

ONLY HUMAN

Written by

Jason Peralta

3961 64th street
Woodside, NY 11377
646-431-0074
Jperalta12@aol.com

FADE IN:

EXT. ROGER'S VETERINARIAN CLINIC - NIGHT

Rain falls. A few COP CARS, an AMBULANCE TRUCK, and a NEWS TRUCK are parked outside. The crime scene yellow tape surrounds the scene. A News Reporter named SARAH (21) raises her microphone in front of the cameraman.

SARAH

Hello. This is Sarah from Channel 5 News reporting live from the scene. Several customers from Roger's Veterinarian clinic have gone missing. Last seen walking inside this clinic just weeks ago. The main suspect is Doctor Roger Stanfield. He's been practicing for two decades now.

ROGER (40) is in handcuffs while two Cops guide him to the back of their cop car. A crowd of reporters surrounds the cop car, eagerly waiting to ask questions. Camera crews keep taking pictures.

One of the Cops is called OFFICER LAUDRY (45). Sarah approaches Officer Laundry.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Hello Officer. Sarah from the Channel 5 News. I was hoping to ask you some questions.

OFFICER LAUDRY

Not right now. No comment at this time.

SARAH

What evidence do you have that makes Doctor Roger Stanfield a suspect?

ROGER

I wasn't careful enough. They had video surveillance showing them walking inside my clinic. Oh and let's not forget. I accidentally left traces of their blood when I butchered them like cattle.

Roger starts laughing.

ROGER (CONT'D)
Oh, can you believe it? I should've
taken more classes on how to get
away with murder.

Roger continues to laugh.

OFFICER LAUDRY
Hey, be quiet!

SARAH
Do you have any new leads?

ROGER
Nobody, no crime! No bodies no
crime you fuckers! They're all
dead. You hear me?! They're all
fucking dead!

OFFICER LAUDRY
Hey! I'm not going to tell you
again!

ROGER
First I sedated them and I chopped
up the bodies into little pieces
and burned their clothes.

Officer Laundry pushes Roger harder and they speed walk to the
back of the cop car. They all leave Sarah behind. Officer
Laundry opens the back of the cop car and violently pushes
Roger inside.

OFFICER LAUDRY
Get the hell inside. Watch your
head.

As Roger sits down, he looks up and gives Officer Laundry a
creepy smile.

OFFICER LAUDRY (CONT'D)
Just what the hell are you smiling
about?

ROGER
You'll never find them you pig.
Never.

Officer Laundry shakes his head in disgust and slams the cop
door shut. He pushes his way past the remaining reporters.

REPORTERS
Do you have anything to say to the
victim's family?

OFFICER LAUDRY

No comment.

He gets in the cop car with his partner and they all drive off.

INT. NEW YORK CITY PRISON CELL - NIGHT

Roger is in chains as he walks alongside a PRISON GUARD (42). The Prison Guard puts Roger in his prison cell and closes it.

PRISON GUARD

Put your hands out the jail cell.

Roger does just that and the Prison Guard unlocks the handcuffs.

ROGER

(rubbing his wrists)

It feels good not to be in handcuffs for a change.

PRISON GUARD

You might as well be in handcuffs because you're not going anywhere for a long time.

ROGER

Oh, but I know about the only escape there is you see. You can't keep me here forever. I know all about the road to salvation.

PRISON GUARD

Yeah right. I hope you rot in here you sick bastard.

ROGER

You'll see, you'll all see.

Roger starts to laugh. The prison guard walks away.

INT. NEW YORK CITY PRISON CELL - DAY

The prison guard comes walking back toward Rodger's prison cell.

PRISON GUARD

Alright, get up! It's time for...

The prison guard opens his eyes in horror. Roger is in a sitting position with his throat and wrists cut. He has a bloody shank in his left hand.

The prison guard struggles to grab the keys to open the prison cell. The walls have bloody words on the wall reading "I did it" over and over.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - DAY

A homeless person is walking the streets of Manhattan. His name is ZACK (24). As he walks the streets of New York, he has a look of depression on his face. He makes a turn into an alleyway behind a Pizza shop.

He starts looking through the garbage and digs to find food. He finds a half-eaten pizza and starts eating it. The PIZZA MANAGER (60) comes out.

PIZZA MANAGER

Hey, you! What are you doing? Get
the fuck out of there!

With a broom, the Pizza Manager hits Zack across the face and knocks him down. The Pizza Manager continues hitting Zack over and over. The Pizza Manager starts struggling to breathe from being tired.

Zack uses what is left of his energy to run away. He ran as fast as he can.

PIZZA MANAGER (CONT'D)

Yeah, that's what you fucking get!
Run! Run and don't come back here
you fucking Mut. I'll kill you!

