

KILL THE POOR

by

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SCENE 1

An apartment in low-rent five storey building. Open to the kitchen and a small eating area. A door to the bedroom. In the living room, a couch, a TV on a stand and a single weathered arm chair. The apartment is messy. Clothes on the chair and couch.

Some mumbling, a thud against the door, a woman groans in pain from out in the hallway. A key in the door. It opens and Jake and Lacey enter. They are both in their late 20s.

Jake is helping Lacey into the room. She looks tired and unsteady.

JAKE

Into the bedroom?

LACEY

No I'm okay on the couch for now.

JAKE

Yeah but I made up the bed.

LACEY

I don't wanna get into bed. I've been in a bed for two weeks.

JAKE

Right. So...

He leads her to couch. Tries to lower her.

LACEY

Take it easy...

JAKE

Yeah.

LACEY

(looking around)  
There was no time to do laundry,  
eh.

JAKE

Yeah. No. Sorry.

He is picking up clothes from the couch, tossing them and lowering her at the same time

LACEY

I said easy! God!

She is down.

JAKE

You okay?

LACEY  
I wanna stretch out.

JAKE  
Yeah, good idea.

He lifts her legs onto the couch. She stretches out.

LACEY  
Can you get me a glass of water?

JAKE  
Sure...  
(heading into the kitchen)  
Anything else?

LACEY  
No.

JAKE  
Your lunch was still on the tray  
beside your bed.

LACEY  
So what?

JAKE  
(returning with water)  
So you should eat. Just because you  
didn't like the food in the  
hospital, doesn't mean you--

LACEY  
I'm okay.

JAKE  
I could make you some scrambled  
eggs.

LACEY  
No. Just sit down.  
(drinks the entire glass  
of water)  
We need to talk.

JAKE  
About what?

LACEY  
Tim's funeral.

JAKE  
Really? You wanna talk about that  
now?

LACEY

I know it's something you don't wanna deal with. But I'm not up to it, and there's no one else.

JAKE

What about your mother?

LACEY

Really? She just lost her son, Jake. She can barely bring herself to talk. You gotta step up here, okay.

JAKE

Sure. Yeah. But I've never arranged a funeral.

LACEY

Call someone. Wayne's wife died last year. You could ask him what you need to do.

JAKE

Wayne from the laundromat? I can't ask him shit like that.

LACEY

Sure you can. Just get him to give you a list.

JAKE

A list of what?

LACEY

Of things we need to do, for chrissake.

(holds up glass)

Here.

JAKE

Another one?

LACEY

Yeah...

Jake takes it, heads into kitchen.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Actually, this time put it in a measuring cup. I'm supposed to be keeping track of my fluid intake.

JACK

Why?

LACEY  
So they can tell if the kidneys are  
getting back to full--

Jake is returning with an empty measuring cup.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
(off empty measuring cup)  
There's no water in that.

JAKE  
Right. Sorry.

He heads back to kitchen.

LACEY  
It's hot in here. What's the  
thermostat at?

JAKE  
Doesn't matter. It's broken.

LACEY  
Really broken? Or just kinda wonky  
like usual.

JAKE  
No it's fucked.

Back with the water.

LACEY  
Jesus. Did you call Harry?

JAKE  
Who?

LACEY  
(takes water)  
The maintenance guy.

She drinks.

JAKE  
His name's Harry? I thought it was  
Sonny. I've been calling him Sonny  
for two years. Guy must think I'm  
an idiot.

He starts out.

LACEY  
Whoa. Where the hell are you going?

JAKE  
I need to apologize to him.

LACEY  
Right now?

JAKE  
(stops)  
No. Not right now. But soon. Remind  
me if I forget, okay.

LACEY  
What the hell's wrong with you?  
You're way too worked up.

JAKE  
I know, yeah. But you could've  
died! And I'm still... I mean Jesus  
Christ, Lace!

LACEY  
Yeah. Okay. But... here I am. So?

JAKE  
So, yeah. I'll try to accept that.

LACEY  
Good. So did you call him?

JAKE  
Who?

LACEY  
Harry. The maintenance guy?  
(off his look)  
About the thermostat?

JAKE  
Right. Yeah. He came and looked at  
it.

LACEY  
And?

JAKE  
He thinks it's fucked, like I told  
you.

LACEY  
Okay. And is he planning to fix it?

JAKE  
He said he'll tell someone.  
He doesn't know how to do it  
himself.

LACEY  
He doesn't.

JAKE

No. He hasn't got a clue.

LACEY

Really. So what's the point then?

JAKE

Of what?

LACEY

Of having a maintenance guy. I mean if he can't fix things.

JAKE

He's pretty good at cleaning. I mean the floor in the lobby is always kinda shiny so...

LACEY

Look, just tell him we need that thermostat fixed. Winter's coming, man. It's a health issue.

JAKE

Okay. I'll talk to him.  
(starts off, stops)  
But not right now, right?

LACEY

Right. But when you do, find out if he's ever had to bury someone too.

Lacey's cell goes off. She takes it out. Looks.

LACEY (CONT'D)

It's that cop.  
(offers phone to Jake)  
You talk to her.

JAKE

She's calling you.

LACEY

So what? Just take it.

JAKE

No...

They just watch the phone until it goes silent.

JAKE (CONT'D)

You gonna call her back?

LACEY

No.



JAKE

Well you're gonna have to talk to her sometime, probably.

LACEY

Fuck her. She's just looking for someone to blame.

JAKE

Well someone *is* to blame.

LACEY

Maybe. Maybe it was just an accid-- Look the point is, do you think she hassling the other guy like this.

JAKE

You can ask her that when you call her?

LACEY

Didn't you hear me? I'm not doing that.

JAKE

I think you should.

LACEY

Why? Because she's a cop?

JAKE

Well, yeah.

LACEY

When do you have to be at work?

JAKE

Marco gave me the day off. I told him I had to pick you up and--

LACEY

With pay?

(off his look)

Are you getting paid for this time off?

JAKE

I'm not sure.

LACEY

Okay. So then you better get going.

JAKE

And leave you? No. It's just a day's pay, so what's it matter really?

LACEY  
Have you looked through that pile  
of bills on the dresser?

JAKE  
Well not really...

LACEY  
Yeah, right. Do it now. And you'll  
see why it matters. I bet there's  
been a lot more come in during the  
last couple of weeks too.

JAKE  
Yeah...

LACEY  
So go ahead then. Walk into the  
bedroom. Open them all up and take  
a good look at them.

JAKE  
I can't.

LACEY  
Come on. I know it's not much fun  
but--

JAKE  
I threw them out.  
(off her look)  
Well it was too much. Just watching  
them pile up. And you were in the  
hospital, and your brother was in  
that coma... and it was all just  
too much.

LACEY  
So you just threw them out.

JAKE  
Yeah.

LACEY  
And did that make you feel better.

JAKE  
Kinda. Yeah. Because it was like  
saying fuck you to all of them. You  
know, like I didn't have enough on  
my mind already without them  
bugging me for their money. Or  
threatening to get a collection  
agency on us. Like that hasn't  
happened before. So yeah, it felt  
kinda great.

LACEY

Well good for you then. But our credit cards are probably being cancelled.

JAKE

Big deal. We'll use cash.

LACEY

As long as we have it. We live off those credit cards between your paycheques. When my EI gets spent there's always a few days when...

JAKE

When what?

LACEY

We need to eat.

JAKE

Yeah okay, the credit cards are important. I'll call them and say we lost the bills.

LACEY

Sure. That'll work. No, just tell them about the accident.

JAKE

Good idea. I'll tell them you almost died. I mean what are the fuckheads gonna say to that, right?

LACEY

Our phones are probably overdue too. And was there anything in that pile from the landlord?

JAKE

Like what?

LACEY

Like an eviction notice.

JAKE

Why would we be getting evicted. We pay the rent. Don't we?

LACEY

Yeah...

JAKE

On time?

LACEY

Mostly. But people are saying that they might be selling the place.

JAKE

Yeah. But that's just a rumour so--

LACEY

Go to work.

JAKE

Isn't it? It is, isn't it. A rumour?

LACEY

Maybe. Maybe not. Just go to work.

JAKE

Sure. I'll just make you something to eat and then--

LACEY

No. I'll be fine. Just go!

JAKE

Okay... yeah...

(kisses her)

You know, maybe I can ask Marco about funerals. He's got a really big family, and some of them have probably died, right.

LACEY

Right. But would Marco be the guy his family would trust to make the arrangements?

JAKE

Yeah I know you think he's not that smart but--

LACEY

I think he's a fucking idiot. Is he still watching porn on his phone while he fixes those cars?

JAKE

It's a hard habit to break.

