

OUTSIDER #1: PILOT

Written by

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INT. CAR - NIGHT

DAVID CONNER, 28, sits in his beat up old car, full of trash and empty fast food bags, a pair of binoculars pressed against his eyes.

DAVID

(vo)

As a kid, I grew up watching noir movies, they kept me grounded during the worst of times. I always thought if I could just become a Private detective, my life would be great. I could solve mysteries and deal with femme fatales.

EXT. WAREHOUSE

A group of five guys, in all black are silently making their way along the side of a warehouse, staying as close to it as they can so the cameras on the side won't spot them. The warehouse is surrounded by trees and tall buildings on either side. The men in question make their way to the dock doors.

DAVID

(vo)

Instead, all I do is watch.

The taller of the group starts to pick the lock of a door on the side of the dock door. The other four stand guard.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(vo)

Watch as people break the law,  
watch as people hurt one another.

The tall man pops the lock and checks his watch. He waits a few minutes before opening the door, the men go inside.

DAVID (CONT'D)

(vo)

Something I swore I would never do.

INT. WAREHOUSE

The warehouse is filled with large wooden crates. The men move quickly and swiftly. One of them hacks the alarm, shutting it off while two of them runs into the complex proper.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HALLWAY

The two men run down the hall, quickly and silently, they make it to the end of the hall where it leads to another hall. One goes left and one goes right.

The one taking the right path stops at the next intersection and checks his watch. He waits till just the right second, and then almost as if on cue, pulls out a gun with a silencer.

DAVID

(vo)

And yet it seems all I do is,

The man springs out from behind the wall, a security guard is walking towards him, headphones in his ears while he hums to himself. The man points the gun at the guard, who finally looks up.

GUARD

What the?!

The man fires, the guard drops dead.

DAVID

(vo)

Watch people die.

INT. WAREHOUSE, CONTROL ROOM

The man who took the left turn enters the control room. It's full of monitors and computers. He takes a seat in front of one of them and pulls out a portable hard drive. He plugs it in and starts typing away on the computer, he erases the video footage of them breaking into the warehouse. He puts in a loop showing the warehouse empty to replace it.

INT. WAREHOUSE

The three men who stayed behind have started to pry the top off of some of the crates. Inside are relics, ancient and expensive looking. The lock smith tosses one of the artifacts to his friend.

LOCK SMITH

Looks like the boss was right.

The friend catches it and pulls his hood off, smiling.

THUG

This will look nice on my mantle.

LOCK SMITH  
Won't it?

The killer and computer expert come back into the room.

KILLER  
I got rid of the guy on duty.

COMPUTER EXPERT  
All's clear on the eye in the sky.

He points his thumb behind him at the cameras watching over them.

LOCK SMITH  
Good, lets call the truck and get  
this stuff out of here.

The fifth guy pulls out his phone and calls someone.

PHONE THUG  
We ready.

He hangs up the phone.

LOCK SMITH  
This is going better than I thought  
it would.

KILLER  
Don't jinx it, newbie.

The five men start moving the crates towards the door, taking some, leaving others, almost as if they knew which ones were worth taking.

DAVID  
(vo)  
Sometimes, watching just isn't  
enough.

The lock smith goes to the doors controls and starts to open the dock door. The killer and thug take up watch as the doors open. Phone thug and computer expert finish moving the rest of the crates into place.

The killer pulls out cigarette and lights it. He takes a hit on it. As he blows out the smoke a blur cuts through it, as a man in a dark black mask, a leather overcoat and black gloves swoops down, holding onto the roof as his feet come smashing into the chest of the killer.

The killer goes flying backward, knocking over a few crates as he does. The other members of his crew freak out. The crates crash down on the head of the killer.

LOCK SMITH  
What the hell?

THUG  
Who do you think you are?

The thug pulls out his gun, with a silencer on it, and aims it at the masked man.

COMPUTER EXPERT  
Get him!

The rest of the men pull out guns as well. The masked man moves with a speed and grace that is unheard of. He spots the man nearest him, the lock smith, he drops down, and spins his foot out tripping the lock smith as he fires the gun, the shot goes wild and hits the roof. Bits of debris falling on the masked man.

THUG  
Kill that freak!

The thug fires, in the same second the masked man jumps upwards, spins in a arc and lands on top of one of the crates, the computer expert turns his gun on him, before he gets a chance to fire the masked man dives down, knocking the computer expert onto his back. The mask man rolls over the fallen man and springs up as the phone thug fires at him.

The masked man ducks behind a stack crates the thieves left behind. He uses this brief pause to catch his breath.

The killer slowly starts to push the crates off of himself. Some of the artifacts break as he pushes them off. When they break, bricks of cocaine fall out of them.

COMPUTER EXPERT  
Where the hell is that truck at?

He fires a few more shots at where the masked man was last seen. The thug and the lock smith slowly start to get up. The phone thug looks out of the dock and smiles, his lip bleeding.

PHONE THUG  
It's pulling in now. Keep that  
freak busy!

The killer picks up his gun and looks over at the thug.

KILLER  
Let's get him!

The killer, thug and lock smith run towards the masked man. The truck pulls up to the docking bay. The computer expert opens the truck doors. The three men stop before crossing behind the crate the masked man is hiding in.

The killer holds up his hands, three fingers, two fingers. The computer expert and phone thug start to load the crates into the truck. One finger, the killer motions for them to go.

They round the crate and . . . Nothing!

KILLER (CONT'D)  
What the?

THUG  
Where did he go?

LOCK SMITH  
What's it matter? Let's just load these crates!

The three of them head back to help load the crates. They only make it a few feet before the masked man dives off of the top of the crates, knocking the three men down. The computer expert turns around at the sound.

COMPUTER EXPERT  
Damn! He just keeps coming.

The phone thug pulls out his gun and starts firing.

PHONE THUG  
I'll take care of him! Just get this done!

The masked man dives out of the way of the on coming bullets, scoops up an artifact and throws it at the phone thug, a bullet pierces it and cocaine flies everywhere.

The lock smith starts to get up.

LOCK SMITH  
Damn it! You're wasting the product!

PHONE THUG  
Well maybe if you guys kept him busy like you were suppose to!

He reloads his gun as he talks. The masked man uses this time to charge, knocking the phone thug onto the floor, he can't do much else before the thug and killer charge at him. He drops to one knee and rolls between them, just as he passes by them he stops mid roll and kicks back, sending both of them flying into the computer expert to the floor. The crate he is holding flying out of his hand and smashes into the crates in the truck, they fall down and the sound of the artifacts smashing is deafening.

PHONE THUG (CONT'D)

No!

The phone thug starts firing at the masked man who cartwheels out of the way. He lands on his feet and kicks a crate which slides through the warehouse, knocking over the phone thug.

LOCK SMITH

Hey!

The masked man turns just as the lock smith fires, hitting the masked man right in the chest. The masked man falls back, off of the dock next to the truck.