INT. NEW YORK CITY ALLEYWAY - DAY

Zack limps past nearby dumpsters. He reaches an abandoned bed and lies down on it. Small droplets start hitting him. The rain comes down hard with THUNDER.

Zack curls up in a fetal position and starts to cry while the rain washes away the small cuts on his face. That was the first meal he found in weeks.

INT. NEW YORK CITY ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Zack opens his eyes. He hears a rumbling noise a few dumpsters away.

He gets up and looks for where the noise is coming from. He peaks his head around the corner and sees Roger.

Roger is tying a pair of black garbage bags extra tight while in a kneeling position. He looks up at Zack and grabs a butcher knife. Zack runs off. Roger chases him.

The alleyway is a maze with different corners. Zack makes one turn after another without finding an exit. He's lost. He doesn't know if he should go left or right. Roger is no longer in sight.

He finally makes a right turn and slams into Roger. He falls. Roger looks at Zack strangely and smiles.

ROGER

Oh. Hey fella, how you doing?
What's your name?

Zack stays silent and looks at the BUTCHER KNIFE Roger is holding.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Oh, this old thing? It's not for you. You don't have to be afraid. I'm not going to hurt you.

Roger tosses the BUTCHER KNIFE.

ROGER (CONT'D)

My name is Roger. I'm a veterinarian. What's yours?

ZACK

Zack. I'm homeless.

ROGER

I can see that. I know these alleys like the back of my hand.

(Beat)

You look roughed up. May I ask you what happened?

ZACK

I was in a bad fight, that's all. Just a few scratches, I'll be okay.

ROGER

I see.

Zack's stomach GROWLS heavily.

ROGER (CONT'D)

You hungry?

ZACK

No.

ROGER

Tell that to your stomach. There's no shortage of food on my watch. Follow me to the back.

Roger starts walking toward the back of the alley. Zack hesitates at first but has nothing else to lose. He decides to risk it all and follow Roger out of desperation.

They reach the same black garbage bags Roger was tying up. Roger unties one of them. Zack smells what's inside and runs up to it. He grabs what's inside. It's a cooked piece of meat.

A level of pure happiness and joy takes over Zack. He grabs one piece of meat after the next without hesitation until he's full.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Wow, I can see you've been hungry for a while.

ZACK

Yeah. Finding food is hard when you don't have any money to eat.

ROGER

I'll tell you what. Why don't you come back around the same time tomorrow? You're welcome to have some of this food. All I ask is some friendly conversation from you.

ZACK

Wow, really? Why? I mean, why would anyone want to hang out with a homeless bum? I got nothing to offer you.

ROGER

See that's the difference between me and a bunch of other people. I don't have an agenda. Some things in life are more important. Like friendship and having a strong bond.

ZACK

Well, okay. I think you got yourself a deal.

They both shake hands.

ZACK (CONT'D)
I promise you. You won't regret
this. I'll be the best friend any
guy could ever ask for. You could
count on me, Roger.

ROGER
I believe it. Don't forget. Goodbye
Zack, it was nice to meet ya.

Roger leaves Zack and disappears into the night. Zack jumps
up with joy and excitement.

ZACK
Yes! I've finally hit the jackpot!
Woo-hoo!

INT. NEW YORK CITY ALLEYWAY - DAY

Zack wakes up on the same thrown-out bed by the dumpster. The
sun shines on his face and wakes him up like a morning alarm
clock. His stomach starts to growl again.

He gets up and starts walking the alleyway as usual.

ZACK (V.O.)
Geez, I'm so fucking hungry. Guess
I'll go to Roger's food to get some
breakfast. I'm sure he won't mind
if I go there before meeting him.

As he's walking toward the black garbage bags, he sees three
other homeless men opening them up. They share the meat
inside. Zack's heart sinks. Shock turns into anger and he
starts running toward them.

Zack is a few feet away from the three homeless men until he
is hit on the side of his face. Zack lies on the ground. He
looks up and sees a BURLY HOMELESS MAN (42) twice his size.
He has a huge SCAR on his face.

BURLY HOMELESS MAN
Hey, asshole! What do you think
you're doing? This here food is
part of our turf. If you have a
problem with it, you could face me
and the boys.

The homeless men surround Zack. One of them is clenching his
fists and the other one crosses his arms.

Zack gets up and looks behind himself for one second. He thinks about running and quickly changes his mind.

He has a confident stare in his eyes.

ZACK
I'm sick of running.

BURLY HOMELESS MAN
Say what?

ZACK
I'm fucking sick of running!

Zack tackles the Burly homeless man to the wall and punches him twice in the face. He kicks him in the groin. The other three grab Zack from behind and Zack strikes one of them with his elbow.

