

ACT ONE

CLOSE ON

A copy of Daredevil #181. Signed by Frank Miller. We slowly pull back. . .

INT. COMIC BOOK STORE

To reveal a dark, cramped comic book store. Long boxes and display cases as far as the eye can see. On top of the nearest long box rests a stack of Daredevil comics. Messy. Disorganized, as if they were just tossed on top with no care to their wellbeing.

We pan across the room, past long boxes and display cases till we reach the countertop. Laying on top next to the cash register is a backpack, covered in blood with a daredevil mask sticking out. The hollow eyes watching you as the blood staining the mask and backpack drip down.

We follow the slow drizzling blood downward till it splats onto the face of a young man. A face already covered in blood. We pull back to see his dead body laid back against the wall behind him. In his hand rests a blood soaked sai.

CUT TO:

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, BEDROOM - MORNING

On the bed, alone in a cluttered mess lays BECKETT. She slowly starts to wake and looks around for Castle. We hear the soft sound of typing coming from somewhere else in the house.

BECKETT

Castle?

She gets out of bed and puts one of castles shirts on before going to look for him.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT - CONTINUOUS

Beckett walks through the loft, it's eerily silent but for the sound of typing coming from the study.

BECKETT

Rick?

MARTHA
(OS)
Good morning dear.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, KITCHEN

MARTHA and ALEXIS are in the kitchen eating and talking amongst themselves.

BECKETT
Morning Martha, Alexis. Have you see Castle?

MARTHA
He's in his study. Working for a change.

ALEXIS
He's been at it all morning. I guess he was feeling inspired.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, STUDY

We see CASTLE typing away on his computer, the world lost to him as he pounds away at the keys. He has hit his stride and the world melts away till only the story exists. Sitting next to his computer is a copy of Casino Royal.

Beckett walks to the study and stands in the doorway watching Castle type, a small smile gracing her lips, before she turns around and heads back to the kitchen. Castle's eyes never leave his computer.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, KITCHEN

Beckett makes her way towards the kitchen.

BECKETT
I didn't even hear him get up this morning.

MARTHA
I don't think he went to bed last night. You know how us artist are, when inspiration strikes we must heed the call.

BECKETT
So what's up with you two?

Beckett starts to make herself some coffee.

MARTHA

Alexis here was just telling me about her new boyfriend.

BECKETT

New boyfriend?

ALEXIS

Well I don't know about that. Tonight is our first date. I'm really excited.

Alexis face lights up as she thinks about the upcoming date. Beckett sits across from Alexis smiling at her as she listens.

BECKETT

So who is he?

ALEXIS

His name is Jake and he is pre-law at Columbia.

BECKETT

Pre-law huh? Impressive. I was pre-law myself. What's he like?

ALEXIS

He's smart, funny. Cute!

Castle comes into the room and kisses Alexis on the top of her head as he walks by.

CASTLE

New guy huh? So when do we get to meet him?

He gets himself a cup of coffee and takes a seat next to Beckett. Alexis looks uneasy at the thought.

ALEXIS

I don't know if I'm ready for you to meet him yet.

CASTLE

Why? He doesn't work with bees does he?

ALEXIS

Ha-ah funny, dad. This is why, I don't think he is ready for your particular form of humor.

Beckett's phone goes off, she laughs as she walks out of the kitchen to find her phone.

BECKETT
It is a lot to handle.

CASTLE
Hey!

MARTHA
So how is the writing coming along?

CASTLE
I knocked out a few chapters. I think I might only be a few weeks behind on my deadline.

ALEXIS
Getting it in that close to the deadline? You're going to give Gina a heart attack.

MARTHA
And we wouldn't want that.

BECKETT
(os)
Castle! We got a body.

Castle gets visually excited.

CASTLE
Ah! Body, gotta run. Mother, Alexis.

He rushes out of the room.

EXT. STREET - MORNING

Castle and Beckett make their way down the street towards the uniforms standing outside a comic book store named, Dark Tide comics.

CASTLE
I don't like this.

BECKETT
What?

CASTLE
Alexis, why won't see let me meet him?

BECKETT

Because it's new. Let her have her fun, when she is ready the two of you will meet.

CASTLE

But I'm ready now. And what fun? I don't want her having too much fun.

BECKETT

I think it's a little late for that Castle.

INT. COMIC BOOK STORE - CONTINUOUS

Castle and Beckett enter the comic book shop. The tiny shop packed with uniforms. ESPOSITO is talking with LANIE over the body.

CASTLE

Late? Like late, late?

RYAN walks over to them.

BECKETT

Not what I meant Castle, relax. Hey Ryan.

RYAN

Beckett, Castle.

CASTLE

I hope not, maybe I should stop by her school. Bump into them.

BECKETT

Not the best idea. So what do we got?

RYAN

The victim is one Alex Johnson, he works here part time and attends City College.

BECKETT

Any witnesses?

RYAN

Afraid not. It looks like he was here alone after hours last night when it happened.

The three of them make it over to the body.

BECKETT
Cause of death?

LANIE
Well it seems the weapon of choice
was . . .

She points out the sia in his right hand, trying to think of the word for it, Castle eyes light up as he recognizes it.

CASTLE
A sia? That's a sia! Ninja! I call
ninja killer.

LANIE
Sia it is.

BECKETT
Down Castle. We've been through
this. There is no such thing as
ninjas.

CASTLE
Well, if not ninja, than turtle? I
mean who else uses sias?

Esposito tosses Castle the blood soaked Daredevil mask.

ESPOSITO
A masked nut? Found this in his
backpack.

Castle catches the mask, his face lighting up as he recognizes it.

CASTLE
Daredevil! He was a ninja! The
mask, along with the sia being used
as a murder weapon, means that the
killer could only be one person. .
.

Castle and Beckett shout out the name of the killer at the same time, Castle believing it and Beckett with a sense of mockery.

CASTLE (CONT'D)
Elektra!

BECKETT
Bullseye.

Castle and Beckett turn to look at each other.

CASTLE (CONT'D)

Bullseye? But the sia is Elektra's
weapon of choice, why would you say
Bullseye?

Beckett kneels down next to Lanie to look at the body.

BECKETT

Because from the look of it, he was
stabbed upward with the sia, just
like how Bullseye killed Elektra in
Daredevil 181.

Castle is impressed.

CASTLE

Aw, I didn't think of that. So we
thinking hired hit from Wilson
Fisk?

ESPOSITO

Get serious Castle.

CASTLE

Obviously not the real Wilson Fisk,
but a copycat. Or a Bullseye
copycat. He saw this Alex as
someone he needed to take out and
found the method in this classic
story.

BECKETT

I seriously doubt we have a copycat
Bullseye on our hands.

Ryan walks over to them holding a comic book.

RYAN

I wouldn't be so sure of that, what
issue did you say the murder
happened in?

Beckett's annoyance shines through as she turns to answer.

BECKETT

181, why?

Ryan hands her issue 181.

RYAN

This was found by the back of the
store.

(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

There was a bunch of daredevil issues tossed all around over there. It looks like they were looking for this one.

ESPOSITO

Well if they were looking for that one why would they just leave it behind?