LACEY

What is? Watching porn? Or doing it when you're putting in a new oil filter? Nevermind. Just get going. He's probably already docking your hours.

JAKE

Yeah...

(starts out)

I love you. You know that, right.

LACEY

Yeah I do.

JAKE

And I'm so fucking glad you're...  
you know...

LACEY

Alive?

JAKE

(kisses her again)  
Yeah.

He leaves.

Lacey sighs. Lies down. Inhales deeply. A sudden pain.

LACEY

Ah shit.  
(yelling)  
Jake!? ... Jake!!

She struggles to get up.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Jake..  
(weakly)  
Come back...

She collapses on the floor.

Blackout

## SCENE 2

A little later. Harry is helping Lacey back onto the couch.  
His tool chest is on the floor.

HARRY

Were you attacked?

LACEY

(a little out of it)  
No... I just...

HARRY  
Fainted?

LACEY  
What?

HARRY  
Fainted!

LACEY  
Yeah...

HARRY  
I ask because the door was unlocked, and there are some people in this building who might take advantage of that. I'm not saying who. But it's better to be careful. And an unlocked door is--

LACEY  
What are you doing here?

HARRY  
Oh. Well I was feeling bad about all the things I never had fixed for you. So I thought I'd try to take care of that. I mean I knocked and when there was no answer I reached for my Master Key but I'd forgotten it, then just to be sure I turned the knob, and... here I am. You don't look so good. Do you want me to call an ambulance?

LACEY  
No.

HARRY  
Then maybe I should call your husband at work.

LACEY  
No, that's not a good idea.

HARRY  
Are you sure. I mean generally speaking, people like to be notified about things like this.

LACEY  
Well he's been "notified" a lot lately.

HARRY  
Right. The accident. That musta been a kick in the head. So we should just leave him alone then.

LACEY

He can't leave work, anyway. His boss will dock his wages.

HARRY

Under these circumstances? No fucking way. Guy must be a real prick, eh.

LACEY

It's a small garage. And I think it's a struggle to keep it going. But yeah, he's definitely a prick.

HARRY

Yeah. And what's the point of keeping a business open if you're not going to behave decently to your employees. Better to just close up shop and shoot yourself in the head. Well maybe that's an overstatement. But if more people believed that treating others decently is the most important thing in life... then it'd be a better world, right.

LACEY

(to herself)

A better world... Who says things like that?

HARRY

I do? You look like you're in pain. Is that from falling down. Or do you look like that all the time? I mean since your accident. That was one brutal collision, wasn't it.

LACEY

So they tell me. I don't remember.

HARRY

Really? Well that's not good. You had a brain scan?

LACEY

Yeah but--

HARRY

Brain injuries can fuck you up for life. And that accident... it was in the papers, pictures and everything, it looked really bad. I figured nobody could have survived that. Not if they were in that small car, anyway. But that was yours, wasn't it. So--

LACEY

Yeah. Look, can you do me a favour?  
Fill that measuring cup with water?

HARRY

Sure.

He takes it and goes into kitchen.

HARRY (CONT'D)

(from kitchen)  
Someone was killed though, right.

LACEY

My brother. He was in a coma for a  
few days, but then he--

HARRY

(returning)  
Your brother. Ah Jesus, that's  
rough.

He hands her the cup of water. She downs it.

LACEY

(off his look)  
I'm measuring my intake because my  
kidney was damaged.

HARRY

Your kidney. Maybe your brain.  
That's pretty serious shit.  
And what about that other guy?  
He was hardly hurt at all probably.  
He was driving a beast, right.  
What was that, an Escalade or  
something? And your car was-

LACEY

A fifteen-year-old shit box.

HARRY

Yeah. So no contest. I mean here  
comes your little shit box. Here  
comes the Escalade. And SMASH!!  
What a fucking nightmare that musta  
been!

(winces)

Sorry. That was too... I mean it  
pisses me off, but I should try to  
keep it under control. What's it to  
you how *I* feel about it? Are you  
going after the guy?

LACEY

Whatya mean?



HARRY  
Well he's probably got money,  
right. That thing he was driving  
costs a fortune.

LACEY  
He says we ran the light.

HARRY  
That true?

LACEY  
Maybe. I don't know.

HARRY  
Any witnesses?

LACEY  
None so far. It was pretty late.

HARRY  
So it's just his word on the  
subject.

LACEY  
The cops believe him, I think.

HARRY  
Yeah? Well here's hoping that's not  
because he's got some PR company  
protecting his ass. Just be ready  
to deal with that bullshit, okay. I  
mean if it starts to feel like  
you're getting screwed. Look I  
better get to work because these  
things take me awhile to fix for  
some reason. Might be a hand/eye  
coordination problem. Toilet first.

Harry heads down the hallway with his tools. Suddenly  
returns.

HARRY (CONT'D)  
One more thing. You need to find a  
witness. And you need to do it  
before *he* finds one. If you know  
what I mean. Do you? Do you know  
what I mean?

LACEY  
No. I don't.

HARRY  
Well I haven't got time to explain  
it now. I've got a toilet to fix.

He leaves again.

Lacey picks up her phone, punches a key.

LACEY  
 (into phone)  
 Hi, Jen. How's she doing? ... Has she been out of bed? ... Well try to get her up, or she'll just lie there thinking about it all day. Maybe get one of her other friends to come over. No. I'm out now ... Yeah I'm a lucky girl.

A knock on the door.

LACEY (CONT'D)  
 No it's okay. I know what you meant.

Another knock.

HARRY  
 (off)  
 Someone's knocking.

LACEY  
 (covers phone)  
 I know.  
 (into phone)  
 Look, Jen I gotta go ... Yeah I will. Bye.

Another knock.

HARRY  
 (partially in the room)  
 Do you want me to get that?

LACEY  
 Please.

HARRY  
 Do you know who it is?

LACEY  
 No...

HARRY  
 Do you want me to get it anyway? I mean suppose it's that guy.

LACEY  
 What guy?

HARRY  
 From down the hall. You know, the GUY?

LACEY

You mean the dealer. Why would it be him?

HARRY

He does stuff like that.

LACEY

Knock on doors?

HARRY

Usually just when he's high. The thing is, he doesn't just sell. He's a big user. I guess he never heard of the Ten Commandments of Crack.

(off her look)

You know, Biggie Smalls... Commandment One "Don't get high on your own supply."

A much louder knock

LACEY

Look, are you gonna get that or what?

HARRY

Sure...

He heads off. Sound of door opening. A few muffled words.

Harry returns. Detective Annie Regan, mid to late 30s, is still by the door.

HARRY (CONT'D)

She's a cop. Says she wants to talk. You okay with me letting her in?

LACEY

Yeah, it's fine.

HARRY

Good. And is it okay if I keep working. Because I'm not sure when I can get back to it.

ANNIE

(fully entering)

Busy guy, are you?

HARRY

Yeah I am...

(starts off, stops)

Excuse me. Was that meant to be sarcastic? Because if it was, it would have been unnecessarily rude.

ANNIE

You're right. It would have been.  
But it wasn't.

He looks at her hard then leaves. Annie watches him go, then turns to Lacey.

ANNIE (CONT'D)

Hi, Lacey.

LACEY

I was going to call you back. I wasn't up to talking before, but I was going to--

ANNIE

Sure. But I was close by anyway.  
So...

LACEY

So it's important then. I mean talking to me couldn't wait?

ANNIE

Well waiting is what I've been doing, Lacey. The accident took place 15 days ago. And there are questions to ask.

LACEY

Sure. But...

ANNIE

You still can't remember anything?

LACEY

Not really. I remember a sound now. The sound of it came back to me.

ANNIE

The sound of the collision.

LACEY

Yeah. Like a big explosion or something. And someone screaming. I think it coulda been me.

ANNIE

So just those sounds. And nothing more.

LACEY

Well I remember being in the ambulance.

ANNIE

Okay. But nothing before that. How about when you were in that field?

LACEY

What field?

ANNIE

Beside the intersection. That's where you and your brother were found. I told you that.

LACEY

You told me I was found in a field? Sorry. I don't--

ANNIE

Yeah that's where you were, all right. So that's a mystery. I mean your car was totalled, and it sure didn't look like anyone who was injured like you and your brother were, could have made it out of that car and into that field. Not without help anyway.

LACEY

What about the other driver? Maybe he--

ANNIE

He was still in his vehicle... unconscious when EMS got there. He remembers the accident happening. But then he passed out.

LACEY

How's he doing?

ANNIE

He's got a concussion. Some bruising.

LACEY

Really. So it wasn't such a big deal for him.

ANNIE

I didn't say that.

LACEY

You kinda did. And he's still saying the accident wasn't his fault?