The lock smith walks over to the end of the warehouse. The thug slowly gets to his feet.

THUG

You kill him?

The lock smith looks down, the ground is empty, not even a sign of blood.

LOCK SMITH

No trace of him. He's gone.

EXT. WAREHOUSE

The driver's door of the truck opens, a man with dark hair gets out.

DRIVER

What the hell is going on?

THUG

We got some unexpected company.

DRIVER

You take care of it?

The thug looks over at his companions.

THUG

Yeah.

DRIVER

Then lets speed this shit up before  
anyone else shows up!

He gets back into the truck and shuts the door.

INT. WAREHOUSE

The five of them slowly get back to their feet and start  
loading the truck again.

LOCK SMITH

Who was that guy?

KILLER

I don't know but I'm going to find  
out.

INT. OUTSIDERS INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE, NICK'S OFFICE

David is sitting in a small, cramped office filled with boxes  
that are stacked on the floor as well as on the old oak desk.  
There are three leather chairs in the room, the one David is  
sitting in, the one next to it and another one behind the  
desk.

NICK ELLIS is unpacking a box of books and putting them in  
the built in bookcase. David puts his feet up on the desk and  
makes himself comfortable.

DAVID

Nice office.

Nick puts the final book in the box on the book case.

NICK

Thanks.

He turns towards David, the smile on his face quickly  
replaced with annoyance. He pushes David's feet off of the  
desk.

NICK (CONT'D)

Get your feet off of my desk.

David sits up straight.

DAVID

Sorry.

Nick starts to open another box.

NICK

So what did you find last night?

David picks up the folder on the desk next to him and opens it up. The front page is a mug shot of the lock smith. Under his picture is the name Peter Marsters. David flips the picture to the other side, underneath it are pictures of the night before, the first is of him leaving a bar.

DAVID

I caught up with him around 11, he was leaving Vickie's pub.

Nick puts another book away, he then wipes his desk clean where David had put his feet up and sat there. He took the pictures as David explained them.

DAVID (CONT'D)

He went to the warehouse district where he met up with some other low life creeps.

David pulls out pictures of his four accomplices, their rap sheets attached to them. The killer, named Esau Ortiz, the computer expert named Joey DoLuca, the thug Javier Stevens, and finally the phone thug Jason Jones.

Nick takes in the pictures, muttering to himself as he reads their rap sheets.

NICK

So what were they up to?

He looks up at David as he asks, but quickly returns to his reading.

DAVID

Well, after they went into the warehouse I couldn't get a good look. But a few minutes later a truck pulls up to the dock. It stayed there for about 10 minutes and took off.

Nick puts down the rap sheets.

NICK

I don't suppose you got the licence plate?

The words are hardly out of Nick's mouth before David pulls out a picture of the licence plate.

DAVID  
What am I? An amateur?

Nick smiles up at him as he takes the photo.

NICK  
So any idea what was in the  
warehouse?

DAVID  
Your guess is as good as mine. This  
is a really nice office.

Nick puts the pictures down and walks around the desk.

NICK  
So you've said.

DAVID  
It's a lot nicer than mine.

Nick kneels down and gets his ipad out of his backpack.

NICK  
I should say so. After all I paid  
for the place. Of course I have the  
bigger office.

DAVID  
I just figured we would have  
offices that were the same size.  
You know, like partners?

Nick sits down in his chair and starts playing around on the  
ipad.

NICK  
We are partners, I'm just more of a  
partner than you are.

DAVID  
Yeah cause that's how partnerships  
work.

NICK  
When one partner puts all of their  
money into the place and the other  
one puts, what did you put into  
this business?

DAVID  
My stunning good looks?

NICK

I'm sure that's it. I'll try and run down this plate and see if I can't find this truck.

DAVID

Sounds good, I'll look into the warehouse, see if anything was stolen.

Nick puts the ipad down.

NICK

Good, remember the trial is on Friday, we have three days to get the money shot to help Elizabeth win custody.

David nods, his mood grim.

DAVID

I know the stakes.

INT. CAFE - DAY

David is sitting in a booth near the back of an old run down cafe, even during the day the clientele isn't the most trustworthy. Across from him is a beautiful brunette, her face squinched up as tears flow freely from her eyes. She is ELIZABETH MARSTERS.

ELIZABETH

I don't (sob) know what (sob) to do!  
They (sob) have pictures! Pictures!  
How could they (sob) get pictures.

David takes a sip of his coffee to give himself time to compose himself.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

I swear! (sob) I haven't (sob)  
touched the (sob) stuff (sob) in  
(sob) years!

He puts his drink down and takes her hand, he looks her dead in the eyes.

DAVID

Elizabeth, breath. What do the pictures show?

Her crying becomes louder, David scans the cafe, but no one seems to care about the woman crying hysterically in the back booth.

ELIZABETH

I (sob) I (sob) they aren't true!  
(sob) I swear! (sob) you have to  
believe me!

DAVID

I can't help you if you don't tell  
me.

She looks at her feet, not willing to answer.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Elizabeth, believe me, I know what  
it feels like when someone comes in  
and tears your family apart. Even  
under the guise of authority.

She looks up at him, hope in her eyes for the first time.

ELIZABETH

You do?

DAVID

I promise you, I will do everything  
in my power to help you. You will  
not lose your son, not if I have  
anything to say about it. But I can  
only help if you tell me  
everything.

Elizabeth nods.

ELIZABETH

They (sob) have (sob) pictures  
(sob) of me (sob) shooting up. But  
I swear, I haven't touched it in  
years. (sob) Not since (sob) James  
was born.

She grabs his hands and holds them tight, looking him right  
in the eyes. For the first time her voice is firm.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

You have to believe me!

DAVID

I do.

Elizabeth starts crying louder.

ELIZABETH

I can't let Peter get (sob) his  
(sob) hands on James. You don't  
know what it was like, living with  
him, afraid every second. There is  
nothing worse than living in an  
abusive home.

INT. FOSTER HOME - 18 YEARS AGO

A young David, 10 years old is looking on as a big, muscular man back hands his wife, she falls to the floor crying.

DAVID

Stay away from her!

David charges at the man, who turns to look at him as he starts to hit him. The man laughs and knocks the kid onto the floor. David starts to cry as the man turns to face him. The woman gets on her knees.

WOMAN

Please don't hurt him.

The man takes his belt off as David crawls backward.

MAN

We should never have taken you in  
boy, I'll teach you some respect  
for you elders.

The man raises the belt, he brings it down towards David.

INT. CAFE - NOW

David shakes his head, he grabs her hands again and squeezes.

DAVID

I have some idea what it's like.  
Don't worry I'll find who ever  
faked the pictures. It's going to  
be okay.

INT. VICKIE'S PUB - NIGHT

David sits at the bar, hat pulled low over his head, a hardly touched beer in his hand. A few feet over from him sits Peter Marsters, he is a few beers in with some friends. David sits with his back towards them.