CASTLE

Maybe they broke in to steal it and they were interrupted by Alex, a fight broke out and the thief killed him with his own sia. Afterward seeing the horror of his own actions he ran off, dropping the comic as he went.

BECKETT

Any signs of a break in?

ESPOSITO

The back door was unlocked, looks like someone picked it.

BECKETT

Are there cameras in here?

ESPOSITO

There are but they aren't recording.

CASTLE

Kind of pointless.

RYAN

They are more for show than anything else.

BECKETT

Lanie, do we have a time of death?

LANIE

I'd have to run some tests back at the lab but if I had to guess, I'd say sometime between 10 and midnight last night.

CASTLE TITLE CARD

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION ROOM

ELIZABETH CAMPBELL is sitting at the desk, the pain from her loss is shown clearly on her face. The door opens as Beckett and Castle walk in. Beckett and Castle sit across from her.

BECKETT

Ms. Campbell, I'm told you and Alex were dating. Let me start by saying I'm sorry for your loss.

ELIZABETH

Thank you, I just can't believe he's gone. It doesn't seem real, you know?

BECKETT

I know, were you with him last night?

Elizabeth nods her head.

CASTLE

Did you know he was the man without fear?

A look of confusion crosses Elizabeth's face as Beckett shoots Castle a look that screams shut up.

BECKETT

What he means, is do you know why he had a Daredevil costume with him?

ELIZABETH

Oh, uh last night was our one year anniversary and Alex thought it would be fun to go to a comic book convention. So we went and got dressed up, he was daredevil and I went as

CASTLE

Elektra.

ELIZABETH

Yeah, how did you know?

CASTLE

Lucky guess.

Castle leans towards Beckett and whispers in her ear.

CASTLE (CONT'D)
Looks like I was right.

Beckett ignores him.

BECKETT
So you went as Elektra to the party?

She nods.

ELIZABETH
Yeah, that was his idea.

BECKETT
So as Elektra did you have any accessories?

ELIZABETH
Accessories? Like earrings? What does that matter?

Beckett pulls out a picture of Alex holding the bloody sia.

BECKETT
Like this.

Elizabeth starts to cry when she sees the picture.

ELIZABETH
Oh my god, Alex. That's his sia, who would do something like that?

BECKETT
You tell us. You were with him last night, dressed as someone who uses sias to kill people.

ELIZABETH
It was a costume! Yeah I used the sias to add to the look but that didn't mean I killed him! After the party I gave them back and went home, he said he had to drop something off at the shop so we separated.

BECKETT
Can anyone verify that?

ELIZABETH
Yeah, my parents! Is that all?

CASTLE

What time did he leave for the shop?

Elizabeth turns towards Castle, rage building inside her.

ELIZABETH

Around 10:30.

EXT. MOTEL - DAY

Esposito and Ryan show up at a crime scene. The uniforms have the parking lot blocked off and room 123 is open with uniforms standing around it.

RYAN

I still can't believe Beckett's case, a guy murdered right out of a comic book.

ESPOSITO

Just goes to show you, there's some sick freaks out there who take things too far.

They walk past the uniforms and into

INT. MOTEL, ROOM 123

The room is a typical motel room, TV on one side and a bed on the other with a night stand next to it. The only thing that makes this room remarkable is the dead body laying on top.

The man laying on the bed is in nothing but his boxers and a pillow laying next to him.

PERLMUTTER is examining the body when they walk in.

ESPOSITO

What do we got?

PERLMUTTER

A body. He was suffocated with that pillow, most likely asleep whenever he was attacked. He has some defensive markings but I haven't found anything yet. I'll do some more test back at the lab.

Ryan picks up the guys pants off of the floor and pulls out his wallet.

ESPOSITO
We got a name?

Ryan hands the wallet over to Esposito.

RYAN
You won't believe this.

Esposito takes the wallet. We zoom into see the name on the ID is one Alex Johnson.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY

Castle, Beckett, Esposito and Ryan are standing around the white board. The timeline for the Alex Johnson murder in the comic book store is on the timeline.

BECKETT

So your victim is named Alex Johnson as well?

ESPOSITO

Yeah, weird right?

RYAN

Two bodies in as many days and they both have the same name. What are the odds?

BECKETT

Not high, anything linking them?

RYAN

Not that we can find.

ESPOSITO

At least not yet.

CASTLE

Maybe someone is out to eliminate the Alex Johnson of the world.

ESPOSITO

Why?

Castle shrugs.

CASTLE

Maybe it's a crazed mother to be, who wants that name and doesn't like to share?

BECKETT

Shut up Castle. You guys have any leads?

ESPOSITO

Not so far, we are bringing the wife in. See what she knows. How about you guys?

BECKETT

One of his coworkers told us about an argument he got into earlier that week with a customer. Over, get this, issue 181 of Daredevil.

RYAN

What a coincidence.

CASTLE

Right!

Beckett picks up her jacket.

BECKETT

We're on our way to pick him up now.

The elevator at the far end of the bullpen opens up as a pair of uniforms bring ASHLEY JOHNSON in. She is crying as they lead her through the precinct.

INT. PRECINCT, WAITING ROOM

Ashley is sitting down on the sofa while Ryan sits across from her and Esposito brings her something to drink.

RYAN

I'm sorry about your husband.

ESPOSITO

Here you go.

She nods her head as she takes the drink. Esposito sits next to Ryan.

ASHLEY

Thank you. I can't believe he is gone.

RYAN

I know this must be hard for you, but do you know what your husband was doing there?

She looks at them but doesn't answer. Instead she takes another drink.

ESPOSITO

Anything you could tell us could potentially help us. Anything at all.

Reluctantly she puts her cup down and locks eyes with them.

ASHLEY

You can't figure it out yourselves?
You're supposed to be detectives
but can't put together that a
married man in a motel room is
having an affair?

ESPOSITO

Well he was alone there, and there
was no evidence of anyone else
being there.

RYAN

We traditionally start with the
spouse when trying to figure out
what happened.

ASHLEY

Sure, you just drag me down here to
humiliate me during my time of
grief. How do you sleep at night?

Esposito and Ryan exchange looks, they weren't expecting her
to turn it on them.

RYAN

So you were saying he was having an
affair?

ESPOSITO

You wouldn't happen to know with
who would you?

ASHLEY

Some slut at his office. Her name
is Erika. I read some of their
texts to each other. It's
sickening, do you know we have a
three month old at home? How could
he cheat on us like this?

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - MOMENTS LATER

Ryan and Esposito are sitting at their desks.

ESPOSITO

So the mistress is one Erika
Stevens, 27. Cute.

RYAN

I don't get why you would step out on your family. I mean I couldn't imagine doing anything like that to Jenny and Sarah Grace.

ESPOSITO

That's because you're in love. This guy clearly wasn't, and after meeting his wife, I'm pretty sure I can see why.

RYAN

You think she killed him out of spite?

ESPOSITO

I wouldn't put it past her. She just spits venom.

INT. ELECTRONIC STORE

Beckett and Castle enter into the store, the place is busy and full of costumers. A lady in yellow is standing near the door as they walk in.

