

ENEMIES OF CHURCH

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**Teaser**

1 INT. SEPTEMBER 6, 1774 - NIGHT 1

A candle flickers at the edge of a desk where a man whose face we cannot see sits writing. Once finished he blows on the ink, drying it and then folds the paper. Using the candle he drips wax onto the fold, then stamps the wax with a SEAL. We get a closeup of the seal impression in the wax.

The FACELESS MAN hurries to the front door, opens it and hands the letter to a young BOY COURIER.

BOY COURIER  
Same place as before, sir?

FACELESS MAN  
Yes.

The man drops a coin into the boy's hand, who takes off running into the darkness of the night.

2 INT. SEPTEMBER 6, 1774 - BRITISH GENERAL GAGE'S OFFICE - NIGHT 2

A lush colonial home. British GENERAL GAGE stands at his desk with a letter in hand. He's visibly upset. There are several lower ranking British officers in the room. They exchange glances.

GENERAL GAGE  
I am tired of these colonists. They  
are going to be the death of me.

Gage shakes and drops the paper. The camera gets a closeup of the paper bearing the same wax seal from SCENE 1 and we see the letter is written in a cipher of strange symbols.

**End Teaser**

**ACT ONE**

JULY 4, 2023

3 EXT. PLEASANT ST. STOUGHTON, MA - MORNING 3

An unmarked cruiser straddles the double yellow lines as it speeds down Pleasant Street with its siren blaring. Cars on both sides of the road pull over, like a wake left by a boat.

It reaches an intersection and turns left. Up ahead, there are two cruisers blocking the road.

4 EXT. FAXON VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK - MORNING 4

Faxon Memorial Park is a triangle shaped green. It has several memorials for different wars. There are Civil War cannons and a Howitzer from the Vietnam era. The park has several flowering trees and a gazebo in the middle.

DET. COLTON BAKER (28) steps out. He has a medium build with short dirty blonde hair. He's wearing a suit and has his badge and gun clipped onto his belt. It's his first week as a detective.

A UNIFORMED OFFICER (#1) uses crime scene tape to cordon off the area.

UNIFORMED OFFICER (#1)  
Hell of a first week, detective.

Colton nods in acknowledgement as the officer continues to tape off the area. Flowers surrounding the war memorial sway in a slight breeze. WHITE SPECS that looks like dandelion pieces float through the air.

The wind blows and a spec lands on his lapel. Colton looks down, pulls it off, and holds it up to his face. It's a tiny feather.

Up ahead, UNIFORMED OFFICER (#2) is looking down at something. There's a small gust of wind and feathers scatter in front of the officer.

UNIFORMED OFFICER (#2) turns, puts his hands on his knees and vomits.

Colton approaches the officer.

3.

UNIFORMED OFFICER (#2) (CONT'D)  
Real fucking sicko, Detective.  
(Uses a hand to wipe his  
mouth)

Sprawled out next to the War memorial is a naked woman's body. She's coated in tar and feathers. Flies buzz and circle around and some are stuck to the tar. Two large medallion like coins cover her eyes.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Jesus Christ!

Colton composes himself and looks back down at the body. He sees some sort of markings and uses his pen to lift some feathers, exposing strange symbols. Some have been carved into the skin and others branded.



DET. COLTON BAKER (CONT'D)  
Fuck!

Colton stands in the middle of Park street looking at the crime scene and beyond. He pulls out his radio and calls dispatch.

DET. COLTON BAKER (CONT'D)  
D-1 to Control.

DISPATCH (V.O.)  
Control's on.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Can I get additional units to my location for traffic control and to assist knocking on doors?

DISPATCH (V.O.)  
Received.

The radio squawks as additional units are called to the scene. The sound of sirens fill the air.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Dispatch. Please notify the Norfolk D.A.'s office and the coroner.

DISPATCH (V.O.)  
Received.

4.

Additional cruisers arrive and start blocking off the different streets that lead to Faxon Park. A TRAINING OFFICER (30's) male and ROOKIE OFFICER (mid 20's) female arrive and head towards Colton.

ROOKIE OFFICER  
Why would someone dump a body in plain sight?

Both Colton and the Training Officer look at her.

ROOKIE OFFICER (CONT'D)  
Nevermind. Rhetorical question. Because they wanted the body to be found.

TRAINING OFFICER  
Bingo!

Colton turns and looks from house to house.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Several of these homes have security cameras. Can you go knock on some doors and ask them if we can review their footage?

TRAINING OFFICER  
Sure thing, detective.

The two uniformed officers walk away and Colton heads back over to the body. He pulls out his department issued phone and conducts a quick Google search and discovers that coins used to be placed over the eyes of the deceased for payment to cross over into the afterlife.

Colton then uses the phone and starts taking photos of the scene. He adjusts the focus and takes a picture of the medallion/coins. He pinches the screen, making the picture bigger. One coin has a tree depicted on it with the words, *Liberty Tree*, beneath it. The other coin is of an arm holding a pole surmounted with a Cap of Liberty with the words, *Sons of Liberty*, beneath it. Sirens fill the air and an undercover State Trooper SUV pulls up.

Uniformed Officer (#2) is still bent over with his hands on his knees.

UNIFORMED OFFICER (#2)  
Detective Barnes is here.

5.

DET. STEVE BARNES (53) balding, tall with broad shoulders. He's a detective with the Massachusetts State Police and is assigned to the DA's office where he investigates unattended deaths in the county.

Barnes lifts up the yellow tape and makes his way towards Colton.

DET. STEVE BARNES  
Same guy?

Colton nods.

DET. STEVE BARNES (CONT'D)  
Pretty brazen dropping a body out  
in public like this.

Colton looks around at all the houses.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I have my people knocking on doors  
to see if anyone caught something  
on their home security cameras.

DET. STEVE BARNES  
Jesus! They actually tarred and  
feathered her. That must have hurt  
like a bastard.

The ROOKIE OFFICER walks up to Colton and Barnes.

ROOKIE OFFICER  
Excuse me, detectives.

Colton and Barnes turn around.

ROOKIE OFFICER (CONT'D)  
We found a gentleman who has  
footage of this morning.

5 EXT. OLD MAN'S BUILDING - MORNING

5

They walk over to a house. It has several businesses on the first floor and apartments above. There's a small parking lot to the left of the building with several cars parked in it. There's a large sign with a picture of a camera with the words, *Surveillance Camera In Use*, attached to the wall.

6 INT. OLD MAN'S BUILDING - MORNING

6

Colton, Barnes and the ROOKIE go inside, down the stairs to a small office where the TRAINING OFFICER is speaking with an OLD MAN.

TRAINING OFFICER

Sir, this is Detective Baker. He's investigating the incident across the street.

The OLD MAN shakes Colton's hand.

OLD MAN

Is it true they found a body over there in the park?

DET. COLTON BAKER

Unfortunately so.

OLD MAN

I hope you're able to catch whoever did it. It's terrible what's happening to this town.

DET. COLTON BAKER

So, you have twenty-four-hour surveillance. Is that correct?

OLD MAN

Yes.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Have you had trouble in the past? What made you install the cameras?

OLD MAN

We had an issue with kids breaking into our cars out front. Someone even came up onto the porch and stole our packages we had delivered. We installed them and put that big Surveillance Cameras in Use sign up as a deterrent.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Did it help?

OLD MAN

Yeah.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Are they digital cameras?

7.

OLD MAN

Is there any other kind nowadays?

Both Colton and the Training Officer exchange smiles.

They step into the small office. There's a desk with a keyboard and two monitors on it. The old man sits down and uses the mouse to bring up the security cameras.