PETER MARSTERS

They got pictures of her shooting  
up, the case is as good as won  
already.

PETER'S FRIEND

Wait she started using again?

PETER MARSTERS

Of course not, but that don't mean  
I can't get evidence of it, do it?  
After all a picture is worth a  
thousand words.

DRUNK FRIEND

Dang, with her record they won't  
even question it.

PETER MARSTERS

It's what she gets for trying to  
take my boy from me.

David takes a big sip of his drink, the rage is building in  
him. A hot red head takes the empty seat next to him, she is  
in a tight party dress and has a smile that could melt  
hearts.

RED HEAD

Buy a lady a drink?

David turns his head to look at her, and shakes his head no.

DAVID

I'm good, maybe some other time.

She gets up and storms off.

RED HEAD

Jerk! Like I'd let you buy me one  
anyways.

David just takes another sip of his drink.

DRUNK FRIEND

Dang, can you believe he set her  
up?

PETER'S FRIEND

Can you blame him? Someone was  
trying to do me like that, I'd kill  
her. She lucky all he doing is  
messing with her good name. Not  
that it's any good to begin with.

David risks a glance back, Peter is gone. David gets out of his chair and scans the bar, all kinds of shady people scattered around, but no sign of Peter.

David throws down some money on the bar and heads for the door.

EXT. VICKIE'S PUB

Peter is leaning against the bar smoking, he tosses it on the floor and puts it out. David keeps his distance. Peter makes his way down the street, forgoing any car. David starts after him.

A few blocks from the bar David slowly reaches into his pocket and starts to pull something out, but he is interrupted by his phone going off, he quickly pulls it out to silence it. What appears to be a leather glove is sticking out. Peter hears the noise and looks back. David plays it cool as he answers the phone.

DAVID

What?

NICK

(os)

David?

DAVID

Who else would it be when you call  
my damn phone?

Peter starts walking again, a little faster than before.

NICK

(os)

Are you busy?

David watches Peter walk out of sight.

DAVID

Not really.

NICK

(os)

David!

David stuffs the glove back into his pocket.

DAVID

I was tailing Peter.

NICK

(os)  
You find anything?

DAVID

Not yet, but it's kind of hard when  
your phone keeps going off.

NICK

(os)  
Yeah, but that's only a problem  
when you don't put the phone on  
silent before a stakeout.

DAVID

What do you want? I might still be  
able to catch up with him if I go  
now.

NICK

(os)  
I found out about the truck.

DAVID

Great, fill me in when I get to the  
office tomorrow.

He starts walking in the direction that Peter went.

NICK

(os)  
You're going to want to hear this  
now.

David stops.

DAVID

What?

NICK

(os)  
You're going to want to hear it in  
person. Meet me in the office in an  
hour.

David puts his phone away and watches the darkness.

INT. OUTSIDERS INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE, LOBBY

David enters the lobby, it's small and in need of a paint  
job, the walls are peeling and look as if no one has been  
inside it's walls for years. A little bell has been hung onto  
the door to ring when someone enters the lobby.

There is a receptionist desk, that is crammed into the back of the lobby between the two offices. Like everywhere else in the office there are boxes stacked up, most of them pushed back to the desk.

Nick comes out of his office, he looks tired and stressed.

NICK

Hey.

DAVID

So what's up? What was so important?

Nick takes a seat on the top of the desk. He gathers his thoughts before speaking.

NICK

I ran the plates.

David walks over to Nick, he takes some boxes off of a wooden chair next to the desk.

DAVID

And?

NICK

It was registered to a Saul Helms.

David leans forward in his chair.

DAVID

Helms? From Summer's investigations?

Nick nods.

NICK

The one and the same.

David gets to his feet and starts pacing around the room.

DAVID

So Summer investigations is involved in this.

He turns to Nick.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Can we prove it?

NICK

Prove what? At most we have a truck that is owned by an employee of theirs, at a warehouse late at night.

David stops in front of Nick.

DAVID

But that's a start! We can show that one of their investigators is involved in a robbery and start the ball rolling.

Nick shakes his head.

NICK

What robbery? The warehouse never reported anything.

DAVID

I saw them breaking in!

NICK

Yeah, but the word of a disgruntled former employee isn't going to amount to much.

DAVID

I have pictures.

Nick stands up and puts his hand on David's shoulder.

NICK

We need more, but now we know where to look. Don't worry, we will bring Summer investigations down. No matter what it takes.

INT. WAREHOUSE - DAY

The warehouse is in full swing, trucks unloading crates, other trucks being loaded up. Men are running around moving things, it is busy and hectic. David is dressed like a government inspector. He is speaking with a foreman who doesn't seem happy he is there.

FOREMAN

Look, no one told me about a safety inspection.

DAVID

Be that as it may, I have my orders  
and I can't leave till I inspect  
the premisses.

A crate almost falls off a forklift but a few guys run up and catch it, pushing it back on. The foreman turns around at the sound of their yelling.

FOREMAN

Careful over there!

He turns back to look at David.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Look! No one, and I mean no one,  
comes into my warehouse with out my  
say so. Do you understand me?

DAVID

No I don't think you understand, if  
I don't like what I see, you get  
shut down. I'm not asking you, I'm  
telling you.

The foreman opens his mouth, shuts it, turns to find a guy leaning against a wall, catching his breath.

FOREMAN

Larry, show this clown around.

He turns back to face David.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Just the floor.

Larry runs over.

LARRY

Yes sir.

He motions for David.

LARRY (CONT'D)

If you will follow me.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

The parking garage is packed full of cars, overhead lights are dim, not revealing much from the shadows. A Lexus parks in an empty spot, a man in a nice suit gets out, he is SAUL HELMS.

He gets a briefcase out of his trunk and starts to head off. The same beat up car David staked out the warehouse in pulls into a spot not too far away. Nick watches Saul make his way down the garage. When he starts to get out of sight, Nick gets out. He has on a trench coat and a fedora pulled low.

INT. WAREHOUSE

Larry is taking David throughout the warehouse. Workers pass by them, giving them a once over before moving on.

LARRY

As you can see we are in the middle  
of a busy period.

DAVID

I can see that.

They start to come up to the crates that Peter Marsters and his friends were stealing.

LARRY

We just got a surprise order in  
from over seas. A quick turn over.

David stops in front of the crates.

DAVID

What's in here?

Larry stops and turns to look at what David is talking about.

LARRY

Oh, uh, no idea.

DAVID

You don't know?

LARRY

We have a policy, we don't open  
things we transport. It's a privacy  
thing.

DAVID

So I can't check inside?

Larry looks around for someone to help out with the question.

LARRY

I could lose my job.

DAVID

I understand. Well I think I've seen everything I need to.

LARRY

Oh, okay cool. Uh there's still more if you want?

David shakes his head.

DAVID

I'm good. I can show myself out.