YELLOW SHIRT LADY

Hello, how are you today?

Beckett pulls out her badge.

BECKETT

Good, I'm detective Beckett and this is my associate Castle, we need to speak with a Bryan Flannigan.

YELLOW SHIRT LADY

Bryan? He's in the warehouse in the back of the store. Do you want me to call him up here?

BECKETT

That's okay.

Castle and Beckett start walking through the store. Castle is checking his phone.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

You expecting a call?

CASTLE

I'm just trying to find out more about this mystery man of Alexis.

BECKETT

God Castle, give her some space, when she wants you to meet him she will let you know. Don't push it.

CASTLE

I just don't like it when she hides things from me.

Castle and Beckett head through the door in the back of the store to . . .

INT. ELECTRONIC STORE, BACKROOM

The backroom is a long warehouse, filled with large TV's sizes 50' and above. On the side of the entrance are video games on display.

BECKETT

She isn't hiding it from you, she told you about him. She just isn't ready for you to meet. It isn't the end of the world.

CASTLE

I guess, maybe your right.

They head down the room towards a table built into the wall with a pair of computers on it. The video games turn to DVD's and Blurays.

BECKETT

Of course I am. Now where is this guy?

Castle's eyes light up.

CASTLE

What?

Beckett goes on high alert. Her hand reaching for her gun.

BECKETT

What? You see him?

Castle's hand shoots out and picks up a DVD.

CASTLE

They wouldn't dare!

We zoom in on the DVD. It is Embrace of the vampire remake.

BECKETT

Embrace of the vampire? Never heard of it.

Beckett lowers her guard as Castle turns the DVD over.

CASTLE

Remake, the original had Alyssa Milano.

BECKETT

Still never heard of it.

CASTLE

It wasn't her best work, but I've always had a soft spot for her, she kind of reminds me of Kyra.

Beckett shoots him a dirty look.

BECKETT

I don't see it.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

(os)

Hey! What are you two doing back here? You can't be here!

BRYAN FLANNIGAN turns the corner rounding on them, startling Castle who almost drops the DVD but catches it, he had to struggle with it. Beckett on the other hand turns to face him and pulls out her badge.

BECKETT

Mr. Flannigan? I'm detective Beckett and this is Castle, we need to ask you some questions.

Bryan's eyes go wide and he runs towards Castle with his hands out stretched trying to shake hands.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Oh my god! Richard Castle!

Castle shakes his hand, taken aback by how excited the man is.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)

Deadly Storm is one of my favorite graphic novels. You're a genius man!

CASTLE

Finally someone who appreciates my talents.

BECKETT

That's nice, listen Mr. Flannigan, we have some questions for you.

Castle pulls his hand free. Bryan turns to look at Beckett.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Uh, Officer Beckie, what can I do for you?

BECKETT

Detective Beckett! And we understand you got into an argument with Alex Johnson?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Who?

CASTLE

The clerk from the Dark tides.

Recognition shows on his face as he turns away from them and starts to walk back to where he was hiding before they came in.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

What does that thief want?

Beckett and Castle start to follow him.

BECKETT

Thief?

Bryan takes a seat next to a desk off to the side of the room. He puts his feet up on the desk, a determined look on his face.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Yeah, thief. He stole from me, than had the audacity to kick me out of the store while he held onto my property. Mine!

Castle and Beckett exchange looks with each other.

CASTLE

Let me guess, Daredevil 181?

He jumps up out of his chair.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Yes! Do you know how hard it was for me to find that issue? I spent years of my life looking for it and this, this clown lucks out on getting it from my bitch of an ex and thinks that's fair? It's bullshit, that's what it is.

BECKETT

Wait, slow down. Why don't you start at the beginning.

Bryan sits back down, he is clearly not in a good mood.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

I was dating this girl, Jackie, she was cute and smart and I thought we had something. I was wrong.

BECKETT

What does this have to do with Alex?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Look I don't know what he told you, but that comic book was mine. Whatever he said was a lie.

BECKETT

He didn't tell us anything! We are here investigating his murder.

The shock comes across clear as day on his face.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

De. . .dead? Dead, dead? Like really dead?

CASTLE

Afraid so.

BECKETT

So do you think you could tell us what your argument with him was about? Or we could go down to the station if you think that will help.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Uh yeah, well you see, I fell for Jackie and I thought she liked me as well, but it turns out she was just using me.

(MORE)

BRYAN FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)
I mean I know I should have learned
by now that you can't trust women
but,

Beckett straightens up.

BECKETT
Excuse me?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN
Oh uh, no disrespect ma'am. I just
mean in relationships, women tend
to screw people over, or at least
me.

BECKETT
Are you trying to be unhelpful?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN
No, look let me start over. I dated
this girl and at the end of the day
it turns out she was just using me.
I gave her rides everywhere, spent
all my money on her and everything.

BECKETT
What does your love life have to do
with the murder?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN
Nothing! You asked why I got into
an argument with the guy and I'm
getting there.

BECKETT
Get there faster.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN
Okay, okay. I showed her my comic
book collection. I showed her my
Daredevil 181, signed by Frank
Miller.

BECKETT
You had it signed? How did I miss
that?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN
You found my book?

BECKETT
It's evidence right now. So if it
is your book, what was it doing in
the store?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

We were, well having fun and she asked me for some money, I was broke and told her no. She went to the restroom and then I took her to work. After that I didn't hear from her. I tried to hit her up but no response.

CASTLE

She stole the book?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Yeah, that bitch did. I went to her job and confronted her and she confessed that she sold it to Dark Tides.

BECKETT

So you went to get it back.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Yeah, only the guy wouldn't give it to me. He was trying to charge me double what he paid for it. I mean, why should I have to pay for it at all? It's my book that was stolen but he didn't want to hear it.

BECKETT

Why didn't you call the police?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

I did! You people said that you would investigate and I never heard back from you.

BECKETT

So you took matters into your own hand?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Yeah, the book was mine! I tried to give him the same amount he paid but that wasn't good enough. He said that it was my fault for letting her steal it. Can you believe that?

BECKETT

The nerve of him.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Right? What an ass!

BECKETT

Killing him was the only way you could get your book back, you had no choice.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

What? No! I didn't kill him! He had me kicked out of the store!

BECKETT

Don't lie to us. We found the book by the exit. We know you were there the night he died.

Bryan takes a deep breath.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Okay, honestly, I broke into the store after hours. I found the Daredevil section and started looking for it.

CASTLE

That explains all the other daredevil books laying around.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Yeah, it took me a while to find the book.

CASTLE

But if you went through all that trouble, why did you leave it behind?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

I didn't expect anyone to be there. I went in the back, my older brother taught me to pick locks when I was a kid and I finally had a reason to put it to use. I got in, went right for the Daredevil section and tore through it till I found mine. But that's when shit hit the fan.

BECKETT

What happened?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Just as I was pulling the comic out I heard the front door open.

(MORE)

BRYAN FLANNIGAN (CONT'D)

The plan was to put the other comics back so they wouldn't notice but I panicked, ducked down, stuffed the comic in my backpack and made my way as fast as I could to the door. At first I was worried about making too much noise but they were yelling so loud that I finally just jumped up and ran when I made it to the door. Got two blocks away and noticed the comic fell out. I traced my steps back, I made it to the store but some car had just parked there, I got scared and ran.