ANNIE

He's saying your car ran the light, yeah. He doesn't know if it was you or your brother driving. But he's sure his light was green.

LACEY

Well maybe I should start saying  
our light was green.

ANNIE

Except you've already told us you  
don't remember.

LACEY

So maybe I do now.

ANNIE

Do you?

LACEY

(looks at her first)  
No. I fucking don't. But maybe he  
doesn't either. Or maybe he's lying  
for chrissake. Have you thought of  
that?

ANNIE

It's crossed my mind. Look the  
investigation at the scene was  
inconclusive so--

LACEY

So why not leave it at that. Call  
it an accident. Why are you looking  
for someone to blame?

ANNIE

Because when your brother Tim died  
it meant that this became a  
possible case of vehicular  
manslaughter. Unless he was the one  
driving...

LACEY

And then it's, what? Vehicular  
*suicide*? Jesus Christ!

ANNIE

Well we can't charge dead people  
with a crime, can we? So...

LACEY

So that just leaves me...

ANNIE

Look I think you need to rest for a  
few more days. Why don't you do  
that? Rest. Get better. I'll be  
back. Okay?

LACEY

Whatever.

Annie leaves.

Harry comes back in carrying a plumber's wrench.

HARRY

I heard all that. Yeah you're  
definitely going to need a witness.

Blackout

Scene 3

Jake is setting the table for dinner. We can hear Lacey from the bathroom.

JAKE

In the field.

LACEY

That's what she said.

JAKE

With Tim...

LACEY

Yeah. Both of us. Like I told you.

JAKE

I just can't get my head around it.

LACEY  
(appearing)  
So until you can, are you gonna  
keep asking me questions about it?

JAKE  
(going into kitchen)  
Am I bugging you?

LACEY  
A little.

JAKE  
(returning with a large  
pot)  
Maybe you're just hungry.

LACEY  
(sitting)  
What's that?

JAKE  
Pasta. It's a recipe Marco told me  
how to make.

LACEY  
What's in it?

JAKE  
(serving)  
Tomato sauce. Olives. Onions...  
Sausage. Plus there's something I  
forgot... Maybe sugar. Anyway it  
looks good, right?

LACEY  
No, it looks gross.

JAKE  
Try it. If you don't like it, just  
say so.

LACEY  
(tries it)  
I don't like it.

JAKE  
Really? He said everyone likes it.  
Do you want me to add sugar just in  
case.

LACEY  
No that's okay. All those  
ingredients. How much did they  
cost?

JAKE  
Well the sausage was kind of-- Why?



LACEY

You could have just made potato soup or something to save money.

JAKE

Can we just for one night not talk about money.

LACEY

Okay. For one night. But not this night. How are we gonna pay for Tim's funeral. Five grand. I mean that's a lot.

JAKE

Marco says it's probably the cheapest we can get away with. It'll be just a plain coffin. And there won't be any extras.

LACEY

What are the "extras?"

JAKE

I don't know. But we can't have them whatever they are.

LACEY

Well as long as they don't include things like people to dig the hole.

JAKE

That's pretty dark, Lacey. You're worried it'll be just us digging a hole for him to go into.

LACEY

It's probably my pain killers. I'm gonna go off them.

JAKE

Good plan... Listen, are you totally sure Tim didn't have life insurance.

LACEY

He hadn't even had a job for five years.

JAKE

Okay but he sold dope. Maybe he had some cash put away.

LACEY

He sold a little weed. He wasn't like the guy down the hall.

JAKE

You mean Daryl. Yeah he's impressive.

LACEY

Impressive.

JAKE

I mean successful.

LACEY

Maybe he's just lucky. I mean he's not following the commandments, right.

JAKE

The commandments? Like from the Bible?

LACEY

No. From Biggie Smalls.

JAKE

Oh. Right. Yeah, because he does it from his apartment. "Never sell crack at a place you'll be at." That's number four, I think. Or are you talking about number one? "Never get high-

LACEY

"On your own supply" Yeah. So he does both...

JAKE

Definitely. He's a risk taker. So you know about them? The Commandments.

LACEY

Just that *one*. It sounds like you know them all.

JAKE

Well they're legendary.

LACEY

You mean for people who sell crack.

JAKE

Yeah. Or *did*. Even if it was only part time.

LACEY

Part time as in not 24/7.

JAKE

Yeah. I was never 24/7.  
(off her bowl)  
Maybe eat just a little. To get  
your strength back.

LACEY

Sure...  
(she takes a mouthful)  
No. Sorry. Maybe some apple sauce.  
Or canned peaches.

JAKE

Okay.

He heads into the kitchen.

JAKE (CONT'D)

I need to ask you about that field  
again?

LACEY

Jesus...

JAKE

Is it possible in any way that you  
can think of, or even just imagine,  
that Tim got you out of that car  
and then--

LACEY

He had a broken back, Jake. They  
told me he was probably killed on  
impact.

JAKE

Okay. But... maybe he didn't know  
that.

LACEY

What?

JAKE

Well sometimes people are dead and  
it hasn't hit them yet. They just  
act on nerves or something.

LACEY

You mean like a chicken after its  
head's cut off. He wasn't a fucking  
chicken, Jake.

JAKE

I know that. But maybe he was  
*acting* like a chicken.

LACEY

Jesus Christ. What is wrong with you.

JAKE

I'm scared.

LACEY

Of what?

JAKE

That cop for one thing! It sounds like she really wants to know how you wound up in that field. And I'm just trying to come up with something that will get her off your back.

LACEY

Try harder.

Jake gets a text.

JAKE

It's from Harry. He's coming up.

LACEY

Yeah he's got a plan.

JAKE

For what?

LACEY

I better let him tell you. I'm not sure I totally understand it.

A knock on the door.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Is that him already?

JAKE

No. He said he'd be awhile.

Jake heads to the door.

Lacey forces down another mouthful of the pasta dish.

Jake returns with Mr. David, a late 40ish man in a dark suit and turtle neck.

JAKE (CONT'D)

This man wants to talk to us. He says it's--

LACEY

(to Mr. David)  
You're the guy...

JAKE

What guy?

LACEY

In the accident. In the SUV.

MR. DAVID

So you saw me then?

LACEY

No. I mean... I guess so. What do you want?

MR. DAVID

Well a few things actually. First, I'd like to know how you're doing.

LACEY

Okay. How are you doing?

MR. DAVID

A little dizzy still. But mostly pretty good. Lucky I guess.

JAKE

It was more than luck, man. When that thing you were driving plowed into them it musta felt like they were getting hit by a tank.

MR. DAVID

(to Lacey)

Did it?

LACEY

I don't remember.

MR. DAVID

Yes I was told you have problems with that. And the memory hasn't improved?

JAKE

Why? You worried she might be able to contradict your story?

MR. DAVID

No. I'm hoping she can support it. It's not good having my version of what happened be the only one.

LACEY

Sorry. Can't help you.

JAKE

She can't even remember how they got in that field.

MR. DAVID

Excuse me?

JAKE

They were found in a field beside the intersection.

LACEY

Do you know anything about that?

MR. DAVID

I was unconscious. Maybe someone who was passing...

LACEY

Maybe...

MR. DAVID

Anyway. I feel bad about your car. Bad that I was driving something that could cause that much damage.

JAKE

And kill her brother.

MR. DAVID

Yes. Well I can't do anything about that. I truly wish that I could. But about the car...

He takes out a cheque. Puts it on the table.

MR. DAVID (CONT'D)

That should put you in something... decent.

(off their looks)

No strings. Just wanted to help you in some way... That's it then. Ill let myself out.

He leaves.

They look at each other.

Lacey looks at the cheque.

LACEY

Jesus...

She hands the cheque to Jake.

LACEY (CONT'D)

We could buy two of our cars brand new for this.

JAKE

Maybe three.

A knock on the door.

Harry enters carrying a binder.

HARRY

Your door was unlocked again.  
That's no good. If you do that  
often, try to stop. There are  
people in this building who never  
learned the basic rules of how a  
society should function.

JAKE

(to Lacey)  
He means they steal.

LACEY

(to Harry)  
We've got nothing worth their time.

JAKE

She means we decided not to let it  
freak us out.

LACEY

People can get desperate. That's  
just the way things are.  
(off Harry's binder)  
What's that?

HARRY

Our petition. We'll get to that  
later. But first we have to talk  
about the witness situation.

JAKE

You mean the fact that there isn't  
one.

HARRY

Not yet.

LACEY

That's his plan. To get a witness.

JAKE

You mean to find one.

LACEY

No to *get* one. To make one up.

HARRY

Well not from scratch. It'll have  
to be a real person capable of  
answering all the questions that'll  
be asked.

LACEY

Like?

HARRY

Well why didn't he or she come forward earlier. It's gonna be tricky.

