.

EVELYN

(Smirking)

"So, do I take it you want to come back to live with me?"

AMBROSE

"Not in the slightest."

Evelyn is shocked and drops her guard, then gathers her composure.

EVELYN

"So why are we here then?"

Shakes her cloth napkin and places it on her lap, pretending to look dignified (as if she could).

AMBROSE

"First of all, it is **you** who *a p p e a r s* to think that we have a future together, whereas I do not.

Secondly, if we are to part company, which I believe is inevitable, then there is a matter of closing the joint accounts with Barclay's Bank."

EVELYN

"Hmf. There is nothing in those accounts anyway, I've already checked."

AMBROSE

"I know, I emptied them when I left."

Evelyn glowers at Ambrose with a piercing look. It is as if

daggers are flying out of her eyes. You can tell she hates him for having been **that** much on the ball. She wanted him to be penniless so that he would come *crawling* back to her and *beg* her to take him back.

AMBROSE
(continues)

"After all, it was **my** money that was in the accounts, so **I** should be the one to take it out."

The waiter arrives.

SHIRAZ
"Your drinks and your poppadoms with your selection of chutney and sauces."

The waiter places the selection on the table.

AMBROSE
"Thank you."

The waiter leaves.

EVELYN
"It sounds like you've already decided we do not have a future, so I cannot understand why we are here."

AMBROSE
"We are here, to **close this chapter** in our lives, as **you** are the one who is always asking **me** to *talk things over, so we can work things out*, I'd like to hear how you think we can work things out. After all. It takes two to tango, as they say."

EVELYN
"They do don't they. We'll, unlike **you, I**, have **never** referred to **you** as my **ex**."

AMBROSE
(V.O.)
"B I N G O !"

AMBROSE
"Oh no?"

EVELYN
"No!"

AMBROSE
"Funny you should say that, as I received this letter from Barclay's Bank, only a couple of days ago; And it contained a copy of **your** letter to the bank, where **you** refer to **me**, as **your ex**, and inform them, that the relationship is **irrevocably terminated and irreconcilable.**"

AMBROSE
(continues)
"Does this sound like, as we have something to *talk over and are able to work things out*; especially since you have not only declared me as your *ex*, but also stipulated that the relationship is *irrevocably terminated and irreconcilable.*"

The waiter returns, wheeling the serving tray to their table.

SHIRAZ
"Your Lamb Tikka Masala and boiled Pilau Rice Madam."

EVELYN
"Thank you."

SHIRAZ
"And your Chicken Rogan Josh with boiled Basmati Rice Sir."

AMBROSE
"Ah my favourite. *Dunda Bad.*"

To use the only Bengali words he could remember, which mean "Thank you" in Bengali.

EVELYN (V.O.)
"Show off!"

Annoyed that her linguistic prowess, was not of the same

calibre.

SHIRAZ
"Enjoy your meal."

Waiter departs.

EVELYN
"May I see that letter?"

AMBROSE
"Of course. In fact, you can keep it. It's a copy. I've retained the original... *for future reference.*"

EVELYN
(Barks at Ambrose)
"That letter was *private*. They had no business sending it to you."

AMBROSE
(Calm and composed)
"Why not? It concerns *our* joint account, so it concerns *me* as well."

She hates how clever and smug he is, and that he has more brains and balls than she has given him credit for.

AMBROSE
"How are your home improvements coming along?"

EVELYN
"Well, I'm a bit stuck at the moment, as I can no longer afford to do any more experiments."

AMBROSE
"You mean, because you haven't got **my** money to squander, don't you?"

EVELYN
"I'll admit that your income did help a little."

AMBROSE
"Help a little, did it? I seem to recall, that I paid for the car insurance, I paid the mortgage, and I paid for all the home improvements, and all you did, was to rip it all down again."

Simply because, we were going to get married and have children when it was completed."

EVELYN

"Huh! Marriage. It is highly overrated and only a piece of paper; Besides, I've already got Colin. What do I want with another child?"

AMBROSE

"Hmm. To you maybe, to me it is both a sacrament, as well as a declaration of commitment, and yes, you proved that to me, that time, when you went to the pharmacy and bought the morning after pill, to terminate the pregnancy, or should I say, *commit murder.*"

EVELYN

"MURDER. Don't be ridiculous. It's... It's just... a *freedom of choice.* - So, if we had been married, does that mean you wouldn't have left?"

AMBROSE

"Exactly. Marriage means something to me, but obviously, it doesn't have a meaning to you."

EVELYN

"Well marriage is overrated. Besides, I've been married before, and it didn't work out."

AMBROSE

"I wonder why?"

EVELYN

"Don't you dare try and put the blame on me, he cheated on me on our wedding day."

AMBROSE

"Does that mean, you have to tar everyone with the same brush? For as I recall, **you** took *unusually* long, to get your car, when you took it in for repairs, at that garage in Clayton."

EVELYN

"Well he had to open the safe."

AMBROSE

"And **that** took an extra hour?"

EVELYN

"Well, that, ...and he was also feeling upset, so I had to *console* him."

AMBROSE

"*Console* him. I can just imagine **how**, and what the *consolation prize* was, given how much time you spent there."

Evelyn is furious, that he had figured this out, even while they were together.

EVELYN

(V.O.)

"*How could such a dim-witted twerp figure this out?*"

Evelyn composes herself.

EVELYN

"I can do the dirty on you, as it was **you** who cheated on me."

AMBROSE

"No, I didn't."

EVELYN

"What about that Helen?"

AMBROSE

"What about her?"

EVELYN

"You had an affair with her, didn't you?"

AMBROSE

"No."

EVELYN

"Yes, you did."

AMBROSE

"No, I did not. You and I had started dating, when she told me of her interest in me, and invited me over to her place when we were on our way home from work. I declined, as I wanted to be faithful to **you**. - Fidelity, being a term, with which you are obviously **not** acquainted."

EVELYN

"A likely story."

AMBROSE

"It's the truth. Otherwise, I would have stayed on the bus, and gone with her to her place. - However, in retrospect, I probably would have been better off, had I gone home with her."

EVELYN

"It's a pity you didn't."

AMBROSE

"It most certainly is."

She gives him a dirty look for agreeing with her.

EVELYN

"And what about Sarah, the one with the duck?"

AMBROSE

"She took a fancy to me too, but again, I declined as I wanted to remain faithful to **you**, but don't ask me why, since looking back, I would have been better off going off with her as well. Perhaps I would be happy now and have kids. After all, Ducks' mate for life, and maybe it was her way of saying she would be faithful and true for time and all eternity; **Unlike some people I know.**"

Evelyn is fuming because of that remark.

EVELYN

"And what about your team leader? You had an affair with her as well. Didn't you?"

AMBROSE

"Who? René?"

Ambrose laughs out loud.

AMBROSE

(Continues)

"Goodness gracious me, no. First of all, I didn't have an affair with her, and **you** my dear Evelyn, would stand a better

chance than I."

EVELYN

"What do you mean?"

AMBROSE

"I mean, she is a lesbian. She fancies women. But I hate to break it to you, but last I knew, she was in a serious relationship with another woman, and they were living together, and making out et cetera, well, however women make out with each other and do the et cetera?"

EVELYN

"They play with each other's INTIMATE PARTS, you ignorant fool."

AMBROSE

"Ah! *The voice of experience.*"

The waiter comes up to the table.

SHIRAZ

"Was your meal to your satisfaction?"

EVELYN

(Trying not to take her temper out on the waiter)
"Lovely thank you."

AMBROSE

"Always to the highest standards."

SHIRAZ

"Would you care for a desert, or a *digestif* perhaps?"

AMBROSE

"I'll have a rainbow ice cream, please, with a selection of sauces."

EVELYN

"I'll have a Bailey's, please."

AMBROSE

"Well if I was so awful, to be with, why then have you been asking for us to meet up and work things out?"

EVELYN

"Because I can't bear the thought of you being in the arms of another woman. Making love and even having children..."

AMBROSE

"Oh! Now the penny drops. That's why you wanted me to have the *SNIP*. You wanted me to have a vasectomy, so I could not procreate with anyone, and you thought that would tie me to you."

EVELYN

"**YES!** And if you had really loved me, you would have done so."

AMBROSE

"So that is why you wanted to fill the house with animals, they were supposed to be surrogate *posterity*, for the want of a better term. - To keep me busy, so I would not want kids. - You are really something else Evelyn. - Did you seriously think that it would make me happy in our relationship, with only animals and no children?"

EVELYN

"Maybe not happy... just... content, but not to worry, I'll get over you. *Eventually.*"

AMBROSE

"Well, I'm already over you."

If looks could kill, he would be dead right now - Again.

AMBROSE

"Oh! by the way, speaking of love. If you had really loved me, you wouldn't have come after me with that stick."

EVELYN

"AND if you were a real man, you would have a l l o w e d me to hit you."

A brief silence, and then Ambrose breaks the silence by changing the subject with a diplomatic query.

AMBROSE

"I believe it's your birthday soon?"

EVELYN

"You remembered?"

AMBROSE

"Yes, I did."

EVELYN

"Well, my son Colin and his wife A n n a have invited me to San Remo's for my birthday, and you are **not** invited."

AMBROSE (V.O.)

(Thinks to himself)

"For someone who wanted us to get together again, that wasn't how to go about improving matters any."

He then gives a reply which is like a slap in the face with a wet towel to Evelyn.

AMBROSE

"Spoiling you, is he? But that's alright; I shall be going to Church on Sunday as usual."

She puts up a face like shite, albeit that her face looks like an arse, to use his mother's favourite expression. Not so much because she doesn't like him attending church, but because it is *that* Church, and that he will be *paying tithings and fast offerings* and not spending it on her and her house. She then composes herself and responds.

EVELYN

"**You, never** spoiled me."

AMBROSE

"No need. You're spoiled enough; Besides, it is YOU who spoils everything."

Evelyn glowers at him, as she imagines ending his life in a multitude of ways, as the waiter arrives once again and interrupts the feuding.

SHIRAZ

"Will there be anything else Sir ""?

AMBROSE
"Just the bill please".

The waiter is hesitant.

SHIRAZ
"Separate bills Sir?"

AMBROSE
"No, one bill please, Madam's birthday is coming up; So, it's only fair that I should treat her, as I shall not be HERE for the occasion."

EVELYN
(V.O.)
"You're absolutely right, Ambrose. It would be nicer if you were six feet under."