LARRY

Oh, I think I'm suppose to stay with you.

David points to the exit a few feet away from them.

DAVID

I think I can manage.

David looks behind him at all the busy workers.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Besides, I think your coworkers could use some help.

Larry nods.

LARRY

Yeah, I'm gonna hear shit about taking time off to show you around enough as it is.

DAVID

Thanks for all your help.

Larry starts to run past him.

LARRY

Anytime. Have a good one.

David watches him jog back to help his coworkers. David slides behind the crates once he is sure no one is watching him.

EXT. SHOPPING MALL - DAY

Bright sunny day, the shopping mall is crowded with people shopping and going about their day to day lives.

Saul sits down at an outdoor cafe, he orders a drink from the waitress. Nick takes a seat on a park bench facing the cafe, he pulls out a newspaper and pretends to read.

Not long passes before Saul is joined, Nick lowers the paper a bit to get a good look at who it is. It is Peter Marsters. The two men shake hands and start talking.

INT. WAREHOUSE, OFFICE

A dark office, with a wooden desk, paperwork stacked highly in the in-box. An old computer is next to it. Bookcases line the wall on the other side.

The office door starts to shake, slowly the lock turns, the door opens and in steps David. He puts away his lock pick and steps inside. Closing the door behind him.

He flips the light switch on and walks over to the desk, swiftly moving through the paperwork.

He stops and pulls out a paper, a smile crosses his lips. He folds up the paper and puts it in his pocket. He starts shifting through the papers again, till the door flies open. David doesn't even have a chance to move before two armed guards burst into the room.

GUARD ONE

Don't move!

David puts his hands up, some papers still in his hands, the second guard walks over to him.

GUARD TWO

You don't need these.

He pulls the paper out of his hands and pushes him towards the door.

DAVID

Do you have any idea who I am?

INT. WAREHOUSE, HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

Guard one forces David out of the room. Guard two right behind them.

GUARD ONE

No, but we are going to find out.

Guard one turns to Guard two.

GUARD ONE (CONT'D)  
Get the foreman!

Guard two takes off down the hall.

GUARD TWO  
On it!

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Nick exits the elevator. He is alone in the parking garage, no signs of where Saul could have gone. He starts to head back to his car when in front of him Saul walks out from behind the wall.

SAUL HELMS  
Long time Nick.

Nick stops in his tracks.

NICK  
It has. Last time I saw you,

SAUL HELMS  
Was when you and that partner of yours were tossed out of the firm.

Nick nods.

NICK  
They only tossed us out because we were close to finding the truth.

SAUL HELMS  
And what truth is that?

Nick takes a step closer to Saul.

NICK  
That Summer investigations is involved in all kinds of criminal activity in this city!

Saul flashes a cocky smile.

SAUL HELMS  
I'm afraid I have no idea to what your speaking about.

Nick takes another step forward.

NICK

Oh I think you do! What did you  
steal from the warehouse?

Two goons step out on either side of Saul, metal pipes in  
their hands.

SAUL HELMS

You don't want to go there Nick.  
Trust me.

Nick takes a step back.

NICK

I won't be intimidated. Not by the  
likes of you!

The sounds of footsteps come from behind Nick, he turns his  
head back to find three more goons blocking the other side.

SAUL HELMS

Let's see about that.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HOLDING ROOM

David is handcuffed, both arms to a chair in the middle of a  
dark room. Guard one opens the door.

GUARD ONE

Sit tight, the foreman will be up  
in a minute.

With that he is gone, the sound of the door being locked the  
only sound in the still room. Behind David rests a window.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Saul is leaning against a nearby car, the sound of a man  
yelling in pain is muffled by the sounds of fists, and shoes  
hitting someone. Saul smiles at the sight.

The goons don't let up, they keep hitting Nick, he tries to  
protect his face. They won't let up.

INT. WAREHOUSE

The foreman is over seeing a group of workers setting up the  
crates for the forklifts to pick up.

FOREMAN

Careful! We're getting a lot of money for these.

Guard two walks on to the floor. He walks over to a worker and they talk for a beat before he points to the foreman. The guard walks over to them as the forklift drives away with the first of the rates.

Guard two walks over to the foreman and leans into whisper to him.

GUARD TWO

We found someone sneaking around your office.

The foreman looks the guard in the eye then back to his men.

FOREMAN

Keep working. I'll be back.

The foreman follows guard two.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

One of the goons kick Nick hard, Nick spins on to his back as another goon kicks him in his face.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HOLDING ROOM

David struggles with his handcuffs, he can't move his arms.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HALLWAY

The foreman and Guard two make their way through the warehouse.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Nick tries to crawl away from the goons but one grabs him by the hair and pulls him back. He lets out a scream.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HOLDING ROOM

David starts trying to walk in his chair, he can't get any traction.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HALLWAY

The foreman and guard two keep walking.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Nick tries to swing at the goons they easily move back and he misses. He howls out in rage, they laugh.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HOLDING ROOM

David cracks his wrist as he tries to get something out of the sleeve of his shirt. He winches in pain.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HALLWAY

The foreman and guard two spot the holding room. Guard one is standing outside of it.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HOLDING ROOM

David is struggling to get whatever it is out.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HALLWAY

The foreman and guard two stop in front of guard one.

FOREMAN

Is he still inside?

Guard one nods his head.

GUARD ONE

Yes sir, no one has been in or out since I locked him in there.

The foreman smiles and pats him on the arm.

FOREMAN

Good man, make sure no one bothers us.

He opens the door.

INT. WAREHOUSE, HOLDING ROOM

The foreman walks into the room, it is empty but for a lone chair with two handcuff hooked to it, they are holding nothing but air.

FOREMAN

Where is he!

The two guards run into the room. They have a dumbfounded look on their faces.

The lone window in the room is open.

INT. PARKING GARAGE

Nick is laying on his back, his face bloody as one of the goons is on top of him hitting him in the face, hit after hit.

SAUL HELMS

Enough, get him up.

The goon gets off of Nick and two other goons rush over and pick him up. He tries to struggle but he is weak. They put him face to face with Saul. Nick's head faces the ground, he isn't strong enough to hold it up.

SAUL HELMS (CONT'D)

Intimidated yet?

Nick forces his head up and looks Saul right in the eyes, he refuses to show weakness.

SAUL HELMS (CONT'D)

Look, Nick, I like you. I always considered us friends.

Saul puts his hand on Nick's shoulder.

SAUL HELMS (CONT'D)

I'm doing this for your own good, you are a smart guy, an honorable man. Unlike your partner, you aren't a trouble maker. You know how the world works. I get maybe you have some problems with how we conduct business and that's fine.

Saul takes his hand off of Nick

SAUL HELMS (CONT'D)  
You have your own now, run it how  
you see fit. But don't squander  
your families inheritance by  
blowing it all on a crusade you  
can't win. Stay out of our affairs.

Saul holds out his hand to shake Nick's.

