

"ANNE"

She smiles at him. Josh smiles back then heads into his small office. Closes the door. Finds himself face to face with a stuffed bear.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Jesus!

Josh collects himself and takes off his jacket.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

You know what? This is going to be fine. Look, finally got my corner office. With a window.

He yanks open the blinds revealing -- a TAXIDERMIST sawing open Larry's DEAD MALTESE. Josh drops the blind.

JOSH (CONT'D)

We're gonna keep that closed.

Josh steps out of his office and approaches Anne.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Anne, I'm getting a strong formaldehyde vibe, is there a fan --

ANNE

(as if seeing him for first time)

May I help you?

JOSH

Josh. We met forty-five seconds ago.

ANNE FLATCH CONFSSIONAL:

ANNE

I suffer from a condition called facial blindness. I can't recognize anyone by their face. It's completely blank. Does have its perks. With my husband it's like sleeping with a different man every night.

(she smiles; then)

I do recognize penises though.
(uncomfortable)

Did I tell you this already?

BACK TO SCENE:

Josh takes this all in.

5 SCENES

8 PAGES

SCENE 1

"THE TRAIL"

START

END

1/8

" ANNE

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

Hey, there's something I've always wanted to ask you.

SCENE 2

JOSH

You've known me for two days. Go on.

DWAYNE

As a Hebrew, how come you can work after the sun goes down?

JOSH

Well, today is Wednesday and that's only on weekends. Plus, I wasn't really brought up that way, so...

DWAYNE

Gotcha. But you can't work when the sun comes up, right?

JOSH

You're thinking of vampires.
(then off photo)
Look at this. What are these stripes on the floor around Margaret's body?

DWAYNE

(looking at photo)
Oh, those are Larry's roller-skating tracks through her blood.

From the other room ANNE giggles. Josh and Dwayne peer into the other room, where Anne looks back, sheepishly.

ANNE'S CONFESSIONAL:

START

ANNE

I also suffer from involuntary emotional expression disorder. Sometimes I react inappropriately when something awful happens. I found out when I was a little girl and my grandmother fell off the balcony and landed on our car.

She giggles.

BACK TO SCENE:

END

JOSH

So when the police arrived, Larry had on his skates, but in this picture...
(shows one photo)
There's a bloody print on the wall across the room.

2/8

"ANNE"

DWAYNE

(smiling)
Even better.

SCENE 3

INT. LAW OFFICE/ TAXIDERMIST - DAY

Josh and Dwayne stand in the middle of an office that is the converted storage room of a taxidermist. There are still DEAD STUFFED ANIMALS scattered about.

DWAYNE

Real estate is a little tight in East Peck but I pulled some strings and got us this place provided we keep it down and don't make a mess. Whattaya think?

JOSH

Not as corporate as I pictured, but we can make it work. What is that noise? Sounds like a saw cutting through bone.

DWAYNE

Yep. You get used to it. I don't even hear it anymore. Let's meet the rest of the team.

They approach ANNE FLATCH (40s; friendly; a laundry list of psychological disorders) who stands behind her desk.

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

Josh, this is your assistant and head researcher and intern, Anne Flatch. She's the best of the best.

JOSH

Great to meet you, Anne. I have to be at court in an hour for the bail hearing. Can I get all the files we have on the Henderson case? Also, could you please check with the airline about my luggage and... maybe lose some of these dead animals? You're just staring at me.

STAR

ANNE

Sorry. I like the way you talk.

JOSH

Maybe we start slower. Can I get some pencils?

3/8

She smiles at him. Josh smiles back then heads into his small office. Closes the door. Finds himself face to face with a stuffed bear.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Jesus!

Josh collects himself and takes off his jacket.

JOSH (CONT'D)

(to CAMERA)

You know what? This is going to be fine. Look, finally got my corner office. With a window.

He yanks open the blinds revealing -- a TAXIDERMIST sawing open Larry's DEAD MALTESE. Josh drops the blind.

JOSH (CONT'D)

We're gonna keep that closed.

Josh steps out of his office and approaches Anne.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Anne, I'm getting a strong formaldehyde vibe, is there a fan --

ANNE

(as if seeing him for first time)

May I help you?

JOSH

Josh. We met forty-five seconds ago.

ANNE FLATCH CONFSSIONAL:

ANNE

I suffer from a condition called facial blindness. I can't recognize anyone by their face. It's completely blank. Does have its perks. With my husband it's like sleeping with a different man every night.

(she smiles; then)

I do recognize penises though.

(uncomfortable)

Did I tell you this already?

BACK TO SCENE:

Josh takes this all in.