He hands over his credit card.

AMBROSE
(V.O.)
"It is worth every penny, just to be finally **rid of you for good Evelyn.**"

SHIRAZ
"Very good Sir."

Evelyn tries to act delightedly surprised as she resists the urge to strangle Ambrose.

EVELYN
"Why thank you, Ambrose. What a pleasant surprise and thoughtful of you."

AMBROSE
"Not at all, it is our **last supper** together."

Her face changes as she isn't sure how to take that. Then she notices a picture in his wallet, of a female in nautical attire.

EVELYN

"Who is that you've got a picture of in your wallet? Is it one of your nieces?"

AMBROSE

"Oh! This. This is Loretta. My fiancée."

Evelyn's face drops a mile

EVELYN

"That didn't take you very long."

AMBROSE

"What are you on about?"

EVELYN

"Getting another woman."

AMBROSE

"Evelyn, it's been three years since we parted company."

EVELYN

"If you really loved me, you would be pining for me."

AMBROSE

"I *was* in love with you Evelyn, but I fell out of love with you, after you threw me out of your house. As for pining, the only pines in our relationship, were the needles and pins and your incessant needling at your imaginary ideas of infidelity, all because your ex-husband cheated on you, so you tarred everyone with the same brush, and were always looking for signs of infidelity, to justify your lack of commitment."

EVELYN

"Piffle."

AMBROSE

"Loretta, is very nautical."

EVELYN

"Well, I wanted to be a naughty gal, but you weren't interested, because of your religious beliefs."

AMBROSE

"As we discussed earlier my dear. You declined marriage,
besides, I said 'Nautical' not 'naughty gal'."

EVELYN

"Hrmf! You and your pieces of paper."

The waiter returns with the Bill, Credit Card and the Point of Sale Interface.

SHIRAZ

"Your bill Sir."

AMBROSE

"Thank you."

Ambrose looks at the credit card receipt, and adds 15% gratuity, and the waiter adds it on into the machine and presses enter, then gives him his card back along with the amended receipt.

SHIRAZ

"Thank you very much. Sir is too kind."

AMBROSE

"Not at all. Thank you, the meal and service have been
impeccable as always, as has the ambience."

SHIRAZ

"You are most welcome Sir."

And with these words Evelyn and Ambrose stand up, and the waiter helps Madam on with her coat and escorts them to the door, then the waiter holds the door open for them as they vacate the establishment.

SHIRAZ

"Good night, Madam."

EVELYN

"Good night."

SHIRAZ

"Good night, Sir."

AMBROSE

"Good night Shiraz and thank you once again."

SHIRAZ
"And you Sir, enjoy the rest of your evening."

AMBROSE
(To waiter)
"And you."

Ambrose and Evelyn exit the restaurant.

SCENE 8 - EXT. THE LIGHT OF BENGAL RESTAURANT - EVENING

AMBROSE
(To Evelyn)
"Enjoy your birthday, and please give Colin and Anna my love,
won't you?"

EVELYN
(V.O.)
(Thinking to herself)
"No, I won't you two faced flaming hypocrite."

EVELYN
"But of course, I will."

AMBROSE
(V.O.)
(Thinks to himself)
"Yeah, like when hell freezes over."

AMBROSE
"Good night Evelyn... and don't think it has been pleasant seeing
you again because it hasn't. Anyway, enjoy your birthday with
your son and his *partner*, and enjoy the rest of your life..."

AMBROSE
(V.O.)
"...without me."

EVELYN
"And you."

EVELYN

(V.O.)
(Forces a smile that nearly makes her face crack)
"You sanctimonious shit arse."

Ambrose turns round and never looks back, as if *Fate* wants him out of that relationship.

AMBROSE
(V.O.)
"Good-bye and good riddance."

EVELYN
(V.O.)
"He doesn't even look back, the pig."

Ambrose walks away singing 'Life is to short girl' performed by Sheer Elegance and his image fades into the fog as the tune fades out.

"Life is to short Girl
That's why I must be moving on and on
If my body's flowing my mind going Baby.

Look for the right one
Who'll make you feel happy
Because I want to be FREE.

Da dah, da da dah,
Dah da da dah, da-h da-a-ah, da da da dah.
Da dah, da da dah,
Dah da da dah..."

EVELYN
"So *that's* how little I mean to him..."

Evelyn thinks to herself, feeling bitter and hurt.

SCENE 9 - INT. ABOARD THE GOOD INTENT - EVENING

Loretta is sitting in the galley with a glass of water and admiring the ring Ambrose gave to her, when she has a premonition, and sees a flash in the glass of water and an image of Ambrose falling onto the deck of her boat, she gasps and then looks at her watch and dashes topside to see if he is on his

way.

SCENE 10 - EXT. ABOARD THE GOOD INTENT - EVENING

Loretta comes up on deck and looks for Ambrose.

Ambrose approaches the boat and smiles as he sees Loretta. Loretta smiles back at him. He boards the boat, and they have a warm embrace and kiss.

In the shadows in the distance, we can just make out the silhouette of a woman on the quayside. It is Evelyn.

SCENE 11 - EXT. ABOARD THE GOOD INTENT - EVENING

LORETTA
"How did it go darling?"

AMBROSE
"I'm rid of her at last."

LORETTA
"I'm so happy."

AMBROSE
"As am I. Now we can start planning our lives together."

SCENE 12 - ZOOM IN OF EVELYN CRYING ON THE QUAYSIDE - EVENING

The camera zooms in on Evelyn staring at Ambrose and Loretta; We hear the tune UNBREAK MY HEART, with Toni Braxton, going through her mind, as she reminisces with tears streaming down her cheeks:

*"Unbreak my heart,
Say you love me again.
Undo this hurt you
caused when you
walked out the door
and walked out of my life.
Uncry these tears, I
cried so many nights.
Unbreak my heart."*

SCENE 13 - EVELYN STILL CRYING ON THE QUAYSIDE - EVENING

EVELYN

"In another woman's arms eh? Not on my watch.
If I can't have you, then no one can."

Evelyn opens her handbag, and takes out what appears to be a Derringer, aims in Ambrose's direction and without hesitation yet loving care she gently *squeezes* the trigger, as if to savour the moment.

CUT TO

Loretta sees a brief flash of light and looks towards where she heard the gunfire come from, then sees and feels Ambrose fall from her arms to the deck with his head bleeding.

CUT TO

EVELYN

"Aaaahh! Ow!!!"

CUT TO

Loretta begins to attend to Ambrose when she hears something hitting the water. She turns to the direction of the sound, and sees a dark silhouette disappear into the night. More concerned for Ambrose's safety, she turns her attention to her beloved fiancé.

LORETTA

"Ambrose! Ambrose! Don't you dare die on me, now that we've found each other."

Loretta reaches for her mobile phone to call for an ambulance.

OPERATOR

"9-9-9, What's your emergency?"

LORETTA

"I need an ambulance. My fiancé has been shot. Come quickly. We're onboard the GOOD INTENT and are moored at Albert Docks."

OPERATOR

"The ambulance will be with you as soon as possible, but there may be slight delay, due to the fog."

LORETTA

"I'll light a flare to make it easier for you to find us."

OPERATOR

"Is the victim responsive?"

LORETTA

"No. He's unconscious, but I'm a trained first aider and will keep pressure on the wound and I have him in the recovery position."

OPERATOR

"Very good.."

LORETTA

(Interrupts)

"I'm sorry, I have to put the phone away to attend to his wounds."

Loretta hangs up and runs to get a flare and first aid kit, when she hears a familiar voice:

NICOLA

"Permission to come aboard Captain?"

Loretta looks up, and sees it is her friend Nicola Gillan, whom she went to school with many years ago. She is relieved to see her at this difficult moment.

LORETTA

"Permission granted old friend. You arrived in time like a ministering angel."

NICOLA

"Thanks, but I was walking along the pier on the other side, when I heard a gunshot, so I came running."

LORETTA

"Did you see it happen?"

NICOLA

"No, I'm afraid not. I was on the other side of the pier, but around the corner, so all I heard was the gunshot, but I didn't see anything. I'm sorry. Who is this guy anyway? Do you know him?"

LORETTA

"Yes, his name is Ambrose, and he's my fiancé."

NICOLA

"Fiancé? Congratulations. When did this happen?"

LORETTA

"This morning."

NICOLA

"That's one heck of a way to start an engagement ... Here, let me help you bandage him, and get him in the recovery position."

LORETTA

"Thanks."

SCENE 14 - EXT. EVELYN WALKING THE STREETS - EVENING

EVELYN is wrapping her scarf around her right hand, which is bleeding.

EVELYN

(V.O.)

"Stupid gun, blowing up like that. Ah! But who cares? Ambrose is finally dead and gone, and YOU his new fiancée, can weep as bitterly as I did, when he left me."

SCENE 15 - EXT. ABOARD THE GOOD INTENT, ALBERT DOCKS - EVENING

Loretta and Nicola have bandaged Ambrose's head and put him in the recovery position. Loretta looks up as she hears the sirens of the ambulance and can see the flashing lights in the fog. She quickly reaches for the flare, and gets onto the concrete quay, rips the tape off and ignites the flare which immediately burns a bright fiery red with red smoke billowing from it.

The ambulance drivers see the flare and hurry towards it and quickly get out their kit and come aboard.

LORETTA

"Thank goodness your here."

PARAMEDIC 1

"We got here as quickly as we could."

LORETTA

"I did the best I could for him with my first aid kit and training."

PARAMEDIC 2

"You did a good job. We'll take over from here."

Just then the police arrive. Chief Inspector Brianne O'Leary walks towards the GOOD INTENT, and sees the paramedics attending to Ambrose and preparing to move him onto the stretcher. She also sees Sea-Captain Loretta Le May, holding Ambrose's hand and crying. She tries to sound sympathetic, but has also to be business like:

C.I. O'LEARY

"Permission to come aboard Captain?"

Loretta looks up and sees another familiar face.

LORETTA

"Permission granted ... Brianne? Brianne O'Leary? Is that you?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"Chief Inspector Brianne O'Leary, at your service and this is my colleague Sergeant O'Malley..."

C.I. O'Leary hesitates momentarily and then continues:

C.I. O'LEARY

(Continues)

"Loretta? Loretta Le May?"

LORETTA

"Yes... You remembered."