The old man pushes a few buttons and the two cameras from the front porch appear on the screen.

OLD MAN (CONT'D)

Where too?

DET. COLTON BAKER

Can you rewind it slowly until the body is left?

The old man clicks the mouse, and the video scrolls backwards. Colton sees himself walking up to the building and the events when the police arrive at the park. Dawn turns to night and there's a steady stream of head and taillights as commuters trek to work. Specks swirl around the memorial. Colton notes the time. It's 4:25am. The head and tail lights became less frequent the farther back the film goes.

Suddenly everything on the screen goes black.

DET. COLTON BAKER (CONT'D)

What happened?

OLD MAN

I don't know.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Go forward, please.

The Old Man hits a button, and after a few seconds the blackness disappears and the video returned.

DET. COLTON BAKER (CONT'D)

Okay. Go back again. But go slow.

The video moves backwards, and at 3:58am the video goes black.

OLD MAN

What now?

DET. COLTON BAKER

Keep going back, please.

Seconds turn to minutes. At 3:52am, the video appears again.

8.

They rewind the video until the afternoon of the day prior and nothing. No body, and no one dumping it.

DET. COLTON BAKER (CONT'D)  
Whatever happened, it happened in those six minutes.

OLD MAN  
I don't know what happened. Maybe the power went out.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Is there any way you can send me a copy of this video?

OLD MAN  
Sure. I'll just need your email address.

Colton pulls out one of his business cards and handed to the man.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I appreciate all of your help. I'll be in touch. If you can think of anything else, please give me a call.

Colton, Barnes and the two officers leave.

7 EXT. PRESENT DAY - OLD MAN'S BUILDING - MORNING 7

DET. STEVE BARNES  
That was odd. How did the video go black for six minutes?

TRAINING OFFICER  
Do you think it was a power outage?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I doubt it.

Colton sees the police chief arrive and heads back towards the crime scene.

8 EXT. FAXON VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK - MORNING 8

As Colton greets the chief a silver BMW pulls up. The chief sighs.

9.

FRANK LANGER (56) the town administrator steps out. He has a round face, red rosy cheeks, brown hair and a huge gut. He walks over to them.

FRANK LANGER

Are you serious? They dumped the body right here out in the open.

Colton cracks a joke to the chief.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Wow, with that keen sense of deduction he should have been a detective.

The chief smiles.

Frank tries to approach the body.

DET. COLTON BAKER (CONT'D)

Whoa! What do you think you're doing? This is a crime scene.

FRANK LANGER

I'm the town administrator.

Colton cuts him off.

DET. COLTON BAKER

I don't give a shit who you are. Get the fuck out of my crime scene.

Frank looks surprised. People don't usually talk to him like that. He looks to the chief to say something.

CHIEF MCCORMACK

Don't look at me. It's his crime scene.

Frank is visibly upset.

FRANK LANGER

I don't know who you think you are, but you're first week is gonna be your last!

The Massachusetts State Police Homicide Detective STEVE BARNS approaches.

DET. STEVE BARNS

Is there a problem here?

FRANK LANGER

I'm the town administrator and this is a local issue. Please butt out!

DET. STEVE BARNES

I'm Steve Barnes the Massachusetts State Police Homicide Detective assigned to the Norfolk County DA's office.

FRANK LANGER

Well, this isn't your crime scene. It's in my town, which I'm in charge of.

DET. STEVE BARNES

Actually, it is my crime scene.  
(He looks at his watch.)  
As of right now.

FRANK LANGER

Under who's authority?

DET. STEVE BARNES

The Norfolk County DA and the State of Massachusetts. In case you didn't know, all unattended deaths get assigned to the DA's office.

FRANK LANGER

Since when?

Steve turns toward Colton and the chief.

DET. STEVE BARNES

Is this guy for real?

DET. COLTON BAKER

Afraid so.

Steve turns back towards Frank.

DET. STEVE BARNES

Oh, I don't know. Since the 1800s. Now get out of *My* crime scene before *I* arrest you.

Frank walks away pissed off.

DET. STEVE BARNES (CONT'D)

What's his issue?

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
People think his friend Gino Romano  
and his son Nino have something to  
do with the recent murders.

DET. STEVE BARNES  
The mob boss?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Yeah, I had a run in with them a  
few days ago. What a bunch of  
assholes.

Colton, the chief and Steve turn towards the body.

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
I know it's early, but do you have  
any leads yet?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
No. We can't even ID her. The tar  
is so thick on her fingers.

DET. STEVE BARNES  
The coroner is going to have a  
field day with this one. That tar  
is gonna be a bitch to get off.

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
Alright, I'll leave you to it.  
Colton, check in with me later. I  
need to prepare a press release.  
They're going to be all over this  
one.

A black SUV with tinted windows pulls up to the tape and  
stops.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ (27) A young Hispanic woman with  
black shoulder length hair with petite build and FBI SPECIAL  
AGENT WOLF (51) gray hair with flat-top hair cut and medium  
build step out. Both are wearing suits and dark sunglasses.

UNIFORMED OFFICER (#2)  
Feds are here.

DET. STEVE BARNES  
That didn't take them long.

Both agents walk over to Colton and Barnes.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ  
Same symbols.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
It appears so.

FBI SPECIAL AGENT WOLF  
Appears? I know you're new and all,  
but you can't tell.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Oh, I'm sorry. I can't see through  
the thick coat of tar that's  
covering her, nevermind the  
feathers stuck to it.

FBI Agent Diaz goes over to the body and squats down next to  
it. Colton stands next to her.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ  
You find anything out about these  
symbols?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Have you ever heard of a Dr.  
Benjamin Church?

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ  
No, who's he?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Someone who lived back in 1774.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ  
1774? How did you stumble on that?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Google. Apparently he was one of  
America's first founding fathers.  
He helped Joseph Warren write the  
Suffolk Resolves right here in  
Stoughton.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ  
Suffolk Resolves?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
They were Massachusetts response to  
King George and Parliament's  
Intolerable Acts.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ  
Intolerable Acts?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
You've heard of the Boston Tea  
Party, right.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ

Of course.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Well, you know that was over taxes. I guess England closed Boston Harbor and quartered troops in peoples homes. This Benjamin Church got together with Joseph Warren, Samuel and John Adams, and even Paul Revere.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ

One if by land and two if by sea.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Exactly. Those resolves ended up becoming the foundation for the Declaration of Independence.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ

What does all of that have to do with this?

DET. COLTON BAKER

I have an appointment later with the town's historian over at the Stoughton Historic Society to find out more. But, it appears Church was a traitor and used those same symbols to send encrypted messages to British General Thomas Gage.

FBI SPECIAL AGENT WOLF

Do you know how crazy that sounds, detective? I sent them to Quantico and they're studying them now. Almost all of those symbols are found on every keyboard and are used by kids in text messages all day, everyday. We'll probably know exactly what they mean by the end of the day. I guarantee they have nothing to do with the formation of the country.

FBI Agent Diaz looks up at Colton and rolls her eyes.

DET. STEVE BARNS

I bet it's that Nino Romano.

14.

FBI SPECIAL AGENT WOLF  
These vic's here probably wouldn't  
play ball, so he killed them and  
he's making it look like a serial  
killer to cover his tracks.

The scene ends with a feather floating past a memorial with a  
list of Stoughton residents who died in the Revolutionary  
War.

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

SEPTEMBER 1774

9 EXT. SEPTEMBER 7, 1774 - BOSTON HARBOR - THE DOCKS - DAY 9

Seagulls circle and mew above large sailing ships tied to the dock. A bell dings and ropes creak. An angry mob is walking away towards shore. WHITE SPECKS float in the breeze and a man whimpers from behind some crates.