LACEY

And illegal.

HARRY

But also very satisfying. Because the other guy has to compensate you for all the damage and pain he caused.

JAKE

He says it wasn't his fault.

HARRY

The witness will say otherwise. I'm telling you he has to pay.

LACEY

He already has.

She shows him the cheque.

HARRY

He sent this?

JAKE

No. He was just here.

HARRY

He was? How'd he find out where you live.

LACEY

Good question.

HARRY

(off cheque)  
So this is guilt money.

JAKE

Yeah but not for the accident. For the size of his vehicle...

HARRY

He said that?

JAKE

Kinda...



HARRY

Okay it's a start. But there's no way you can accept...

(off cheque)

fifty grand as compensation for the death of your beloved brother.

LACEY

But suppose it really wasn't his fault.

HARRY

That will become less and less important as we proceed. Also from now on, don't talk to him without having your lawyer present.

JAKE

We don't have a lawyer.

HARRY

Yes you do. You're looking at him.

JAKE

You're joking.

HARRY

No I'm exaggerating. I have no technical right to call myself that since my disbarment.

(nothing but stares back)

I was at a low point in my life, and my only client was a wealthy elderly woman. I was both her lawyer and her chauffeur, and when she died I handled her estate. She had intended to leave all her money to animal shelters in memory of the twenty-six Pomeranians that had so enriched her life, which I think was a fine idea, but not when your young lawyer is struggling to pay his rent or even eat properly.

LACEY

So you took some of it.

HARRY

Yes. And when it was discovered, they took away my right to practice my chosen profession. But not, and this is important, my ability to get things done. So back to the witness issue... and where to find this person. It can't be anyone close to home.

LACEY

So none of the criminals in this building.

HARRY

We don't want a criminal, period. We want someone who understands that people like you need to occasionally receive a little justice. Let me mull it over. It's important to get this right. Because there will be a lot of money involved.

LACEY

If the guy was heavily insured.

HARRY

Oh no. We're not going that route. He won't publicly admit to being responsible for killing your brother.

LACEY

Especially if he didn't do it.

HARRY

Again, let's not dwell on that. Besides, that won't be the issue if he thinks we have someone who says he *did* do it. Which he might have. Correct?.

JAKE

Yeah. Because we only have his word that he didn't.

HARRY

But wealthy people with influence walk away from this kind of thing all the time. Because the authorities, and fuck them all the way to hell for it, go out of their way to exonerate them.

(he gags)

Excuse me. This kind of injustice fills my mouth with vomit... Speaking of injustice, I want you to sign the petition.

He opens he binder.

JAKE

What's it for?

HARRY

We're not getting evicted. No matter what the owners want to do with this place. We're all staying put. Oh there's going to be a struggle. But let's see them try to throw out three hundred people who are vigorously resisting that action. This isn't just a petition. It's a declaration of war. Now are you both going to sign or what?

LACEY

I am. We're in no position to find another place to live. First and last month's rent. The cost of moving...

JAKE

What are you talking about? We've got that guy's cheque.

HARRY

Sorry. You have to return it. It could look like you've accepted a settlement. No wait, you should hold on to it in case our plans turn to shit. But don't cash it. Under no circumstances, until we've exhausted all other options, do you cash it. Okay?

They look at each other, turn back to him and nod.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Fantastic. Now back to the witness thing. First off though, any chance I can get a cup of tea?

JAKE

Coffee okay?

HARRY

If that's what you've got then that's what I'm having. Asking for things that people don't have is something that should definitely be discouraged. It only causes embarrassment  
(standing)  
Mind if I use the bathroom?

LACEY

Go ahead.

Harry leaves.

JAKE

He could be getting us involved in things we can't handle.

LACEY

Suppose we can though. Suppose we can handle those things and even more. And suppose we wind up with a lot of money.

JAKE

That's a lot of supposing.

LACEY

Yeah. But maybe we should've started doing it a long time ago. Supposing things. Instead of just dreaming things.

Harry returns.

HARRY

Got it! We need a communist. A good old fashioned "let's redistribute the wealth" totally out of her fucking mind, pinko!

He gives them an enthusiastic thumbs-up. They return it, quite a bit less sure.

Blackout

SCENE 4

Annie is in the armchair looking at her notebook.

Lacey is making her way from the bathroom to the couch.

ANNIE

How's the urine?

LACEY

Sorry?

ANNIE

Any blood?

LACEY

No...

ANNIE

Good. And the output?

LACEY

It seems to be okay.

ANNIE

So it looks like you're going to be fine then. Now if we can just get that memory back, eh.

LACEY

Yeah well that'll either happen or it won't.

ANNIE

Makes you kind of vulnerable though. I mean something could come to light that points us in a certain direction that... leads us to a certain conclusion. And if you're not able to remember-

LACEY

Are you fucking with me, Detective?

ANNIE

Yeah I am. Sorry. I was hoping to shake you up, spark something in your memory bank. Look I'll be honest with you. If there's any doubt in this case, Mr. David is almost certain to receive the benefit of that doubt.

LACEY

Why though?

ANNIE

Well it might be because both you and your brother have criminal records.

LACEY

For things that have nothing to do with driving a car.

ANNIE

(reading from notebook)  
No but public intoxication, possession of a controlled substance, assault, two failures to appear for him and one for you... they don't look good when we're trying figure out who messed up at that intersection.

LACEY

Was I drug tested in the hospital?

ANNIE

You, the driver of the other vehicle, your brother...

LACEY

You tested my brother while he was in a coma.

ANNIE

Procedure. Everyone was clean. So good on you. For getting yourself sober. But then there's your husband...

LACEY

What about him?

ANNIE

He dealt drugs.

LACEY

Who told you that?

ANNIE

Other drug dealers.

LACEY

He has no record.

ANNIE

You mean he was never caught. Right. But it still makes it look like your family isn't exactly law abiding. And again, if we're looking to find fault... Now that won't mean much if it's determined that your brother was driving.

LACEY

Because you can't jail a dead man. I got that the first time you mentioned it.

ANNIE

Did you? Good. But on the other hand, if it's proven that you were driving...

LACEY

Right. Vehicular manslaughter. Got that too.

ANNIE

So what are the chances?

LACEY

That I was driving?

ANNIE

Well the car was in your name.

LACEY

Yeah. But he's the one who used it most of the time. What's going on here? These visits, these questions that are all kinda the same. It's like you're trying to wear me down or something. I mean I don't remember anything, so why keep asking.

ANNIE

Maybe I'm just exploring options for you. For example, it's possible that, with a little help, it could be determined that Tim was driving. If that happened no one would go to jail and no one would be held financially responsible. I'm assuming Tim had no assets.

LACEY

He had a new pair of Adidas.

(off her look)

No I get it. You mean *I* wouldn't go to jail and there'd be no reason to come after me or my mother for money. Okay... so here's hoping it goes my way. I mean so what that my brother is fucking dead. And so what if that prick in the SUV *might* be lying about who had the green light. Because that doesn't matter, does it?

ANNIE

It does to me. But it might not to anyone else.

LACEY

Really. So what should I do.

ANNIE

You should remember. You should remember that Tim was driving.

LACEY

You want me to lie.

ANNIE

I want you to remember.

LACEY

Remember that Tim was driving. Just that.

ANNIE

Nothing else matters, Lacey.

LACEY

I'm not going to blame my brother,  
my *dead* brother for something I  
don't know he did. Fuck you!

ANNIE

Come on, don't be stupid! You want  
to take a chance on making your  
life even worse than it is? Look  
hard at your situation for godsake.  
Look at this place. You've got  
nothing! You hear me? Nothing!

LACEY

Okay. Shut the fuck up.

ANNIE

What's wrong with you people?

LACEY

"You people"?

ANNIE

Yeah you fucking ridiculous people.  
I don't know how or why it turned  
out for you like this. No money, no  
options, no future to speak of.

LACEY

Holy fuck. Listen to yourself!

ANNIE

It's just a goddamn mess, isn't it.  
Maybe you were born into it. Maybe  
shit just happened. But it's time  
to get real, okay. And try to make  
this one sensible choice for  
chrissake!?

LACEY

You gotta go.

ANNIE

Really. You think that's your best  
move here? Kicking me out when  
maybe I should be allowed to wait  
for your husband to get home.  
He might be able to understand what  
I'm offering here. Nothing I've  
observed about him leads me to  
believe that, but I live in hope.

LACEY

We don't do that.

ANNIE

Do what? Live in hope?



LACEY

We don't disagree about things like this.

ANNIE

Really? Where is he anyway? He can't still be at work at 10 PM.

LACEY

What are you getting at?

ANNIE

Just ask him who he's been hanging with when he gets home.