C.I. O'LEARY

"So, you're a Sea-Captain now?"

LORETTA

"Yes, and the GOOD INTENT, is my vessel. You remember Nicola

Gillan, don't you?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"Yes, I do. I'm sorry for getting down to business, but do you know the victim?"

LORETTA

"Yes. Yes, I do. His name is Ambrose Bryce."

C.I. O'LEARY

"And what is your relationship to him?"

LORETTA

"He's my fiancé."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Fiancé you say. Have you been engaged long?"

LORETTA

"No; We got engaged this morning."

C.I. O'LEARY

"That's a hell of a way to start an engagement. Have you known each other long?"

LORETTA

"About three years."

C.I. O'LEARY

"So, this wasn't a spontaneous engagement then. I mean, you've been courting these three years I take it?"

LORETTA

"Yes, we have."

C.I. O'LEARY

"I believe, you reported that the victim had been shot?"

LORETTA

"Yes, I did. He had just come on board, and I greeted him with a warm embrace and an affectionate kiss, when I saw a flash in the fog out of the corner of my eye and heard what I thought was gunfire, and then Ambrose fell to the deck. When I bent down to help him, his head was bleeding and he was unconscious."

C.I. O'LEARY

"I know this must be devastating for you Captain, but did you

see the assailant?"

LORETTA

"No, as I said earlier, I did look up in the general direction of the muzzle-flash and sound of the gunshot, but all I could see was a dark silhouette disappear into the fog."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Male or female?"

LORETTA

"Hard to tell due to the fog?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"Now, Ms. Gillan, did you see anyone?"

NICOLA

"I'm afraid not, you see I was out for a walk along the pier on the other side when I heard a gunshot and came running over."

C.I. O'LEARY

"You heard a gunshot, but didn't see anything? You didn't even look in the general direction of the sound?"

NICOLA

"I couldn't, I was around the corner over there when I heard the shot."

Points in the general direction, from whence she came.

C.I. O'LEARY

"I understand. Do either of you know of anyone who could possibly want to do your fiancé any harm?"

NICOLA

"No, not I. Loretta and I just happen to meet tonight, so, this is the first time I've seen her fiancé"

LORETTA

"Well... I don't know exactly if she would like to do him harm.."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Who would this be?"

LORETTA
"It's his ex-fiancée."

C.I. O'LEARY
"His ex-fiancée? The one from three years ago? - I find that hard to believe."

LORETTA
"So, would I, except..."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Except what?"

LORETTA
"Except, they were supposed to meet up 'The Light of Bengal' restaurant tonight."

C.I. O'LEARY
"WHAT! Forgive me, but why on earth would he want to meet up with his ex-fiancée, on the evening of your engagement?"

LORETTA
"Believe it or not, Chief Inspector, but she is the possessive type, and kept asking him to come back."

C.I. O'LEARY
"I mean, all he had to do was to tell her to get a life."

LORETTA
"Ha ha ha. That's what I told him, until he explained, that Barclay's Bank, where they had had a joint account, refused to close the account, unless both were present. So, he had previously arranged, to meet up with her at 'The Light of Bengal' restaurant, to *talk things* over. He chose it, as it was a public place as well as neutral grounds. This way, in case she lost her rag, he could always walk away."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Sounds sensible enough I guess, but did he explain why he anticipated her to lose her rag?"

LORETTA
"As I said earlier, he said she is the possessive type, and he also mentioned that she is bi-polar and can easily flip her lid."

C.I. O'LEARY
"I see."

LORETTA
"He also said she was a lunatic."

C.I. O'LEARY
"She most certainly sounds like it."

LORETTA
"No, I mean she is *literally* influenced by the phases of the moon."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Are you serious?"

LORETTA
"Yes. He said that she becomes exceedingly difficult to be around, three days before the full moon, at the full moon, and the three days following the full moon."

C.I. O'LEARY
"So, did he happen to say if she turned into a werewolf too, or is she an Animagus?"

LORETTA
"Ha ha ha. No, but he did say, that during those days, she could be equally as violent."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Now I've heard everything."

LORETTA
"Actually... No, you haven't."

C.I. O'LEARY
"There's more?"

LORETTA
"Yes. There's a full moon tonight."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Interesting. So, you're saying, that this could be a crime of passion?"

LORETTA

"I'm just giving you the information, Ambrose related to me today, before he had to rendezvous with his ex-fiancée."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Why did he have to be so old fashioned?"

LORETTA

"What do you mean Chief Inspector?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"I mean, why couldn't he do what everyone else does today? Like: Send a text message, use: messenger or zoom. Then we wouldn't have this mess."

LORETTA

"This isn't like in one of those crime fiction novels or movies, Chief Inspector, or you would be out of a job."

C.I. O'LEARY

"I suppose your right. You couldn't invent a scenario like this. I don't suppose you know her name, by any chance?"

LORETTA

"Yes, her name is Evelyn Kernow."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Do you know where she lives too?"

LORETTA

"Not her present address, but when they were together, they lived at 28 Peacock Place, but that was three years ago."

C.I. O'LEARY

"28 Peacock Place. I'm not familiar with that street. In which area is it, please?"

LORETTA

"Denton. In Manchester."

C.I. O'LEARY

"MANCHESTER? I guess we'll have to contact our colleagues there. Well, at least that gives us something to go on. Here's my card and phone number if you remember or can think of anything else."

LORETTA

"Actually..."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Yes?"

LORETTA

"There is something else..."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Please, every detail, no matter how insignificant it can appear, can be of vital importance to us."

LORETTA

"Just after I heard the gunshot, I swear I heard like someone crying out, as if they had injured themselves... and just after that, a splash, as if something had hit the water."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Sounds like the assailant, may have got caught in the breech mechanism and discarded the weapon. This could give us traces of DNA if we're lucky, however, since you said, that the weapon may have been thrown into the sea, the DNA sample could be compromised..."

Sergeant O'Malley, interrupts the interrogation:

SGT. O'MALLEY

"Sorry to interrupt you Chief Inspector..."

C.I. O'LEARY

"What is it Sergeant?"

SGT. O'MALLEY

"The paramedics are ready to move the victim to the Accident and Emergency department at Royal Liverpool University Hospital."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Thank you, Sergeant."

LORETTA

"Forgive me for interrupting Sergeant, but we weren't properly introduced earlier. My name is Loretta Le May, I'm the victim's fiancée. Is there any chance I can accompany my fiancé to the hospital?"

SGT. O'MALLEY

"Sorry, I should've introduced myself. Sergeant O'Malley, at

your service. If the Chief Inspector has no objections, you may accompany your fiancé."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Just one more thing Captain before you accompany your fiancé..."

LORETTA

"Certainly."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Where exactly, did you see this silhouette, and in which direction do you think the assailant may have discarded the weapon?"

LORETTA

"Over there."

Loretta points in the direction of where she saw the figure.

C.I. O'LEARY

"Thank you, Captain, you've been most helpful."

LORETTA

"Thank you, Chief Inspector, for being so understanding."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Sergeant get a team of frogmen here to search the drink for the weapon. It looks like we're in for a l o n g night."

LORETTA

"Oh! by the way, Chief Inspector..."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Yes, what is it."

LORETTA

"Can you have someone look after my vessel, till I get back, please?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"Certainly. That will not be a problem, as this is now officially an active crime scene."

LORETTA

"Thank you. Oh! And help yourselves to whatever you want in the galley. It's a chilly night."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Thank you, Captain."

LORETTA
"You're welcome."

C.I. O'LEARY
"You wouldn't happen to have any Chicory on board, would you?"

LORETTA
"Ha, ha, ha. Same old O'Leary. Yes, I do, bottom shelf, above the kettle. I haven't changed either."

C.I. O'LEARY
"We'll continue our conversation later; Perhaps at the hospital."

LORETTA
"No problems."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Sergeant."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"Yes sir? I mean, Mam."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Have Murgatroyd and Carruthers escort the ambulance to the hospital and stand guard over Mr. Bryce. We don't want any more attempts on his life."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"Yes Mam. "

The paramedics have managed to get the stretcher off the vessel and into the ambulance, and Loretta joins them just in time. They race towards the hospital with flashing lights only and no siren, escorted by the officers in a police car, as Sgt. O'Malley hands C.I. O'Leary an evidence bag.

SGT. O'MALLEY
"Chief Inspector, I recovered this shard of ice, tainted with the victim's blood along with traces of, what appears to be

gunpowder."

C.I. O'Leary gives her Sergeant a stern look, and in disbelief, replies:

C.I. O'LEARY

"Are you telling me, that the assailant, tried to *literally* ICE the victim?"

SGT. O'MALLEY

"It certainly looks that way."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Jeepers Creepers. - I can't believe I'm saying this, but keep the evidence on ice, and get it over to forensics a.s.a.p. and get those frogmen down here and have them search the drink, for that weapon, would you please.. We are in for a long night."

NICOLA

"Forgive my intrusion Chief Inspector ..."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Yes, what is it?"

NICOLA

"I'm a reporter for The Liverpool Gazette..."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Oh! Bollocks."

NICOLA

"Now, now, don't be like that ..."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Sorry, go ahead."

NICOLA

"All I wanted to say, is that I'll just print the minimum details, i.e. that there was a shooting at Albert Docks, and the victim has been taken to hospital, and the police would like anyone who may have witnessed the incident or have any information to come forward."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Why are you being so nice?"

NICOLA

"Loretta is a friend of ours, and I still consider you an OLD friend ..."

C.I. O'LEARY

"That's enough with the OLD ..."

NICOLA

"Well, an exclusive wouldn't hurt ..."

C.I. O'LEARY

"I knew it, there's no such thing as a free lunch."

NICOLA

"You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Alright, but only for old time's sake, and you'll only release information I tell you to. Understood?"

NICOLA

"Understood. Deal?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"Deal. Now bugger off. We've got a crime scene to deal with."

NICOLA

"Thank you, Chief Inspector. If I hurry, I may still be able to get the morning edition."

Nicola hurries away to the office.

C.I. O'LEARY

"Pigging reporters. Like vultures they are."

O'MALLEY

"Chief, the captain said that there is some chicory in the galley, if you would like some."

C.I. O'LEARY

"That is the most sensible thing you've said all night, O'Malley."

SCENE 16 EXT. - ROYAL LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - NIGHT

The ambulance arrives, followed by the officers assigned to guard Ambrose. The paramedics are greeted by the staff of the A&E.