Feathers swirl around a naked man laying on the docks. He's coated in tar and feathers.

We get a closeup of his face. His eyelashes are stuck together and tears weep from the corner of his eyes. He spits dried pig shit from his mouth.

10 EXT. SEPTEMBER 7, 1774 - DOTY'S TAVERN - STOUGHTON, MA - NIGHT 10

The clomp of a horse's hooves approach. A single rider appears from the darkness. A man dismounts, ties the reins to the hitching post, then enters the tavern.

11 INT. SEPTEMBER 7, 1774 - DOTY'S TAVERN - NIGHT 11

Whale oil lamps sit flickering on tables and cast long shadows on the wall. Four men sit at a booth in the back corner. SAMUEL ADAMS, JOHN ADAMS, JOSEPH WARREN, and PAUL REVERE.

The tavern door swings open and in steps DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (40) portly build, with wavy salt & pepper hair.

John Adams stands and waves.

JOHN ADAMS

Dr. Church. Over here!

Church makes his way over and sits down. There are mugs on the table and a pitcher of ale.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH

Good evening, gentlemen. I suppose you summoned me here for good reason.

JOSEPH WARREN

A good reason indeed.

Warren pours Church a cup of ale.

SAMUEL ADAMS

It's getting dangerous down on the docks. A customs officer was attacked by an angry mob today. They tarred and feathered him.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH

Is that why there's an increase of lobster tails (redcoats) on the streets tonight?

SAMUEL ADAMS

They're searching for those responsible.

JOSEPH WARREN

Everyone is tired of England's taxes. First that bloody Stamp Act. How did Parliament expect us to buy essential goods if they're taxed to the heavens?

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH

It's one tax after another. How are we supposed to live? It's ridiculous is what it is.

The door swings open and four redcoats charge in. They carry muskets with bayonets attached. The patrons all grow silent. REDCOAT # 1 and REDCOAT # 2 walk around the tavern looking at each man's face while the other two soldiers guard the door.

REDCOAT # 1 stops at an empty table and picks up a half-full mug of ale. He sniffs it and then slowly drinks it while his eyes dart around the room.

A man sitting at a table looks down at his hands and quickly puts them under the table.

REDCOAT (#1)

There!

(slams down the mug)

Both REDCOAT # 1 and REDCOAT # 2 converge on the man. One holds him from behind while the other tugs the man's arms up and slams them on the table.

REDCOAT (#2) (CONT'D)

Tar!

Both REDCOAT # 1 and REDCOAT # 2 rough the man up.

Some patrons stand up, but quickly sit back down when the two soldiers guarding the door point their muskets at them.

The man is dragged kicking and screaming out of the tavern and placed onto a waiting wagon. The two soldiers guarding the door leave and march behind the wagon.

SAMUEL ADAMS  
(pointing at the door)  
That needs to stop.

JOHN ADAMS  
No doubt, he was one of the  
perpetrators of today's actions  
down at the docks.

SAMUEL ADAMS  
It's only going to worsen, cousin.  
Our countrymen grow tired of the  
crown's rule and reach.

JOSEPH WARREN  
It's time we do something. No  
longer can we allow a man across  
the sea to dictate how we live and  
tax us beyond belief.

PAUL REVERE  
Surely, the tea disposed of in the  
harbor did not go over well.

SAMUEL ADAMS  
Actually, it went overboard rather  
easily!

All the men laugh.

JOSEPH WARREN  
Ben, will you join me tomorrow? We  
must inform Governor Gage and  
Parliament of our displeasure.

SAMUEL ADAMS  
Acting governor. Least not forget  
he still commands all of the  
British forces here in Boston.

JOSEPH WARREN  
That's why I've called you all  
here. Delegates from Suffolk wish  
to send a written response to  
General Gage and Parliament  
disputing their Intolerable Acts.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH

What do you propose?

JAMES WARREN

I propose a list. Resolves. We shall call them The Suffolk Resolves.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH

And you want my help?

JOHN ADAMS

Ben, you're a hero for your actions at the Boston Massacre. If you weren't there more people would have died. You are a loved and well-respected physician in the community.

JOSEPH WARREN

Plus, you have an eloquent way with words. Both with the pen and the tongue. I'd like for you to help me write and present them.

JOHN ADAMS

If we wish to defeat Parliament, it must be done with the pen.

SAMUEL ADAMS

I beg to differ, cousin.

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

SIX DAYS PRIOR - JUNE 28, 2023

12 INT. COLTON'S HOUSE - MORNING 12

Colton is getting dressed and prepared for his first day. He walks over to the nightstand and looks at his phone. There's a voice mail from CINDY. He hits play and walks into the bathroom.

CINDY (V.O.)

I got your message. I know you're nervous, but you'll do fine. You're incredibly smart. Don't let your head beat you. Call me later. I love you!

Once finished brushing he puts on a dress shirt and fumbles with his tie for a moment. He picks up his phone and puts it in his pocket.

Colton clips on his gun and new detective badge onto his belt.

13 INT./EXT. COLTON'S PERSONAL CAR - MORNING 13

Colton drives to work. On his way in, he passes several yellow yard signs that say, *Keep Stoughton 911 Local*. He arrives at the Stoughton Police Station.

14 INT. STOUGHTON POLICE STATION - MORNING 14

Colton uses his fob and unlocks the door. He walks in and stops at the front desk where a DESK DUTY OFFICER and DISPATCHER (1) and DISPATCHER (2) sit. One dispatcher is for the police and the other for the fire department.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Hey, what's up with the yellow signs around town?

DESK DUTY OFFICER

Don't even get them started, detective.

Colton looks from one dispatcher to the other.

DISPATCHER (#1)  
The county wants to build a  
dispatch center and have the county  
control the 911 calls.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Are you serious?

DISPATCHER (#2)  
As a heart attack.

DISPATCHER (#1) (CONT'D)  
Fucking stupid, right?

DESK DUTY OFFICER  
Town politics.

Colton shakes his head and walks away.

The Desk Duty Officer leans over the desk and yells after  
Colton.

DESK DUTY OFFICER (CONT'D)  
It's everywhere, detective. There's  
no escaping small town politics.

15 INT. DET. COLTON BAKER'S OFFICE - MORNING

15

Colton uses his fob and enters the detectives' office. There  
are four desks and Colton's is on the left. The evidence  
locker is in the back behind another locked door.

A stack of case files sits on his desk. He skims through them  
and jots down notes for each case on a Post-It on.

The door lock clicks, and it swings open.

CHIEF CATHERINE MCCORMACK (50's) is standing in the doorway.  
She has a commanding presence about her. Her blonde hair is  
tied up in a bun and she wears glasses. She's fair and well  
liked in the department and is trying to right a ship that  
was way off course. The department has been plagued with one  
scandal after another. She's weeding out all the bad cops and  
replacing them with ones like Colton.

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
Good morning, detective.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Good morning, chief.

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
Getting an early start, I see.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Yes, ma'am.

CHIEF MCCORMACK

I'm sorry I had to bump up your start date. With Peterson passing away before he retired, I couldn't go without a detective. As you can see, the caseload has been piling up.

Chief McCormack closes the door and walks away.

Colton finishes reading through the files and looks at his watch. Its time for roll call.

16

INT. ROLL CALL - STOUGHTON P.D. - MORNING

16

Colton walks in and stands in the back corner. Patrol officers are sitting at desks, notebooks ready. Lieutenant talks for a few minutes. There's been a rash of car break-ins. Colton is introduced as the newest detective.

LIEUTENANT

As you all know, detective Peterson was set to retire next month, but suffered a massive heart attack last week on the job and passed away. The poor bastard never got to enjoy a single day of his retirement. Det. Baker is taking over for him.