SAUL HELMS (CONT'D)  
What do you say?

Nick thinks it over for a beat and then spits in Saul's face.

NICK  
Go to hell!

Saul takes a step back, shocked. He wipes the spit from his  
face, his anger betrays him but he catches his composer.

SAUL HELMS  
If that's how you want it.

Saul hits Nick as hard as he can in the gut. Nick doubles  
over, as much as he can while being held up by the goons.

Saul turns and starts to walk off.

SAUL HELMS (CONT'D)  
Leave him.

He doesn't even look back. The two goons holding Nick up drop  
him, he falls to the floor and lets out a grunt. The five  
goons walk off after Saul, one spits on him as he passes and  
another kicks him in the side of the head. Nick falls to the  
floor hard. He is a bloody mess.

INT. OUTSIDERS INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE, NICK'S OFFICE

Nick is sitting in his chair, his face is bruised up pretty  
bad. The boxes have halved since the last time we were in the  
room. It is starting to look like a real office. David is  
pacing back and forth in front of the desk.

DAVID  
I can't believe Saul crossed this  
line.

Nick tries to sit up straight in his chair, instead he lets  
out a moan and relaxes back into it.

NICK

I put the scare of god into him. He knows we are after him, and that we are looking in the right place.

David sits down on the desk, he runs his hand through his hair.

DAVID

He also knows we have nothing real, just speculation.

NICK

For now. But I did confirm that he is working with Peter Marsters, he was having lunch with him.

DAVID

Maybe they made some kind of a deal? Peter steals something from the warehouse and Saul discredits the ex-wife.

NICK

That's what I was thinking. If only we could find out what was stolen from the warehouse. It would give us a nice lead.

David smiles, slides off the desk and walks over to Nick, pulling the paper he stole from the foreman out of his pocket. He straightens the paper out and hands it to Nick.

DAVID

How's this for a lead?

Nick looks at the paper.

NICK

Where did you get this?

DAVID

You weren't the only one who had a busy day.

Nick's POV of the paper. It's an order invoice for 20 crates being shipped from Colombia. The order says that the crates contain artifacts of cultural significance.

NICK

Well what do you know.

The order was placed by Juan Torres. Return to scene.

DAVID  
Juan Torres, the drug kingpin.

Nick forces himself to sit up and puts the paper on his desk.

NICK  
You did good David. Now if we can  
just find proof of what was in  
those,

He makes air question marks.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Artifacts of cultural significance.

David nods.

DAVID  
And proof that Saul hired Peter to  
steal them.

Nick tries to stand but falls back into his chair.

NICK  
We can bring them down.

DAVID  
And we can help Elizabeth keep her  
son.

NICK  
That too. But whatever our next  
step is, we need to be smart about  
it. Saul is going to try and cover  
up his tracks, we need to figure  
out his connection before he gets  
that chance.

David turns away from Nick, he walks over to the book case.

DAVID  
I agree, but that can't be our  
first priority.

David turns back to face Nick.

DAVID (CONT'D)  
Elizabeth's court date is in two  
days.

Nick stands, it is the hardest thing he has ever done.

NICK

I know, and we will help her if we can, believe me I want her to win. I mean after all she is our first paying client since opening our doors. But we have to think of the bigger picture.

DAVID

The bigger picture? The bigger picture!

David hits the desk as hard as he can.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Will you listen to yourself?

Nick is startled and falls back into his chair.

DAVID (CONT'D)

Don't you think, don't you dare think that there is any bigger picture than helping people.

Nick recovers himself and sits up.

NICK

I know how personal this case must be for you, what with your mom and all.

DAVID

You don't know anything about my mom.

NICK

I know she was taken from you at an early age.

David looks down at the ground.

DAVID

Just like Elizabeth will be taken away from James if we don't do something and fast.

Nick gets back to his feet.

NICK

We will, just, we need to be cautious and not do anything rash.

INT. SUMMER'S INVESTIGATIONS, SAUL'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Saul is sitting behind his desk, with his feet up on the desk talking on the phone. His office is nice, a home like feel to it that comes from someone who spends far too much time in there. A open window behind shows the outside world, the view blocked slightly by the tree just outside. Tree branches go right past the window.

SAUL HELMS

I assure you that everything will  
be in place, we are just waiting  
for a . . . Deposit.

He listens on the other end of the line for a minute.

SAUL HELMS (CONT'D)

Okay, sounds good.

He hangs up the phone, and stretches out as he gets to his feet. He makes his way to the door, his coat is on a hanger next to it. He takes it off and starts to put it on.

MASKED MAN

(OS)

Going somewhere?

Saul turns around surprised.

SAUL HELMS

Wha?

The masked man is perched on the window seal. He hops down into the room.

SAUL HELMS (CONT'D)

Who, who are you?

The masked man walks over to Saul, slowly and with determination. Saul backs up against the door.

MASKED MAN

I'm here to ask you some questions.  
About a warehouse delivery.

SAUL HELMS

I don't know what you are talking  
about. But you need to leave now,  
before I call the police.

The masked man is now inches from Saul, Saul tries to act like he isn't afraid but his face betrays him.

MASKED MAN

Not till I have my answers!

The masked man pushes Saul against the door.

MASKED MAN (CONT'D)

Where is the cocaine, and what connection does Peter Marsters have with all this?

SAUL HELMS

Help! Help me!

The masked man is caught off guard by his yelling but only for a second. The masked man hits Saul hard in the gut and lets him fall to the floor. He grabs him by the hair and lifts his head up as Saul is on all fours.

MASKED MAN

Yell out again and I'll end this, permanently. Now answer my question!

SAUL HELMS

Go to hell!

MASKED MAN

Wrong answer.

The masked man pulls Saul up so he is only on his knees and hits him in the face, he falls back against the door. The masked man picks him up, spins him around so that the masked man's back is facing the door.

Saul tries to push the masked man's hands off of him. The masked man pushes him back hard. Saul falls back and hits his desk. The masked man jumps forward and hits him in the jaw, a crack can be heard echoing back in the room.

The masked man follows up with a few more hits to the gut and pushes his head down so he can knee him in the face.

Saul falls to the floor, unconscious. The masked man rushes over to his desk and starts going thru his paper work.

WOMAN WORKER

(OS)

It sounds like it was coming from in here.

The masked man looks up at the door.

MAN WORKER

(os)  
I'll get security. Don't let anyone  
in or out till I get back.

The masked man swipes the paper off of the desk, taking the phone with it, where it makes a loud crashing sound.

WOMAN WORKER

(os)  
Hurry! It sounds bad in there!

The masked man speeds up his searching of the paper work. Saul starts to moan.

MAN WORKER

(os)  
It's in this office!

The door handle turns, the door is locked. The masked man moves to looking through the file cabinet.

SUMMER'S GUARD

(os)  
Does anyone have a key?

MAN WORKER

(os)  
I don't think so!