BECKETT

Could you make out the car?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Just that it was old. Like a muscle car.

BECKETT

You get a license plate?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Why would I do that?

Beckett is not happy with that answer.

CASTLE

You heard yelling?

BECKETT

Who was fighting? Could you make out what they looked like?

He shakes his head no.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

I didn't want to be seen, which meant I didn't want to see. But I did recognize the guy's voice, the dead dude.

BECKETT

So Alex was fighting with someone the night he died.

CASTLE

My money is on

BRYAN FLANNIGAN
The girlfriend.

CASTLE
Hey! I was about to say that!

BECKETT
How do you know it was the
girlfriend?

BRYAN FLANNIGAN
She was yelling at him for looking
at some girl in the party. Who else
but a girlfriend would get so mad
at that?

CASTLE
So she didn't just walk him to the
door.

BECKETT
She lied about going inside.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN
The nerve of her!

Beckett shakes her head in annoyance at him and starts
walking towards the exit. Castle starts to follow her.

BECKETT
Let's bring her back in for some
more questions.

Bryan follows them towards the exit.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN
Hey, uh, I hate to be insensitive
about the whole dead guy thing, but
is there any chance I could get my
book back? It kind of means a lot
to me. And it was stolen in the
first place!

Beckett ignores him and exits the room, Castle looks back at
the guy.

CASTLE
I'll see what I can do.

END OF ACT TWO

(CONT'D)

ACT THREE

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION ROOM

Ryan and Esposito sit across from a beautiful woman in her mid-twenties, ERIKA STEVENS. She tries to act cool but her demeanor comes across as anything but.

RYAN

So what was your relationship with Alex Johnson?

ERIKA STEVENS

A co-worker. We didn't talk much, seeing as we are both married.

ESPOSITO

So you never saw him outside of work?

ERIKA STEVENS

I'm afraid not, but I'm really sorry to hear about his death. He seemed like a really nice guy.

She is trying really hard not to cry as she talks about him. She refuses to look either detective in the eyes.

ESPOSITO

You can save the lies.

RYAN

His wife knew about the affair. She told us that he goes to the motel to meet with you.

She is caught off guard by them already knowing about it. She had tried to be so careful.

ERIKA STEVENS

What? Affair? I would never. I love my husband.

ESPOSITO

We already confirmed it with the motel manager. He says he has seen you many times over the past two months. So quit bullshitting, what happened yesterday?

She lets out a sigh as she accepts defeat.

ERIKA STEVENS

I. . Okay I had an affair with him. I don't know why, I don't know how I let it happen, it just did. But I do love my husband, I do. You have to believe me.

RYAN

So what happened last night?

ERIKA STEVENS

I came to the motel when I got out of work but before I could get to the room my husband confronted me. He was there and he knew that I had been cheating on him. I never made it to the room, I left with my husband to try and fix our marriage.

ESPOSITO

And your husband will collaborate your story?

She doesn't answer just nods her head yes and starts to cry.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN

Beckett, Castle, Ryan and Esposito are sitting around the whiteboard. The girlfriend is back under the suspect banner.

BECKETT

So the husband verified her story?

ESPOSITO

Yupp, we got nothing.

RYAN

How's your case coming?

CASTLE

I'm still betting on Elektra.

BECKETT

How sad is that he might just be right.

ESPOSITO

So your killer is a comic book character?

BECKETT

No, the girlfriend, who was dressed as Elektra. Seems she lied about when she left.

RYAN

At least you guys have a lead.

GATES comes out of her office.

GATES

You four, in my office now.

CASTLE

What did I do now?

INT. PRECINCT, GATES OFFICE

Gates is standing behind her chair, she doesn't have good news. Beckett and Castle are sitting in the chairs while Ryan and Esposito are standing behind them.

GATES

I have some troubling news.

CASTLE

I can explain.

GATES

What?

CASTLE

I don't know, I just assume I did something wrong.

BECKETT

Castle!

GATES

Not this time Castle. I know you are working two different cases, both of which have a victim named Alex Johnson.

BECKETT

What's this about sir?

GATES

We just got a third body, any guesses on the vics name?

ESPOSITO

Alex Johnson?

Gates nods.

RYAN

That's three bodies in as many days.

BECKETT

We have a serial killer.

GATES

Looks like it, the feds haven't noticed yet. But I will have to send this to them soon unless you can find me a killer.

CASTLE

Can I change my theory? I'm going with a terminator, T-800 to be exact. It comes to our time to wipe out a bloodline, but the only thing it knows is the name Alex Johnson.

ESPOSITO

It's not a robot, look there's nothing linking these killings together but for the victims' names.

CASTLE

Okay, first of all he isn't a robot, he is a cyborg.

ESPOSITO

Robot, cyborg, same thing.

CASTLE

They most certainty are not!

GATES

Does that really matter right now?

BECKETT

Sir, do we know how he was killed?

GATES

He was stabbed to death with a broken beer bottle.

RYAN

Ruff bar?

GATES

A movie theater. Some indie theater.

Gates hands Beckett the address of the movie theater.

GATES (CONT'D)

He just won some award and was
knocked over the head and stabbed
just after being given his reward.

BECKETT

Esposito is right, there's no M/O
with the killings.

GATES

Well you better find one and fast.

Beckett gets up ready to leave, but Castle doesn't move.

CASTLE

I think we already have one.

GATES

How do you mean?

ESPOSITO

One was killed with a dagger, one
with a pillow and now one with a
beer bottle, how is that an M/O?

CASTLE

First of all, it was a sia, not a
dagger. Those are two very
different weapons.

GATES

Make your point Castle.

CASTLE

They were all killed with whatever
was on hand. The sia was left at
the comic book store by the
girlfriend, the pillow was a part
of the room and the beer bottle,
I'm guessing was sold there. The
killer is just using whatever
weapons he can find at the scene.

BECKETT

That makes sense, that way nothing
links them back to anybody, because
it could be anybody who was there.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - MOMENTS LATER

Beckett, Esposito, Ryan and Castle leave Gate's office and start to head for the elevator.

BECKETT

Let's go check out the movie theater and see if we can find anything out there.

RYAN

How much you want to bet the suspects there won't lead to anything?

ESPOSITO

We have to be missing something.

BECKETT

If only there was something linking them. Ryan could you check if the victims had anything in common besides their names?

RYAN

On it.

Ryan takes off towards his desk.

Castle hangs back, Beckett notices.

BECKETT

Castle?

CASTLE

You guys go ahead. I'm going to check something out.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

INT. MOVIE THEATER

Small, cramped and full of hipsters. In the back of the theatre is a set of stairs leading upward. In the front of the theater is a bar with an old timely feel to it. Beckett and Esposito enter the bar, the uniforms come up to them but Beckett just flashes her badge.

BECKETT

Who's running this scene?

The uniform points towards the stairs.

UNIFORM

Detective Sullivan. He's upstairs with a witness.

BECKETT

Thank you.

They start to head towards the stairs, past the hipsters, some in tears, others looking mildly inconvenience.

ESPOSITO

Sully, haven't seen him in a while.

They start to head upstairs, walking past posters of indie flicks as they go.

INT. MOVIE THEATER, UPSTAIRS

The upstairs is a giant lounge room. The third Alex Johnson's body lays on the floor near the middle, his head resting in a pool of his own blood and a beer bottle sticking out of the back of his head. Lanie is talking to Sully not far from the body. On one of the chairs a young girl sits, a stone cold look on her face. She is FAITH BELL. Lanie spots Beckett and Esposito as they make it to the top floor.

LANIE

Beckett, Esposito?

BECKETT

Hey Lanie, Detective.

SULLY

What are you guys doing here?

ESPOSITO

Hate to do this to you Sully, but we are taking over this case.

SULLY

Oh, um well that's okay. Anything I can do to help?

BECKETT

Do we have any leads?

SULLY

The lady sitting there is Faith Bell, she got into a public fight with him twenty minutes before he was murdered.

BECKETT

Okay.

Beckett walks over to Faith, Esposito talks to Lanie. Beckett kneels down next to Faith.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

Faith?

The girl nods.

FAITH BELL

That's my name. So now are you going to ask me a bunch of slanderous questions?

BECKETT

Slanderous?

FAITH BELL

Lies, baseless accusations that damage my reputation in the eyes of the community.

BECKETT

I know what slander is, I'm just trying to get to know what happened to poor Alex here.

FAITH BELL

He won first prize in the film competition. The reward was \$25 grand.

BECKETT

That's a nice prize.

FAITH BELL

Ya' think? My film was far better, but he won. I wasn't happy about it, but I'm a good sport. I went to congratulate him and found out that he was friends with a couple of the jury members.

BECKETT

Really? That doesn't seem fair.

FAITH BELL

It's not! How could that be fair? It's why he won!

BECKETT

And you wanted justice?

FAITH BELL

Damn right I wanted justice! But they wouldn't give it to me!

BECKETT

So you took it!

FAITH BELL

Nice try, but I yelled, told everyone in attendance how this whole thing was rigged and then went to have a drink with my boyfriend and our film crew. So I didn't kill the cheat.

BECKETT

We will be sure to check with them.

FAITH BELL

You do that, can I go now?

BECKETT

Don't go far.

Beckett walks back over to Esposito, Lanie and Sully while Faith heads downstairs.

LANIE

Isn't she just sunshine and roses.

BECKETT

Sure is. So did you already check her alibi?

SULLY

She checks out, they were drinking
hard core after the little drama
played out.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN

Beckett, Esposito and Ryan are looking at the whiteboard. Now
all three Alex Johnson's pictures are on it, each one color
coordinated to keep them separate.

BECKETT

So you couldn't find anything
linking them?

RYAN

Besides their names, no.

Beckett stands up and gets a closer look at the whiteboard.

BECKETT

So we have three Alex Johnson, all
killed a day apart and each one
with a weapon found on location. So
far all the suspects have alibis.

RYAN

Speaking of suspects, the
girlfriend is in interrogation.
They brought her in just after you
left.

BECKETT

Good, maybe she can give us some
answers.

Beckett starts to walk off but stops suddenly.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

Where's Castle?

RYAN

Not sure, he said he had a lead to
follow up on and took off.

BECKETT

He say what it was?

RYAN

He just said he had a hunch.

BECKETT

Of course he did.

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION ROOM

Elizabeth Campbell is sitting in the room, her head hung low. Beckett walks in with a folder and sits down across from her.

BECKETT

Welcome back.

ELIZABETH

What am I doing back here? Didn't I already answer everything?

BECKETT

You did, but not truthfully.

ELIZABETH

What? I never lied to you!

BECKETT

You told us that you didn't go with him to the shop, that you went home.

ELIZABETH

I did go home!

BECKETT

Don't lie to me. I have a witness that saw you in the comic shop fighting with Alex minutes before his death.

Elizabeth knows she is caught and it shows on her face. She lets out a sigh before talking.

ELIZABETH

Okay, look, I didn't think that it would look good if I told you that we got in a fight that night. At the party he was checking out this girl and I got kind of heated. We've been together for two years and I just thought we would be farther along, but his head still turns, or well it did before.

She takes a beat to collect herself.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I didn't kill him. I loved him, I don't care if you believe me but I did love him.

(MORE)

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

We went to the shop because he borrowed the costumes and had to put them back before his boss noticed. We got into a screaming match and I stormed off. He was very much alive when I left.

Beckett starts to open the folder she brought with her.

BECKETT

I see.

Beckett pulls out pictures of the other two Alex Johnsons, and places them in front of Elizabeth.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

Do you know either of these men?

Elizabeth looks at the pictures and shakes her head.

ELIZABETH

No, should I?

BECKETT

They were both killed over the past two days.

ELIZABETH

You think their deaths have something to do with Alex?

BECKETT

Seeing as they were both named Alex Johnson, we think they might.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN

Beckett, Esposito and Ryan are at the whiteboard.

BECKETT

So Elizabeth says that she left the shop around 11 and he was alive when she left.

ESPOSITO

So where does that leave us?

Castle comes rushing into the room.

BECKETT

Castle.

ESPOSITO
Have any luck with that hunch of yours?

Castle pulls out a note book.

CASTLE
Sure did, I found out the pattern and I know who the next victim is.

BECKETT
How do you know?

Castle tosses her the notebook he was holding.

CASTLE
My Terminator hunch wasn't far off. I went to go find a phone book, but then it dawned on me, the modern version of a phonebook?

ESPOSITO
Facebook?

CASTLE
More or less, I just went with google. The killer just googled Alex Johnson and cross referenced New York and is killing down the list.

RYAN
So how many more on his list?

CASTLE
2 more.

BECKETT
We need to get them off the street before he can strike. Me and Castle will take the first on the list, you two pick up the other one.

ESPOSITO
On it.

Esposito grabs his coat as Ryan stands up and the two of them take off.

CASTLE
So, T-800 not looking so farfetched now, huh?

Castle and Beckett head out the door as Beckett snatches up her coat jacket and puts it on.

BECKETT

The former governor of California did not kill these people, okay?

CASTLE

Of course not! They were just designed to look like him.

BECKETT

Do you ever get tired of your crazy theories?

Castle smiles at her.

CASTLE

Do you?

EXT. OUTSIDE OF APARTMENT BUILDING.

Beckett is driving while Castle is on his phone in the passenger seat. They pull into the parking lot and park next to a classic looking mustang.

BECKETT

This is the place. Are you still spying on Alexis?

Castle hurries and puts his phone away.

CASTLE

No, wouldn't dream of it.

BECKETT

Uh huh, sure

She says as she gets out of the car. Castle takes a deep breath and then follows her out.

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING.

Castle and Beckett are making their way down a long corridor of the apartment building.

BECKETT

I hope we're not too late.

CASTLE

I still can't figure out what reason someone could have to kill people just based off of their names.

BECKETT

It's a serial killer, they don't need to have a motive.

CASTLE

I don't buy that, there is always a motive. We are just missing something.