The Lieutenant points to Colton in the back of the room. All the officers look over their shoulder. Colton waves.

LIEUTENANT (CONT'D)

Baker is a native to Stoughton and knows the area well. For the past ten years, he's been working for the NYPD. In his last roll there, he was assigned to the D.A.'s office. Colton brings with him a wealth of knowledge. Don't be afraid to use it.

Roll call ends.

Colton receives his vehicle assignment and his AR-15 rifle from the armory. He securely stows in the back of his SUV. He does a quick check of his lights and siren and turns on his laptop. He radios dispatch and signs on.

Colton heads towards Elizabeth Street to follow up on his first official case as a detective, a string of home invasions.

17 I/E. COLTON'S UNMARKED CRUISER - MORNING 17

Colton drives east on Rt. 139 and crosses the overpass Rt. 24 north to Boston. He looks over at the bumper to bumper traffic below. Turns onto Elizabeth Street and passes a landscaper's truck parked on the side of the road. The sound of commercial mowers and the buzz of weed whackers fills the neighborhood. Colton pulls into the driveway.

18 EXT. THEFT VICTIM #1 HOUSE - MORNING 18

Colton walks up the path to the front door and knocks. THEFT VICTIM #1 opens the door. She's late 30s and is wearing a tight dress and has her head tilted to one side and is trying to put in her earring. She appears to be in a hurry.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Good morning ma'am. I'm Detective Colton Baker and I'm conducting a follow-up inquiry into the break-in you had last week.

THEFT VICTIM #1

Come on in, detective.

19 INT. THEFT VICTIM #1 HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 19

Both Colton and THEFT VICTIM #1 stand in the foyer. She is now trying to put in her other earring and work her feet into her high-heel shoes at the same time.

THEFT VICTIM #1

I gave my report to an older detective. Is he no longer handling my case?

DET. COLTON BAKER

I'm sorry ma'am. Detective Peterson passed away suddenly. I'm taking over his caseload.

THEFT VICTIM #1

I'm sorry, detective. I'm just on my way out for an important business meeting. Is there any way we can do this another time?

23.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Yes, ma'am. I understand. I'll  
leave you my card and if you think  
of anything, even a minute detail,  
please don't hesitate to call.

Colton hands her his card and leaves.

20 I/E. COLTON'S UNMARKED CRUISER - MORNING 20

Colton drives back over the highway overpass and glances  
down. It's still a wall of cars, bumper to bumper.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Jesus! Thank Christ I don't have to  
do that every day.

Up ahead a dump truck exits the highway ramp. Colton shifts  
lanes. The light up ahead turns red. The truck cuts Colton  
off just before the light. The brakes of the weighted down  
truck screech to a halt. The load dirt is not covered and it  
shifts.

21 INT. DUMP TRUCK - MORNING 21

NINO ROMANO (late 20s) scruffy hair, five o'clock shadow,  
stands well over six feet tall, wearing a tank top and is  
solid muscle. He has a long scar under his left eye.

NINO ROMANO  
Come on, baby!

Nino works the clutch and gear shift. Thick black smoke  
shoots from the smokestack. The truck lunges forward.

NINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
Let's go you bitch!

BARRY KNIGHT (19) sits in the passenger seat horrified. It's  
his first day as a laborer.

An assortment of different size rocks and dirt shifts and  
rains down over the tailgate onto the roadway.

22 EXT. COLTON'S UNMARKED CRUISER - MORNING 22

A fist size rock bounces off the street and smashes into the  
grill of Colton's cruiser.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
What the fuck!

24.

Colton activates the lights and siren and chases after the truck.

23 INT. DUMP TRUCK - MORNING

23

Nino sees the cruiser in his mirror.

NINO ROMANO

Are you kidding me! Which one of these assholes thinks they can pull me over?

Nino pulls over and the truck rumbles to a stop on the side of the road.

DET. COLTON BAKER

D1 to Control.

DISPATCH (V.O.)

Control's on.

DET. COLTON BAKER

I'm out on Turnpike Street in front of Dunkin Donuts with commercial plate RSG-123.

DISPATCH (V.O.)

Received.

Colton steps out of his cruiser, inspects the damage, and cautiously approaches the truck's driver side door.

Nino sticks his head out the window.

NINO ROMANO

What seems to be the problem, officer?

DET. COLTON BAKER

A portion of your load spilled all over the intersection back there.

NINO ROMANO

What? Are you serious?

DET. COLTON BAKER

Yeah, I'm serious. Step down with your license and registration.

NINO ROMANO

I think you're mistaken. Nothing fell from my truck.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Your load is unsecured. I was  
behind you at the light and one of  
those rocks damaged my cruiser.

Nino looks to the passenger.

NINO ROMANO  
You didn't cover the fucking load?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Step down.

NINO ROMANO  
Don't worry. My dad will take care  
of it.

The truck shakes as the Nino pops the clutch and puts the  
truck into gear.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Turn it off and step down, now!

Nino looks out the window at him with a bewildered face.

NINO ROMANO  
Do you know who I am?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
No. And I don't care. Step down.  
(puts his hand on his  
service piece.)

Nino turns toward the passenger BARRY KNIGHT.

NINO ROMANO  
Can you believe this guy? The name  
is right there on the side of the  
truck. Apparently this jackass  
can't read.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
And apparently you don't  
understand, brainiac. Step down!  
Now!

NINO ROMANO  
Alright, alright. Don't get your  
panties in a bunch.

The truck door opens and the camera catches someone in the  
passenger seat.

Colton steps to his right in case either man has a gun.

Nino climbs down.

NINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
Do you know who I am?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
No, should I?

NINO ROMANO  
You best find out who you're  
fucking with right now.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Look at me, I'm trembling.

NINO ROMANO  
Oh you will be, pal. Trust me!

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I assure you I won't. Now turn  
around and put your hands on the  
truck.

NINO ROMANO  
You're so gonna regret this!

DET. COLTON BAKER  
For your protection and for mine,  
I'm going to pat you down. Do you  
have any weapons on you?

NINO ROMANO  
Look at me. Do I look like I need a  
weapon? I can take care of myself.

Colton chuckles.

NINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
What's so funny asshole?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
You know steroids kills brain cells  
and makes your junk shrink.

NINO ROMANO  
You'll regret it once you find out  
who I am!

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I'm sure I won't. Anyone who has to  
ask if you know who they are, isn't  
well known.

Nino takes a step towards Colton in a threatening way. Colton radios dispatch.

DET. COLTON BAKER (CONT'D)  
Control. Can I get another unit to my location?

Can hear dispatch calling and sending another cruiser.

NINO ROMANO  
My dad is going to have a field-day with you. It was a little spilled dirt.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Oh and hear I thought you were a tough guy. But come to find out you're just a daddy's boy.

NINO ROMANO  
It must be your first day.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
In fact, it is.

NINO ROMANO  
Well, it's also going to be your last day.

Nino leans forward in a dominating type stance and stares at Colton.

Colton stares right back. Neither one blinks. Colton radios dispatch again, his eyes still locked onto Nino's.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Control. Can I get the State Police Truck Team to my location.

Nino throws up his arms.

NINO ROMANO  
You can't do that!

DISPATCH (V.O.)  
Received.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Well, seeing how your unsecured load spilled all over Route 139, a state road, I sure can.

NINO ROMANO  
They can yank my CDL on the spot.  
They'll kill my career.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
You're in for a rough day, unless,  
maybe they know who you are.

Nino pulls out his phone and places a call.

NINO ROMANO  
Buckle up, buttercup! My father is  
on his way down here.