The masked man looks around, he spots the computer. He rushes over to it and starts going through the files.

SUMMER'S GUARD

(os)  
Damn! I'll be right back.

The masked man finds a folder titled Peter Marster. He opens it and inside are the doctored pictures along with other files about information on him.

SAUL HELMS

Wha?

The masked man looks around and finds a USB next to the computer, he plugs it in.

SUMMER'S GUARD

(os)  
I got the keys.

The sound of them playing with the door handle goes off in the background while the masked man drags the files into the USB.

WOMAN WORKER

(os)  
Hurry!

The file transfer is 60%

MAN WORKER

(os)  
What's taking so long?

70%

WOMAN WORKER

(os)  
Can't you go any faster?

75%

SUMMER'S GUARD

(os)  
Do either of you know which key it  
is?

WOMAN WORKER

(os)  
No.

MAN WORKER

(os)  
No but it can't be that hard to  
find can it?

89%

SUMMER'S GUARD

(os)  
Do you want to try?

MAN WORKER

(os)  
Just get it open!

SUMMER'S GUARD

(os)  
Fine! Stand back!

97%

A loud bang goes off and the door handle is gone as the door  
flies open. Summer's guard and a man and woman are standing  
there, they rush into the room.

The masked man is back on the window seal, the USB is gone  
from the computer.

Summer's guard takes aim and fires as the man and woman rush to Saul's aid. The masked man is hit in the back and falls out of the window.

MAN WORKER

Are you ok?

WOMAN WORKER

Saul, wake up!

He starts to mumble as his eyes open. The Summer's guard runs over to the window seal and looks out. There is no sign of him.

SUMMER'S GUARD

He's gone!

WOMAN WORKER

I could have sworn you hit him!

SUMMER'S GUARD

I did! But he's gone.

SAUL HELMS

You let him get away?

Saul slowly starts to sit up.

SUMMER'S GUARD

I didn't let him do anything! What was he after anyways?

Saul gets to his feet, using his desk to steady himself.

SAUL HELMS

Just get out!

INT. CAFE - DAY

The cafe is mostly empty at this hour. Elizabeth is sitting at the same end booth as last time, looking just as miserable.

David and Nick enter the cafe and look around for Elizabeth. Nick still looks the worse for wear and is walking slowly. David is extra stiff as he walks.

NICK

So tell me, how did you come across these files?

David spots Elizabeth and leads the way over to her.

DAVID  
She's over here.

Nick follows after David.

NICK  
Don't change the subject Dave, how  
did you get them?

David doesn't answer.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Did you do something that will  
jeopardize our mission?

David turns around and gets in Nick's face.

DAVID  
Don't ask questions that you don't  
want the answer to.

Nick doesn't back down.

NICK  
I'm asking aren't I?

David lets out a sigh.

DAVID  
I hired someone to hack Saul's  
computer.

NICK  
You did what? What if they were  
caught? They would have sold you  
out, sold us out and we would be  
shut down!

David shakes his head in defeat.

DAVID  
They wouldn't have. I went to some  
underground sources of mine, they  
got a third party to do it. I have  
no idea who stole the files and  
they have no idea who it was for.

NICK  
You hired criminals?

DAVID  
We were running out of time, what  
would you have had me do?

Nick shakes his head.

NICK  
I hope this doesn't bring us down.

Nick walks passed David towards Elizabeth.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Mrs. Marsters.

Nick takes a seat across from her, she looks up at him and smiles weakly.

ELIZABETH  
Mr. Ellis,

David sits next to Nick.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
Mr. Conner.

David grabs her hand.

DAVID  
How are you doing Liz?

ELIZABETH  
Not so good, I can't imagine life without James.

NICK  
Don't worry, that isn't going to happen.

David lets go of her hand.

ELIZABETH  
How can you be so sure?

Nick pulls out the files.

NICK  
We,

He shoots David a dirty look.

NICK (CONT'D)  
Managed to get our hands on this.

He puts the file on the table and opens it facing her and slides it across the table.

ELIZABETH  
What is this?

She looks at the doctored pictures.

DAVID

Proof that the pictures were fake.

He hands her a USB.

DAVID (CONT'D)

This USB has the original files. It even shows how Peter paid for the fake pictures.

ELIZABETH

Does this,

She takes the USB.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

Am I going to win custody?

David smiles at her.

DAVID

It does. With this on your side, it's going to be open and shut in your favor.

Her face lights up.

ELIZABETH

Oh my god thank you! I can't believe this! You're miracle workers.

NICK

It's our job. We are just happy that everything is going to work out for you and your family.

ELIZABETH

You have no idea how much this means to me.

DAVID

It's not a problem, I know what it's like to have your family torn apart. I would never let that happen to James, or anyone else.

Elizabeth looks concerned for him.

ELIZABETH

Did that happen to you?

INT. THE CONNER'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM - 20 YEAR'S AGO - NIGHT

A small apartment with a beat up old sofa sitting in front of a blocky mid-size TV. A 8 year old David sits on the couch with his older sister KARINA, 15. The sound of the TV playing in the background.

DAVID  
Karina, I want ice cream!

She pulls her legs up on the couch and makes herself comfortable.

KARINA  
Not going to happen little guy.  
It's already past your bed time as is. Mom would kill me if she found out I let you have some.

DAVID  
Please!

KARINA  
No! You're lucky I'm even letting you stay up.

The door knob starts to turn, but it won't open due to being locked. David and Karina both turn to look at the door.

DAVID  
Is mom home early?

Karina turns off the TV.

KARINA  
Shh.

David hugs onto Karina.

CROOK ONE  
(os)  
Hurry up, can't you get the lock?

CROOK TWO  
(os)  
I can, if you just give me a second. You sure no one is home?

Karina jumps up and grabs David.

DAVID  
That's not mommy.

She lowers herself to be level with him.

CROOK ONE

(os)

Yeah, I'm sure. I know this broad,  
she works late at that dinner off  
of main.

KARINA

David, go hide in the closet and  
don't come out. No matter what.

DAVID

Come with me!

Karina looks back at the door.

KARINA

I can't. I have to call the police,  
get us help.

The sound of the lock being picked.

CROOK TWO

Just about got it.

DAVID

But they will find you!

She smiles at him.

KARINA

Please, am I not the master of hide  
and go seek?

He nods.

KARINA (CONT'D)

Now go!

She pushes him towards the closet. He runs inside and pulls  
the door close. She runs to the phone and picks it up just as  
the door flies open.

INT. THE CONNER'S APARTMENT, CLOSET

David is sitting in the cradle position. The room is dark,  
tears are flowing down his face.

CROOK TWO

(os)

What is she doing here? You said no  
one was going to be home!

CROOK ONE

(os)

No one was suppose to be here!

KARINA

(os)

Well I am! So leave now before I  
call the police!

CROOK TWO

(os)

Maybe we should go.

CROOK ONE

(os)

Naw, I'll take care of her.