BECKETT

Well maybe one of the other Alex Johnsons can shed some light on things.

CASTLE

Hopefully.

They round a corner, a crowd of people are hunched over someone laying on the floor, a sense of panic hangs in the air. A lone man stands back from the crowd, he is on his phone.

PHONE MAN

This is an emergency I tells you! A man is dead.

Beckett looks at Castle.

BECKETT

One guess who the body is.

CASTLE

Alex Johnson.

The man on the phone looks over at them as Castle says the name. He lowers the phone and puts his hand over the mouth piece.

PHONE MAN

How did you know that?

Beckett pulls out her badge.

BECKETT

I'm detective Beckett and this is my partner Castle, did you see what happened?

PHONE MAN

No, I live across the hall. This
guy in sun glasses and a,

He snaps his fingers on his free hand as if trying to recall
a word.

PHONE MAN (CONT'D)

It's a hat, like Indiana Jones?

CASTLE

A fedora?

PHONE MAN

That's it! He had sunglasses and a
fedora, anyways he knocked on my
door asking if I was Alex Johnson.
I told him that he had the wrong
door and the man he was looking for
was across the hall. I shut my door
and thought nothing of it, till a
few minutes later I heard a
gunshot. I ran out of my room and
the fedora guy was running down the
hall and Alex was dead.

BECKETT

Can you tell us anything about the
guy?

PHONE MAN

He was about my height, white guy.
But like I said, I didn't get a
good look at his face. He was
nicely dressed but that's about all
I can tell you.

BECKETT

Thank you.

Beckett and Castle start to walk off.

CASTLE

He's moving up his time table.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN

Beckett and Castle are once more sitting in front of the
white board.

CASTLE

So white guy around 5'10 with
glasses and a fedora.

BECKETT
That strikes out the T-800.

CASTLE
And Elektra.

Esposito and Ryan walk into the bullpen with ALEX JOHNSON.
He's young, early twenties with dirty blond hair.

ESPOSITO
Look who we found.

BECKETT
Alex Johnson?

Ryan takes Alex Johnson into the waiting room as Esposito
walks over to Castle and Beckett.

ESPOSITO
The one and the same. How did you
guys luck out?

CASTLE
He's the one and only now.

BECKETT
Ours was dead by time we got there,
but now we have a lead. He's a
white male, about 5'10.

Esposito looks back at the waiting room.

ESPOSITO
Alex is about 5'10.

BECKETT
You think he's killing people with
his name?

CASTLE
Maybe he doesn't like to share?

INT. PRECINCT, WAITING ROOM

Alex Johnson is sitting down, Ryan is sitting across from him
with Esposito while Castle sits on the arm rest and Beckett
stands next to the chair.

ALEX JOHNSON
So is someone really killing
everyone with my name?

Beckett sits on the arm rest of his chair.

BECKETT

I'm afraid so. Have you noticed anything out of the usual the past few days?

ALEX JOHNSON

Not that I can think of.

ESPOSITO

What do you do?

ALEX JOHNSON

I work at call center, collections during the week and at a flea market during the weekends. And at nights I'm a janitor at the Chase office building over on third.

RYAN

You work three jobs?

ALEX JOHNSON

My mom is sick, her medical bills are expensive, a lot more than we have. So I work three jobs to try and keep us above water. Not really working.

ESPOSITO

That must be tough.

ALEX JOHNSON

Life is tough, you get used to it. Do you have any leads? I can't really afford to miss work.

BECKETT

We are looking into every possible lead. We can't keep you here but it might be better if you do stay. He's killed four people already and you are the last on his list.

ALEX JOHNSON

If you have his list can't you use that to catch him? I mean how did you find that?

CASTLE

We googled your name. He started at the top and just went on down killing everyone with that name.

ALEX JOHNSON

Well, good thing I've never done anything with my life.

RYAN

That's one way to look at it.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN

Beckett, Castle, Ryan and Esposito leave the waiting room, where Alex still sits.

ESPOSITO

Well that was useless.

BECKETT

At least you got to him while he was still alive.

RYAN

Yeah, and no one can get to him while he is here.

CASTLE

Although it doesn't seem like he wants to stay.

ESPOSITO

Can you blame him? He works 24/7 to take care of his mom. He doesn't have time to worry about himself.

RYAN

Well he should, without him who would she have?

BECKETT

We won't let anything happen to him. Ryan, Esposito, you guys look into his call history, people in his life. See if anything seems odd. Me and Castle will run down witness from the other murders. See if anything pops out that could link them to the others.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN

Ryan and Esposito are sitting at their desks when Castle and Beckett come back in.

ESPOSITO

Any luck?

BECKETT

Spent an hour interviewing a writer who was fired off of Alex's movie, seems he got into a fist fight with him the day before.

CASTLE

But during the showing and after party he was with his girlfriend's family.

BECKETT

You guys track anything down on the surviving Alex Johnson?

Ryan gets to his feet to show Beckett what he found.

RYAN

Seems this number kept calling him. We tracked it down to a Daniel Leal over at the Hemphill and Leal law firm.

BECKETT

You find out why he was calling?

RYAN

He pulled Attorney, client confidentiality.

CASTLE

Is Alex his client?

ESPOSITO

No, but the person looking for him is.

BECKETT

Is he still here?

ESPOSITO

He took off not long after you did.

RYAN

But we had him brought back in. He should be here shortly.

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION ROOM

Alex Johnson is pacing back and forth in the room when Castle and Beckett walk in. He spots them and starts towards them.

ALEX JOHNSON

What's this about? I told you already, I can't afford to miss work and yet you drag me down here yet again.

Beckett and Castle take a seat, Alex doesn't.

BECKETT

Sorry for the inconvenience, but if you didn't want to get dragged back down here you should have told us everything the first time.

This catches Alex's attention, he takes a seat across from them.

ALEX JOHNSON

What didn't I tell you?

CASTLE

You tell us.

ALEX JOHNSON

I told you everything I know, which is nothing.

CASTLE

But that's not true is it?

ALEX JOHNSON

What do you mean?

Beckett pulls out her folder and opens it, turns it to him and pushes it towards him.

BECKETT

I asked you if anything out of the usual has happened the past few days and you said no.

ALEX JOHNSON

Yeah, that's because nothing has happened.

CASTLE

So phone calls from some lawyer is usual for you?

ALEX JOHNSON

What?

BECKETT

All these calls, they are from a Daniel Leal. A name partner over at Hemphill and Leal.

ALEX JOHNSON

Oh that.

BECKETT

Yeah that.

ALEX JOHNSON

That's not anything. I didn't even think of that when you asked.

CASTLE

A name partner at a high power law firm blows up your phone and you don't think of it?

ALEX JOHNSON

No, he's been calling me for the past two months.

BECKETT

Why?

ALEX JOHNSON

He says that he works for my dad, and that they want to meet with me. I told him I have nothing to say to the man but they don't seem to understand the word no.

BECKETT

So that's all it is? A father trying to get a hold of his son?

ALEX JOHNSON

If you use the term father loosely, than yeah.

CASTLE
You never met him?