Backup arrives. A Stoughton cruiser pulls up and two officers  
step out. A ROOKIE OFFICER and the TRAINING OFFICER. They  
approach Colton.

TRAINING OFFICER  
Whatcha got, detective.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
There's someone on the passenger  
side. Can you pull him out and  
secure him?

TRAINING OFFICER  
You got it, Detective.

The Training Officer and Rookie Officer cautiously approach  
the passenger side and have BARRY KNIGHT step down.

BARRY KNIGHT (20) he's wearing a brand new company shirt and  
jeans. He looks petrified.

The Rookie Officer pats Barry down and the Training Officer  
walks over to Colton.

TRAINING OFFICER (CONT'D)  
Its a pleasure to meet you,  
detective.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Likewise.

They shake hands.

TRAINING OFFICER  
So, um...let me ask you. Do you  
know who that is?  
(Nods towards Nino)

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Apparently I'm the only one who  
doesn't. Who is he?

TRAINING OFFICER  
That's Nino Romano. The son of Gino  
Romano, the mob boss.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Never heard of them.

TRAINING OFFICER  
Nino there is the hitman man for  
the mob. He's a very dangerous man.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Really, that guy? He's a big  
daddy's boy.

The Training Officer chuckles.

DET. COLTON BAKER (CONT'D)  
Can you keep an eye on him, while I  
talk to the kid?

Colton walks over towards the kid.

The Rookie Officer conducts a pat down on the Barry Knight.  
Finds a cell phone, wallet and keys.

Colton pulls Barry aside.

DET. COLTON BAKER (CONT'D)  
What's your name?

BARRY KNIGHT  
It's Barry. Barry Knight.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Why do you seem so nervous, Barry?

BARRY KNIGHT  
Am I going to jail?.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
For what?

BARRY KNIGHT  
Because I didn't secure the load.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
No, you're not going to jail.

BARRY KNIGHT  
Am I in trouble?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Maybe with your boss, but not us.  
He's the driver, so he's  
responsible for his cargo.

BARRY KNIGHT  
Oh good!

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Did you know this is a mob owned  
company?

BARRY KNIGHT  
No, today's my first day.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I'm assuming its gonna be your last  
day too.

Sirens grow closer. The State Police Truck Team arrives on scene. Colton meets the STATE TROOPER and they shake hands. Nino watches them.

STATE TROOPER  
Is it this guy's load I just passed  
back there in the street?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Yes, it is. And we've got ourselves  
a genuine badass over here.

STATE TROOPER  
Oh yea, who?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Nino Romano

STATE TROOPER  
The mobster. This should be fun.  
I'll grab my clipboard.

The Trooper walks around the truck, inspecting it and writes several things down.

A bright red pickup truck pulls up and stops. The name on the door matches that on the dump truck. Romano Sand and Gravel.

GINO ROMANO (58) steps out of the pickup truck. He's wearing a flannel shirt and faded jeans with black suspenders holding them up. A cigar dangles from his mouth. He's bow legged and walks with a limp.

He has a cell phone pressed against his ear and is heading straight toward the trooper. As he approaches he glances over at the trooper's truck and reads the three identifying digits on the front corner panel to the person on the other end of the phone.

GINO ROMANO  
You can stop your inspection, son.

STATE TROOPER  
Excuse me?

GINO ROMANO  
You'll be getting a call in a minute.

Gino turns and heads toward Colton.

GINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
Detective Baker?

Colton turns, surprised to see the older man standing there.

GINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
None of this will be necessary. I already spoke to the town administrator. I'll pay for the damage to your vehicle and I have a crew on their way here to clean up the intersection.

The trooper receives a call over the radio to call by phone.

A silver BMW pulls up. FRANK LANGER (56) the town administrator steps out. He has a round face, red rosy cheeks, brown hair and a huge gut.

Gino turns from Colton and heads toward Frank.

GINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
Hi Frank.

FRANK LANGER  
Hey Gino.

Colton moves closer to the Training officer and Rookie.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Let me guess, Gino Romano.

TRAINING OFFICER  
You got it. And those two are like peas in a pod.

The trooper hangs up and walks over to Colton.

STATE TROOPER

Someone has some pull. That was my Colonel. He told me to clear and get back out on the road. Sorry I couldn't be of more assistance.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Not your fault. Thanks though. Stay safe out there.

Colton and the State Trooper shake hands.

STATE TROOPER

Roger that. You too!

The trooper drives away.

FRANK LANGER and GINO ROMANO approach Colton.

FRANK LANGER

Detective Colton, it's a pleasure to meet you. I'm Frank Langer the town's administrator. I'm glad we were able to get your paperwork approved and pushed through so quickly. I hope you make an excellent addition to our police force.

DET. COLTON BAKER

I appreciate it. Thank you.

FRANK LANGER

This here is Mr. Romano.

Frank puts his hand on Gino's shoulder.

FRANK LANGER (CONT'D)

He's a well-known businessman here in town and we'd hate to see his insurance go up because of a traffic citation. There's no need to issue a ticket or write a report. I'll handle it at the town administration level.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Yes, sir.

GINO ROMANO

Thank you, Frank.

33.

Gino turns toward Colton.

GINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
Thank you, detective.

Several trucks with the Romano name arrive and work crew cleans the roadway.

Gino walks over to his son.

NINO ROMANO  
We all set, dad?

GINO ROMANO  
All set. See you back at the yard.

Nino turns toward Barry Knight.

NINO ROMANO  
Let's go, kid.

Nino heads for the driver's side door, stops, and turns. He smiles and waves at Colton.

NINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
(sarcastically)  
Have a great day, detective.

Nino climbs up, and the dump truck rumbles to life. Colton stands next to the two officers and watches the dump truck drive off, followed by Gino and Frank.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Thank you for the assistance.

TRAINING OFFICER  
No problem, detective.

Both officers get in their cruiser and drive off.

Colton stands there a moment, watching the crew cleaning the street. He turns and heads for his cruiser when a call comes over the radio for him.

DISPATCH (V.O.)  
Control to D-1

DET. COLTON BAKER  
D-1

DISPATCH (V.O.)

Make your way to the train station  
for a report of a man hit by the  
train.

Colton gets into his unmarked cruiser and responds.

24

EXT. STOUGHTON TRAIN STATION - MORNING

24

Colton arrives on scene. The train platform is full of  
onlookers. Officer (#1) and Officer (#2) pull in behind him.

DET. COLTON BAKER

(Points to Officer (#1))

You, push all those people back.

(Points to Officer (#2))

Grab the yellow crime scene tape  
and tape off this whole area.

Both officers do as told.

Colton walks over to the body and wasn't expecting what he  
finds.

A man's torso lays in-between the tracks. His arms were tied  
over his head as were his legs, and both were staked to the  
ground. The train severed his legs above the ankles and his  
chest at the nipples.

The officers walk over to Colton.

OFFICER (#1)

What do we do now?

DET. COLTON BAKER

Nothing. This happened on the  
tracks. This is an MBTA case.

The MBTA police arrive and an MBTA SUPERVISOR female (30's)  
walks over to Colton.

MBTA SUPERVISOR

Wow, he pissed off someone.

Colton chuckles.

MBTA SUPERVISOR (CONT'D)

What do you need from us?

DET. COLTON BAKER

What? This is your case.

MBTA SUPERVISOR  
How do you figure?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I don't know, because he's on the tracks.

MBTA SUPERVISOR  
We don't handle murders.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
What, you just chase turnstile jumpers?

MBTA SUPERVISOR  
Haha. Real funny. This is your case.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Fuck you it is. Get the Staties down here.