SCENE 17 INT. - ROYAL LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - NIGHT

PHYSICIAN

"What have we got?"

PARAMEDIC 1

"Gunshot victim, who is unconscious and unresponsive. Male Caucasian, BP is 170 over 110, pulse 69 and O₂ Sat. 89%."

PHYSICIAN

"Alright, let's get him transferred over to a gurney, and get him to OR3. Get ready to lift on three. 1 - 2 - 3."

Physician turns to Loretta.

PHYSICIAN

(CONTINUES)

"I'm sorry, you'll have to wait here."

Loretta bursts into tears, as she watches her beloved Ambrose being wheeled away on a gurney.

TEXT ON SCREEN: LATER

Loretta looks at her watch, waiting with officers Murgatroyd and Carruthers at their posts as a doctor arrives.

DR. BEN CASEY

"Mrs. Bryce? I'm Dr. Ben Casey."

LORETTA

"No, I'm his fiancée, Loretta Le May. I'm afraid I'm the nearest thing he's got to next of kin. He does have nieces, but they

live abroad."

DR. BEN CASEY
"Have you been engaged long?"

LORETTA
"No, we got engaged today."

DR. BEN CASEY
"Congratulations, although it's one hell of a way to start an engagement, but you have cleared up for us, why we didn't have any next of kin on record."

LORETTA
"Is Ambrose going to be alright? Can I see him?"

DR. BEN CASEY
"Yes, and yes. He's one lucky man."

LORETTA
"Were you able to get the bullet out?"

DR. BEN CASEY
"Bullet? No bullet to retrieve."

LORETTA
"No bullet? Thank goodness for that, but what about the gunshot and the muzzle-flash?"

DR. BEN CASEY
"All we found, were fragments of ice tainted with gunpowder residue."

LORETTA
"ICE?"

DR. BEN CASEY
"Yes, it appears, that there may have been ice partially blocking the barrel of the weapon, thus changing the direction of the projectile, causing him to miss your fiancé's head. However, it was the ice, that ricocheted off his head, causing him to lose his balance and collapse, and then the impact with the ground, is what knocked him unconscious."

LORETTA
"When can I see him?"

DR. BEN CASEY

"You can sit with him now if you like. He's sleeping at the moment and we've given him some medication, but when he wakes up, he's going to have one hell of a headache and may experience migraines for the next few days, which is to be expected, given the circumstances."

LORETTA

"I understand, and thank you Doctor, all I want is to be with him."

DR. BEN CASEY

"Of course."

The Doctor gives the police officers a nod.

DR. BEN CASEY

(CONTINUES)

"Come with me and I'll take you to his room."

They all walk to where Ambrose's room is.

DR. BEN CASEY

"Here we are."

The Doctor opens the door for Loretta.

LORETTA

"Thank you, Doctor. I really appreciate what you and your staff have done."

DR. BEN CASEY

"Happy to help."

CONSTABLE

"We'll be right here if you need anything."

LORETTA

"Thank you, gentlemen."

SCENE 18 EXT. - GOOD INTENT, ALBERT DOCKS, LIVERPOOL - 1 A.M.

TEXT ON SCREEN: M/V GOOD INTENT
1 A.M.

Sergeant O'Malley rushes back on board, carrying an evidence bag, and immediately makes his way to the galley, to report to C.I. O'Leary, who is drinking a cup of Chicory.

SGT. O'MALLEY
"C.S.U. found this on the quayside."

C.I. O'Leary examines the bag and with a puzzled look:

C.I. O'LEARY
"What is that?"

SGT. O'MALLEY
"If you look at it closely, you can see it's some sort of alloy, but the G.S.R, would indicate, that it is possible, that it could be a piece of the weapon in question."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Well I'll be damned. It doesn't look like any weapon I'm familiar with."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"I concur, I can't make head nor tail of it either."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Have forensics and ballistics take a look at it and see what they can make of it."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"Yes, sir."

C.I. O'LEARY
"By the way, how are the frogmen doing?"

SGT. O'MALLEY
"You have got to be kidding me. It's 1 a.m. It's dark and this isn't exactly the cleanest water in Merseyside; So, visibility

is next to nothing."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Damn, I was hoping we would get lucky."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"Lucky? You would have better luck winning the National Lottery."

O'Leary looks at Sgt. O'Malley in dismay.

C.I. O'LEARY
(Smirks)
"I forgot to buy a ticket."

Both laugh.

C.I. O'LEARY
(Continues)
"Carry on Sergeant."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"Yes, Mam, but, on a happier note, the fog isn't as thick as it was."

C.I. O'LEARY
"At least that's something."

TEXT ON SCREEN 4 A.M.

C.I. O'Leary and Sgt. O'Malley are both on deck, hoping for a breakthrough in their case.

C.I. O'LEARY
"Why is it, that we always get homicide cases, when it is cold and damp?"

SGT. O'MALLEY
(Grins)

"To avoid decomposition."

O'Leary looks at O'Malley in disbelief.

C.I. O'LEARY

"You've got an answer for everything, haven't you?"

SGT. O'MALLEY

"Well, just doing what you taught me."

C.I. O'LEARY

"What 'I' taught you?"

SGT. O'MALLEY

"Yes, Observe, Detect, Deduct."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Brilliant deduction, Holmes."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"Thank you, Dr. Watson."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Watch it."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"Do I get Brownie points for that, sir?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"You'll get brown something alright."

Something in the water catches O'Malley's eye.

SGT. O'MALLEY

"Sir!"

O'Malley points in the direction, where the frogmen have just surfaced.

SGT. O'MALLEY

"Sir, I think they've found something."

C.I. O'LEARY
"I sincerely hope it's the murder weapon."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"Well, technically it's an attempted homicide, as the victim
didn't die."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Stop being so bloody pedantic, O'Malley."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"Just saying..."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Let me guess. Another observation?"

SGT. O'MALLEY
"You're words, not mine."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Hm."

O'Leary turns to the frogmen:

C.I. O'LEARY
(Continues)
"Did you find anything?"

FROGMAN 1
"Yes!"

The frogmen lift up the bag, and Sgt. O'Malley bends down to
retrieve it from them and passes it to C.I. O'Leary.

FROGMAN 2
"I'm not sure it's what you were after Chief, but it was in the
general vicinity of where you directed us it would be. Ask me,
it looks like an exploded toy derringer."

C.I. O'LEARY
"A TOY DERRINGER??? - Oh! For the love of Mike!"

FROGMAN 1

"Yes, but it has GSR on it, as if someone tried to use it to fire a live round."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"That would explain why the gun exploded."

C.I. O'LEARY

"I concur, it wasn't designed to fire live ammunition."

O'Leary turns to the frogmen and says:

C.I. O'LEARY

"Thank you, officers. Go down below and have something warm to drink, you've certainly earned it."

FROGMAN 1

"You're welcome Chief, and thanks. It's much appreciated."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"I'll bag and tag the evidence and get it over to forensics and ballistics."

SCENE 19 INT. - ROYAL LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL - 10 A.M.

C.I. O'Leary and Sgt. O'Malley arrive at the hospital and immediately go to the reception area.

C.I. O'LEARY

"Good morning."

RECEPTIONIST

"Good morning. How can I help you?"

Both take out their identifications and show it to the receptionist.

C.I. O'LEARY

"I'm Chief Inspector O'Leary and this is Sgt. O'Malley. We're with the Merseyside Constabulary. We are interested in seeing Mr. Ambrose Bryce, a gunshot victim, who was brought in late last night."

RECEPTIONIST

"Ambrose Bryce. Yes..."

They are interrupted by Dr. Ben Casey.

DR. BEN CASEY

"Pardon me, Chief Inspector, but did I hear you say, you were looking for Mr. Ambrose Bryce?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"Yes, and you are?"

DR. BEN CASEY

"My apologies, I'm Dr. Ben Casey, I'm Mr. Bryce's attending physician. I was here last night when they brought him in."

C.I. O'LEARY

"How do you do. Can you please tell us where we can find Mr. Bryce then?"

DR. BEN CASEY

"I'll take you to him. This way if you please."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Thank you."

DR. BEN CASEY

"Mr. Bryce is very lucky to be alive."

C.I. O'LEARY

"I take it you managed to get the bullet out then?"

DR. BEN CASEY

"That's exactly what his fiancée asked. I'll tell you what I told her, that there was no bullet."

C.I. O'LEARY

"No bullet?"

DR. BEN CASEY

"No, it was ice, that hit Mr. Bryce."

C.I. O'LEARY

"ICE?"

DR. BEN CASEY

"Yes, we found traces of ice tainted with gunpowder or GSR as you police officers prefer to call it, if I've got the jargon right from watching CSI Miami."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Interesting ..."

DR. BEN CASEY

"I can only assume, that shard of ice must've got stuck in the barrel of the weapon and deflected the projectile so it missed Mr. Bryce. However, he did sustain a headwound from the shard which caused him to lose his balance and sustain a concussion when he impacted the floor, rendering him unconscious."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Is he well enough to be interviewed."

DR. BEN CASEY
"Yes, he is. Here we are."

Dr. Casey opens the door for them.

DR. BEN CASEY
(Continues)
"Go right in, he's with his fiancée."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Thank you, Doctor."

They enter the room and are greeted by Loretta.

LORETTA
"Chief Inspector."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Captain."

LORETTA
"Darling, this Chief Inspector Brianne O'Malley who I told you about and her colleague Sergeant O'Malley. This is my fiancé Ambrose Bryce."

C.I. O'LEARY
"How do you do?"

AMBROSE
"As well as can be expected considering ... but a pleasure to finally meet you. Loretta has been singing your praises."

C.I. O'LEARY
"I'm sure she exaggerates it all. We're just doing our job."

AMBROSE
"You're not envious of it, I can tell you that for nothing."

C.I. O'LEARY
"It comes with the territory."

AMBROSE
"I guess."

C.I. O'LEARY
"You're a pretty lucky man Mr. Bryce."

AMBROSE
"I like to think so, Loretta is the best thing that's ever happened to me."

C.I. O'LEARY
"I was referring to how lucky you are being alive after getting shot at."

AMBROSE
"Oh! Yes. My apologies. Yes, I was darn lucky."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Not many people get shot in the head and live to talk about it."

AMBROSE
"I guess not, since you never read about it in The Daily Express, and they don't lie."