David opens the door slightly so he can see.

KARINA

(os)

Stay back!

CROOK ONE

(os)

No, baby. We gonna have some fun.

David starts to cry as Karina lets out a scream.

INT. CAFE - NOW

David looks away from Elizabeth and Nick.

DAVID

Let's just say that once long ago,  
I failed and leave it at that.

David stands up.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I have to go.

He walks off, leaving Nick and Elizabeth alone.

ELIZABETH

I wonder what happened.

Nick watches David walks off and then turns to Elizabeth.

NICK

When he was 8 he was home alone  
with his sister, when the house was  
broken into.

ELIZABETH

Oh my god.

NICK

She was murdered, reports suggest that there may have been a sexual assault before hand.

ELIZABETH

Oh god, that's horrible.

Nick nods.

NICK

What makes it worse, is that he saw the whole thing from the closet.

ELIZABETH

Poor David.

NICK

Yeah, he's mom couldn't handle it, she blamed herself for being at work and they had to commit her. She just went off the deep end.

ELIZABETH

What happened to David?

NICK

He bounced around foster homes for eight years before running away.

ELIZABETH

I feel so bad for him.

NICK

It's why he was so gung ho for your case. He didn't want what happened to him to happen to you guys.

ELIZABETH

He's a good man.

NICK

That he is.

ELIZABETH

That must have been hard for him to tell you.

Nick stands up.

NICK

He didn't tell me. I don't think he ever talks about it.

ELIZABETH

Then how did you find out?

Nick starts to walk off.

NICK

You can't go into business with someone and not dig into their past a bit.

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

David is kneeling at the tombstone of his sister. His head bowed and his right hand resting on her name.

DAVID

I did good today, I managed to keep a family together. I know it doesn't make up for failing you and mama but it's a start.

He looks up at the tombstone, putting his hands on his knee.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I'll find the monster who hurt you and I'll hurt him. I'll revenge you sister. If it's the last thing I do.

He gets to his feet, kisses two of his fingers and presses it against the tombstone.

DAVID (CONT'D)

I love you Karina.

David turns and walks away from the tombstone.

INT. COURTHOUSE, COURTROOM

The room is almost empty. On one side sits Peter Marsters and his attorney. Behind them sit a few of Peter's friends along side a beat up Saul.

On the other side of the room sits Elizabeth Marsters and her attorney. Behind them are a few family and friends. In the back row sits Nick.

The judge shuffles some paper work and looks over at Peter, shaking his head.

JUDGE

After hearing all the facts, I am hereby granting full custody to Elizabeth Marsters.

Her side of the court room erupts in cheers. Peter's side is most unhappy. Elizabeth is hugging her attorney. The judge turns to look at Peter.

JUDGE (CONT'D)

Oh and Peter, I wouldn't leave town if I were you.

Nick smiles and leaves the court room.

INT. COURTHOUSE

Nick is walking towards the exit, the hallway is largely deserted.

SAUL HELMS

(os)

You think you're pretty slick don't you?

Nick turns around to find a beat up Saul charging for him.

NICK

Poor loser are we? What's the matter Saul, not use to being out maneuvered?

Saul pushes Nick against the wall.

SAUL HELMS

You think your so smart, I know you hired that masked creep to attack me.

NICK

Attack you? What masked guy?

SAUL HELMS

Don't play dumb with me Nick.

The courtroom doors open and people start to flood out. Saul lets go of Nick.

NICK

What are you talking about?

Saul starts to walk away.

SAUL HELMS  
You know what I'm talking about.  
This isn't over Nick!

Nick stands frozen to the spot watching Saul walk off.  
Elizabeth runs up to Nick.

ELIZABETH  
Nick!

She hugs him and kisses him on the cheek.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
Thank you so much! I couldn't have  
done it without you.

NICK  
It's no problem. I'm glad it all  
worked out.

Elizabeth looks around.

ELIZABETH  
Where is David? I wanted to thank  
him too.

NICK  
He had an appointment he couldn't  
miss. But he sends his regards.

ELIZABETH  
Oh, well tell him I said thank you.

She starts to walk off.

NICK  
Will do.

INT. ELIZABETH'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Elizabeth sits on the floor watching as little James, 5,  
plays with his toys.

ELIZABETH  
I'm so glad your home.

There's a knock on the door. Elizabeth looks over at the  
clock that reads 9:30. She gets up and heads to the door.

Elizabeth opens the door, Peter is standing there, he smiles  
at her.

PETER MARSTERS

Hey babe.

She hurries and tries to shut the door but Peter stops her.

PETER MARSTERS (CONT'D)

What's the matter? Not happy to see me?

Elizabeth pushes with all of her might to close the door.

ELIZABETH

Go away! You aren't welcome here.

Peter manages to get the door open, Elizabeth stumbles back.

PETER MARSTERS

Not welcome? In my own home, I think I'm welcome.

James looks up and spots Peter.

JAMES

Daddy!

He runs and gives Peter a hug. Elizabeth is horrified. Peter kneels down to look James in the eyes, he ruffles his hair.

PETER MARSTERS

Hey little guy miss me?

James smiles big at his father.

JAMES

Yeah! Mommy said you were going to be a way for a while.

PETER MARSTERS

That was the plan but now I'm here to stay.

JAMES

I'm glad!

Elizabeth grabs James by the arm and pulls him away from Peter.

ELIZABETH

James, honey go to your room. I need to speak to daddy for a minute.

JAMES

I want to stay!

ELIZABETH

Go now! I won't ask you again.

James turns to look at Peter.

JAMES

Will you come to tuck me in?

Peter stands up.

PETER MARSTERS

Of course.

James smiles and runs out of the room. Elizabeth gets up and walks towards Peter.

ELIZABETH

You can't be here Peter!

PETER MARSTERS

What are you going to do about it?

ELIZABETH

I'll call the police.

PETER MARSTERS

Go ahead, by time they get here  
I'll be long gone and you will  
never see me again.

Elizabeth relaxes a bit.

ELIZABETH

Good! So then why are you here?

PETER MARSTERS

I just came for my son and I'll be  
on the way.

ELIZABETH

What? You can't take James, I won  
the custody, you're not even  
suppose to be here.

Peter gets in her face and grabs the back of her hair pulling her head back. She lets out a scream. He puts his hand over her mouth.

PETER MARSTERS

You really think that some nobody  
judge is going to keep me away from  
my son! No power on Earth can do  
that.

He throws her to the ground. She starts crying.

ELIZABETH  
Are you going to kill me?

PETER MARSTERS  
Why would I do that? I'm going to do to you what you tried to do to me. Have you spend the rest of your life missing your child.

He throws her to the floor and she hits her head on the wall, it starts bleeding. Peter walks into James room.

PETER MARSTERS (CONT'D)  
(os)  
Come on little guy, we are going for ice cream.

JAMES  
(os)  
Yay, I love ice cream.

