

MURDER FROM ABROAD

Written by

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INT. GRAHAM'S HOUSE - IAN'S BEDROOM - MORNING

It's early in the morning. The sun is shining on this spring day. There's a beautiful country-side BARN seen right next to the house, with its doors OPEN.

Through the window, we can faintly hear the voice of a woman. RAPING is heard.

JOANNA (O.S.)

Stop!

(pause)

Please stop!

It stops. Suddenly, a LOUD GUNSHOT is heard.

IAN (21), a farmer sleeping in his PIJAMAS, wakes up and is startled by the shot. He BREATHEs deeply and looks through the window.

INT. GRAHAM'S BARN - NOON

3 POLICEMAN are investigating the scene. JOANNA's body is in a black bag. There's BLOOD on the floor.

One of the police officers is talking to GRAHAM (43), Ian's father.

POLICE OFFICER #1

So, this is your barn?

GRAHAM

Yes.

POLICE OFFICER #1

Did you have a visitor lately? Did you rent a room?

GRAHAM

No. Our house is only for my son and me.

POLICE OFFICER #1

(sighs)

Are you related to the murdered girl?

GRAHAM

She is my son's girlfriend.

Ian SHAKES a bit after hearing it. Graham sees him.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)
Was his girlfriend.

POLICE OFFICER #1
Ok.
(turning to Ian)
Did she have any enemies you know
about or a problem with someone?

IAN
(depressed)
No.

POLICE OFFICER #1
Please try and answer the best you
can. We're trying to solve the case
and find the murderer.

IAN
She had only friends. Everyone in
the village liked her. She never
had a problem, or wanted to have,
with anyone.

POLICE OFFICER #1
Ok. So, you don't know of any
possible suspects? Someone you
believe could have done this?

IAN
(with a hesitation)
No.

Police Officer #2 comes closer to Police Officer #1.

POLICE OFFICER #2
No finger prints. No DNA of any
kind. No traces of the murderer
found anywhere.

POLICE OFFICER #1
(sighs)
Then the girl's body.

POLICE OFFICER #2
Possibly.

POLICE OFFICER #1
(after a moment of
thinking)
Ok. So, we'll wait for the girl's
body to be taken by the meds.
(MORE)

POLICE OFFICER #1 (CONT'D)
After half a day of searching, we
found nothing.
(pause, to Graham)
We'll return tomorrow. In the
meantime, this scene is off limits.

Police officers #2 and #3 are placing the POLICE LINE on the
site.

They start moving away. Police Officer #1 stops and turns.

POLICE OFFICER #1 (CONT'D)
(to Ian)
Sorry, kid.

Ian NODS.

POLICE OFFICER #1 (CONT'D)
We'll see you in the morning.

They enter the police car, and starts grabbing DONUTS to eat,
and LAUGHTING.

INT. GRAHAM'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - LATER

Ian is sitting at the DINNING table. Graham is washing the
dishes. Ian just pokes his food, uninterested to eat.

Graham sees him.

GRAHAM
Everything ok with the lunch, Ian?

IAN
I'm not hungry.

Graham leaves the dishes and goes closer to Ian.

IAN (CONT'D)
(slightly crying)
I can't believe she's gone.

Graham hugs him and PRESSES tight.

GRAHAM
I know how much you liked her.

Ian looks at Graham, straight in the eyes.

IAN
I think I loved her, dad. We were
together for two years.

GRAHAM

(sighs)

I know how you feel. I lost your mother, Suzanna, as well. Unbelievable woman. Great cooker. Excellent around the house.

(pause)

She was my jewel. Almost impossible to replace.

(smiling)

And we had a son. A great boy.

(pause)

But you're young. Your life is completely ahead of you. You'll finish schooling later on, and I hope you'll get as far away from here as possible.

(smiling again)

And marry a beautiful, unbelievable woman. Just like your mother was.

(pause)

I know you can do it.

IAN

It's hard for me to even think straight now. Without her.

GRAHAM

(grabbing Ian's head)

If I may say so, you'll get over it.

(pause)

It'll be fine.

IAN

What if they don't catch the murderer?

(pause)

I'm angry. I want justice.

GRAHAM

I don't know. Sometimes these cases get solved quickly. Sometimes it takes years. Sometimes never.

(pause)

Let's hope it'll be over soon and they catch that son of a bitch.

Ian stays motionless, stares at his plate speechlessly.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

Tomorrow, we have to go to the station for real, complete testimonials.

(MORE)

GRAHAM (CONT'D)

And after that, I'll take you for a burger.

(smiling)

I know your favorite place.

IAN

Joanna and I use to go out a lot.