Ambrose grins.

C.I. O'LEARY

"Your fiancée said you had a rendezvous with your ex-fiancée at The Light of Bengal restaurant last night. Is that correct?"

AMBROSE

"Yes, we met up there around ... 7:30 p.m. -ish. Better make it between 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. to be on the safe side"

C.I. O'LEARY

"And the purpose of the rendezvous?"

AMBROSE

"As Loretta has undoubtedly told you, it was to get Evelyn, my ex-fiancée, to agree to close the joint account we had, so that I would not have any connections with her whatsoever, financial or otherwise. Thus, enabling Loretta and myself to start our journey through life together without any interference from my 'ex'."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Sounds reasonable enough. So, who would then have reason to want you dead?"

AMBROSE

"Loretta did tell me about her and your speculation of Evelyn being the assailant, but first of all, we haven't been in contact since she kicked me out of the house, and doesn't have a clue where I live, and second, she doesn't know a thing about Loretta, let alone where she lives nor about the fact that we were to rendezvous aboard The GOOD INTENT last night. - If she is the guilty party, she would've had to follow me last night, which would mean, that it was ..."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"Premeditated?"

AMBROSE

"Yes, exactly ... Premeditated ..."

Ambrose's face goes pale and a cold shiver runs down his spine at the prospect of Evelyn being so callous.

C.I. O'LEARY

"Are you alright Mr. Bryce? Would you like a glass of water perhaps? "

AMBROSE

"Yes, thank you ..."

Loretta hands Ambrose a glass of water, which he has a sip of.

AMBROSE

(Continues)

"I'm sorry, it was just the thought of the prospect of your theory being correct."

C.I. O'LEARY

"I understand. Perhaps you could indulge us, by relating to us your conversation with the alleged suspect from last night."

AMBROSE

"Certainly."

Ambrose relates last night's conversation to the officers in as much detail as he can recall.

TEXT ON SCREEN: LATER

C.I. O'LEARY

"It is obvious from what you've told us, that your ex-fiancée's feelings for you, haven't fully diminished."

C.I. O'LEARY

"I guess not."

Still stunned at the prospect of Evelyn having attempted to murder him.

C.I. O'LEARY

"Just for the record Mr. Bryce. Your ex-fiancée's name is Evelyn Kernow, is that correct?"

AMBROSE
"Yes, that is correct."

C.I. O'LEARY
"English?"

AMBROSE
"Yes, she is."

C.I. O'LEARY
"I meant the name."

AMBROSE
"Sorry, no, I believe it's Welsh or Cornish, I'm not sure."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Do you know where she lives?"

AMBROSE
"Based on my conversation with her last night, I assume she still resides at 28 Peacock Place, Denton in Manchester."

C.I. O'LEARY
"So, what was she doing in Liverpool then?"

AMBROSE
"When I spoke to her, to make arrangements to meet up, she said she was on her way to meet up with her boyfriend in Newcastle upon Tyne, and said she'd stop, here in Liverpool to meet up."

C.I. O'LEARY
"That's quite a trek."

AMBROSE
"Yes, I believe it's what is classified as 'long distance' relationship."

C.I. O'LEARY
"You're not far wrong there."

AMBROSE
"I believe he's a long-haul lorry driver, which seems apt, considering the nature of their relationship."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Yes, quite. Still, to meet up with you, when she is involved

with someone else, is really quite something."

AMBROSE

"It's like I told you earlier, Chief Inspector, when I told you about our conversation last night, she is one for '*loving her neighbour*'."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Yes, you did say. - Couldn't you just as easily have used social media or the telephone, since you managed to arrange your rendezvous with her in that manner."

AMBROSE

"She's a great one for lying, especially via social media and per telephone. But she doesn't have a poker face, and therefore a face to face meeting is best."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Just out of curiosity, what would you have done, if she hadn't have been able or willing to come to Liverpool?"

AMBROSE

"I would've booked a room at Sachas Hotel in Tib Street off Piccadilly in the centre of Manchester, or perhaps The Premier Inn which is not far from there, and then arranged to meet up with her at e.g. The Pearl on Manchester Road in Audenshaw which has a fusion of Eastern cuisine, or Aashiana Indian Restaurant on Ashton Road in Denton."

C.I. O'LEARY

"You seem to be quite the connoisseur regarding Eastern and Oriental cuisine."

AMBROSE

"I have been known to have my moments."

LORETTA

"Well, I can't complain Ambrose."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Well, at least someone agrees with me."

AMBROSE

"Thank you. Both of you."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Well, we certainly have our work cut out for us. We'll have to contact the Denton Constabulary, and have them interview Ms. Kernow and see what comes out of it."

AMBROSE

"By the way Chief Inspector ..."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Yes?"

AMBROSE

"...Loretta mentioned that you were looking for the weapon used. Any luck there?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"That's another mystery."

AMBROSE

"Mystery?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"Yes. We found a weapon, that had been used to fire live ammunition, but it was a toy."

AMBROSE

"A toy? Isn't that dangerous?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"Lethal. They're not designed for that kind of thing. The thing would blow up like a hand grenade, like this one did. It's a miracle the assailant didn't get killed. Another reason your ex-fiancée is a person of interest in this case."

The door opens and Dr. Casey enters the room.

DR. BEN CASEY

"My apologies, I thought you would have finished your interview by now. I just came to check on Mr. Bryce before my shift ends."

C.I. O'LEARY

"You're just in time Doctor, we were just leaving. We'll be in touch Mr. Bryce. Captain."

AMBROSE
"Thank you and good-bye."

C.I. O'Leary and Sergeant O'Malley leave the room.

DR. BEN CASEY
"Well Mr. Bryce, let's just take your vitals before I complete my shift, shall we?"

AMBROSE
"By all means."

DR. BEN CASEY
"Well, your blood pressure is normal, 180 over 120, heart rate is 65 and your O₂ Sat. is 98%."

AMBROSE
"So, Can I go home then?"

DR. BEN CASEY
"Why? Are you going somewhere?"

AMBROSE
"I'd like to get out of here, and we would like to make an appointment for the registry office in St. George's Hall."

DR. BEN CASEY
"You mean, you're getting married?"

AMBROSE
"After the shooting, we decided that life is too short to waste time."

DR. BEN CASEY
"Congratulations to you both."

AMBROSE
"Thank you."

DR. BEN CASEY
"Well, I can tell you, that it is open between 9 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. on Saturdays but closed today."

AMBROSE

"That's alright. I'd just like to get out of here and get some decent food."

DR. BEN CASEY

"If you're fit enough to complain about the hospital food, I guess you're ready to go home. Let me see what I can do."

AMBROSE

"Thank you doctor."

DR. BEN CASEY

"No problem."

SCENE 20 - MERSEYSIDE CONSTABULARY, LIVERPOOL - DAY

**TEXT ON SCREEN: MERSEYSIDE CONSTABULARY
ST. ANNE STREET, LIVERPOOL
1 P.M.**

C.I. O'Leary and Sgt. O'Malley, have just got back from having lunch, and notice a copy of The Liverpool Gazette along with the forensics and ballistics reports are sitting on O'Leary's desk. The headlines read:

Liverpool Gazette

Sunday October 13th 2019

CRIME OF PASSION OR SENSELESS SHOOTING

Late last night, a man was shot when boarding the GOOD INTENT, the vessel belonging to his fiancée, to whom he had got engaged that day. The victim was taken to Royal Liverpool University Hospital, where his condition remains stable.

The police are requesting anyone who may either have witnessed the incident or may have any information regarding this incident to contact the Merseyside Constabulary on 0151 709 6010 and ask for C.I. O'Leary or Sgt. O'Malley.

C.I. O'LEARY

"Ah! Just what we've been waiting for."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"Is it the forensics report?"

C.I. O'LEARY
"Yes, it is, along with today's paper, where I can see that Ms. Gillan has kept her word about keeping the information released to a minimum and requesting the public to come forward with any information regarding the case."

O'Leary has a quick look at the reports and is stunned.

SGT. O'MALLEY
"What is it?"

O'Leary is disappointed.

C.I. O'LEARY
"It says that you were right, that what we found **are** the remains of a toy derringer, and it was used to fire live ammunition so to speak."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"What do you mean by **so to speak**?"

C.I. O'LEARY
"Apparently, this is a toy derringer of the make *DANDY*, and comes with a single shell casing and red cone-shaped plugs, which rarely fire from the pistol. Moreover, someone loaded said shell casing with gunpowder and a projectile, and when the gun was fired, both the shell casing and barrel exploded."

SGT. O'MALLEY
"So, a rank amateur."

C.I. O'LEARY
"Yes, there's a photo of what the gun should have looked like before it blew to bits, if you care to take a look at it?"



SGT. O'MALLEY

"Yes, please. Certainly, looks like what the divers fished out of the drink. What about *trace*?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"No luck in that department either. No DNA, blood or fingerprints."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"In other words, pigging useless."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Our only hope, is if our colleagues in Denton in Manchester, can turn up anything."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"I know what would cheer you up Chief Inspector."

C.I. O'LEARY

"I shudder to think ..."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"Don't be like that. I was going to suggest I make you a nice cup of Chicory and a custard doughnut."

C.I. O'LEARY

"That's the best thing I've heard all day O'Malley. - You get the refreshments ready, and I'll find the details from the directory and give our colleagues a call."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"I'm one step ahead of you Chief Inspector. I put a sticky note on your computer screen with their address and phone number."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Well, well. Efficient as well as kind-hearted. I like that in a man. You'll make someone a good wife O'Malley."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"I'll take that as a compliment, Chief."

C.I. O'LEARY

"As you should."

O'Malley goes to get the Chief Inspector her Chicory and custard doughnut, while C.I. O'Leary looks at the sticky note and contacts their colleagues of the Tameside Constabulary.

C.I. O'LEARY

(CONTINUES)

"Let's see now ... Denton Police Station: **Address:** 17 Stockport Road, Denton, Manchester, M34 6DB, England. **Phone:** [+44 161 872 5050](tel:+441618725050). Ah! Well, let's see if they have any luck?"

O'Leary makes the phone call.

SPLIT SCREEN FOR TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS

SGT. BILLINGSWORTH

"Denton Police Station, Sgt. BILLINGSWORTH speaking How Can I help?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"Yes, good afternoon. This is Chief Inspector O'Leary of The Merseyside Constabulary, could I speak with Detective Colinson please."