LACEY

Sure...

ANNIE

No I mean it. Because just maybe he's been out doing something you might *not* agree with.

Annie is on her way out.

LACEY

Like what?

ANNIE

Just ask him.

LACEY

Like what!?

Annie is gone.

LACEY (CONT'D)

(sitting)

Fuck!

Blackout

SCENE 5

Lacey is in the chair. She is holding three Ziplock baggies. One containing a white powder, one some pink pills and the third some small chunks of crack

Sound of the door opening. She puts the baggies under her.

Jake comes in.

She look at him.

JAKE

Hey...

LACEY

Yeah. Hey.

JAKE

How you doing?

LACEY

Not so good.

JAKE

How come? The pain bad today?

LACEY  
No that's under control.

JAKE  
So what's the--

LACEY  
The cops know.  
(no response)  
Did you hear me? The cops know what  
you're doing.

JAKE  
I'm not doing anything.

LACEY  
You're dealing again.

JAKE  
No way.

LACEY  
That detective was here.

JAKE  
And she told you that?

LACEY  
In a way, yeah.

JAKE  
Well she's wrong. I mean they might  
have suspicions because they could  
have seen me with Daryl, I guess.

LACEY  
Daryl.

JAKE  
(gesturing)  
Yeah. You know... from down the  
hall.

LACEY  
Oh you're working for that genius.

JAKE  
No.

LACEY  
No? Then what's this?

She produces the baggies.

JAKE  
Okay. Okay... but I'm just doing it  
until...

LACEY

What is all this shit?

JAKE

Ahh... Meth. Crack. Apache powder--

LACEY

What?

JAKE

Fentanyl.

LACEY

Jesus. No fucking way. Fentanyl?  
That kills people.

JAKE

I don't care.

LACEY

What?!

JAKE

I don't mean I don't care. I  
just... Okay I'll give that back to  
him.

LACEY

You'll give it all back to him.

JAKE

No. I need to make enough money to  
get your brother out of the morgue  
and into the ground. That funeral  
home wants a deposit of fifteen  
hundred to even get started. And  
you made me not cash that cheque...

LACEY

Our lawyer said we shouldn't.

JAKE

You mean Harry? He was disbarred.

LACEY

So what.

JAKE

So he's not really a lawyer then,  
is he.

LACEY

Sure he is. Just like you're really  
a drug dealer. I mean neither of  
you have forgotten how to do it, so-

JAKE

Please don't get yourself upset.

LACEY

Right. You wouldn't want that. You love me too much to see me upset, don't you.

JAKE

I love you more than anything. You're my whole life.

LACEY

Right. Okay. So why...  
(off the baggie)  
...would you leave this here, so I could find it.

JAKE

I didn't want you to find it. Why would I want that?

LACEY

Because you want me involved in some way, so you won't feel like you're in it alone.

JAKE

No, that's--

LACEY

It took me five minutes.

JAKE

Really?

(looks at her)

Well... I guess I forgot that you're good at finding stuff. You know, from all those years of looking for where your mother hid her booze.

LACEY

You don't get to bring my mother into this. Her problems never get discussed here. My mum, your dad. We don't blame them for anything. That was the deal, right. We don't look back and find excuses. And we don't repeat. Remember that? We don't do the stupid things we used to just because they look easy.

JAKE

Unless we don't have a fucking choice.

LACEY

Oh. So we can make exceptions. I can get smashed and turn a few tricks then.

She throws him the bag.

LACEY (CONT'D)

Take it all back.

JAKE

That's not a good idea.

LACEY

I mean it. Take it the fuck back or I will.

JAKE

It won't fucking matter who takes it back. The deal was made. "When you take it, you got it." That's a thing. Daryl took what he gave me off the market, without cash up front, just on my say so. And also he knows where I live so that's added security for him, right.

LACEY

Which means he can get to you.

JAKE

If he has to.

LACEY

And slit your throat. Maybe mine too just for the hell of it.

JAKE

It won't be like that. I'm just responsible for his losses if I don't move it in a reasonable amount of time. He'll just add interest to what I owe him until I get it done. No big deal. Daryl says it's based on the rules of commerce. Sort of like a bank.

LACEY

What a load of crap. Interest. Security. You gotta give it back. Blame me. Tell him it freaks me out.

JAKE

He won't care.

LACEY

Sure it will. He likes me.

JAKE

How do you know that?

LACEY

From the way he looks at me, Jake.  
He looks at me in a certain way.

JAKE

Yeah but that's... that. This is  
business. Anyway, if he "likes"  
you, he wouldn't slit your throat,  
would he.

LACEY

Not right away. He'd do shit to me  
first.

JAKE

That's not funny.

LACEY

I know that. So you want me to take  
it back to him or--

JAKE

No. I'll do it. But tomorrow, okay.

LACEY

Right now.

JAKE

I can't right now. He's having a  
party.

LACEY

He's always having a party. Are you  
saying you don't wanna spoil his  
fun or something?

JAKE

No it's not that. He's just more  
reasonable when his crew's not  
around. He thinks they're always  
looking for signs of weakness in  
him. You know, in case he needs to  
be moved out.

LACEY

Moved out? What's that mean?

JAKE

Killed. It means killed.

LACEY

Really? Well fuck him. *And* his  
crew. And whatever the fuck they do  
in their stupid druggy world. Get  
it out of here. I mean it.

JAKE

Yeah. I know. I'm sorry.

He starts off, stops.

JAKE (CONT'D)  
You all right?

LACEY  
I gotta go to bed.

He approaches her.

JAKE  
Wait up for me, okay.

LACEY  
I'll try, yeah.

JAKE  
(getting closer)  
It's been awhile.  
(cupping her breast)  
I miss you.

LACEY  
Yeah but...

JAKE  
No try to stay awake.  
(kisses her)  
It'll be good.

He kisses her again. Grabs her ass.

LACEY  
Easy.

JAKE  
Sure. But we should really--

LACEY  
Take the drugs back.

JAKE  
Okay. But a little later.

They kiss again. It gets intense.

LACEY  
Jake.

He is guiding her gently down onto the couch. He has his hand inside her shirt

JAKE  
We should do this first... And then  
I'll...

LACEY  
Yeah...



She has her hand inside his pants.

JAKE  
Okay?

LACEY  
Yeah...

They keep going...

BLACKOUT

SCENE 6

Morning. Lacey emerges from the bedroom. A little groggy.

LACEY  
Jake?

Into kitchen...

LACEY (CONT'D)  
Jake?... What the...

A knock on the door, and Harry comes in

HARRY  
Okay, seriously. You have to keep  
that damn door locked. Hubby not up  
yet?

LACEY  
He's not here.

HARRY  
Where is he?

LACEY  
I don't know.

HARRY  
Is that bad?

LACEY  
Maybe.

HARRY  
Maybe *how* bad?

LACEY  
Well I'm not worried he got lost.

HARRY  
Jesus. This not a good time to just disappear.

LACEY  
Is there ever?

HARRY  
Well yeah. If things get truly hopeless. But not before you've at least put up a fight.

Jake comes in carrying a shopping bag.

JAKE  
Hi..

LACEY  
Where the hell have you been?

JAKE  
Went out for milk. And tea, just in case our lawyer wanted to pay us a visit. And here he is.

LACEY  
You didn't come home last night.

JAKE  
Sure I did. You were asleep.

LACEY  
No way I'd go to sleep without hearing you come back.

JAKE  
I looked in on you.  
(to Harry)  
She was out like a light. And I'd only been gone ten minutes.

LACEY  
Ten minutes.

JAKE  
Maybe less. He wasn't there. I waited a little but--

HARRY  
Who wasn't there?

JAKE

No one.

LACEY

No one he wants to talk about.

(look at Harry)

What are you doing here anyway?

HARRY

We've got a witness.

JAKE

Really?

HARRY

She's going to get on to Mr. SUV right away and ask for two hundred grand. I suggested one hundred, but she's a keener.

LACEY

Is she a communist?

HARRY

No she's a sociopath. I knew her in law school. A very smart woman. But her only source of pleasure is in fucking with people to the point of total ruin. She's a truly sick but highly functioning individual. She'll say things to him that will scare the shit out of him, and make him question not only *her* sanity but his own as well. For starters, she'll say she saw him run the light and cause the accident. Which I'm willing to bet is true. Giving you that cheque means he wants this to go away. And whether he did or didn't cause the accident, she's gonna freak him out so much he'll be convinced he's going to wind up in jail for killing your brother anyway.

LACEY

Is she gonna tell him she's a lawyer?

HARRY

There's no upside to that. She'll suggest a public place for him to hand over the money. They'll meet. She'll disappear into the crowd. That's it. Only downside is that she wants twenty percent of whatever she squeezes out of him.