MBTA SUPERVISOR  
They're gonna tell you the same thing, detective.

Massachusetts State Police Det. Steve Barnes arrives on scene.

Colton and Barns are standing in front of the body.

DET. STEVE BARNES  
I guess we can rule out suicide.

Colton nods his head.

DET. STEVE BARNES (CONT'D)  
Any ID on him?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
None.

Chief McCormack arrives.

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
Tell me what we've got detective.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Not much. The vic was tied and spiked down onto the tracks. The train did the rest.

The chief looks at the body and then the head.

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
Holy shit! That's firefighter Bill  
McDonald.

DET. STEVE BARNS  
You know the victim?

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
Yeah, he's been on the fire  
department forever. He was getting  
ready to retire.

DET. STEVE BARNS  
You can cancel that retirement  
party.

Forensics arrives as does the medical examiner and takes the  
body away. Colton and Barns begin to process the crime scene.

25 EXT. ROMANO SAND & GRAVEL PIT - AFTERNOON 25

A sign for Romano Sand & Gravel sits before a huge pile of  
crushed rock that protrudes into the sky. Earth movers fill  
dump trucks.

The dump truck, red pick-up truck and silver BMW are parked  
out in front of a construction trailer.

26 INT. TRAILER - ROMANO SAND & GRAVEL 26

NINO ROMANO  
Why the fuck did you hire that guy,  
Frank?

FRANK LANGER  
I didn't know he was going to be a  
hot head.

GINO ROMANO  
Nino calm down. You did spill your  
load in the street, not to mention  
you were way overloaded.

NINO ROMANO  
I don't give a shit, pop.  
That...what's his fucking name,  
humiliated me in front of the new  
kid.

FRANK LANGER  
Baker.

NINO ROMANO

What?

FRANK LANGER

His name is Det. Colton Baker.

NINO ROMANO

Like a fuck'n dozen?

FRANK LANGER

Are you alright?

NINO ROMANO

How about I stomp your fuck'n  
brains out.

Frank looks at Gino.

FRANK LANGER

Really Gino? What's he gonna go  
after a fucking cop? You know how  
much heat that will bring down on  
us. The Feds are already climbing  
up your ass. Kill a cop and they'll  
cauterize your ass up so tight  
you'll never shit again.

Frank points to Nino.

FRANK LANGER (CONT'D)

He needs to calm down.

GINO ROMANO

Nino, Frank's right. Calm down.

FRANK LANGER

We're lucky they're not looking  
into us for the death of Peterson.

Nino turns around surprised.

NINO ROMANO

You think I killed him?

FRANK LANGER

Didn't you?

NINO ROMANO

No!

GINO ROMANO

No one killed Peterson. He died of  
a heart attack.

Nino and Frank glance at each other.

GINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
Can we get back to business?

Frank and Gino nod in agreement.

GINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
Good. Now Frank, did you secure the  
Route 24 resurfacing project?

FRANK LANGER  
Yes. I had to grease a few hands on  
the Highway Department and some  
troopers. We need to go over on the  
daily hours so they can rake in the  
overtime.

NINO ROMANO  
No one ever looks into that shit?

FRANK LANGER  
No. That's why we pay people. And  
we have you for those who say no.

NINO ROMANO  
I like it when they say no.

GINO ROMANO  
Enough.

NINO ROMANO  
What about Baker, the dough boy?

Gino looks to Frank.

GINO ROMANO  
Well?

FRANK LANGER  
According to the NYPD, the kid is  
good at what he does. And there's  
enough shit in this town to keep  
him busy. Just stay outta his way.

NINO ROMANO  
Fuck that. He can stay out of my  
way.

GINO ROMANO  
Nino! We have a lot of big money  
contracts coming up.

(MORE)

39.

GINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
We don't need any issues,  
especially with the local PD. Stay  
out of Baker's way. You understand  
me.

Nino nods his head.

Gino looks angry and points at Nino.

GINO ROMANO (CONT'D)  
You understand me!

NINO ROMANO  
Yes, dad.

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

JULY 4, 2023 Continued

27 EXT. JULY 4, 2023 - FAXON VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK - MORNING 27

The Training Officer and the Rookie walk over.

TRAINING OFFICER

The bank on the corner has an ATM.  
We spoke to the manager and she'll  
bring up the video for you.

DET. STEVE BARNES

Shall we?

They all head toward the bank.

28 INT. BANK - MORNING 28

The BANK MANAGER (40's) meets them halfway across the lobby  
and shakes their hands. She's middle-aged, dressed in a  
business dress. Her high-heel shoes click on the tile floor.

29 INT. BANK MANAGER'S OFFICE - MORNING 29

The manager sits at her desk and turns her computer monitor  
so everyone can see it.

BANK MANAGER

I can't believe someone was killed  
over there. It's such a beautiful  
park. I sometimes sit over there  
and eat my lunch.

The manager makes a few clicks and brings up the video from  
the ATM.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Can you please go to 3:50am this  
morning?

The manager uses the mouse and types in the time. The video  
jumps right to that moment. They're all looking at the  
monitor and one car passes by. At 03:52, the video goes  
black.

DET. STEVE BARNS  
That's the same thing that happened  
on the old man's recording.

Colton pulls out a business card and hands it to the manager.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Can you please send me a copy?

Colton turns and exits the bank with the others in tow and  
heads back over to the crime scene.

EXT. FAXON VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK - MORNING

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ  
You didn't seem surprised. Did you  
know that was going to happen?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I figured it would. The same thing  
happened to another recording  
across from the park.

DET. STEVE BARNS  
What would cause that to happen on  
multiple recordings?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I've heard of it before, but I've  
never seen it.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ  
What?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Jammers.

DET. STEVE BARNS  
I'm going to be fifty-four. I've  
never been tech savvy. My kids are  
though. What kind of jammer can  
knock out video?

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I heard the military had come up  
with jammers to fight all the IED's  
that were happening in Iraq.

DET. STEVE BARNS  
Yeah, so the bad guys couldn't use  
cell phones to detonate the bombs.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Exactly.

DET. STEVE BARNS

But, how does that affect video?  
Plus, can't we just use that  
fencing thing.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Geofencing.

DET. STEVE BARNS

That's it. How does that work?

DET. COLTON BAKER

Remember January 6th and how all  
those people were arrested after  
storming the Capital?

DET. STEVE BARNS

Yeah, it was all over the news.

DET. COLTON BAKER

All cell phones have a GPS built  
in. Google and your apps, use that  
GPS to track where you are. So if  
something happens in a specific  
area, we request the geofencing  
data for that particular area at  
that particular time. It will give  
us the phone numbers of everyone in  
that area.

DET. STEVE BARNS

By request, you mean a warrant,  
right?

DET. COLTON BAKER

They won't give it to us any other  
way.

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ

But how does a cell phone jammer  
affect video and this geofencing?

DET. COLTON BAKER

Well, there's other types of  
jammers. There's a Wi-Fi jammer  
that blocks the Wi-Fi signal. Most  
of these home security cameras are  
all Wi-Fi, so the video goes black  
or turns to snow.

DET. STEVE BARNES

And the geofencing?

DET. COLTON BAKER

GPS jammers. They're designed to stop drones, which require GPS to fly. It also jams the GPS in cell phones, so there's no more signal for the apps to track. A person using those jammers together can basically move undetected and leave no digital trace.

FBI SPECIAL AGENT WOLF

I'm impressed detective.

DET. STEVE BARNES

So, there's no point in getting a warrant then.