SGT. BILLINGSWORTH

"Just a moment please while I put you through."

Sgt. BILLINGSWORTH calls Det. Collinson on her extension.

DET. COLINSON

"Det. Colinson speaking, how can I help."

SGT. BILLINGSWORTH

"Detective, Sergeant BILLINGSWORTH here, I've got a Chief Inspector O'Leary from The Merseyside Constabulary on the line who would like to have a word."

DET. COLINSON

"Thank you Sgt. Put him through."

Sgt. BILLINGSWORTH puts the call through.

DET. COLINSON

"Chief Inspector O'Leary, Detective Colinson here, to what do I owe the honour of a phone call from The Merseyside Constabulary."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Thank you for taking my call Detective. I know you must be busy with your own troubles, but we had an attempted murder here in Liverpool, and we need your assistance in the case."

DET. COLINSON

"I see, but how does Tameside fit into an attempted murder in Merseyside?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"We have a person of interest, who resides in Denton, and may or may not be involved in this case, and we'd like you to interview her and carry out a GSR test if possible."

DET. COLINSON

"I see. What details can you share with me?"

C.I. O'Leary gives Det. Colinson the details she as thus far.

DET. COLINSON

"Well, we can certainly interview her and perform the Gunshot Residue Test to see if she could possibly be involved, but it

all looks very circumstantial."

C.I. O'LEARY

"I know. We're really grasping at straws here, but any help you can give us is greatly appreciated, as this case is running cold."

DET. COLINSON

"I must admit that I find the *Modus Operandi* quite unusual, yet intriguing."

C.I. O'LEARY

"It is isn't it?"

DET. COLINSON

"I appreciate your predicament, Chief Inspector. I've been there before with other cases I've worked on, but we'll certainly extend you the professional courtesy by interviewing her and doing the GSR test."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Thank you, Detective."

DET. COLINSON

"How do I contact you?"

C.I. O'LEARY

"Oh! Yes, of course, it's The Merseyside Constabulary, **Address:** Saint Anne Street, Liverpool, L3, England, **Phone:** [+44 151 709 6010](tel:+441517096010)."

DET. COLINSON

"Thank you, Chief Inspector. We'll be in touch."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Thank you Detective Colinson, I look forward to hearing from you, however it goes."

DET. COLINSON

"No problem. Have a nice day Chief Inspector O'Leary."

C.I. O'LEARY

"And you Detective Colinson."

C.I. O'Leary puts the receiver back on the hook as Sgt. O'Malley brings her the much-needed mug of hot chicory and custard

doughnuts.

SGT. O'MALLEY

"Voilà, your chicory and custard doughnuts. I even brought you a chocolate Viscount."

C.I. O'LEARY

"O'Malley, you're a life saver. It's just what the doctor ordered."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"I aim to please."

C.I. O'LEARY

"And you do O'Malley, you most certainly do."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"What did our friends in Denton say?"

C.I. O'MALLEY

"They said they would interview our POI and perform the GSR test and get back to us."

SGT. O'MALLEY

"You can't ask for more than that, can you?"

"No, but like she said, everything we have, is circumstantial, and without hard evidence, this case is going to run cold."

C.I. O'LEARY

"True."

SCENE 21 INT. - TAMESIDE CONSTABULARY, DENTON, MCR. - DAY

**TEXT ON SCREEN: TAMESIDE CONSTABULARY
STOCKPORT ROAD, DENTON
2 P.M.**

After putting the phone down, detective Colinson decides to take CSI Dawn Griffiths with her to interview Evelyn Kernow.

DET. COLINSON

"CSI Griffiths, I've just got off the phone with C.I. O'Leary of
The Merseyside Constabulary ..."

CSI GRIFFITHS
"Merseyside?"

DET. COLINSON

"Yes, it appears we have a person of interest living in Denton,
regarding an attempted murder in Liverpool last night."

CSI GRIFFITHS
"Attempted murder?"

DET. COLINSON

"Yes, I'd like you to get your kit ready, to do a GSR test."

CSI GRIFFITHS
"Sure thing, I've got it right here."

DET. COLINSON

"Let's go then."

SCENE 22 EXT. - TAMESIDE CONSTABULARY, DENTON, MCR. - DAY

DC Colinson and CSI Griffiths go in DC Colinson's car, and on the way, DC Colinson gives CSI Griffiths all the pertinent information she has regarding the case. - As they get to Ms. Kernow's place of abode, they get out of the vehicle, and go to the door and knock. By good luck, Evelyn is at home and answers the door.

SCENE 23 EXT. - 28 PEACOCK PLACE, DENTON, MCR. - DAY

TEXT ON SCREEN: HOME OF EVELYN KERNOW

EVELYN

"Yes. How may I help you?"

Both officers immediately notice, that Ms. Kernow is right-

handed and has a bandage around her right hand.

DET. COLINSON

"I'm detective Colinson with the Tameside Police Department and this is my colleague CSI Griffiths, may we come in?"

EVELYN

"Police? What is this regarding if you don't mind?"

DET. COLINSON

"We'd rather talk about it inside, if you don't mind?"

EVELYN

"I most certainly do mind. I don't like where this is going. You make it sound, as if I'm some sort of criminal."

DET. COLINSON

"My apologies if it came across that way, it is just that we've been asked to assist with an enquiry regarding an incident, that occurred in Merseyside last night."

EVELYN

"And what, pray tell, has **that** got to do with me?"

DET. COLINSON

"Do you know Mr. Ambrose Bryce?"

Evelyn's heart is now racing.

EVELYN

"I **knew** an Ambrose Bryce. He was my ex-fiancé. We parted company three years ago, what of it?"

DET. COLINSON

"Based on the information we've been given, you were with Mr. Bryce last night at The Light of Bengal restaurant in Liverpool. Is that correct?"

Evelyn's heart is pounding now, but she maintains her composure and decides to plead ignorant of what has transpired.

EVELYN

"Yes, is that a crime now?"

DET.COLINSON

"No, not in the slightest, it merely makes you a *person of interest* in this case."

EVELYN

"*Person of interest*, eh. Sounds like you want to blame me for something I didn't do."

DET. COLINSON

"Not at all, I'm sorry you feel that way ..."

EVELYN

"So why are you here then?"

DC Colinson decides to see how Evelyn will react by leading her up the garden path, with *partial* information.

DET. COLINSON

"I regret to inform you, that Mr. Bryce was shot last night."

Evelyn decides to be coy, and hides her elation, by pretending to be shocked by the news.

EVELYN

"SHOT! Ambrose has been shot. But he was alright when we went our separate ways as we left the restaurant ..."

DET. COLINSON

(V.O.)

"*Either she's genuinely shocked, or she's a born thespian?*"

Detective Colinson thinks to herself.

DET. COLINSON

(CONTINUES)

"Yes, and you were the last person to see him before the incident."

EVELYN

"Does that make me guilty? I thought a person was innocent till

proven guilty?"

DET. COLINSON

"Like I said earlier, you are merely a person of interest in this case, as you are the last person to see him before the incident, and we were hoping that you *might* be able to shed some light on the matter. That is all."

EVELYN

"I don't know how much help I can be, since I wasn't even there when it happened."

DET. COLINSON

"I noticed you've hurt your right hand ..."

EVELYN

"Yes, I cut it when opening a tin ... the can opener fell apart and I cut myself."

DET. COLINSON

"The can opener fell apart?"

EVELYN

"Come on in, and I'll show you."

DET. COLINSON

"Thank you."

SCENE 24 INT. - 28 PEACOCK PLACE, DENTON, MCR; KITCHEN - DAY

The officers enter the premises and are shown into the kitchen area.

EVELYN

"Here is the can opener, as you can see, the handle and the spiky wheel have come off, which resulted in my cutting myself."

Colinson examines the can opener and cannot see any indication of it having been tampered with.

DET. COLINSON

"Very *unusual* fault, I must say"

EVELYN

"I know. It's only happened to me twice in the last 50 years, and this is the second time. Only this time, I cut myself on the tin."

Evelyn points to the bin, where there is a blood-stained open tin.

DET. COLINSON

"Did you go to the A&E because of your injuries?"

EVELYN

"No, that wasn't necessary, I'm a trained first aider, and I've got a good first aid kit."

DET. COLINSON

"How fortunate for you, I know, that you feel we are trying to blame you for the incident in Liverpool, but do you mind, if my colleague here performs out a Gunshot Residue Test on your right hand?"

EVELYN

"That does sound like you are trying to pin this on me!"

DET. COLINSON

"It's merely for *elimination purposes*."

EVELYN

"Have you got a warrant?"

DET. COLINSON

"Do I need one? You're not guilty, are you?"

EVELYN

"NO!"

DET. COLINSON

"Well then, you have nothing to hide. Do you?"

Evelyn feels cornered and apprehensive, and knows she is damned if she does and damned if she doesn't.

EVELYN

"Very well then. Let's go into the living room, so your *friend* can play with her toys."

Evelyn shows the officers into the living room.

SCENE 25 INT. - 28 PEACOCK PLACE, DENTON, MCR; LIVING RM. - DAY

DET. COLINSON

"Thank you, for being so accommodating. Since my colleague will have to remove your bandages to perform the GSR-test, I was wondering if you would mind if we compared your blood, with that on the tin in the bin in the kitchen? It's just so we can say to our colleagues, that we have done a thorough job and eliminated you from the inquiry."

EVELYN

(V.O.)

"It's not as if I had much bloody choice."

Evelyn thinks to herself.

EVELYN

(CONTINUES)

"Not at all. After all, you're only doing your job."

CSI Griffiths takes the bandages off, and notices her hand is discoloured.

CSI GRIFFITHS

"I see your hand is discoloured."

EVELYN

"Yes, being a trained first aider, I immediately washed and cleaned the wound with disinfectant and put some iodine around the wound to keep it clean."

CSI GRIFFITHS

"I see."

EVELYN

"You can also see that it is a rather nasty cut. But as they say

the most unusual accidents occur in the home."

CSI GRIFFITHS

"They do don't they. The swabs I'll be taking won't contaminate your injury, so no need to worry. - Do you mind if I take a photograph of your wounds for our report?"

Evelyn's heart sinks but decides to be nonchalant about everything.

EVELYN

"That's fine."

CSI GRIFFITHS

"I'll be as gentle as I can."

EVELYN

"OW!"