ALEX JOHNSON
I don't have time, if he wanted to
be in my life he had 21 years to do
it. It's a little too late now.

CASTLE
Do you know his name?

ALEX JOHNSON
Christopher Summers.

EXT. CHRISTOPHER'S HOUSE

The house is huge, the driveway alone is larger than most
people's homes. Beckett and Castle are at the front door,
Beckett knocks.

CASTLE
How much do you think a place like
this runs?

BECKETT
Don't worry about it.

CASTLE
I'm just thinking for when we get
married.

BECKETT
Well keep thinking.

She turns to face him.

BECKETT (CONT'D)
I mean, what's wrong with the loft
anyways?

CASTLE
Nothing, just thinking out loud.

BECKETT
Well keep dreaming.

The door opens, a man, mid 20's, about 5'10 in height, opens
the door, ever so slightly. He is JOSH SUMMERS

JOSH SUMMERS
Can I help you?

BECKETT

Yes, I'm detective Beckett, this is Castle. We are looking for Christopher Summers.

JOSH SUMMERS

That's my uncle, I'm Josh, uh can I ask what this is about?

BECKETT

A murder investigation.

Josh opens the door a bit more.

JOSH SUMMERS

Someone was murdered?

CASTLE

A few someones, actually.

JOSH SUMMERS

Who?

BECKETT

Alex Johnson.

JOSH SUMMERS

Who?

BECKETT

You don't know any Alex Johnsons?

JOSH SUMMERS

Uh, no I don't, sorry. Who else was murdered?

BECKETT

Alex Johnson.

CASTLE

And Alex Johnson.

JOSH SUMMERS

What?

CASTLE

Four different Alex Johnsons were murdered.

JOSH SUMMERS

All at once?

BECKETT

No, over the past week.

JOSH SUMMERS

That's weird.

CASTLE

Right? It's right out of terminator.

BECKETT

We need to have a word with your uncle. Seems he was trying to get a hold of one of the Alex Johnsons and we would like to know why.

JOSH SUMMERS

Um, well I wish I could help, but you see my uncle is extremely sick right now. He just fell asleep, I'm under doctor's orders that he can't be disturbed.

BECKETT

Doctor's orders or not, this is an emergency.

JOSH SUMMERS

I'm sorry. His health could be at stake. Unless you have a warrant I can't let you in.

BECKETT

Have your uncle call us when he wakes up.

JOSH SUMMERS

Will do, thank you for understanding.

Josh closes the door.

CASTLE

That's it?

BECKETT

What was I supposed to do?

CASTLE

Are we going to get a warrant?

Castle and Beckett start walking towards their car.

BECKETT

We have no grounds for one. At best he is connected to one Alex Johnson, and the living one at that. Besides if he really is that sick, how could he have killed four people?

Castle stops, his eye have been attracted by something.

CASTLE

I don't know that part yet, but I did find our cause for a warrant.

He points off screen, the camera pans over to see the mustang from the apartment complex.

BECKETT

I recognize that car!

CASTLE

It was at the apartment's right before we found the fourth Alex Johnson. And you notice something else about it?

BECKETT

It's a muscle car.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN

Beckett, Castle and Esposito are standing around the white board as Ryan walks over to them.

RYAN

Well it looks like your hunch was right. The motel manager remembers seeing the mustang the night of the murder.

ESPOSITO

And Sully confirms that a meter maid gave that mustang a ticket about twenty minutes before the murder at the movie theater, about three blocks away.

BECKETT

So someone in that house is behind this.

CASTLE

My money is on Josh.

BECKETT

But what motive?

Esposito's phone goes off.

ESPOSITO

Esposito.

CASTLE

Maybe after talking to Chris we can figure it out.

ESPOSITO

Are you sure? . . . okay thank you.

BECKETT

What's up?

Esposito puts the phone away.

ESPOSITO

Looks like you aren't going to get a chance to question Christopher after all.

CASTLE

Why not?

ESPOSITO

He just died.

RYAN

We just can't get a break in this case.

BECKETT

We will! I still want to bring Josh in, see what he knows.

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION ROOM

Josh is sitting behind the desk, annoyed. Beckett and Castle come into the room.

BECKETT

Sorry to hear about your uncle.

JOSH SUMMERS

Like I told you, he was really sick. Can we get whatever this is over with? I have arrangements to make.

BECKETT

We'll try to be fast. Can you tell us about your cousin?

JOSH SUMMERS

Cousin? I don't have any. My uncle was my mom's only family and he never had any kids.

CASTLE

He had a son.

JOSH SUMMERS

What? No, no, I would have known that.

BECKETT

He might not have known before a few months ago. But he has spent the past few weeks trying to get a hold of him. Any idea why?

JOSH SUMMERS

He never told me about a son. I mean, if it's true I guess he wanted to get to know him before he died.

BECKETT

But he never told you?

JOSH SUMMERS

No, but he has been acting weird the past few weeks, that could explain it.

CASTLE

So the past few nights, where have you been?

JOSH SUMMERS

What? I've been at home with my uncle. You don't think I've had anything to do with the killings do you?

BECKETT

That's a nice mustang in your driveway.

JOSH SUMMERS

Mustang? That's my uncles. It doesn't even run.

BECKETT

It doesn't run?

JOSH SUMMERS

No, my uncle bought it to fix it up but then he got sick.

BECKETT

I see, care to explain how it came to be parked in front of the apartment complex where the fourth victim was found? I saw it there personally, or how it got a parking ticket outside of the empire theater? Or how the motel manager saw it pull into the motel a few hours before the second murder? And we even have a witness placing it out back of Dark Tides comics.

CASTLE

For a car that doesn't run, it sure gets around.

JOSH SUMMERS

It doesn't run. I've never seen it leave the drive way.

BECKETT

You're lying.

JOSH SUMMERS

I'm not. Look, my uncle's nursing staff can confirm that I stay mostly at home. If you have any more questions,

Josh stands up.

JOSH SUMMERS (CONT'D)

You can speak with my lawyer. Good day.

He exits the room.

CASTLE

I really don't like him.

BECKETT

He's hiding something.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN

Beckett is sitting at her desk and Castle in his chair next to the desk. Ryan walks up to them.

RYAN

The car is clean. And it doesn't seem to be running.

CASTLE

There goes that.

RYAN

We have some people looking at it, to see if it was tampered with.

BECKETT

Good thinking.

RYAN

Well, I should be getting out of here. I got a sitter for the night, I'm planning on taking Jenny out.

CASTLE

Where too?

RYAN

Doesn't matter, just somewhere alone. I never could have guessed how much you miss alone time once you have a kid.

CASTLE

Yeah, but it's worth it.

Beckett starts to pack up.

BECKETT

We should get going too.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, BEDROOM

Castle and Beckett are alone in the bedroom. Beckett is sitting down on the bed taking her shoes off. Castle is changing out of his shirt.

BECKETT

I was sure it was him!

CASTLE

I still think it is.

BECKETT

But all we have is circumstantial evidence. If only we had a motive.

Beckett gets up and starts heading for the bathroom. Undoing her shirt as she goes.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

I'm going to take a bath.

She pauses at the doorway and looks back at him.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

Care to join me?