DET. COLTON BAKER

I'm still going to get the warrant, just to prove my theory. Plus, there could have been a brief power outage that caused it. But, I doubt it. That's a big coincidence that the power went out at exactly the same time our suspect was dumping the body. I'll request a report of outages from National Grid though just to rule it out.

Technicians with the State Police Crime Lab arrive and start processing the scene.

The Training Officer and Rookie stand by their cruiser directing traffic.

ROOKIE OFFICER

Why don't we do that?  
(Nods towards the Lab  
Technicians)

TRAINING OFFICER

We're a small town. We don't have the budget to keep technicians on the payroll, nevermind a lab.

ROOKIE OFFICER

So this is it? We just stand around.

## TRAINING OFFICER

Isn't it glorious? We knock on all the doors and chase down leads and the Staties have the big expensive crime lab with all the technicians and gadgets and they get all the credit for our hard work.

The coroner arrives and removes the body.

31 INT. POLICE STATION - CHIEF'S OFFICE - EVENING

31

The DISTRICT ATTORNEY and Det. Steve Barns arrive and meet with the chief behind closed doors. Colton gets called into the chief's office.

The District Attorney is an older man with salt and pepper colored hair. It's a re-election year, so he's sucking up as much of the spotlight as he can. He turns to Colton.

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

I heard you had your first run-in with the town manager today.

## DET. COLTON BAKER

Yes, sir. I did.

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

He's a snake in the grass that one is. Whatever you do, don't trust him and don't tell him anything about this investigation.

## DET. COLTON BAKER

Yes, sir.

## DISTRICT ATTORNEY

I can tell you this, because Chief McCormack here has vouched for you. She says you're a stand-up detective. And Detective Barns here has vouched for you as well. The town administrator is under investigation by my office for terrible things. Things I hope aren't true. Trust is a valuable commodity in our line of work. Never take it for granted. I look forward to working with you young man.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Thank you, sir. What about the feds?

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

They want Romano. I'm not sure they're ready to show their hand just yet. For now, we're running point.

CHIEF MCCORMACK

Thank you, Detective Baker. We'll be holding a press conference shortly in the media room. Please join us.

Colton leaves the office.

32 EXT. ROSE STREET - OUTSIDE THE POLICE STATION - EVENING 32

Local media trucks line the side of the street with their satellite boom's extended upward.

David Yarboro (60's) owner and sole reporter of the Stoughton Times, stands outside his vehicle smoking a cigarette. He fiddles with his microphone recorder ensuring it still works. It's old and outdated, just like David.

The press conference is about to start. He flicks his cigarette to the ground and heads in to get a seat.

33 INT. MEDIA ROOM - STOUGHTON POLICE DEPARTMENT - EVENING 33

David Yarboro sits in the front row with his microphone recorder in his lap. All the other local news agencies have their microphone mounted to the podium with wires running to the cameras setup in the back of the room. David feels out of place. He pulls his phone from his pocket and snaps a picture of the podium.

He opens his Messenger app on his phone, finds the name Laynie and types, *Wish you were here*, and attaches the picture he just took. He hits send.

Three little dots appear on the screen. A moment later a message appears.

*Hey Dad! Where are you?*

David texts back, *Covering a murder investigation.*

*In Stoughton?* asks the response.

*Are you working, honey? David texts.*

*Yes. I'm covering another stupid political speech.*

Just then the door from the station opens. Chief McCormack, the District Attorney, Det. Barnes and Colton walk in. The Chief followed by the DA make quick announcements regarding the discovery of the fourth body. They announce they're not taking questions at this time but will be back later on with more details as the investigation continues. They all leave as quickly as they came in.

24 EXT. JULY 5, 2023 - CORONER'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON 24

Colton arrives at the coroner's office. He receives a text from Barnes that he's stuck in court and to head in without him.

FBI Agent Diaz and Wolf arrive

25 INT. MORGUE - CORONER'S OFFICE - AFTERNOON 25

Colton, Diaz and Wolf stand inside the autopsy room. Wolf is in the back corner.

The woman's body is lying on the steel table. All the tar has been removed from her face and hair. There's still splotches of tar on her chest, arms, and legs. The coroner walks in.

CORONER

We had a hell of a time getting that tar off.

DET. COLTON BAKER

I bet!

CORONER

I had two techs in here all night removing the feathers and another two working on the tar. They started with her hands and we were able to lift prints. The feathers are real seagull feathers. I'm not sure where one gets them, so you'll have to look into that. The tar is a pine tar that is used on the rigging of old sailing ships. It's super sticky. It's designed to coat the rope and keep moisture from rotting it. It's very effective. Did I mention it's sticky as hell?

Colton chuckles. The coroner cracks a smile and continues.

CORONER (CONT'D)

The symbols are in a repeating pattern but they don't match exactly to the ones on the other victims. Whatever the killer is trying to say, I can't make heads or tails of it.

DET. COLTON BAKER

So they killed her and then mutilated her with the symbols.

CORONER

No. She was alive when they branded her and carved them into her skin.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Jesus!

CORONER

It was excruciating. Some are older than others. Like the ones over here on her left thigh, those started to heal. I'm assuming she must have passed out from the pain.

DET. COLTON BAKER

So what, you're thinking hours?

CORONER

No. Days.

DET. COLTON BAKER

What's the cause of death?

CORONER

You're dealing with a real sicko. You know those coins that covered her eyes.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Yeah.

CORONER

Well, your killer took a hot poker and jammed it into her eye socket. The eyeball was instantly destroyed and pushed deep into her skull where the heat cauterized her brain and fused the eyeball to it.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Fuck me!

FBI AGENT CATALINA DIAZ

A real sicko.

CORONER

Then he did the other eye.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Anything else you can tell me?

The coroner reaches for a file, flips it open and hands it to Colton.

CORONER

I took the liberty of printing out her prints and the symbols for you. They're in that folder. And I forgot to mention one thing. There were no hesitation marks. Either your guy has done this before, or he's a sick and twisted type.

FBI SPECIAL AGENT WOLF

I'm going with sick and twisted.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Thanks, doc.

CORONER

I hope you catch the bastard, detective.

Colton, Diaz and Wolf walk out, get into their vehicles and drive away.

Colton is sitting at his desk when his email dings. He opens it and a positive match has come back to the woman's prints. Her name is Grazielle Alves. Colton runs her name in the system and there's only one listed in Stoughton.

Colton prints it out and heads to the chief's office. He pokes his head in.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Hey chief! We got a hit on the prints. Her name is Grazielle Alves.

The chief stands up.

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
The Town Clerk?

Colton holds up the picture he printed.

CHIEF MCCORMACK (CONT'D)  
Holy shit! That's her.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Should we do the notifications?

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
It's pointless. She never married,  
has no children and both of her  
parents are dead.

Colton looks at her funny.

CHIEF MCCORMACK (CONT'D)  
We were two peas in a pod. Every  
now and then we'd run into each  
other around the corner while  
grabbing lunch. Us woman like to  
sit and talk.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
I'll grab a warrant and then head  
over to her place.

CHIEF MCCORMACK  
Do me a favor. Keep it off the  
airwaves. The press is already  
swarming about. Let me know before  
you head over and I'll call a press  
conference and keep the reporters  
off your back for a while. I'll  
notify the DA's office that we have  
a positive ID.

DET. COLTON BAKER  
Will do chief.

Colton heads home to take a shower and change while he waits  
for the warrant.

27 INT. COLTON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

27

Colton enters his house and is met by his two dogs. He feeds  
them and throws dinner in the oven and hopes in the shower.  
He sits down to eat. He flips through the folder the coroner  
gave him.

50.

Colton is reviewing the pictures of the symbols when his phone rings.

DET. COLTON BAKER

Hello.