CSI GRIFFITHS

"Sorry, but you did agree to give a blood sample as well."

EVELYN

"A girl's gotta do what a girl's gotta do, I suppose. It's just my hand is still tender you understand."

CSI GRIFFITHS

"Yes, and I understand completely. Severed nerve endings et cetera."

CSI Griffiths takes a swab and the GSR test is negative, she turns to DC Colinson to inform her of her findings and proceeds into the kitchen to swab the tin."

CSI GRIFFITHS

"GSR test is negative Mam."

DET. COLINSON

"Thank you, Griffiths."

CSI GRIFFITHS

"I'll just redress Ms. Kernow's wound and swab the tin in the

kitchen."

EVELYN

"I told you I was innocent."

DET. COLINSON

"No one said you were guilty Ms. Kernow. As we have already established, this was *merely* for *elimination purposes*. You wouldn't like it, if the roles were reversed, and you were the victim's fiancée, and we didn't do our job. Now would you Ms. Kernow?"

EVELYN

"No, I suppose I wouldn't. - I'm sure his fiancée must be devastated by the whole affair."

DET. COLINSON

"Quite the contrary. She's doing fine."

CSI GRIFFITHS

"All done Ms. Kernow. I wish you a speedy recovery. I'll just swab that tin in the kitchen and then my job is finished."

CSI Griffiths stands up and heads towards the kitchen, while Detective Colinson continues interviewing Evelyn Kernow.

EVELYN

"WHAT? I thought she would be grieving didn't you say he was killed."

DET. COLINSON

"I don't know what led you to that conclusion?"

EVELYN

"Well, you told me he had been shot ... I ... I ..."

DET. COLINSON

"Yes? was there something you wanted to say Ms. Kernow?"

EVELYN

"No, I just assumed ..."

DET.COLINSON

"Ah! Yes, that's where we differ you see, in our profession, we cannot afford to *assume* anything. We can only deal with facts. Hence the reason for *eliminating* people from the investigation. You see, I never said he had been killed, now did I? I only said he was shot."

EVELYN

"Yes, of course."

CSI Griffiths returns after swabbing the tin in the kitchen.

CSI GRIFFITHS

"All done."

DET. COLINSON

"I do hope you'll be on the mend soon and thank you for your time."

EVELYN

"Not at all, thank you detective, and I hope you catch whoever did this."

DET. COLINSON

"Thank you for your time Ms. Kernow and have a nice day."

EVELYN

"And you."

SCENE 26 EXT. - 28 PEACOCK PLACE, DENTON, MCR. - DAY

Evelyn sees the officers to the door where she stands while the police walk up the path. She waves to them as they get into their car, as she doesn't want to look too eager to get rid of them, even though she is glad to see the back of them. She has never liked the police.

EVELYN

(V.O.)

" *Damn Coppers, never anything but trouble. They always interfere with enterprising activities. Calling them illegal. How can they be illegal, when everyone is doing it. After all,*

*my family and I are just being ... entrepreneurs, that's it;
Entrepreneurs. Bloody interfering coppers."*

As the police car pulls away from the kerb, she goes inside and closes the door.

SCENE 27 INT. - 28 PEACOCK PLACE, DENTON, MCR. - DAY

EVELYN

"Damn that Ambrose. He can't even die when he's shot."

SCENE 28 INT. - DETECTIVE COLINSON'S VEHICLE - DAY

DET. COLINSON

"So, tell me Griffiths. What do you think?"

CSI GRIFFITHS

"It's like she said detective, the cut she received is nasty, but without GSR or trace to either prove she was there or link her to the shooting. All we have is circumstantial at best, and The Crown Prosecution wouldn't touch this case with a barge pole."

DET. COLINSON

"I concur. It's a right cluster ..."

CSI GRIFFITHS

"It sure is."

DET. COLINSON

"Oh! Well, give me the report as soon as you can, and we'll hand the matter over to Merseyside and let them deal with the headache."

CSI GRIFFITHS

"So, is it going to be another cold case then?"

DET. COLINSON

"It certainly looks that way; Guess I'll have to phone C.I. O'Leary and give her the good news."

CSI GRIFFITHS

"Let's hope they don't shoot the messenger, like they did Mr. Bryce."

DET. COLINSON

"You and your gallows humour."

SCENE 29 INT. - TAMESIDE CONSTABULARY, DENTON, MCR. - DAY

Back at Denton Police station, D.C. Colinson makes herself a cup of Caro and picks up her sticky note with C.I. O'Leary's phone number on it. Picks up the receiver and dials the number on the note. A voice on the other line answers the call.

SGT WOODCOCK

"Merseyside Constabulary, Sgt. Woodcock speaking, how may help?"

DET. COLINSON

"Yes, sergeant. This Detective Colinson of the Tameside Police in Denton in Manchester. I should like to speak with Chief Inspector O'Leary, please, she's expecting my call."

SGT. WOODCOCK

"One moment please."

Sgt. Woodcock calls C.I. O'Leary's extension.

C.I. O'LEARY

"Chief Inspector O'Leary here."

SGT. WOODCOCK

"Yes, Chief Inspector, this is Sgt. Woodcock, I have a detective Colinson of the Tameside Police on the line for you, she says you are expecting her phone call."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Yes, I am. Please, put her through."

O'Leary waves to O'Malley to come over.

SGT. WOODCOCK
"I'm putting you through now."

DET. COLINSON
"Thank you."

SGT. WOODCOCK
"Go ahead."

O'Malley sits opposite C.I. O'Leary and waits with bated breath.

C.I. O'LEARY
"Detective Colinson. This is a pleasant surprise, I didn't expect to hear from you so soon."

SPLIT SCREEN FOR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

DET. COLINSON
"It's not great news I'm afraid."

Detective Colinson tells O'Leary what happened.

DET. COLINSON
(CONTINUES)

"So, you see Chief Inspector, all we have is circumstantial evidence. If you ask me, that wound and the broken can opener are just too convenient, but with the wound having been cleaned, and blood stains on the tin can, and lack of GSR or any trace evidence. So, I'm afraid the Crown prosecution won't touch it with a barge pole."

C.I. O'LEARY
"I was afraid something like this would happen ... but thanks anyway."

DET. COLINSON
"Not a problem. I'll send you my report and that of CSI Griffiths for your records."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Thank you, Detective, you've been most helpful. I'll await your report, and I guess I'll have to put it with the other cold cases."

DET. COLINSON

"I'm sorry it wasn't better news."

C.I. COLINSON

"It's not your fault. Thanks again."

DET. COLINSON

"You're welcome Chief Inspector. Have a nice day."

C.I. O'LEARY

"And you."

DET. COLINSON

"Good-bye."

C.I. O'LEARY

"Good-bye."

END SPLIT SCREEN

O'Leary looks dismayed as she puts the receiver back on the hook. O'Malley gives her a sympathetic look and says:

O'MALLEY

"I take it from what I heard that it is not good news?"

O'LEARY

"No, it's not. GSR was negative, although Ms. Kernow who **is** right-handed has a wound on her right hand, but it appears to be from an accident in the home."

O'MALLEY

"How convenient."

O'LEARY

"I thought that, but she has a broken can opener and a blood-stained tin in the bin to prove it."

O'MALLEY

"What about the wound itself, does it match the tin?"

O'LEARY

"Inconclusive, as far as the wound goes and the blood is type A Rhesus D positive, just like Ms. Kernow's and **not** that uncommon either."

O'MALLEY

"Bugger."

O'LEARY

"I couldn't agree more."

O'MALLEY

"So, what do we do now?"

O'LEARY

"We wait for the paperwork to come through from our colleagues at Tameside, and then file the report with all the other cold cases."

SCENE 30 INT. - LORETTA'S HOME - EVENING

Ambrose is busy assembling his Psychomanteum chamber, to carry out psychic and spiritual experiments and have experiences of the same.

He has already sawn down his 50mm x 50mm pieces of wood into the length of 3.0m, breadth of 1.5m, and height of 2.6m, which he has set up in his living room and is almost touching the ceiling.

He then drapes it with dark material made from a black cloth, which he has previously cut to the measurements required. This will avoid any unwanted light entering the Psychomanteum chamber and/or reflecting off the mirrors.

Inside the Psychomanteum chamber, he places two full-length mirrors at one end of the chamber, at such an angle that they do not reflect each other, nor do they reflect the querent when seated in the chair opposite the mirrors inside the chamber.

By using two mirrors, Ambrose is making a slight change to the plans he downloaded of the internet, thus changing it from a Psychomanteum chamber, to a double Psychomanteum chamber.

The two mirrors allow him access to both the past (in the mirror to the left) and the future (in the mirror to the right); a portal to the spirit world and even other dimensions in time and space.

His penultimate step is to place a comfortable chair in the middle in front of the double Psychomanteum, and a small table beside it for refreshments as well as his note pad, pen and even a recorder; and the **pièce de résistance**, is to place a red light behind the chair, facing the opening to the double Psychomanteum chamber, to avoid any glare or flare to appear in the mirrors, and thus interrupting and interfering with the experiment and experience.

As Ambrose takes a step back to examine the completed work, he sits down in the comfy chair and tests the red light by switching it on and then off again to see if it is strenuous or if there are any unwanted: flares, glares or reflections.- Happy with the results, he glances at his watch, and makes himself a cup of chicory and takes it with him into the double Psychomanteum chamber which he places on the table beside the comfy chair then proceeds to turn on the red light. He then exits the chamber and turns off the lights in the room outside the chamber, and re-enters it, ensuring that the curtains are closed behind him and overlap and then sits down and composes himself. He closes his eyes and proceeds to offer up a prayer to the almighty for protection during his experiment.

SCENE 31 INT. - DOUBLE PSYCHOMANTEUM CHAMBER - EVENING

His eyes adjust to the darkness after sitting there for a while in the chamber. He sees a shadow or silhouette of a figure in the mirror on the left. Suddenly the mirror is filled with a mist and the figure proceeds to exit the mirror and approaches Ambrose where he is sitting on the chair.

Ambrose composes himself and musters up the courage to address the figure:

ZEP TEPI
"YOU should not have come."

AMBROSE
"Who are you?"

ZEP TEPI

"You may call me Zep Tepi."

AMBROSE

"Zep Tepi? First Time? That's your name?"

ZEP TEPI

"I said: »You may call me Zep Tepi«, **NOT**, that it **is** my name. I therefore say to you again: YOU should not have come."