JAKE

How much are you taking?

HARRY

Nothing. That's not who I am now. I no longer profit from the misfortune of others.

LACEY

You're helping us profit from *his*. I mean how come no one wants to think about him maybe being innocent?

HARRY

Again, no upside. He pays. Or he doesn't. If he's guilty and has the money he pays. If he's innocent and has the money he might still pay just because it's easier. Like I said, I'm betting he is, and he does. And I'm betting that way so you people get something substantial out of this.

(starting out)

I'll be in touch.

He is gone.

LACEY

That's kind of what the detective said to me.

JAKE

What is?

LACEY

That we should try to get something out of this no matter what really happened. Maybe it was a trap. You know, to get me to lie and then--

JAKE

Or maybe she just wants to help us.

LACEY

Yeah but... well, what the fuck's going on with these people? Why do they care about us all of a sudden? Did anyone care when we were homeless?

JAKE

We were never homeless.

LACEY

We were sleeping on my cousin Karen's floor.

JAKE

Yeah but we were indoors. Being homeless means you're--

LACEY

Whatever. The point is--

JAKE

No one cared.

LACEY

Until now, yeah. Must be because of the accident.

JAKE

You mean because it got us a lot of attention.

LACEY

And a lot of pity too, I guess.

JAKE

We hate pity.

LACEY

Yes we fucking do. But if that's all we can get from some people, we take it.

JAKE

Definitely.

LACEY

(looks at him)  
So you actually expect me to believe you were only gone ten minutes last night.

JAKE

It's the truth.

LACEY

Because Darryl wasn't there.

JAKE

He was there, but so was his crew and he wasn't gonna take all that shit back from me in front of them.

LACEY

Well what about now?

JAKE

I texted him. He hasn't gotten back to me yet.

LACEY

Okay. So where are they then?

JAKE

The drugs?

LACEY

Yes, Jake. The drugs.

JAKE

I put them somewhere safe.

LACEY

Where?

JAKE

Doesn't matter. You didn't want them in the apartment, and they're not.

Jake gets a text.

LACEY

That Daryl?

JAKE

No it's Clyde.

LACEY

Who the fuck is Clyde?

JAKE

He works for Daryl. He wants a meet up. I gotta go.

He rushes out.

LACEY

Wait a minute...

JAKE

Can't.

He is gone.

Lacey picks up her cell.

Hits a key.

LACEY

(into phone)

Hi, Mum. How you doing today? ...  
Worried about what? ... No it's  
okay. We'll get the money for it  
somehow ... Mum. He's not gonna rot  
in the morgue, okay ... No he's not  
gonna get dumped somewhere either  
... Yeah I promise. Please try not  
to worry about it. I'll call you  
later. Bye.

She disconnects.

Puts her head in her hands.

Blackout

## SCENE 7

Mr. David and Jake are both on the couch. Fairly close together. Mr. D is manspreading with both legs and arms.

JAKE

Do you want me to sit in the chair?

MR. DAVID

No this is good.

JAKE

It's just that you seem to need a lot of room.

MR. DAVID

Where's Lacey?

JAKE

She's out for a walk.

MR. DAVID

At night? In this neighbourhood?

JAKE

She was born in this neighbourhood.

MR. DAVID

Yeah but it's changed a lot, right.

JAKE

Not enough to stop her from going for a walk.

MR. DAVID

Good for her. We have to fight back, right.

JAKE

Against who?

MR. DAVID

Against who. That's funny... So she's feeling better then. And what about you? All these things about the accident haven't caused you to become a little fuzzy-headed?

JAKE

I don't think so.

MR. DAVID

What I'm saying is, I thought we had an agreement. All those zeros on that cheque I gave you...

JAKE

Yeah. That was--



MR. DAVID

Generous. It was very generous.

JAKE

Oh yeah. For sure.

MR. DAVID

Yes. So this afternoon when I got a call from a woman -- whom I assume was representing your interests -- asking me for a quarter of a million dollars, I was a little confused.

JAKE

A quarter million. Wow.

MR. DAVID

Yes. A big fucking wow.

JAKE

Only... what makes you think she was representing us.

MR. DAVID

You mean why do I have trouble believing that a witness to the accident suddenly appeared and decided on her own to shake me down. Because I'm not a fucking idiot. Do you think I'm a fucking idiot?

JAKE

No.

MR. DAVID

Does your wife?

JAKE

Probably. But that's only because she thinks most men are.

MR. DAVID

What do you *know* about me?

JAKE

Nothing really.

MR. DAVID

You mean nothing except I drive a very expensive vehicle and can easily spare the sixty thousand dollars I offered you out of the goodness of my heart.

JAKE

It wasn't sixty. It was fifty.

MR. DAVID

Sixty. Fifty. So fucking what? You should have just cashed the cheque, stupid man. Here's a little advice for you, okay. Next time you're thinking about shaking someone down, find out much more about that person first. You understand what I'm saying?

JAKE

I think so.

MR. DAVID

You just "think" so.

He casually pulls out a gun.

JAKE

Hey, man. That's not-- Put it away, okay. I get it. We made a mistake. We'll back off. Please. I don't like guns. Guns aren't the answer, man. If there's a problem that's outta control, lets just work it out. Okay?

MR. DAVID

Sure. I'm good with that. I just wanted you to know where I'm coming from.

He puts the gun away.

JAKE

A dark place. You're coming from the dark place I've been trying to stay out of my whole life. So... are we all right now? We're cool, yes?

MR. DAVID

Definitely.

JAKE

Good.

MR. DAVID

(smiles)

So... how long have you and your wife been together anyway?

JAKE

Since we were fifteen.

MR. DAVID

Really. So where are all the children you should have by now?

JAKE

We're waiting until we're in a better situation.

MR. DAVID

You mean when you're off welfare.

JAKE

We're not on welfare. Getting on welfare would be going backwards.

MR. DAVID

But blackmail is going forward? Do you see the problem with that thinking? How one can make you a loser and the other one a *dead* loser?

JAKE

Yeah. I do.

MR. DAVID

Good. So this was just a learning situation for you then. I understand that. Now cash the cheque, and buy yourself a nice car. It might fool people into thinking you're not just a pathetic nothing. And trust me. That's all you're getting from me. Also, if I get another call like the one I had today... Well I'm going to have to put an end to all this somehow, aren't I.

(stands)

You think you can relay all that to your wife accurately?

Jake nods.

MR. DAVID (CONT'D)

And buy some new furniture. You can never live a good life with junk like this around you. It's too much to overcome.

JAKE

(looks at him)

Did you cause the accident?

(off his look)

Don't worry. I won't tell anyone. No one would believe me anyway. You know, because I'm such a loser.

MR. DAVID

Right.

JAKE  
So did you?

Mr. David just smiles, and leaves.

Blackout

## SCENE 8

Lacey and Harry. Lacey is dressed in an old track suit of Jake's. Jake is in the kitchen.

LACEY

She's asking for way too much. You gotta tell her to back off.

HARRY

That's not going to work. She thinks he's a challenge.

Jake is coming from the kitchen with three mugs.

JAKE

He's a criminal.

HARRY

Thanks...

(taking a mug)

Yeah. She found that out. And it really got her excited too. His name's actually Davisomitski, or something like that. He's second generation Albanian mob. A nasty group of law breakers and she's thrilled about taking them on. Usually she only gets to stick it to sleazy business types and the odd politician. This takes her to a whole new level.

LACEY

Well it's great that she's having fun, but this guy threatened us.

JAKE

Me. He threatened *me*.

LACEY

You, us... What's it matter?

JAKE

Come on. I'd never let him get away with threatening *you*.

LACEY

(to Harry)

He had a gun, so that's probably not true.

(to Jake)

I'm not saying you would have wanted to, but...

(to Harry)

He's got a thing about guns.

HARRY

Irene says that gun stuff is just part of his schtick.

LACEY

Well tell "Irene" we think killing people might also be part of his schtick. We're happy with the fifty thousand.

HARRY

I'm sure he's put a stop payment on that cheque.

JAKE

Why would he do that?

HARRY

To save money. It was enough to just scare you.

JAKE

Who's scared? I'm not scared.

HARRY

You should be.

LACEY

(to Jake)

Look just take the cheque to the bank, okay. Try to cash it.

JAKE

Sure. But I have a few errands to run so--

LACEY

Do this first. It's in the kitchen drawer with the knives and forks.

Jake retrieves the cheque.

LACEY (CONT'D)

It's made out to me. I'll have to sign the back.

JAKE

(handing her the cheque)

Right.

HARRY

(handing Lacey a pen)

This is probably a fool's errand.

LACEY

That's okay. He's a fool.

JAKE

Hey.