The Burly homeless man pulls Zack to the ground and they all start kicking Zack and punching him at once. Zack blacks out and loses consciousness.

INT. NEW YORK CITY ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

Roger is shaking Zack while he wakes up.

ROGER
Hey. Wake up. Wake up. Are you okay? What happened?

Zack's body is covered in scratches and bruises. He tries to get up but fails and coughs blood.

ZACK
I got robbed.

ROGER
You got robbed?

ZACK
The food is gone. All of it. They took everything.

Roger looks back at the black garbage bags and then looks back at Zack.

ROGER
I don't care about the food. You're my only concern. Just lay still. I'm going to see if anything is broken.

Roger touches Zack's body and Zack howls in pain.

ROGER (CONT'D)

I know, I know. Just don't move,
I'm almost done.

ZACK

Fucking savages. We're all
homeless, we should be helping each
other out.

ROGER

Don't wait for it. This life is
like the jungle. It's every person
for themselves. Especially when it
comes to humans. I wish I was never
born as one. They should have a
mirror looking straight at us in
the Zoo. It should say "the biggest
predator in the world" on the
bottom.

ZACK

Don't say that. Humans aren't so
bad.

ROGER

No. It's true. We kill animals for
clothing, money, and food. All to
fulfill our selfish desires.
Someone should make them pay. The
Peta organization is just the tip
of the iceberg of what we all need.
I'm talking about killing and
torture for all humans.

ZACK

What?! You're out of line and off
the wall.

ROGER

Why? Creatures were in this World
long before humans. And we just
came in here and stole their lands
because we were smarter and much
more advanced. Humans should die a
painful death. They don't deserve
to live.

ZACK

How could you say that?

ROGER

What? You're going to argue with me now?

ZACK

Yes, you damn right I am. I mean, we're technically all animals ourselves. And killing each other is part of nature's course. It's built into most animal's DNA. It's like Darwin always said. Survival of the fittest, right? Why do you think lions hunt and kill prey?

ROGER

The kill rate of humans will surpass any Lion or other predator. We're a cancer that needs to be cut out. Permanently.

ZACK

Is anything broken Doc?

ROGER

No. You're one lucky Dog.

ZACK

What? What do you mean by Dog?

Zack struggles to get up and finally does. He is now seen as a white dog.

ZACK (CONT'D)

It can't be. I'm a man God dammit!
A man!

ROGER

I think you got hit on the head way too hard and way too many times. Just look at yourself now.

Zack looks at himself as a Dog in a nearby window reflection.

ZACK

It can't be. When did I?

EXT. MANHATTAN ANIMAL SHELTER - NIGHT

As a younger dog, Zack squeezes his way out through a tight window and runs away from the animal shelter. He has a visible gash on the top of his forehead.

INT. MANHATTAN PIZZERIA - DAY

As a dog, Zack is running away from the Pizzeria Manager who has a broomstick.

INT. NEW YORK CITY ALLEYWAY - DAY

As a dog, Zack bites one of the four Dogs and they all attack him.

INT. NEW YORK CITY ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

ROGER

And let me show you something else.

Roger picked up whatever is left inside the black garbage bag and empties it in front of Zack. It's the remains of Roger's victims.

Pieces of arms, legs, eyeballs, and intestines. Roger starts giving out a creepy laugh. Zack backs away and starts vomiting.

ROGER (CONT'D)

You were eating the cooked meat before. The other dogs that kicked your ass took what was left of it. I guess the smell of rotting flesh was too much for them.

Roger continues to laugh. Police lights start FLASHING outside the alleyway.

ROGER (CONT'D)

Oh, you're in trouble now Zack.

Officer Laundry gets out of the police car and starts walking toward Zack. He takes out his flashlight and shines it on Zack's face. Zack squints his eyes.

The light of the flashlight reveals the remains of Roger's victims with flies and maggots all over the carcasses.

OFFICER LAUDRY

All right buddy, stay right where you are! Don't move! I don't want to have to shoot you!

ZACK

Hold on, wait a minute! This wasn't me! I didn't do this!

All Officer Laundry could hear is BARKING while Zack continues to walk toward him. Officer Laundry draws out his gun and points it at Zack.

OFFICER LAUDRY
Hold it!

Within just a few feet of Zack, Officer Laundry pulls the trigger several times. BAM! BAM! BAM! Zack drops to the ground and dies. Officer Laundry approaches Zack and kneels. He pets his bloody fur for a moment while the life of Zack leaves his body.

OFFICER LAUDRY (CONT'D)
Jesus Christ. I didn't mean to hurt
you, buddy. The victim's remains
are finally found. May they all
rest in peace.

The ghost of Roger appears behind him.

OFFICER LAUDRY (CONT'D)
And may that psycho killer burn in
hell!

FADE OUT.

THE END