Peter walks out of the room, holding James, Elizabeth starts to get up as they walk past her. She is holding the back of her head. It's bleeding.

JAMES (CONT'D)  
Is mommy coming?

PETER MARSTERS  
Not this time champ.

Elizabeth gets to her feet.

ELIZABETH  
James!

She starts towards Peter.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
Give me my son!

Peter pushes her back against the wall again.

PETER MARSTERS  
Stay out of my way.

He walks right past her. James starts crying and reaches out for Elizabeth.

JAMES  
Mommy?

## INT. VICKIE'S PUB

David is back at the bar drinking. The bar is just as empty as the last time he was here but this time he isn't pretending to drink. He chugs a beer and motions the bartender to get him another drink. His mood is grim.

The bartender brings him another beer and he starts to drink, his phone's ringer goes off in his pocket, he doesn't even check it. He just keeps drinking. His phone goes off again.

David sighs and checks the phone, it's Elizabeth. He answers it as he gets up from the bar.

DAVID

Hey, I heard you won the case.  
Congrats. Are you and James  
celebrating?

Elizabeth can be heard sobbing on the other side of the phone.

ELIZABETH (O.S.)

Peter (sob) he took him. He (sob)  
he (sob) he took James!

## EXT. VICKIE'S PUB

David exits the bar, all sourness gone from his mood.

DAVID

Slow down! What happened?

## INT. MOTEL ROOM

Peter is asleep in the sleazy motel's bed. There is a second empty bed, it looks as if it had been slept in recently. The front door shuts silently as a shadow moves across the room.

MASKED MAN

(os)  
Rise and shine.

Peter starts to wake up.

PETER MARSTERS

Wha?

The masked man jumps on to the bed and holds Peter down.

MASKED MAN

Nice seeing you again!

Peter tries to get up but the masked man forces him down.

PETER MARSTERS

What are you doing here? I killed you!

MASKED MAN

Did you now?

PETER MARSTERS

I shot you right in the chest!

MASKED MAN

Maybe you aren't as good a shot as you thought.

PETER MARSTERS

What do you want?

The masked man pulls out a gun from behind his back and points it at Peter's head.

MASKED MAN

To rid the world of scum like you.

PETER MARSTERS

Please, you can't do this! Not in front of my son.

MASKED MAN

What son?

Peter looks over at the empty bed.

PETER MARSTERS

James? James! What did you do with my son?

MASKED MAN

He isn't yours. He's where he belongs.

PETER MARSTERS

Please don't do this. Give me more time.

MASKED MAN

I gave you long enough.

Pov shot of the gun going off.

INT. OUTSIDERS INVESTIGATIONS OFFICE, LOBBY

Nick is sitting with Elizabeth on the "new" sofa in the waiting room, the sofa is clearly used and beat up. Elizabeth's head is bandaged and she looks as if she has been crying nonstop. The TV is on in the background with the sound too low to hear. The news is showing a picture of Peter and James.

ELIZABETH

Where could he have taken him?

NICK

I don't know, but don't worry. David is great at tracking people down. The best I've ever worked with. If anyone can find your son it's him.

Elizabeth seems a little cheered up by this.

ELIZABETH

You really think so?

NICK

I know so.

The bell sounds off as the door opens.

ELIZABETH

David?

David walks in alone, a defeated look on his face.

DAVID

It's me.

He closes the door behind him.

ELIZABETH

James?

David shakes his head.

DAVID

I couldn't find him.

Elizabeth falls back on to the couch.

ELIZABETH

James.

NICK

What happened?

David starts to walk over to them.

DAVID

I hit every source I have, I just couldn't find any leads. Peter is covering his tracks good.

Elizabeth looks up at them.

ELIZABETH

Is this it? Is James gone for good?

NICK

No, not by a long shot.

David kneels down in front of Elizabeth.

DAVID

We will find your son. I promise you.

ELIZABETH

I just, I can't lose him.

DAVID

You won't.

Her phone goes off.

NICK

Answer it, maybe it's a lead.

Elizabeth nods and pulls her phone out of her purse.

ELIZABETH

Hello? . . . This is Elizabeth Marsters. . .

She jumps up from the couch.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)

You found him? . . . Oh thank god! Where is he? . . . I'll be right there! Thank you so much!

She hangs up the phone.

NICK

Who was it?

ELIZABETH

The police, they found James!

DAVID  
That's great! Where was he?

ELIZABETH  
They said an anonymous tip came in  
that he was at a park.

NICK  
What about Peter?

Elizabeth shakes her head.

ELIZABETH  
There was no sign of him.

DAVID  
Don't worry about Peter, we will  
take care of him. Just go be with  
your son.

She hugs him.

ELIZABETH  
Thank you so much.

She hugs Nick.

ELIZABETH (CONT'D)  
Both of you.

She runs for the door.

NICK  
It's what we do.

DAVID  
Take care.

She waves to them as she leaves, the bell ringing as the door  
closes behind her. Nick turns towards David.

NICK  
I wonder why Peter just left him at  
the park?

David looks past Nick at the TV. He reaches for the remote.

DAVID  
I think we're about to find out.

He starts turning the TV up. The news report is showing a  
picture of Peter.

NEWS REPORTER

Peter Marsters, recently suspected of kidnapping his son, was found dead in a motel room on the outskirts of town a few hours ago.

NICK

What the hell?

DAVID

Well that explains why I couldn't find him.

NEWS REPORTER

An eyewitness claims that a man in a black mask was seen fleeing the scene.

NICK

A mask?

David looks from the TV to Nick and takes a tiny step back.

NEWS REPORTER

We have footage of him fleeing.

The scene on the TV changes from the reporter to the masked man running from the motel in the middle of the night.

NICK

That must be who Saul was talking about.

DAVID

What?

Nick turns back to David.

NICK

Saul, he said the guy who stole the files, he was wearing a mask. Like that one.

He points to the TV.

DAVID

That's not possible.

NICK

Why not? You said you don't even know who you hired to steal them. Why couldn't it be this masked man?

DAVID  
I guess that's possible.

NEWS REPORTER  
A million dollar reward has been issued on any information leading to the capture of this masked vigilante.

DAVID  
What?

NICK  
Did he say a million dollars?

DAVID  
He did.

Nick grabs David by the arm.

NICK  
You know what this means?

DAVID  
What? That someone has a lot of extra money laying around?

NICK  
That we can finally have the resources needed to bring Summer's investigation down!

David nods slowly.

DAVID  
A million dollars would go a long way towards that goal.

Nick starts getting to his office.

NICK  
We need to find this masked man. For now, that's our main goal!

DAVID  
Great.

INT. DAVID'S BEDROOM

David walks to his bathroom, he slowly unbuttons his shirt. His chest has a bright red bruise on it. He takes the shirt off all the way and there is another mark on his back.

He takes his pants off as he enters the bathroom. The mask of the masked man falls out of his pocket.

THE END