END

4/8

STAR

Scene 4

JOSH

So bail was set at \$7 million, which considering we started at \$93 million I'm putting it in the win column.

Anne stands in front of the white board.

ANNE

Should I make a win column?

JOSH

No. But we are going to crack this case. Write down 'The Trial.'

DWAYNE

Here we go!

Anne writes "The TRAIL" on the board.

JOSH

Great. So first--
(notices board)
I think you spelled 'trial' wrong.

ANNE'S CONFESSIONAL:

ANNE

I also suffer from dyslexia.

BACK TO SCENE:

ANNE (CONT'D)

I'm so stupid! I'll change it--

JOSE

No, no. It's fine. Dyslexia is a very common disorder, certainly more so than your face thing. Let's leave it.

Anne draws an arrow between the 'I' and the 'A.'

JOSH (CONT'D)

The victim was found by a shattered plate glass window. We need to come up with a plausible story for what could have happened.

ANNE

Why don't we just ask Larry?

JOSH

Defense attorneys don't really do that. We need to stay objective and build a case based on the evidence.

(MORE)

JOSH (CONT'D)

So, let's go. Fire away. No such thing as a stupid suggestion.

ANNE

Suicide!

JOSH

Good pitch. But let's focus on plausible ideas--

She writes 'SUICIDE' on the board.

DWAYNE

That was my first thought too. But I tested the theory.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

IPHONE FOOTAGE OF DWAYNE TALKING DIRECTLY TO CAMERA.

DWAYNE

Dwayne Reed testing suicide theory of Margaret Henderson. Take 1.

DWAYNE DISAPPEARS FROM FRAME. A BEAT LATER HE RUNS FULL SPEED INTO A PLATE GLASS WINDOW. THE WINDOW SPIDERS, DWAYNE BOUNCES OFF, ROLLING ON THE FLOOR IN INCREDIBLE PAIN.

BACK TO SCENE:

DWAYNE (CONT'D)

Woman of Margaret's size couldn't get the velocity to off herself. Took me four tries to even break glass.

JOSH

Appreciate the commitment, Dwayne.

ANNE

Dang.

She crosses a line through 'Suicide.'

JOSH

Okay, what else could have happened --

(hands go up)

Except Larry throwing his wife through the window.

(hands go down)

Anything. First idea that pops into your head.

DWAYNE

Bird!

"ANNE"

ACT THREE

Scene 5

INT. LARRY HENDERSON'S HOUSE - NIGHT

LARRY'S CONFESSIONAL:

LARRY

Am I gay? No. I loved Margaret. She was my best friend. It's just that sexuality is fluid... And sometimes my fluids go towards men.

Larry shrugs. What are you gonna do?

EXT. MAIN STREET - EAST BECK - DAY

Josh and Dwayne walk down the street.

JOSH

Our "family man" angle took a hit. On the plus side, the airline found my bag and they're shipping it here. So, we're going to build on the luggage news and get some positive momentum going. What do ya think?

DWAYNE

Sounds great. But what do we do about the gay murderer?

JOSH

Dwayne, not a murderer. Remember...
(gestures to Dwayne and him)
Defense!

INT. LAW FIRM / TAXIDERMIST - DAY

Anne sits behind her desk as Josh and Dwayne race in.

START

ANNE

Can I help you--

JOSH

Josh and Dwayne. And we are building on positive momentum here!

ANNE

Oh, good. Something horrible has happened.

JOSH

Excellent timing, Anne. What?

7/8

ANNE

A man stopped by, he was very angry.

JOSH

Did you get his name?

ANNE

No. He was yelling and I got nervous and I'm so stupid!

JOSH

Anne, you're not that... nervous. Do you remember what he looked like?

ANNE

Of course. I can draw him for you.

Anne sketches on a pad. Dwayne tilts his head to watch.

JOSH

Okay, great. Let's calm down. Everyone calm down. Nice and calm.

ANNE

Here ya go!

Anne turns the pad around to reveal -- a sketch of a FACELESS MAN, holding a long lit cigarette.

DWAYNE

Well, we know he has no face.

END

INT. JEREMIAH JEFFERSON DAVIS HOUSE/ PLANTATION -DAY

Josh paces while Jeremiah holds a long lit cigarette and Josie sips with her usual gimlet.

JEREMIAH

Look, son. I was in the army. So I know a thing or two about male camaraderie.

CAMERA PANS across a row of black and white photos of a YOUNG JEREMIAH and other ARMY BUDDIES, in their underwear, arms around each other.

JEREMIAH (CONT'D)

What Larry and this other fella did was more than just horseplay. I've never seen my wife this upset.

Josie stoically sips her drink.

8/8