DISPATCH (V.O.)

Detective, we have another body.

Colton drops to pictures on his desk. The camera gets a closeup of the symbols in the picture. In the background, we see Colton heading out the door.

**END OF ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

38 INT. SEPTEMBER 8, 1774 - JOSEPH WARREN'S HOME - DAY 38

Dr. Benjamin Church and Joseph Warren spend the day drafting a letter to British General Thomas Gage and Parliament.

39 INT. SEPTEMBER 9, 1774 - THE MEETING HOUSE - DAY 39

Delegates from Suffolk County meet at the Meeting House. They're sitting at tables. Standing at the pulpit is Dr. Benjamin Church. Behind him stands Joseph Warren and Samuel Adams.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH  
 You all know why you are here.  
 We're tired of England's taxes.  
 Their Coercive Acts.

The men in the meeting house stomp their feet and slam their fists on the table. They shout:

ATTENDEES  
 Fie!

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH  
 It was not we that chose the French  
 and Indian War. Yet, it is we that  
 are expected to pay for it.

A MAN IN THE CROWD  
 (Stands up and shouts)  
 And the King has forbidden the use  
 of the land!

The men erupt again.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH  
 It wasn't enough that Parliament  
 enacted the Sugar Act back in 1764,  
 but then taxed us with the Stamp  
 Act in "65'. Because of our  
 boycotts, they repealed it. When we  
 come together, we have power.

The men cheer.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (CONT'D)  
 Next, they taxed us with the  
 Townshend Act in "67" to maintain  
 their empire.

52.

The men jeer.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (CONT'D)  
Then in an effort to save their  
precious British East India Company  
they enacted the Tea Act of 1773.

The men jeer, again.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (CONT'D)  
Little did they suspect their  
subjects would toss their tea into  
the harbor.

The men cheer.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (CONT'D)  
Then came the Boston Port Act where  
they closed Boston harbor.

The men jeer.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (CONT'D)  
Then they enacted the Massachusetts  
Government Act. They stripped us of  
our right to elect our own people  
for local government leadership.  
Now those positions are appointed  
by Governor Gage.

SOME ONE IN THE CROWD  
Acting governor.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH  
Right you are! Acting governor!

The men cheer.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (CONT'D)  
As if that wasn't enough, they  
enacted the Administration of  
Justice Act.

The men jeer.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (CONT'D)  
They killed our friends and family  
in the streets of Boston. Gunned  
down in a massacre. I was there. I  
tended to the wounded.

The men stand and jeer. Stomping their feet.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (CONT'D)  
Friends, be seated, please.

The men calm down and take their seats.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (CONT'D)  
Now, I'll introduce a man who needs  
no introduction. The reason we are  
all here, Dr. Joseph Warren.

The men cheer.

Joseph Warren stands and walks to the pulpit holding a piece  
of paper in each hand.

JOSEPH WARREN  
Within my left hand I hold a list  
of resolves. The Suffolk Resolves.  
Myself and Dr. Benjamin Church, an  
outstanding surgeon and friend of  
the cause, drafted this list of  
responses to Parliament's  
Intolerable Acts.

The men cheer.

JOSEPH WARREN (CONT'D)  
In my right hand I hold a letter to  
appointed Governor General Thomas  
Gage of the British Army.

***Below is the actual speech given by Joseph Warren to the  
delegates. Yes, there are several huge run-on sentences in  
his speech.***

JOSEPH WARREN (CONT'D)  
To his excellency Thomas Gage, Esq.  
captain-general, and commander-in-  
chief of his majesty's province of  
Massachusetts-Bay.

The men jeer.

JOSEPH WARREN (CONT'D)  
May it please your excellency,

(MORE)

## JOSEPH WARREN (CONT'D)

The county of Suffolk, being greatly, and, in their opinion, justly alarmed at the formidable appearances of hostility, now threatening his majesty's good subjects of this county, and more particularly of the town of Boston, the loyal and faithful capital of this province, beg leave to address your excellency, and represent, that the apprehensions of the people are more particularly increased by the dangerous design, now carrying into execution, of repairing and manning the fortifications at the south entrance of the town of Boston, which, when completed, may, at any time, be improved to aggravate the miseries of that already impoverished and distressed city, by intercepting the wonted and necessary intercourse between the town and country, and compel the wretched inhabitants to the most ignominious state of humiliation and vassalage, by depriving them of the necessary supplies of provision, for which they are chiefly dependant on that communication. We have been informed, that your excellency, in consequence of the application of the select men of Boston, has, indeed, disavowed any intention to injure the town in your present manoeuvres, and expressed your purpose to be for the security of the troops and his majesty's subjects in the town, we are therefore at a loss to guess, may it please your excellency, from whence your want of confidence in the loyal and orderly people of this vicinity could originate;

(MORE)

## JOSEPH WARREN (CONT'D)

a measure, so formidable, carried into execution from a pre-conceived though causeless jealousy of the insecurity of his majesty's troops and subjects in the town, deeply wounds the loyalty, and is an additional injury to the faithful subjects of this county, and affords them a strong motive for this application.

We therefore intreat your excellency to desist from your design, assuring your excellency, that the people of this county, are by no means disposed to injure his majesty's troops; they think themselves aggrieved and oppressed by the late acts of parliament, and are resolved, by Divine assistance, never to submit to them, but have no inclination to commence a war with his majesty's troops, and beg leave to observe to your excellency, that the ferment now excited in the minds of the people, is occasioned by some late transactions, by seizing the powder in the arsenal at Charlestown; by withholding the powder lodged in the magazine of the town of Boston, from the legal proprietors; insulting, beating, and abusing passengers to and from the town by the soldiery, in which they have been encouraged by some of their officers; putting the people in fear, and menacing them in their nightly patrole into the neighbouring towns, and more particularly by the fortifying the sole avenue by land to the town of Boston.

In duty therefore to his majesty and to your excellency, and for the restoration of order and security to this county, we the delegates from the several towns in this county, being commissioned for this purpose, beg your excellency's attention to this our humble and faithful address, assuring you, that nothing less than an immediate removal of the ordnance, and restoring the entrance into the town to its former state, and an effectual stop of all insults and abuses in future, can place the inhabitants of this county in that state of peace and tranquillity, in which every free subject ought to be.

JOSEPH WARREN (CONT'D)

Do you stand with me?

(Both Dr. Benjamin Church,  
and Samuel Adams step  
forward and stand next to  
Warren)

JOSEPH WARREN (CONT'D)

Come forth and cast your vote.

The men all stand and cheer again. They talk amongst themselves and form a line to the right of the pulpit. One by one the delegates sign the Suffolk Resolves. When the last man signs, they all cheer.

Warren and Church send Paul Revere to deliver the Resolves to John Adams in Pennsylvania at the First Continental Congress.

Dr. Church stands before General Gage.

GENERAL GAGE

How could you let this happen,  
doctor?

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH

Maybe you've forgotten, sir. But I  
send you information. I have no  
power to sway those men.

(MORE)

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH (CONT'D)  
Some are heathens who are just  
itching for a fight. And by God, if  
something doesn't give soon, that's  
exactly what you'll have.

GENERAL GAGE  
We've heard rumblings the rebels  
have a weapons cache. See what you  
can find out.

Gage places a small bag of coins on the desk.

GENERAL GAGE (CONT'D)  
Since it's wealth you seek, find me  
that weapon cache and I'll triple  
it.

DR. BENJAMIN CHURCH  
I shall inquire about it.

Church scoops of the bag of coins and leaves. As he exits the  
front door, he tries to look inconspicuous, but a man  
standing on the street corner spots him and follows.

**END OF ACT FIVE**