AMBROSE

"What do you mean I, should NOT have come? It is YOU, who entered the chamber, via the double Psychomanteum."

ZEP TEPI

"True, but it is YOU, who not only built it, set it up and entered into it; But it was also YOU, who proceeded to **use** YOUR latent abilities, and connect with the world of spirit, and thus summoned me here.- I therefore say again: »YOU, should not have come.« For YOU, are NOT prepared."

AMBROSE

"I desire to know, what the future holds in store for me."

ZEP TEPI

"Some things are better left alone, as save one, another may have to pay the price."

AMBROSE

"Whatever do you mean? I must follow the path that I have chosen."

ZEP TEPI

"Very well. Thou hast chosen. Abide by thy choice. The Portal to your right, will show you your future, **based** on your present choices, but remember my words, and *mark them well*, for any choices or changes you make, will alter the outcome of what you **perceive** to be your future..."

AMBROSE

"Nonsense."

ZEP TEPI

(With a stern look in his eyes)

"Is it? There are two ways to avoid a hangover. The former, is to exercise TEMPERANCE AND SOBRIETY and the latter, is to remain forever drunk. Thank, The Grand Architect of The Universe, for

having given man *free agency* in The Garden of Eden, albeit
Edin."

Zep Tepi departs via The Portal on the left to whence he came, and the mist dissipates. As it does, a mist starts to appear in The Portal on the right and after a moment, Ambrose rises from his chair and walks towards it.

AMBROSE
"Here goes nothing."

He stretches forth his hand towards the mirror, but his eyes open wide when his hand passes through the mirror into another world or dimension with no resistance whatsoever.

AMBROSE
"Through the looking glass, just like Alice in Wonderland."

He then steps through The Portal, only to *re-enter* it through the same portal, or at least so it seems.

SCENE 32 INT. - ALT. DOUBLE PSYCHOMANTEUM CHAMBER - EVENING

AMBROSE
(V.O.)
"Curiouser and curiouser."

He thinks to himself as he exits the chamber, only to find himself in a strange room. He looks back into the chamber and then at the room and notices it is filled with daylight streaming in from a window. But how can that be? He has just left his chamber, and it was night-time. - Then he realizes that The Double Psychomanteum Chamber, is like a TARDIS, not bigger on the inside than the outside, *per se*, but a TIME AND RELATIVE DIMENSION IN SPACE.

Ambrose notices that he is no longer in his flat, walks over to the window and moves the curtain slightly to get a better look. Whatever it is he sees, frightens him so, that he lets go of the curtain and steps back and hurries back to The Double Psychomanteum Chamber.

He is about to enter it, when an old-fashioned desk top calendar on the desk in the room catches his eye, so, he goes over to it and has a look and is horrified when he sees when and what is written in it.

He quickly hies himself to the portal within The Double Psychomanteum Chamber, and departs the same way he **entered**; As he **passes** through The Portal, he emerges in what he can only hope is the same chamber from which he **departed**. He is so unnerved by the experience, that he trips, as he exits The Portal.

SCENE 33 INT. - DOUBLE PSYCHOMANTEUM CHAMBER - EVENING

Then, he hears a familiar voice:

ZEP TEPI

"Did you find, what you were looking for? "

Ambrose rolls over on the floor and looks Zep Tepi straight in the eyes.

AMBROSE

"I saw something."

Zep Tepi, knowing full well what Ambrose has seen, bends down, and with a Lion's grip raises Ambrose up.

ZEP TEPI

"Mark my former words well, and beware your *free agency*, for with such great powers, comes great responsibility. Beware you do not exercise unrighteous dominion."

With those words, Zep Tepi departs, as Ambrose hears the front door opening. He immediately exits the Psychomanteum Chamber, to go and greet Loretta, who immediately falls into his arms crying.

SCENE 34 INT. - LORETTA'S HOME, HALL - EVENING

AMBROSE

"What is it Loretta? What's the matter?"

LORETTA

"It's aunt Mavis. She's passed away."

AMBROSE

"I'm sorry to hear that, how did it happen."

LORETTA

"She passed away in her sleep."

AMBROSE

"Well, at least she passed away peacefully."

LORETTA

"Yes, but because it's getting to the end of the year, I have to empty her house, and get it sold."

AMBROSE

"No problem, I'll help you do that."

Suddenly, there's a knock on the door.

LORETTA

"Can you get that please. I don't feel like seeing anyone."

AMBROSE

"Sure thing, darling."

Loretta makes her way into the kitchen to make herself a drink, while Ambrose answers the door.

AMBROSE

"Ah! ... Nicola ... Nicola Gillan, isn't it?"

NICOLA

"Yes, you remembered."

AMBROSE

"Which is a miracle in itself, considering how terrible I am

with names."

NICOLA

"I forgive you. After all, you've only met me once, and that was at your wedding to my friend Loretta. - We cannot really count when I first saw you, which was when you lay unconscious on the deck of the GOOD INTENT, after having just been shot. Maybe that bump on the head when you hit the deck, knocked some sense into you?"

AMBROSE

"Yes, quite. So, what brings you to this part of town?"

NICOLA

"I just popped by to see how you two are doing?"

AMBROSE

"I apologise. Where are my manners? Won't you come in? Loretta's in the kitchen."

NICOLA

"Thank you."

Ambrose shows her into the kitchen.

SCENE 35 INT. - LORETTA'S HOME, KITCHEN - EVENING

AMBROSE

"Honey, Nicola is here to grace us with her presence."

Loretta is overjoyed to see Nicola, puts down her mug and gives her a big hug, to which Nicola reciprocates with a bear hug, albeit feeling a bit perplexed.

LORETTA

"OH! Nicola, it's so good to see you."

NICOLA

"It's good to see you too Loretta ... but can I ask why you are crying?"

LORETTA

"My aunt Mavis, just passed away, and we need to empty her house before Christmas, and get it sold."

NICOLA

"Bummer ... I mean my condolences, dealing with bereavements is never easy, but doing it around Christmas, especially since you've just got married ... I mean it's so unfair."

LORETTA

"Thank you, Nicky. I knew you would understand."

NICOLA

"Been there, done that, got the T-shirt."

Just then, there is another knock on the door.

AMBROSE

"My we are popular today, aren't we? - I'll get it, you ladies keep on chatting. Darling, why don't you make Nicola some hot chocolate or something while I see who it is?"

Ambrose goes to the door to see who it is. - It's C.I. O'Leary.

SCENE 36 INT. - LORETTA'S HOME, HALL - EVENING

O'LEARY

"I take it your doorbell isn't working."

AMBROSE

"Brilliant deduction there Chief Inspector. I'm afraid I need a new one, as the battery connector in the old one is corroded. Won't you come in?"

O'LEARY

"Thank you."

They exchange pleasantries as Ambrose escorts O'Leary to the kitchen.

AMBROSE

"So, Chief Inspector, is this a social call or official."

O'LEARY
"Actually, it's a little bit of both."

SCENE 37 INT. - LORETTA'S HOME, KITCHEN - EVENING

AMBROSE
"Honey, O'Leary's to pay us a visit."

Loretta runs over to her and hugs her too.

LORETTA
"Brianne, so good to see you again."

O'LEARY
"Good to see you too Loretta. How's married life treating you?"

LORETTA
"Couldn't be better."

O'LEARY
"I take it those are tears of joy then?"

AMBROSE
"You don't miss a thing, do you Chief Inspector? Can I offer you some chicory?"

O'LEARY
"I'd love one, thank you."

LORETTA
"I'm sorry Brianne, it's just that my aunt Mavis just passed away."

O'LEARY
"I'm sorry to hear that. My condolences."

LORETTA
"Thank you, Brianne. The worst part is, that Ambrose and I won't be able to spend our first Christmas here."

O'LEARY
"Where are you going?"

LORETTA
"Denton, Manchester."

All freeze.

AMBROSE
"Where in Denton exactly?"

LORETTA
"I didn't know how to tell you this Ambrose, and before I could,
Nicola and Brianne arrived, but it's 33 Peacock Place."

Ambrose gives Brianne her cup of chicory which he made her.

AMBROSE
"Here, Brianne, I think you need this."

O'LEARY
"I might need something stronger since I'm off duty."

AMBROSE
"I've got Caro if you prefer?"

O'LEARY
(Sniggers)
"That's alright. Chicory will do. So, let me see if I understand
you correctly Loretta. Your late aunt Mavis, had a house
directly opposite Ms. Evelyn Kernow, is that correct?"

LORETTA
"Yes. Is that a problem?"

O'LEARY
"Eh, let me put it this way. You're about to move, to live next
door to a woman, that was suspected of shooting your fiancé, to
whom you are now married."

LORETTA
"Yes, but she was cleared of all wrongdoing ... Wasn't she?"

O'LEARY
"Not exactly ..."

LORETTA

"What do you mean by **not exactly**?"

O'LEARY

"This brings me to why I came here in the first place, but as a friend. Ms. Kernow had an injured right hand, but she had cleaned the wound, thereby ruining any chances of finding gunshot residue. Furthermore, she had a broken can opener, and claimed to have cut herself on the tin when it broke."

LORETTA

"So, a mere coincidence."

O'LEARY

"I don't believe in coincidences."

LORETTA

"Do you prefer, serendipity?"

O'LEARY

No, I prefer keeping you alive."

LORETTA

"What are you getting at?"

O'LEARY

"What I'm saying, is someone took a pot shot at your husband ..."

LORETTA

"I KNOW! I was there, but Evelyn Kernow is only **believed** to have **allegedly** taken the shot."

O'Leary gives Loretta a stern look.

O'LEARY

"Just like we **assumed**, that your husband was **allegedly** the intended victim."

LORETTA

"What are you saying?"

NICOLA

"I think what Brianne is saying, that YOU could just as easily have been the intended victim. Isn't that right Chief Inspector?"

O'LEARY

"You said it. I better call Tameside and tell them to expect you. When are you leaving?"

LORETTA

"I was hoping to sail tomorrow if Ambrose doesn't mind? We can moor at Portland Basin Marina."

FADE OUT

TEXT ON SCREEN:

THE END

Of

The Double Psychomanteum:

Part 1

If I Can't Have You, Then No One Can.

Ambrose will return in:

The Double Psychomanteum:

Part2

Hell, Hath No Fury Like a Woman Scorned.

ROLL END CREDITS