(pause)

I knew her favorite place.

GRAHAM

Finish your place. I'll wash it.

And then go rest.

(pause)

You're tired.

Ian pauses for a few moments, and then starts eating.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GRAHAM'S HOUSE - HALLWAY - MORNING

Ian is sitting on the SHOE DRAWER and is putting his SNEAKERS on. He's well dressed.

GRAHAM (O.C.)

(yelling)

We're meeting at the station at 3PM. Don't be late.

IAN

(yelling)

I won't.

Ian goes out.

EXT. TOWN - MAIN STREET - LATER

Ian is walking down the main street, full of BEAUTIFUL HOTELS and slightly or quite EXPENSIVE CARS.

There are both FOREIGN and DOMESTIC visitors. Some are arriving, others leaving. They chat on many different languages, including English.

Ian just watches at them as he passes. Somewhere down the street is the MOST luxurious hotel of them all, better and more expensive by at least two times than the second best. There's a very expensive CAR parked there - something like a Bugatti - and a very LOUD, MEXICAN accent person, JUAN (28) is standing right next to it.

JUAN

Can you believe the guy actually
fired a round at the police?
Directly at them. I was there. And
they did nothing. Nothing. You know
why? Because he's dad is fucking
rich, that's why.

(pause, laughing)

And that's why he got out of it.
Completely clean.

Ian slowly passes by his car. He SCRATCHES it with his jacket
a bit. Juan turns around.

JUAN (CONT'D)

What's up?

IAN

Sorry. I accidently scratched your
car.

Juan thinks for a moment.

JUAN

Alright.

(pause)

You are?

IAN

Um... Ian. A local. No one special.

JUAN

(extending his hand)

I'm Juanito, but please call me
Juan. I'm a friendly guy. I like
meeting new people.

Ian SHAKES his hand.

IAN

(smiling)

Please to meet you.

JUAN

You know who I am? You know where
I'm from?

Ian SHAKES his head.

JUAN (CONT'D)

I am the son of Francisco Martinez.
An extremely wealthy and successful
Mexican businessman.

(pause)

(MORE)

JUAN (CONT'D)

He has a company in the oil industry. You know what oil is?

IAN

Yeah.

JUAN

Great.

The AUTOMATIC DOOR of the hotel opens, and a PORTER (20s, female) comes out.

PORTER

Mr. Ivanov. Your room is once again ready, by your request, and you'll find all of the refreshments and sweats replenished.

JUAN

Thank you.

The porter slightly bows down, and goes back inside. Juan looks at Ian. Ian continues walking down the street.

JUAN (CONT'D)

(slightly louder)

And don't worry about the car, Ian. I'm extremely rich. I'll take care of it.

Ian shows a THUMBS UP and continues walking. He makes a FROWN on his face, then look at Juan one more time. Continues walking.

INT. POLICE STATION - INTEROGATION ROOM - DAY

Graham and Ian are sitting at the table, while POLICE INSPECTOR (30s), is talking to them.

GRAHAM

That's all we know. And pretty much the same we said to your officers who visited the scene.

POLICE INSPECTOR

Alright.

INT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

They leave the interrogation room. The inspector closes the door behind him.

POLICE INSPECTOR
That's it, then.

GRAHAM
Look--

Ian sees an open door and TWO OFFICERS (30s both, one male, one female), ARGUING inside.

POLICE OFFICER #4
I tell you, we can't do anything.

POLICE OFFICER #5
(whispering)
Do you know what that means? This bastard committed a homicide and he's just going to walk away because his father is rich?

GRAHAM
Let's go Ian.

He doesn't move. Listens CLOSELY to the conversation.

POLICE OFFICER #5
Come on.
(grabbing her head)
Mexicans.

Ian hears it. He OPENS his mouth.

GRAHAM
Ian!

Ian starts moving.

EXT. POLICE STATION - CONTINUOUS

Graham and Ian go out, and they start entering Graham's CAR. Suddenly, CAR MUSIC is heard and Ian sees Juan driving by the police station.

GRAHAM
Coming?

IAN
Yeah.

EXT. TOWN - MAIN STREET - LATER

Graham and Ian exit a FAST FOOD store, both carrying a BURGER in their hands. They sit on the store's outdoor STOOLS.

IAN
So, how long will you stay?

GRAHAM
Three days. The usual army service here.
(pause)
Leaving right after this burger.

IAN
Ok.

GRAHAM
And you?

IAN
I'll go home. Rest a bit.

GRAHAM
What about John? Didn't see your best pal for a while.

IAN
Not up for company right now.

GRAHAM
I'm your company now. You seems quite fine.