Castle smiles and gets up.

CASTLE

I'll be in, in a minute.

BECKETT
Don't take too long.

She starts back towards the shower. Castle heads out of the bedroom.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT

Castle leaves the bedroom and starts walking towards the kitchen. A young man is sitting on the sofa reading Castle's copy of Casino Royal. He is JAKE. Castle walks right past him, stops and looks back. Jake smiles and puts the book down, getting to his feet and holding out his hand.

JAKE
Hello Mr. Castle, I'm Jake.

Castle smiles and takes his hand.

CASTLE
Jake? Alexis's Jake?

JAKE
Yes sir. I'm just waiting for her to get ready. We have dinner plans.

CASTLE
Oh, I've heard a lot about you.

JAKE
I hope it's all good sir. I've heard a lot about you as well.

CASTLE
I'm guessing not so good?

Jake laughs.

JAKE
All good sir. Alexis really looks up to you.

CASTLE
Glad to hear it.

Castle spots the copy of Casino Royal.

CASTLE (CONT'D)
Is that my book?

He leans over to pick it up.

JAKE

Uh, yes sir. Sorry I was looking around while waiting for Alexis and stumbled across it. I'm a huge James Bond fan but never got around to reading the books.

CASTLE

What did you think?

JAKE

I was really getting into it.

CASTLE

It is really good. You know this is the book that got me into writing as a kid.

JAKE

Really? As a kid, what made you pick it up?

CASTLE

I was at the library and a man,

Castle takes a second to think.

CASTLE (CONT'D)

My father gave it to me.

JAKE

Oh, Alexis never talks about her grandfather. Are you two close?

CASTLE

What? Oh uh

He looks back up at Jake.

CASTLE (CONT'D)

No, uh this was all he left me.

It hits Castle as the words come out of his mouth.

JAKE

Left you? I'm sorry I didn't know he was dead.

Castle's mind is elsewhere.

CASTLE

He's not. I have to go. You kids have fun.

He starts sprinting to his bedroom, stops turns back.

CASTLE (CONT'D)
But not too much fun!

He starts back for the bedroom.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, BEDROOM - MOMENTS LATER

Castle storms into the bedroom.

CASTLE
Beckett! Beckett!! I got it!

Beckett comes out of the bathroom with just a towel on. She is using another towel to dry her hair.

BECKETT
Got what?

CASTLE
I found our motive.

He shows her his copy of Casino Royal.

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN

Beckett, Castle, Ryan and Esposito are sitting around the white board.

RYAN
Well it seems you were right
Castle. It's all in the will.

CASTLE
I knew it!

BECKETT
Let's bring him in.

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION ROOM 1

Ryan and Esposito are sitting with Alex Johnson, who does not look happy.

ALEX JOHNSON
What am I doing here? I told you
guys, time and again I can't keep
missing work.

RYAN

We know and we are sorry. We just have to follow up with a few more questions.

ALEX JOHNSON

You're not sorry. This doesn't affect you, but me? This is going to get me fired, and I can't afford to get fired.

ESPOSITO

Well that's not true.

ALEX JOHNSON

What?

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION ROOM

Beckett and Castle are sitting across from Josh and his LAWYER. Beckett has a vanilla folder in front of her and the lawyer has a briefcase in front of him.

LAWYER

My client has been patient with you detective, but you are wasting our time. Unless you have something, I think we are done here.

Beckett pulls out a paper from her folder.

BECKETT

I have something.

She pushes the will towards them.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

The will of Christopher Summers.

The lawyer picks it up and reads it.

LAWYER

What does this prove?

BECKETT

Motive. Josh here, found out that his uncle, who he has taken care of for years was leaving everything to his new found son.

JOSH SUMMERS

I didn't know he had a son!

LAWYER
Don't say anything.

CASTLE
Exactly, but you found out, and
when you did, all you had to go on
was a name.

BECKETT
Alex Johnson.

LAWYER
That's just speculation.

BECKETT
No it's motive.

LAWYER
Even still, he has alibis.

BECKETT
Had, we have witnesses, linking his
car to all four murders.

JOSH SUMMERS
It's not my car!

LAWYER
Say nothing!

BECKETT
We also have people in both the
movie theater and apartment complex
that can place you there.

CASTLE
We got you.

LAWYER
I'd like to see you prove it. My
client and I have nothing more to
say.

BECKETT
That's okay, we have what we need.

JOSH SUMMERS
You have nothing. I can and will
fight this with every dime I have!

CASTLE
Fortunately that isn't a lot.

JOSH SUMMERS

What?

LAWYER

I have to advise you to stop talking Mr. Summers.

Josh looks at his lawyer, anger on his face but he stops talking. Castle opens the door, Esposito and Ryan are taking Alex Johnson out of the other interrogation room.

CASTLE

He's getting all the money.

JOSH SUMMERS

What?!

BECKETT

Seems, you killed all the wrong Alex Johnsons. That one there is your cousin, and soul heir to your uncle's fortune.

JOSH SUMMERS

That's bullshit! After everything I did for my uncle! He just leaves me out to dry! How could he do that to me! For him! He wouldn't even answer my uncle's calls!

CASTLE

I thought you didn't know about him?

Josh's face goes stone face. Beckett gets her hand cuffs out.

BECKETT

Josh Summers, you are under arrest for the murders of Alex Johnson, Alex Johnson, Alex Johnson and Alex Johnson.

She puts the handcuffs on him. The lawyer doesn't seem happy.

INT. CASTLE'S LOFT, KITCHEN

Alexis is eating breakfast as Castle comes in and sits next to her.

CASTLE

Hey sweetheart.

ALEXIS

Morning dad, I heard you guys solved the case?

CASTLE

We did, turns out that the killer was trying to protect his inheritance by killing his cousin. Just didn't know who he was, other than a name.

ALEXIS

So all those other guys died for no reason? That's so sad.

CASTLE

It is, but murder is always pointless. How was your date?

Alexis smiles.

ALEXIS

It was good! I really like him, and he seemed taken by you. Although he thought you hated him when you ran out in the middle of meeting him.

CASTLE

I solved the case, I had to go. Next time I meet him, he will have my undivided attention.

Alexis stands up, kisses her dad on the forehead.

ALEXIS

Good!

She starts to head upstairs.

INT. ELECTRONIC STORE, BACKROOM

Bryan enters the backroom, headphones in his ears as he heads to his desk, humming to himself.

MANAGER

(os)

Bryan!

Bryan keeps walking, his music too loud to hear. His MANAGER yells again, he is holding a yellow envelope.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

Bryan! Take those damn headphones
off!

Bryan stops, turns around and pulls the headphones out.

BRYAN FLANNIGAN

Sorry sir, I was just finishing the
song.

MANAGER

Finish it on your own time.

He tosses the yellow envelope at him.

MANAGER (CONT'D)

This was left here for you.

The manager storms off. Bryan looks at the envelope puzzled for a few seconds before opening it. Inside is Daredevil 181, signed by Frank Miller. A note rest on top. It reads; I thought it was shame that you lost this. Be more careful who you trust next time and thanks for being a fan, Richard Castle.

END OF EPISODE