LACEY

I'm talking about those other "errands" you have to run.

JAKE

Yeah? Well that's okay then, I guess.

He takes the cheque and leaves.

HARRY

What's he up to?

LACEY

Shouldn't you be calling Irene?

HARRY

(takes out his cell,  
punches a key)

I'll try but...

(into phone)

Hi. It's me. Look you need to step away from this ... Because this man is making my friends very nervous..

(to Lacey)

She doesn't care.

Lacey grabs his phone.

LACEY

(into phone)

Hey. Irene. Back the fuck off.  
You're messing with our lives here!  
... No it's not worth the risk! ...  
No it fucking isn't!

Hands back Harry's phone.

LACEY (CONT'D)

What is it with her?

HARRY

(shrugs)

Like I told you. She's a sociopath.

(into phone)

Irene, look... how about I point you to another target. We're in a fight with our landlords and we need someone to go at them in a really big way. This would be a no holds barred situation. Yeah. Total war...

(to Lacey)

She's considering it.

LACEY  
That's big of her.

Blackout



## SCENE 9

Lacey has let Annie in. They are both heading to the living room.

ANNIE  
You been jogging?

LACEY  
Sleeping.

ANNIE  
Oh. Well at least you're getting dressed now.

LACEY  
Right. Listen, I've still got nothing to tell you. No new memories. No new need to let myself off the hook. So whatever you're here for...

ANNIE  
There was an incident involving your husband. It was a gang thing in the park near here. And shots were fired--

LACEY  
Jesus. Is he dead?

ANNIE  
No he was wounded, but he's going to be okay. He's in the hospital.

LACEY  
The hospital. Okay. Can you take me there?

ANNIE  
Sure but...

LACEY  
(heading to bedroom)  
I'll just get changed...

ANNIE  
The thing is, he was with a known dealer who was in possession of a large quantity of crack cocaine. And there were other individuals...

LACEY  
(from off)  
What about, Jake?

ANNIE  
He was shot in the arm.

Lacey comes out of the bedroom unchanged.

LACEY  
I meant was he carrying?

ANNIE  
No but-- I thought you were going  
to change.

LACEY  
I decided not to bother.

She starts out. Annie follows.

ANNIE  
Look, this was a turf war kind of  
thing, so if Jake is involved with  
these people...

LACEY  
Right. That'd be bad. Got it.

She leaves.

ANNIE  
(following)  
Aren't you going to lock the door?

LACEY  
(off)  
No...

Annie leaves and closes the door behind her.

Blackout

## SCENE 10

Mr. D is on the couch. Spread out. Waiting.

Harry comes in.

HARRY

Okay how many times do I have to ask you to keep that...

(sees Mr. D)

damn door...

MR. DAVID

Hi, there.

HARRY

Who are you?

MR. DAVID

Why do you ask?

HARRY

Well you're in an apartment that isn't yours.

MR. DAVID

So are you.

HARRY

Well I'm the... concierge.

MR. DAVID

Okay.

HARRY

So who are you?

MR. DAVID

Who do you think I am?

HARRY

I think you're someone who shouldn't be here.

MR. DAVID

Relax. I'm just waiting for that young couple to come home.

HARRY

You can wait in the lobby.

MR. DAVID

Lobby. Is that what you call it? No couch. Not even a couple of chairs.

HARRY

It's a lobby without furniture.

MR. DAVID

Sure. Because it would all get stolen. I get that. Come on. Take a load off. Let's chat. I was going to say this to the young people who live here but since you're the... concierge... Harry, right?

HARRY

Yeah.

MR. DAVID

Right. So actually maybe you should be the one to receive this information anyway. Irene said it was your idea to approach me.

HARRY

Who's Irene?

MR. DAVID

Please. Don't do that. It will just waste time for both of us.

HARRY

You found her?

MR. DAVID

I never lost her. I had her followed from our meeting.

HARRY

Have you hurt her?

MR. DAVID

Yes.

HARRY

How badly?

MR. DAVID

It's hard to tell. She doesn't seem all that bothered by pain.

HARRY

She isn't. So you might as well let her go.

MR. DAVID

That's one option. What are you anyway? Besides a janitor... Do you think of yourself as some kind of hero to the people here. You were a crooked lawyer, right. Is this your attempt at redemption?

HARRY

Could be. Or maybe it's just something that needs to be done.

MR. DAVID

Well whatever it is, it has to stop. I can't be involved, beyond what I already am, in any of the consequences from that tragic accident. It's already brought me too much attention. I have people to answer to, and they don't like their associates to attract attention. So if I ever hear from any of you people again, I promise that this will get truly truly truly ugly for all of you. Do you understand what I'm saying.

HARRY

I truly do.

MR. DAVID

Excellent.

(stands)

Share the important parts of this conversation with the young couple. And tell them that the next bullet Jake takes won't be intended to wound.

HARRY

The next bullet? What are you--

MR. DAVID

You know, if you really want to make the people in this place feel better about themselves, put a nice sofa and a few cozy chairs in that lobby. Show them you trust that they won't get stolen. Plant new grass around the building. Maybe a few flowering bushes. Small things like that. That's all you should be doing. Anything more... adventurous is just going to end in heartbreak.

He leaves.

Blackout

## SCENE 11

Lacey, Jake and Harry. Jake's arm is in a sling. Harry is on his feet and agitated.

HARRY

He's killed her. I'm sure of it.

JAKE

Should we call the cops?

HARRY

And then ask them to look for her body at the bottom of the lake? This man is a serious criminal. I don't know how high up he's connected but-

LACEY

What's this thing he said about Jake maybe getting shot again.

JAKE

How'd he know about that?

HARRY

My guess is that he supplies Daryl's gang. And he used them send you a message.

JAKE

Yeah I was wondering why they all of a sudden turned on me. What message?

HARRY

If we do nothing, if we leave him alone, he won't bother us anymore.

JAKE

I'd already told him we wouldn't.

LACEY

Then Irene got to work.

JAKE

That was a strategic error.

LACEY

Ya think? So there's no real choice then, is there?

HARRY

Well there's always a choice. Problem is, we won't know if it was the right one until we make it.

(MORE)

HARRY (CONT'D)

Just letting him threaten us into doing nothing doesn't feel right to me though. He put a stop payment on that cheque, didn't he?

JAKE

Yeah.

HARRY

Well there you go. You're getting nothing from that evil asshole if we leave it as is. That settles it.

He starts off.

LACEY

Harry.

HARRY

Don't worry. I'll leave you out of it. And if whatever I do doesn't work out... I've liked getting to know you both very much. You've helped me get focused.

Starts and stops again.

HARRY (CONT'D)

One more thing. It's about the petition. Get it signed by as many people as possible. If you have to, just forge their names. No one will notice. Then start the campaign to resist eviction. And please don't give up. Not about that or anything else. How you start off doesn't have to be how you end up.

He leaves.

JAKE

I should go with him.

LACEY

Why?

JAKE

It feels shitty not to. That prick he's going after had me shot.

LACEY

(sitting on couch)  
So you want a little payback?

JAKE

Maybe.

LACEY

Look just sit down. You're not that  
guy.

JAKE

What guy?

LACEY

The one who needs to go out to get  
payback and leaves me here worrying  
about him. Sit down. Please.

(off his look)

Come on. Be that guy, okay. Be my  
guy.

Jake looks at her. She pats the couch next to her. He sits.  
She snuggles up to him.

Blackout



## SCENE 12

Lacey and Annie. Lacey is on her feet.

ANNIE

Mr. "David" denies ever seeing him.

LACEY

He's lying.

ANNIE

How would your friend Harry even know where to find him?

LACEY

Maybe from Daryl down the hall.

ANNIE

The dealer. The one your husband's involved with.

LACEY

He's not really in-- Mr. David is his supplier. Look I'm not going to talk to you if I think you're just trying to connect Jake to Daryl or any other drug dealer.

ANNIE

You didn't like my heads-up about the company he's keeping? Look maybe Harry just took a little vacation.

LACEY

A vacation? No way. The man is on a mission.

ANNIE

I'm sorry?

LACEY

He's trying to get some justice.

ANNIE

For you?

LACEY

For everyone.

ANNIE

Okay. So he's a little unbalanced then.

LACEY

Maybe. Does that mean we should just forget about him.

(MORE)

LACEY (CONT'D)

Look it's been almost two days.  
Something's happened to him.

ANNIE

That could be true. But if it's  
because of who you think it is...  
Well those guys are good at what  
they do. And one of the things they  
do is make people disappear for  
good.

Jake comes out of the bedroom in his underwear. Putting his  
sling back on.

JAKE

What's she doing here?

LACEY

I called her. I'm worried about  
Harry.

JAKE

He's dead.

LACEY

Maybe.

JAKE

No. For sure.

(to Lacey)

Let me know when she's gone.

He goes back into the bedroom.

ANNIE

What's with him?

LACEY

He's pissed that you told me what  
went down in the park.

ANNIE

What, he thinks I was gossiping?  
Jesus.. Anyway, let's assume  
Harry's dead. What's the lesson  
here, Lacey?

LACEY

The lesson? Jesus!

ANNIE

The lesson is this. There are  
individuals out there who shouldn't  
be messed with. Especially by  
people with limited resources like  
you. And--

LACEY

He ran the light.

(off her look)

It came to me last night in bed. I remembered the whole thing. I was driving. I entered the intersection on a green light. I saw him coming out of the corner of my eye but I thought he'd stop. He didn't. He didn't even slow down. Then it happened. It was freaky and loud. I passed out for awhile and then woke up, got out, went to the passenger side, pulled Tim out and dragged him into the field. And then...

ANNIE

You passed out again.

LACEY

Yeah... But he ran the light. So I want him in jail for killing my brother. But first I wanna take him for a fucking bundle. So we'll both do our thing, okay. You make a case against him. And I'll try to empty his bank account. Tell him. Go tell him you're coming after him.

ANNIE

That's not usually how we go about it.

LACEY

I want him to know as soon as possible that he's not getting away with it.

ANNIE

You mean the accident.

LACEY

Or for doing what he's done to my friend. He was trying to help us! Do you have any fucking idea what that means to me!? Get to work, and put the asshole away.

ANNIE

I'll do my best. And the money you want from him, you'll get that how?

LACEY

I'll think of something.

Annie looks worried as she leaves.

Blackout

SCENE 13

Lacey is asleep on the couch. Mr. D is in the armchair.  
Watching her.

She stirs. Looks at him. Focuses. Sits up.

LACEY

I knew you'd come.

MR. DAVID

Really. Is that why the door's unlocked?

LACEY

It's always unlocked. Pretty stupid, eh.

MR. DAVID

Where's your husband?

LACEY

At work. I thought we should talk without him. This whole thing is making him very upset.

MR. DAVID

And you think we can make it better with a little talking.

LACEY

You don't wanna talk? You just want to torture me then kill me?

MR. DAVID

Speaking like that makes you seem a little crazy. Didn't your friend give you my message.

LACEY

No, he did. And I understood. I was ready to do all you wanted. But then he disappeared. And that kinda freaked me out. Freaked me out and shocked me so much that I remembered something.

MR. DAVID

And what was that.

LACEY

It wasn't your fault. My brother was driving, and he'd had way too much to drink. He went through that red light and you had no choice but to slam into us. I'm really sorry for all we've put you through.

MR. DAVID

What the fuck is wrong with you? What are you talking about?

LACEY

That's what I'll be telling the cops. Everything except my brother being the driver. I can't lay any more grief on my mother. And all you have to do is tell me what you did to my friend Harry. You do that and you'll be in the clear.

MR. DAVID

I'm already in the clear.

LACEY

Well with *that* version of what happened you are. There's another one. The real one that says you ran the light. It makes you responsible for my brother's death. It puts you in prison.

MR. DAVID

And that's what you just remembered?

LACEY

It's what I'll say I remembered if I have to. So where's Harry?

MR. DAVID

I don't know. The last time I saw him was right here. I gave him a message for you. Did you get it?

LACEY

Yeah...

MR. DAVID

And you didn't understand the part about leaving me alone?

LACEY

Where's Harry?

MR. DAVID

I don't know!

LACEY

I don't believe you!

MR. DAVID

I don't give a shit! Anything else?

LACEY

What?

MR. DAVID

What else... do you... want... from me?!

LACEY

Money.

MR. DAVID

You mean *more* money.

LACEY

Yeah. A lot more. I'll have to think for awhile before I figure out how much.

MR. DAVID

You mean you don't want to be greedy?

LACEY

I mean I just want what's fair. I'll be in touch.

MR. DAVID

This thing you're doing... it's very dangerous, you know.

He stands.

LACEY

Is it?

He gives her a final look. Just wondering.

Then he leaves.

Blackout.

## SCENE 14

Lacey and Jake are snuggling on the couch.

JAKE

It was good to see you eat your supper. I've been pretty worried about you.

LACEY

I'm sorry.

(she looks at him)

I still need to get stronger though. That detective's right. People who don't have resources are no match for the all assholes out there. So we're gonna take another approach from now on. Not to everything. Just to how we take care of yourselves.

JAKE

It was good of Daryl to take the drugs back.

LACEY

Yeah he's a saint.

JAKE

I owe him though.

LACEY

No you don't.

JAKE

Yeah, Lace. I do. That's just the way things are.

LACEY

Is the door locked?

JAKE

No.

LACEY

Good. Are you nervous?

JAKE

Are you?

LACEY

I'm too mad to be nervous.

(hears something in the hall)

Shh...



They listen. Prepare. Then...

The door swings open. A man storms in. Carrying a gun. All in black, including a balaclava. He approaches them. Stops. relaxes his neck muscles.

Lacey moves her hand from behind Jake. She is holding a gun.

MASKED MAN

No!! No! Don't!!

He whips off the balaclava. It is Harry.

LACEY

Jesus!

JAKE

What the...!

HARRY

Whatya doing with a gun!?

JAKE

What are you doing--

LACEY

In a fucking mask!

HARRY

I was just trying to show what could happen if you keep leaving that fucking door unlocked!

LACEY

Where the hell you been, Harry?

HARRY

I needed to keep s low profile while I made some arrangements.  
(off gun)  
Where did you get that thing.

JAKE

Marco keeps it in the garage. I didn't like the idea but--

LACEY

I thought we should be prepared.

JAKE

It's our new approach to... certain things.

HARRY

So you were expecting him to show up.

LACEY  
We still are.

HARRY  
That's not going to happen.

LACEY  
We think it could.

JAKE  
She scared him.

HARRY  
I killed him.  
(off their looks)  
Well did you think I was all talk?  
That was the old me. This me is  
much more inclined to add some  
action to my words. How did you  
scare him?

LACEY  
I told him I remembered that he  
caused the accident.

HARRY  
Did he? I mean did you? Remember  
that.

LACEY  
No. How did you kill him?

HARRY  
I didn't actually do it myself. I  
just arranged it. It'll look like a  
gang killing.

LACEY  
You're sure of that?

HARRY  
Yes.

JAKE  
Why?

HARRY  
Because it was. He was squeezing  
our friend Daryl down the hall for  
a bigger share. Daryl didn't like  
that one little bit.

JAKE  
And so he did this thing because of  
that?

HARRY

Plus my promise to keep him in good standing on the premises. He likes it here. And I can help keep the law off his back.

(sitting)

Now let's talk about the future. How do we get all the people in this building to sign our petition? How do we get them to understand the power they have. How do we get them to understand how important it is to stand up for themselves and push back when their basic life circumstances are threatened. Okay I can see how you might need some time to consider all that.

He leaves.

Lacey hands Jake the gun.

JAKE

Can I take that thing back to the garage?

LACE

You don't think we'll need it again?

JAKE

You heard him. The guy's dead.

LACE

Yeah but there are lots of other guys like that out there. I think we should hold on to it for awhile.

JAKE

I guess we should start locking the door too.

LACEY

No way.

JAKE

So the door will be unlocked. But we'll have a gun. What's that mean?

LACEY

It means... we're hoping for the best. But we're prepared to blow someone away if we have to.

(kisses him)

That makes sense, doesn't it. I mean considering how things are...

JAKE

Out there, you mean.

LACEY

Yeah out there. And down the hall.

JAKE

Yeah...

(kisses her neck)

Do you think you're ever gonna remember what happened with the accident?

LACEY

I'm thinking I don't want to. But maybe I should say I do . You know to do what Harry and the cop said. Blame the asshole.

JAKE

He's dead.

LACEY

Well he had insurance. And he had money to leave to someone. Why not us?

JAKE

Yeah. Because who knows how long it'll be before you can get back to work.

LACEY

And Marco's never gonna give you a raise.

JAKE

Right. What a prick, eh.

LACEY

And I don't see how my mum ever recovers from Tim dying.

JAKE

That means we gotta take care of her, put her somewhere nice. And we'll need money for that.

LACEY

A lot. So... I think I'm starting to remember what happened.

JAKE

That's good.

LACEY

But I've heard insurance companies  
fight like hell not to pay anyone  
anything. And if he had a family  
they're probably evil assholes like  
he was. So just me saying it was  
his fault won't be enough. We need  
to find a witness.

JAKE

You mean a real witness?

LACEY

Or just, you know... a witness.

They think.

Look at each other.

Smile.

Blackout

THE END