Ian lowers his burger.

GRAHAM (CONT'D)
Alright, alright. Trying to help you get over this.

IAN
I can do it myself.

Graham just looks at him.

EXT. VILLAGE ROAD - EVENING

Ian is slowly going by the narrow village road towards his home. He has a kilometer or more to walk.

As he comes closer to IRINA'S HOUSE, he can see Juan's expensive car parked on the FRONT lawn. There's a BARN there also, with visible OPEN doors and LIGHTS ON inside.

Ian again OPENS his mouth and immediately moves towards it.

EXT. IRINA'S BARN - CONTINUOUS

Ian approaches and he can hear Irina's voice, YELLING.

IRINA (O.C.)
No, please. Don't. Stop it.

Ian leans across the open door and sees Juan trying to
UNDRESS IRINA (22). He's trying to do it FAST. Ian thinks.

He moves back towards the side of the barn, and then HITS the
WOODEN walls with his FIST. The noise from inside stops and
Irina STOPS yelling.

After a moment, they continue.

IRINA (O.C.) (CONT'D)
No, no--

Ian HITS again, but this time louder.

JUAN (O.C.)
(slightly exhausted voice)
Stay there. Don't fucking move.

Juan comes out, LOOKS AROUND but there's no one there. He
goes back in.

IRINA (O.C.)
Get away from me, you!

Ian PICKS up a LARGER ROCK and THROWS it at the barn. It
makes a VERY LOUD NOISE. Juan and Irina again go silent, and
Juan comes out, LOOKING AROUND.

He goes back in. Ian takes his phone and DIALS his father.

IAN
(whispering)
Dad? Where are you?

GRAHAM (O.S.)
I'm on the road, nearly there. Why?
Where are you?

IAN
(whispering)
I'm at Irina's barn. Our neighbor.
There's screaming and light coming
from the barn. The murderer is
trying to get his next victim.

GRAHAM (O.S.)
What? Get out of there, now!

IAN
(whispering)
No, I have to help her. Can you
call the police?

GRAHAM (O.S.)
They are slow and useless pack of
shit, Ian. Let me see if Arnold is
home. I can tell him to come and
stop this asap.
(pause)
I'll call you back.

IAN
(whispering)
Ok.

They HANG up.

IRINA (O.C.)
No!

Ian takes an even LARGER ROCK and throws it directly at the
barn. Just before Ian DUNKS down, Juan comes out and sees
him.

JUAN
(shouting)
You!

He starts running after Ian, while Ian starts running away.
Juan manages to catch him, THROWING him down on the ground.

IAN
(yelling)
Let me go!

Juan takes out his PISTOL. Ian gets silent.

JUAN
Up.

Ian stands up and Juan starts PUSHING him towards the barn.
Irina comes out, slightly UNDRESSED and Juan POINTS the
pistol at her.

JUAN (CONT'D)
Back inside. Back inside!

Irina gets FROZEN.

INT. IRINA'S BARN - CONTINUOUS

He PUSHES Irina on one side of the barn, and then Ian with BOTH hand on the other. He raises his gun.

JUAN
(breathing deeply)
There's one thing I didn't tell
you, Ian. It's that I always get
what I want.

Juan PULLS the HAMMER of his gun, getting ready to shoot.
Suddenly, behind him you can hear a SHOTGUN RELOAD sound.

ARNOLD (O.C.)
Don't make me use this, boy.

ARNOLD (47), ex-military person and neighbor is standing at
the door. Was unseen by Juan's body.

JUAN
Who are you?

ARNOLD
(showing)
Gun down.

Juan drops it. POLICE SIRENS are heard.

JUAN
Do you know who the hell I am? I'll
get out and then I'll kill you.
I'll kill you all.

ARNOLD
If I see you again, the last thing
your rich ass of a father is buying
is your grave.

The police car can be heard making a HARD STOP outside of the
barn. Police RUSH in, ARRESTING Juan.

Ian gets RELIVED.

EXT. IRINA'S BARN - LATER

Ian is sitting with Irina outside. They smile at each other.
Graham arrives in his car. He quickly goes out, and HUGS Ian.

GRAHAM
You alright?

IAN

Yeah. Both of us. Arnold came and saved us.

GRAHAM

(relieved)

Thank god.

(pause)

And the murderer?

IAN

Arrested. We'll see what happens to him.

FREEZE FRAME.

SUPER: A nationwide scandal erupted. A billionaire's son was arrested for rape and murder, but was set free after his father paid a bailout. Juan was given a permanent ban to enter the country while being asked to immediately depart. Ian came out as a hero but remains emotionally damaged by the events.

FADE TO BLACK: