

BASIC INSTINCT

Written by

Joe Eszterhas

INT. A BEDROOM - NIGHT

It is dark; we don't see clearly. a man and woman make love on a brass bed. There are mirrors on the walls and ceiling. On a side table, atop a small mirror, lines of cocaine. A tape deck PLAYS the Stones "Sympathy for the Devil."

Atop him... she straddles his chest... her breasts in his face. He cups her breasts. She leans down, kisses him...

JOHNNY BOZ is in his late 40's, slim, good-looking. We don't see the woman's face. She has long blonde hair. The CAMERA STAYS BEHIND and to the side of them.

She leans close over his face, her tongue in his mouth... she kisses him... she moves her hands up, holds both of his arms above his head.

She moves higher atop him... she reaches to the side of the bed... a white silk scarf is in her hand... her hips above his face now, moving... slightly, oh-so slightly... his face strains towards her.

The scarf in her hand... she ties his hands with it... gently... to the brass bed... his eyes are closed... tighter... lowering hips into his face... lower... over his chest... his navel. The SONG plays.

He is inside her... his head arches back... his throat white.

She arches her back... her hips grind... her breasts are high...

Her back arches back... back... her head tilts back... she extends her arms... the right arm comes down suddenly... the steel flashes... his throat is white...

He bucks, writhes, bucks, convulses...

It flashes up... it flashes down... and up... and down... and up... and...

EXT. A BROWNSTONE IN PACIFIC HEIGHTS - MORNING

Winter in San Francisco cold, foggy. Cop cars everywhere. The lights play through the thick fog. Two Homicide detectives get out of the car, walk into the house.

NICK CURRAN is 42. Trim, good-looking, a nice suit; a face urban, edged, shadowed. GUS MORAN is 64. Crew-cut, silver beard, a suit rumpled and shiny, a hat out of the 50's a face worn and ruined the face of a backwoods philosopher.

INT. THE BROWNSTONE

There's money here -- deco, clean, hip -- That looks like a Picasso on the wall. They check it out.

GUS
Who was this fuckin' guy?

NICK
Rock and roll, Gus. Johnny Boz.

GUS
I never heard of him.

NICK
(grins)
Before your time, pop.
(a beat)
Mid-sixties. Five or six hits.
He's got a club down in the
Fillmore now.

GUS
Not now he don't.

Past the uniformed guys... nods... waves... past the forensic men... past the coroner's investigators... they get to the bedroom.

INT. THE BEDROOM

They walk in, stare -- it's messy.

It's like a convention in here. LT. PHIL WALKER, in his 50's, silver-haired, the Homicide guys; JIM HARRIGAN, late 40's, puffy, affable; SAM ANDREWS, 30's, black. A CORONER'S MAN is working the bed.

LT. WALKER
(to Nick and Gus)
You guys know Captain Talcott?

They nod.

GUS
What's the Chief's office doin' here.

CAPT. TALCOTT
Observing.

LT. WALKER
 (to the Coroner's
 Guy)
 What do you think, Doc?

THE CORONER'S GUY
 The skin blanches when I press it --
 this kind of color is about right
 for six or eight hours.

LT. WALKER
 Nobody say anything. The maid came
 in an hour ago and found him. She's
 not a live-in.

GUS
 Maybe the maid did it.

LT. WALKER
 She's 54 years old and weighs 240
 pounds.

THE CORONER'S GUY
 (deadpan)
 There are no bruises on his body.

GUS
 (grins)
 It ain't the maid.

LT. WALKER
 He left the club with his
 girlfriend about midnight. That's
 the last time anybody saw him.

NICK
 (looks at body)
 What was it?

THE CORONER'S GUY
 Ice pick. Left on the coffee table
 in the living room. Thin steel
 handle. Forensics took it
 downtown.

HARRIGAN
 There's come all over the sheets --
 he got off before he got offed.

GUS
 (deadpan)
 That rules the maid out for sure.

CAPT. TALCOTT

This is sensitive. Mr. Boz was a major contributor to the mayor's campaign. He was Chairman of the Board of the Palace of Fine Arts --

GUS

(to Nick)

I thought you said he was a rock and roll star.

LT. WALKER

He was a retired rock and roll star.

CAPT. TALCOTT

A civic-minded, very respectable rock and roll star.

GUS

What's that over there?

We see the white powder laid out in lines on the small mirror on the side table.

NICK

(deadpan)

It looks like some civic-minded, very respectable cocaine to me, Gus.

CAPT. TALCOTT

(evenly, to Nick)

Listen to me, Curran. I'm going to get a lot of heat on this. I don't want any... mistakes.

Nick and Talcott look at each other a beat, then --

NICK

Who's the girlfriend?

Lt. Walker looks at the notepad in his hand.

LT. WALKER

Catherine Tramell, 162 Divisadero.

Nick writes it down. He and Gus turn, leave. Captain Talcott watches them. He looks disturbed.

INT. THE LIVING ROOM

As they head out --

NICK

Talcott doesn't usually show up at the office 'till after his 18 holes. What are they nervous about?

GUS

They're executives. They're nervous about everything.

LT. WALKER

Nick!

He stops, turns, sees Walker behind them. Walker comes up to them.

LT. WALKER (CONT'D)

(to Nick)

Keep your three o'clock.

NICK

Do you want me to work the case, Phil, or do you want me to --

LT. WALKER

I said keep it.

EXT. A VICTORIAN ON DIVISADERO - DAY

It is more a mansion than a house. They ring the bell. An Hispanic MAID answers. They flash their badges.

NICK

I'm Detective Curran, this is Detective Moran. We're with the San Francisco Police Department.

We'd like to speak to Ms. Catherine Tramell.

THE MAID

(after a beat, an accent)

Just moment. Come in.

She leads them into a lavish, beautifully done living room that offers a sweeping view of the Bay.

THE MAID (CONT'D)

Sit, please. Just moment.

They look around, impressed. There is a Picasso on the wall here, too.

GUS

Ain't that cute? They got his and her Pig-assos, son.

NICK

(smiles)

I didn't know you knew who Picasso was, Gus.

GUS

(grins)

I'm a smart sonofabitch. I just hide it.

Nick smiles -- and at that moment a beautiful BLONDE walks into the room. She looks like she has been asleep. She is in her early 20's. She wears a very sheer robe.

NICK

We're sorry to disturb you, we'd like to ask you some --

THE WOMAN

Are you vice?

GUS

(after a beat)

Homicide.

THE WOMAN

What do you want?

GUS

When was the last time you saw John Boz?

THE WOMAN

Is he dead?

NICK

(after a beat)

Why do you think he's dead?

THE WOMAN

You wouldn't be here otherwise, would you?

GUS

Were you with him last night?

THE WOMAN

You're looking for Catherine, not me.

NICK

Who are you?

THE WOMAN

I'm Roxy.

(a beat)

I'm her -- friend.

She looks at them a beat.

ROXY

She's out at the beach house at Stinson. Seadrift. 1402.

NICK

Thanks.

They start to head out.

ROXY

You're wasting your time. Catherine didn't kill him.

A beat, they look at her, and go...

EXT. SEADRIFT - STINSON BEACH - DAY

Foggy. Cold. It is an expensive spit of land on the ocean. Multi-million dollar "beach houses" with gardens and swimming pools. There are two Ferraris in the driveway -- one black, one white.

They get out of the car in front of the house. They see a woman in back of the house, sitting on a deck chair, staring at the sea, a blanket around her. As they get to her --

NICK

Ms. Tramell?

She takes a long look at Nick, then looks away.

CATHERINE TRAMELL is 30 years old. She has long blonde hair and a refined, classically beautiful face. She is not knockout gorgeous like Roxy; there is a smoky kind of sensuousness about her.

NICK (CONT'D)

I'm De...

CATHERINE
(evenly)
I know who you are.

She doesn't look at them. She looks at the water.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
How did he die?

GUS
He was murdered.

CATHERINE
Really. Maybe that's why you're
from Homicide. How?

Nick glances at Gus.

NICK
With an ice pick.

She closes her eyes a beat and then, still staring out, we see a thin smile. They see it, too, and glance at each other.

NICK (CONT'D)
How long were you dating him?

CATHERINE
I wasn't dating him. I was fucking
him.

They glance at each other again.

GUS
What are you -- a pro?

Catherine looks at him -- that thin smile again.

CATHERINE
No. I'm an amateur.

She looks away.

NICK
How long were you having sex with
him?

CATHERINE
About a year and a half.

NICK
Were you with him last night?

CATHERINE

Yes.

NICK

Did you leave the club with him?

CATHERINE

Yes.

NICK

Did you go home with him?

CATHERINE

No. We had a drink at the club. We left together. I came here. He went home.

NICK

Was there anyone with you last night?

CATHERINE

(looks at Nick)

No. I wasn't in the mood to have sex with anyone last night.

They look at her a beat.

NICK

Let me ask you something, Ms. Tramell? Are you sorry he's dead?

Catherine looks at him.

CATHERINE

Yes. I liked fucking him.

They stare at her. She looks out at the water.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

I don't really feel like talking anymore.

GUS

Listen, lady, we can do this downtown if you --

CATHERINE

Read me my rights and arrest me and I'll go downtown.

She doesn't even look at them.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
(quietly)
Otherwise, get the fuck out of
here. Please.

A long beat as they look at her.

INT. A CORRIDOR - POLICE HEADQUARTERS

The door says Dr. Elizabeth Gardner, Counseling. Nick opens the door, peeks in. The receptionist is not there. A clock says 3.

INT. THE COUNSELING OFFICE

He walks in -- sees the inner door open, walks in.

NICK
I'm sorry, Beth. I -- I got hung
up in Stinson.

DR. ELIZABETH GARDNER, the police psychologist, is a very good-looking, dark-haired woman. She is 30.

BETH
(smiles)
How are you, Nick?

NICK
I'm fine. Come on, Beth! You know
I'm fine! How the hell long do I
have to keep doing this?

BETH
As long as Internal Affairs wants
you to, I suppose. Sit down, Nick.

NICK
It's bullshit. You know it is.

BETH
(smiles)
I know it is -- but sit down anyway
so we can get it over with, okay?

He sits down.

BETH (CONT'D)
So -- how are things?

NICK
 (after a beat)
 Things are fine. I told you.
 They're fine.

She watches him closely.

BETH
 (after a beat)
 How is your -- personal life?

NICK
 My sex life is fine.
 (a beat)
 My sex life is pretty shitty
 actually since I stopped seeing you
 -- maybe I should think about my
 Electrolux again.

That embarrassed her; she looks away from him.

NICK (CONT'D)
 (after a beat)
 Sorry.

She shrugs. A beat.

BETH
 How about the booze?

NICK
 It's been three months.

BETH
 (after a long beat)
 How about the coke?

NICK
 No.

BETH
 No?

NICK
 (hard)
 No! I'm working my tail off. I'm
 off the sauce, I'm not even smoking
 anymore.

She smiles.

BETH
 How's not smoking?

NICK

It's fucked -- now will you please tell I.A. that I'm just you average healthy totally fucked-up cop and let me get out of here?

BETH

(after a beat; smiles)
Yes.

NICK

Thank you.

And he starts heading out.

BETH

(behind him)
I still miss you, Nick.

He doesn't even turn, pretends he didn't hear.

INT. THE DETECTIVE BUREAU

He walks in. Gus Moran gets up from his desk as soon as he sees him.

GUS

Talcott's in there. They're waiting.

They start heading for Lt. Walker's office.

GUS (CONT'D)

How'd it go, son?

NICK

She misses me.

GUS

(grins)
Hallelujah.

INT. LT. WALKER'S OFFICE

He and Gus sit there with Lt. Walker, Harrigan, Andrews and Captain Talcott.

HARRIGAN

Sixteen stab wounds to the chest and neck. No usable prints, no forcible entry, nothing missing.

(MORE)

HARRIGAN (CONT'D)

No prints on the ice pick, either -- it's available at any Safeway. The scarf is Hermes, expensive -- they sell about 20,000 a year worldwide.

ANDREWS

The powder was cocaine, high-quality, high-content. He inhaled it; there were minute quantities on his lips and penis. Mr. Boz leaves five million dollars, no insurance, no direct survivors. He liked his coke, he liked his girls, and he liked rock and roll.

NICK

He liked the mayor, too, right?

Talcott gives him a look.

GUS

What about his girlfriend?

TALCOTT

Is she relevant here? I didn't know she was a suspect.

LT. WALKER

She's a suspect.

TALCOTT

On what basis?

LT. WALKER

(looks a notes)

Catherine Tramell. Age 30. No priors, no convictions. Double major, magnum cum laude, Berkeley, Literature and Psychology. Daughter, sole survivor -- Marvin and Elaine Tramell, killed in a boating accident, 1978, Catherine Tramell sole heir. Estimated assets \$110 million.

It hangs there.

NICK

Are you kidding me?

LT. WALKER

(continues)

Formerly engaged to Roberto Vasquez, deceased --

ANDREWS

Bobby Vasquez?

LT. WALKER

Bobby Vasquez, former middleweight contender, killed in the ring Atlantic City, 1984.

NICK

(smiles)

I love it. She's got a hundred million bucks. She fucks fighters and rock and roll stars. And she's got a degree in screwing with peoples' heads.

LT. WALKER

You forgot her degree in literature. She's a writer. She published a novel last year under a pen name. Do you want to know what it's about?

They just stare at him.

LT. WALKER (CONT'D)

It's about a retired rock and roll star who is murdered by his girlfriend.

It hangs there a long beat.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

His apartment is very bare -- very few things -- with wide open spaces. There is a lot of chrome.

He sits on the couch, reading a book. It is a paperback.

We see the title -- Love Hurts, by Catherine Adams. He puts the book down a beat, then picks the phone up, dials.

NICK

Page 67, pop. Do you know how she does the boyfriend? With an icepick, in bed, his hands tied with a white silk scarf.

INT. A POLICE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

Nick, Gus, Lt. Walker, Harrigan, Andrews, Captain Talcott -- and Beth Gardner. With them is an older, white-haired man, DR. ANDREW LAMOTT. There are copies of "Love Hurts" around the table.

LT. WALKER

Dr. Gardner?

BETH

I've asked Dr. Lamott to consult with us. This isn't really my turf. Dr. Lamott teaches the psycho-pathology of psychopathic behavior at Stanford and is also a member of the Justice Department's Psychological Profile team. Dr. Lamott?

DR. LAMOTT

There are two possibilities. One. The person who wrote this book is your murderer and acted out the killing described in ritualistic, literal detail. Two. Someone who wants to do the person who wrote this book harm read the book and enacted the killing described to incriminate the writer.

NICK

(after a long beat)

What if the writer did it? What are we dealing with?

DR. LAMOTT

You're dealing with a devious, diabolical mind. This book must have been written at least six months, maybe years before it was published. That means the writer planned the crime, at least in the subconscious, back then. The fact that the writer carried it out indicates psychopathic obsessive behavior in terms not only of the killing itself but in terms of applied advance defense mechanism.

A long beat.

GUS

Most times I can't tell shit from shinola, Doc. What was all that you just said?

Some grins, titters.

BETH

She anticipates the book to be her best alibi.

DR. LAMOTT

Correct.

BETH

She's going to say Do you think I'd be dumb enough to kill anyone in the exact way I've described in my book? I wouldn't do that because I'd know I'd be a suspect.

A long beat -- as they think about it.

NICK

What if it's not the writer? What if it's someone who read the book?

DR. LAMOTT

You're dealing then with someone so obsessed that he or she is willing to kill an irrelevant and innocent victim to place the blame on the person who wrote this book. We are talking about deep-seated, obsessional hatred; an utter lack of sense of proportion or perspective.

GUS

We've got a top-of-the-line, once-in-a-lifetime loony-tune either way you cut it -- that's what you're saying, right, Doc?

DR. LAMOTT

You're dealing with someone very dangerous and very ill.

INT. THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

PROSECUTOR JOHN CORRIGAN, a big man in his 50's, with Captain Talcott, Lt. Walker, Nick, and Gus.

Corrigan is reading a file. He gets up, yawns, goes to his window, looks out.

CORRIGAN

Come on, you know there's no case here. There's no physical evidence -- okay, she doesn't have an alibi but there's no motive. Her defense would just beat us to death with the copycat thing. Anybody who read the book could have done it.

A long beat; no one says anything.

NICK

So what do we do -- nothing?

LT. WALKER

(after a beat)

We bring her in for questioning.

TALCOTT

She's got enough money to burn this whole department down.

LT. WALKER

She was the last person seen with the guy -- I'll take the responsibility.

TALCOTT

It's yours.

CORRIGAN

It won't do any good. She'll come in with Lee Bailey and Mel Belli trailing behind her on a solid gold chain from Tiffanys.

TALCOTT

Yes she will.

NICK

(after a beat)

No she won't.

They look at him.

NICK (CONT'D)

(smiles)

I don't think she's going to hide behind anybody. I don't think she's going to hide at all.

TALCOTT
(after a beat)
I think you're as crazy as she
probably is, Curran.

Nicks says nothing.

GUS
You know what they say: It takes
one to know one.

Nick looks a Gus, grins.

EXT. HER HOUSE IN STINSON - DAY

They walk from the car to the door of the big beach house.

They ring the bell. They hear typing inside. The typing
stops. She comes to the door in jeans and a tight-fitting
sweatshirt.

NICK
Ms. Tramell, we'd like you to come
downtown and answer some questions
for us.

CATHERINE
Are you arresting me?

NICK
If that's the way you want to play
it.

They look at each other a beat.

CATHERINE
(smiles)
Can I change into something more
appropriate? It'll just take a
minute.

He nods.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
Come in.

INT. THE HOUSE

It is beautifully done in a Santa Fe motif. She goes to a
bedroom of the living room.

Nick sits down on a couch facing the bedroom she's walked into. Gus sits across from him, his back to the bedroom.

There is a coffee table between them. She leaves the bedroom door halfway open.

An old newspaper is on the coffee table. Nick reaches for it. The headline says VICE COP CLEARED IN TOURIST SHOOTINGS. A headline underneath says GRAND JURY SAYS SHOOTINGS ACCIDENTAL. There is a photograph of Nick.

He stares at the paper.

CATHERINE

How long will this take?

Nick puts the paper down on the coffee table. He is lost in his thoughts. Gus picks the paper up.

NICK

(looks up)

I don't know.

Nick, facing the half open bedroom door, sees a mirror near the wall of the bedroom. The mirror reflects her in the other corner of the bedroom. She is taking her clothes off. He stares. She strips down. He sees her back. She has a beautiful body. Naked, she puts a dress on. She doesn't put any underwear on.

NICK (CONT'D)

Do you always keep old newspapers around?

CATHERINE

Only when they make interesting reading.

And she is suddenly out of the bedroom. She stands there, smiles. They look at each other a long beat.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

(finally)

I'm ready.

They get up, head out.

GUS

You have the right to an attorney.

CATHERINE

Why would I need an attorney?

INT. THE CAR - DAY

They sit in the front; she is in the back. The car goes over the winding, two-lane Mt. Tamalpais road.

The fog is heavy. It's starting to rain. We see the beach far below.

CATHERINE
Do you have a cigarette?

NICK
I don't smoke.

CATHERINE
Yes, you do.

NICK
I quit.

She smiles, looks at him. A beat, and he turns away. Another beat, and she lights a cigarette up.

NICK (CONT'D)
I thought you were out of cigarettes.

CATHERINE
I found some in my purse; would you like one?

He turns back to her.

NICK
I told you -- I quit.

CATHERINE
It won't last.

A beat, as she looks at him, and then he turns away.

GUS
You workin' on another book?

CATHERINE
Yes I am.

GUS
It must really be somehtin' -- makin' stuff up all the time.

He watches her in the rearview mirror.

CATHERINE
It teaches you to lie.

GUS
How's that?

CATHERINE
You make it up, but it has to be
believable. They call it
suspension of disbelief.

GUS
I like that. "Suspension of
Disbelief."

He smiles at her in the mirror.

NICK
What's your new book about?

CATHERINE
A detective. He falls for the
wrong woman.

He turns back to her.

NICK
What happens to him?

She looks right into his eye.

CATHERINE
She kills him.

A beat, as they look at each other, and then he turns away
from her. Gus watches her in the rearview mirror.

INT. A POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

It is large, fluorescent-lighted, antiseptic.

She walks in with Nick and Gus. In the room are prosecutor
John Corrigan, Lt. Walker, Captain Talcott, Harrigan, and
Andrews. There is a police stenographer a plain young woman
in her 20's.

As soon as she comes in --

CORRIGAN
I'm John Corrigan. I'm an
assistant district attorney, Ms.
Tramell. Can we get you anything?
Would you like some coffee?

CATHERINE
No thank you.

TALCOTT
Are your attorneys --

NICK
(hiding a smile)
Ms. Tramell waived her right to an
attorney.

Corrigan and Talcott glance at Nick. She sees the look.

CATHERINE
(smiles)
Did I miss something?

NICK
I told them you wouldn't want an
attorney present.

LT. WALKER
Why have you waived your right to
an attorney, Ms. Tramell?

CATHERINE
(to Nick)
Why did you think I wouldn't want
one?

NICK
I told them you wouldn't want to
hide.

CATHERINE
I have nothing to hide.

The two of them keep their eyes on each other.

She sits down. They sit around her. Nick sits directly
across from her. She lights up a cigarette. They watch her.

She is poised, cool, in complete command of herself.

CORRIGAN
There is no smoking in this
building, Ms. Tramell.

CATHERINE
What are you going to do? Charge
me with smoking?

Ever so casually, she blows her smoke across at Nick.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

CORRIGAN

Would you tell us the nature of
your relationship with Mr. Boz?

CATHERINE

I had sex with him for about a year
and a half. I liked having sex
with him.

She has control of the room; she looks from one man to the
other as she speaks.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

He wasn't afraid of experimenting.
I like men like that. I like men
who give me pleasure. He gave me a
lot of pleasure.

A beat, as they watch her. She is so matter-of-fact.

CORRIGAN

Did you ever engage in sado-
masochistic activity with him?

CATHERINE

(smiles)
Exactly what do you have in mind,
Mr. Corrigan.

CORRIGAN

(after a beat, little
flustered)
Did you ever tie him up?

CATHERINE

No.

ANDREWS

You never tied him up.

CATHERINE

No. Johnny liked to use his hands
too much. I like hands and
fingers.

They stare at her.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

LT. WALKER

You describe a white silk scarf in
your book.

CATHERINE

I've always had a fondness for
white silk scarves.

(she smiles)

I have a very vivid imagination.

NICK

But you said you liked men to use
their hands.

CATHERINE

No. I said I liked Johnny to use
his hands.

(she smiles)

I don't give any rules, Nick. I go
with the flow.

They have their eyes on each other.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

CORRIGAN

Did you kill Mr. Boz, Ms. Tramell?

CATHERINE

I'd have to be pretty stupid to
write a book about a killing and
then kill him the way I described
in my book. I'd be announcing
myself as the killer. I'm not
stupid.

She smiles.

TALCOTT

We know you're not stupid, Ms.
Tramell.

LT. WALKER

Maybe that's what you're counting on to get you off the hook.

NICK

Writing a book about it gives you an alibi for not killing him.

CATHERINE

Yes it does, doesn't it?

She holds his eyes a second, then --

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

The answer is no. I didn't kill him.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

GUS

Do you use drugs, Ms. Tramell?

CATHERINE

Sometimes.

HARRIGAN

Did you ever do drugs with Mr. Boz?

CATHERINE

Sure.

GUS

What kind of drugs?

CATHERINE

Cocaine.

She looks directly at Nick.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Have you ever fucked on cocaine?

(she smiles)

It's nice.

He watches her.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

NICK

You like playing games, don't you?

CATHERINE

(smiles)

I've got a degree in psych. It goes with the turf. Games are fun.

They are holding each other's eyes.

NICK

How about boxing? That's a game. Was that fun for you?

They don't take their eyes off each other for a second.

TALCOTT

I think that's irrelevant to this inquiry.

CATHERINE

(to Nick)

Yes it was. Bobby died.

NICK

How did you feel when he died?

CATHERINE

I loved him. I hurt.

Their eyes are still on each other.

NICK

How did you feel when I told you Johnny Boz had died -- that day at the beach.

CATHERINE

I felt somebody had read my book and was playing a game.

NICK

But you didn't hurt --

CATHERINE

No.

NICK

Because you didn't love him --

CATHERINE

That's right.

Their eyes are digging into each other.

NICK
Even though you were fucking him.

CATHERINE
(after a beat)
You still get the pleasure. Didn't
you ever fuck anybody else while
you were married, Nick?

A beat; he stares at her, expressionless.

LT. WALKER
How did you know he was married?

CATHERINE
(watching Nick)
Maybe I was guessing. What
difference does it make?

She lights a cigarette. He stares at her.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
Would you like a cigarette, Nick?

He just stares at her, expressionless.

CORRIGAN
Do you two know each other?

NICK
No.

CATHERINE
No.

INT. THE INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

ANDREWS
How did you meet Mr. Boz?

CATHERINE
I wanted to write a book about the
murder of a retired rock star. I
went down to his club and picked
him up. Then I had sex with him.

LT. WALKER
You didn't feel anything for him.
You just had sex with him for your
book.

She looks at Nick.

CATHERINE

In the beginning. Then I got to like what he did for me.

GUS

That's pretty cold, ain't it, lady?

CATHERINE

I'm a writer, I use people for what I write. You write what you know. Let the world beware.

She and Nick have their eyes on each other, then --

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

(to Corrigan, smiles)

Would you like me to take a lie detector test?

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. THE POLICE BUILDING - NIGHT

We see her in a glass-enclosed cubicle with a polygraph EXAMINER. Nick stands outside watching her with Gus and Lt. Walker. Her back is to them. The Examiner shuts the machine down, gathers rolls of papers, and comes out of the cubicle.

THE EXAMINER

No blips, no blood pressure variations, no pulse variance. Either she's telling the truth or I've never met anyone like her.

A long beat, then --

LT. WALKER

Well, I guess that's it.

A long beat, Nick watches her as she sits inside.

NICK

How does somebody beat this machine?

THE EXAMINER

Ninety-nine point nine percent of the cases, they don't.

(MORE)

THE EXAMINER (CONT'D)

You'd have to be able to mask the truth from your own central nervous system, your circulatory system, your adrenal glands. In my opinion, this woman is telling the truth.

The Examiner walks away. They stand there. Catherine stands at the door of the cubicle behind them --

CATHERINE

Can I go now?

LT. WALKER

(after a beat)

Yes. Thanks for coming in, Ms. Tramell. I'm sorry to inconvenience you.

She says nothing, has a thin smile.

CATHERINE

Can I ask one of you for a ride?

They look at her a beat.

NICK

Sure.

CATHERINE

(smiles)

Thanks.

And he and Catherine walk away. Gus and Walker watch them.

INT. HIS CAR - NIGHT

It is an old, mint-condition silver Porsche. It is pouring rain; the wind is blowing a San Francisco winter storm. Nothing is said a long beat as he drives. She yawns. Stretches. He looks at her.

CATHERINE

(smiles)

I'm tired.

NICK

It's got to be tiring to beat that machine.

She looks at him and looks away. A beat.

CATHERINE

If I were guilty, and if I wanted to beat that machine, it wouldn't be tiring. It wouldn't be tiring at all.

NICK

Why not?

CATHERINE

Because I'm a professional liar. I spend most of my waking hours dwelling on my lies.

(a beat)

For my writing.

He looks at her.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

(smiles)

I love the rain, don't you?

He says nothing, doesn't look at her.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

You took a polygraph after you shot those two people, didn't you?

He looks at her now.

NICK

I passed.

CATHERINE

You see? We're both innocent, Nick.

He pulls up in front of her house on Divisadero, stops. He sees the white Ferrari in the driveway.

NICK

How do you know all this stuff about me?

CATHERINE

You know all about me.

NICK

I don't know anything that isn't police business.

CATHERINE
 (after a beat)
 You know I don't like to wear any
 underwear, don't you, Nick?

They look at each other a beat.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 (smiles)
 Thanks for the ride.

And she's out of the car. He watches her as she hurries in the rain -- his eyes on her until the moment she opens the door and is inside.

INT. THE TEN-FOUR - NIGHT

It is a police bar, San Francisco style. Ferns Joe Montana and Will Clark posters. The jukebox has a lot of Tony Bennett.

He walks in. He sees Lt. Walker at a back booth with Gus, goes to them, sits down.

LT. WALKER
 What is all this "Nick" stuff --
 Nick would you like a cigarette.
 Nick can you give me a ride.

NICK
 She didn't ask me for the ride. She
 asked anybody.

LT. WALKER
 And you volunteered.

A BARTENDER stays behind the bar, but yells to him.

THE BARTENDER
 Perrier, Nick?

NICK
 Double Black Jack rocks, Harry.

GUS
 (with concern)
 What you doin', son?

NICK
 It's my first drink in three
 months. That okay with you, pop?
 (to Lt. Walker)
 (MORE)

NICK (CONT'D)
She doesn't know me. I never saw
her before Gus and I talked to her.

THE BARTENDER
Here you go, Nick.

He gets up, gets his drink --

NICK
Thanks, Harry.

He sits back down. He takes a big slug. They watch him.

LT. WALKER
You sure?

NICK
I'm sure.

He takes another big slug.

NICK (CONT'D)
Now what?

LT. WALKER
What now what? Now nothing. She
passed the polygraph. That's it.

NICK
She knew she could beat it. That's
why she asked to take it.

LT. WALKER
How the fuck do you know? What is
it with you and this broad anyway?

NICK
Come on, Phil. You're not gonna
let this slide. What about her
parents? What about what else
she's published? At least we
should get the stuff to see if we
find anything else that's an
amazing real-life coincidence.

LT. WALKER
Her parents died in an accident. I
don't care what else she's written.
What are you -- a book critic?

NICK
How did they die? Was there an
investigation?

LT. WALKER

How you're saying she killed her
parents? Did she kill Bobby
Vasquez, too?

GUS

Not unless she got up in the ring
and turned into one mean
sonofabitch.

LT. WALKER

Maybe she did, Gus. Maybe she grew
herself an Afro and learned a left
hook and put shoe polish on her
face. Let's polygraph her again
and ask her about it.

NICK

(casually)
Fuck you, Phil.

LT. WALKER

Fuck you, too Nick.

A beat, then --

NICK

(calls to the
Bartender)
Can you get me another double Black
Jack, Harry.

Gus looks at him with concern. A man in his 50's -- LT.
MARTIN NILSEN is suddenly there. He is overweight, florid.

NILSEN

(to Nick)
Hey, shooter -- You back on the
Black Jack, Shooter?

He grins. Nick doesn't look at him.

LT. WALKER

We're discussing a case, Marty.

NILSEN

I know that. I had no doubt of
that.

THE BARTENDER

Here you go, Nick.

Nilsen takes the drink, hands it to Nick.

NILSEN
 (grins)
 Double, huh, Shooter?

Nick turns to him. He's sitting in the booth; Nilsen is standing there. Nick looks like he's barely restraining himself.

NICK
 I'm off-duty, Nilsen. You hear me?
 I'm off-duty discussing a case.
 Internal Affairs shouldn't have any
 trouble with that. Maybe I should
 put in for overtime.

NILSEN
 (grins)
 You do that, Shooter. Why don't
 you send it to me? I'll give it
 special attention.

A beat, and then Nick gets up, faces him.

NICK
 I'm gonna tell you once more,
 Nilsen --

Lt. Walker and Gus get up and hold Nick back.

Beth Gardner, the police psychologist, is suddenly there.

BETH
 What's the problem?

NILSEN
 (grins)
 No problem, Doctor. Here comes the
 Doctor just in time to save her
 patient. Take care, Shooter.

And he walks away. Nick still looks like he wants to go after him. Beth pulls him away from the booth.

BETH
 You okay?

NICK
 (after a beat)
 Yeah.

BETH
 (smiles)
 You don't look so okay.

Nick looks at her a beat.

NICK
(smiles)
What are you doing here?

BETH
(smiles)
Baby-sitting.
(she shrugs)
Rookie cop.

NICK
(smiles)
What else is new? A beat.

He looks at her again.

NICK (CONT'D)
You want to get out of here?

She looks at him a beat.

BETH
(smiles)
Yes.

At the booth, Gus and Lt. Walker watch the two of them leave.

GUS
Maybe it's for old-time's sake.

LT. WALKER
(watches them go
out)
Sometimes I think he started
banging her just to get himself off
the hook with Internal Affairs.

GUS
(after a beat, smiles)
He ain't that way. He's got heart.

LT. WALKER
(smiles)
Yeah. I know.

INT. BETH'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

He is kissing her -- hard, rough. He forces her against the wall.

BETH
Don't -- please, Nick --

We hear her dress RIP. He kisses her harder -- we hear her panties RIP. He gets the dress off, pushes his hands under her bra --

BETH (CONT'D)
Please don't -- don't --

He puts his mouth to her shoulder, bites it -- as they move down to the floor.

INT. BETH'S LIVING ROOM - LATER

It is dark. They are still partially dressed. They are on the floor. He lies on his back, staring at the ceiling.

She lies next to him -- the torn dress wound around her.

There is a bite mark on her shoulder. A long beat, silence -- then --

BETH
What was she like?

NICK
Who?

BETH
Catherine Tramell.

NICK
(after a beat)
She said what you said she'd say.

She sits up, looks away. He looks at her, puts his finger on the bite mark idly, gently. A beat, and he kisses her shoulder gently, then lies back down.

BETH
I met her at Berkeley.

He looks at her.

BETH (CONT'D)
We were in some of the same classes.

NICK
(after a beat)
Why didn't you tell me?

She looks at him.

BETH
I'm telling you.

They look at each other a long beat.

BETH (CONT'D)
(with difficulty)
You've never been... like that...
before.

He says nothing, looks away from her.

BETH (CONT'D)
Why?

He doesn't look at her a long beat, says nothing.

NICK
You're the shrink.

She keeps looking at him. He won't look at her.

BETH
You weren't making love to me.

A beat; he looks at her.

NICK
Who was I making love to?

She looks at him a long beat.

BETH
You weren't making love.

They look at each other, a long beat, then away. He lies
back down. Beth doesn't look at him, keeps sitting up.

NICK
(finally)
I need a cigarette.

BETH
(after a beat)
I thought you quit.

He says nothing.

BETH (CONT'D)
Top drawer in the foyer.
(a beat)
Get it on your way out.

He looks at her; she won't look at him.

INT. THE DETECTIVE BUREAU - MORNING

He walks in. He looks hung-over. He sees Gus with Harrigan and Andrews and Lt. Walker in Lt. Walker's glass-enclosed office at the end of this big room.

They look at him when they see him.

LT. WALKER
You look like dogshit.

GUS
(grins)
He looks a little shrunk, that's all.

ANDREWS
(after a beat)
We got a call from Berkeley P.D. There was a killing. A professor. Icepick. In his bed. Multiple stab wounds. 1977.

NICK
(a thin smile)
She was there, wasn't she?

LT. WALKER
University records say she was there.

He and Nick look at each other a long beat, then --

LT. WALKER (CONT'D)
(suddenly)
Gus -- go over to Berkeley. Harrigan -- find out what else she's published. Andrews -- get the files on her parents' accident. Carbon Beth on everything. I want some psychological input on this Andrews and Harrigan go; Nick is left there with Gus.

NICK
What about me?

GUS
You're already gettin' psychological input, son.

LT. WALKER

(to Nick)

Go stick your head in a tub of ice water.

(a beat; then seriously)

See where she leads.

EXT. THE BEACH HOUSE AT STINSON - DAY

The black Ferrari is in the driveway. He sits in an unmarked police car on a hillside above the house, watching. It is a bleak, leaden gray day.

Catherine comes out of the house. She is dressed casually.

She gets into the Ferrari.

INT. HIS POLICE CAR

He stays behind her at a safe distance on the winding panoramic highway -- a two-lane mountain road which leads from Stinson Beach into Marin County.

She suddenly starts speeding up on this dangerous road, cutting in and out, passing cars very fast.

He has to start cutting around cars to keep up. This woman really drives.

He cuts out and can barely pass a car without hitting a Grey Lines Tour Bus head-on. Close call: sheer drops on either side.

He looks frazzled.

INT. HIS POLICE CAR

He is behind her at a distance on a hilly Mill Valley road -- little streets, terraced hillsides, sharp turns.

He goes slowly, looks around, thinks he's lost her. And then he sees the black Ferrari parked in front of a house obscured by hedges.

He parks the car a distance behind the Ferrari, sits there a long beat. He gets out, goes carefully up to the hedges, looks. A small, nondescript house. He watches. He can't see anything inside the house.

A beat, he reaches over to the mailbox and opens it. He takes an envelope out, looks at the name Hazel Dobkins.

INT. HIS POLICE CAR - NIGHT

He watches as she comes out of the house. A frail old woman in her 70's is with her. She hugs the old woman, gets into the Ferrari, STARTS it up.

He waits a beat and then STARTS after her. He stays behind her at a distance -- she is going slowly. And then she suddenly GUNS it, cuts her lights -- her wheels SCREECH.

He GUNS his car after her. He makes a turn. She is gone.

There is a fork in the road. He turns one way, goes a few hundred feet.

Nothing. Blackness. He stops.

NICK
(quietly)
Shit.

INT. HIS POLICE CAR - NIGHT

He pulls his car up to her house at Stinson Beach. The black Ferrari is in the driveway.

A light goes on in an upstairs bedroom. The curtain is drawn. He sees the outline of her body now.

She starts to take her clothes off -- there in the window, behind the curtain. He watches her body as she does an almost languorous strip. His eyes are intense... ravishing.

INT. THE DETECTIVE BUREAU - NIGHT

He is alone, nobody else in the big room.

He sits in front of a computer. We see the screen. He has punched in

HAZEL DOBKINS, WF, 145 ALBION RD., MILL VALLEY.

He is waiting for a response. We see it come on screen

NOTHING CURRENT.

A long beat, as he stares at the screen, and then we see these words

RELEASED, SAN QUENTIN, JULY 7, 1965.

We see him type in the words

PRIOR ARREST RECORD.

A long beat, and then it comes up

HOMICIDE, JANUARY 10, 1956 - SAN FRANCISCO

He stares at the screen a long beat.

GUS

(behind him)

Ain't you go nothin' better to do
than to come in here and jack off
the damn machine?

NICK

(after a beat; lost
in his thoughts)

What are you doing here, Pop?

GUS

(grins)

I came in here to jack off the damn
machine.

(a beat)

One dead psychology professor. Noah
Goldstein. Dr. Noah Goldstein. And
guess what? He was her counselor.

Nick looks at him a beat.

NICK

Was she ever suspect?

GUS

No, sir. They never even got a
statement from her.

Nick sits back a long beat, his eyes off somewhere.

NICK

(slowly)

Do you remember a case -- 1956 --
Hazel Dobkins?

GUS

(grins)

Hell yes! Couldn't get it outta my
head for years. Still can't.

(MORE)

GUS (CONT'D)

Nice little kids -- nice husband,
wasn't porkin' around -- no
financial problems. One day --
outta the clear blue sky -- she
does 'em. All of 'em. Used a
knife. He got for a wedding
present. Didn't even deny it.
Sweet as honey. Said she didn't
know why she done it.

Nick just stares at him.

EXT. THE STINSON BEACH HOUSE - NEXT DAY

He pulls up to the house, gets out of his unmarked police car. He stands there a beat, thinking. He walks down to the beach entrance of the house. He hears a Rolling Stones SONG playing inside. He stands there. The door suddenly opens. Catherine stands there, smiles. She wears very tight-fitting spandex leotards.

CATHERINE

Hi.

He looks at her a beat, then --

NICK

Am I... disturbing you?

CATHERINE

No. Come in.

They have their eyes on each other. A beat, and she turns to go in.

INT. THE STINSON BEACH HOUSE

She goes in ahead of him -- he follows her inside. He watches her body. His movements are tentative, off-balance. She turns the Stones DOWN.

On a table by the window, he sees a word processor. Spread around it are newspaper clippings. They are all about him.

We see the headline on one KILLER COP TO FACE POLICE REVIEW. She sees him glancing at the clips.

CATHERINE

I'm using you for my detective. In
my book. You don't mind, do you?

She smiles. He looks at her, expressionless.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
Would you like a drink? I was just
going to have one.

NICK
No, thanks.

She goes to the bar.

CATHERINE
(smiles)
That's right. You're off the Jack
Daniels too, aren't you?

She is making herself a drink. She takes the ice out and
then opens a drawer and gets an icepick. It has a fat wooden
end. She uses the icepick on the ice, her back to him. He
watches her.

NICK
I'd like to ask you a few more
questions.

CATHERINE
I'd like to ask you some, too.

She turns to him, icepick in hand, smiles.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
For my book.

She turns back to the ice, works on it with the pick. She
raises her arm, plunges it. Raises it, plunges it. He
watches her.

NICK
(wary)
What kind of questions?

She puts the icepick down, pours herself a drink, turns to
him.

CATHERINE
How does it feel to kill someone?

He looks at her a long beat.

NICK
(finally)
You tell me.

CATHERINE
I don't know. But you do.

Their eyes are on each other.

NICK
(finally)
It was an accident. They got in
the line of fire.

CATHERINE
Four shootings in five years. All
accidents.

NICK
(after a long beat)
They were drug buys. I was a vice
cop.

A long beat, as they look at each other.

NICK (CONT'D)
Tell me about Professor Goldstein.

BEAT.

CATHERINE
There's a name from the past.

NICK
You want a name from the present?
How about Hazel Dobkins?

She looks at him a long beat, sips her drink, never takes her
eyes off him.

CATHERINE
Noah was my counselor in my
freshman year.
(she smiles)
That's probably where I got the
idea for the icepick. For my book.
Funny how the subconscious works.
(a beat)
Hazel is my friend.

NICK
She wiped out her whole family.

CATHERINE
Yes. She's helped me understand
homicidal impulse.

NICK
Didn't you study it in school?

CATHERINE

Only in theory.

(she smiles)

You know all about homicidal impulse, don't you, shooter? Not in theory -- in practice.

He stares at her a long beat.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

(quietly)

What happened, Nick? Did you get sucked into it? Did you like it too much?

NICK

(after a beat)

No.

He stares at her, almost horrified.

CATHERINE

(quietly)

Tell me about the coke, Nick. The day you shot those two tourists -- how much coke did you do?

She steps closer to him.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Tell me, Nick.

She puts her hand softly on his cheek, He grabs her hand roughly, holds it.

NICK

I didn't.

CATHERINE

Yes, you did. They never tested you, did they? But Internal Affairs knew.

They are face to face. He is still holding her roughly by the hand.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Your wife knew, didn't she? She knew what was going on. Nicky got too close to the flame. Nicky liked it.

He twists her arm back behind her -- their bodies are pressed against each other -- their eyes digging into each other.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 (in a whisper)
 That's why she killed herself?

He is twisting her arm, staring at her, pulling her against him. We hear the DOOR behind them. A beat, and he lets her go, turns away from her.

Roxy stands there, staring at them. Her hair is up. She wears a black motorcycle jacket, a black T-shirt, and black jeans and cowboy boots.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 (brightly)
 Hiya, hon. You two have met,
 haven't you?

Roxy looks at Nick. Catherine goes to her, kisses her briefly on the lips, stands there with her arm around her -- both of them looking at Nick.

He walks by them, opens the door to go, his face a mask.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 You're going to make a terrific
 character, Nick.

He doesn't look at her; he's gone.

INT. BETH GARDNER'S OFFICE - DAY

He comes in. He looks like he's going to kill someone. A RECEPTIONIST sits there.

RECEPTIONIST
 She's on the phone -- she'll be
 right with you, detective --He
 sweeps by her into Beth's inner
 office. She hangs up when she sees
 the look on his face.

NICK
 Who has access to my file?

BETH
 What are you talking about, Nick --
 what's wrong with you?

NICK
 Who's got access to my goddamn
 file?

She gets up -- he goes closer to her; she backs away from him.

BETH

Nobody.

He goes closer to her; she backs away.

BETH (CONT'D)

It's a confidential psychiatric record, it'd be illegal --She backs into a wall. She looks very scared. He comes very close to her -
- puts an arm behind her to the wall.

NICK

Don't, Beth. Don't lie to me.

She says nothing, looks scared.

NICK (CONT'D)

(suddenly)

It's Internal Affairs, isn't it?

BETH

No, Nick, please --

NICK

(loud, hard)

Who?

BETH

(blurts it)

Nilsen.

INT. THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION - DAY

He storms into the big room. He sees MARTY NILSEN. He is sitting behind his desk in his glass-enclosed office inside this big room. About a dozen plainclothes policemen are in the big room. He goes by them into Nilsen's office.

INT. MARTIN NILSEN'S OFFICE

He closes the door. Nilsen sees the look on his face, backs his chair away towards the wall.

NILSEN

What do you want, Curran?

He goes to him, picks him up by his lapels, slams him against the wall.

NICK
(out of control)
You sold her the file, didn't you?

NILSEN
(scared)
What are you talking about?

NICK
(out of control)
What'd she pay you?

He slams him against the wall again. The glass EXPLODES behind them -- a chair comes into the room. Nick is frozen, holding Nilsen by the throat against the wall.

ONE OF THE I.A. GUYS
Let him go, Curran. Nice and easy.

He looks back, sees two Internal Affairs men with their guns drawn, pointed at him. A beat, and he lets Nilsen go. He turns calmly and starts to walk out.

NILSEN
You're on sick leave, Shooter. As of right now. Pending the outcome of a psychiatric evaluation.

EXT. THE POLICE PARKING LOT - DUSK

He gets into his old Porsche. He STARTS the car up. Gus Moran comes up to the window. They look at each other a

GUS
What's goin' down, son?

NICK
Nothin'
(a beat)
I'll be okay, pop.

They look at each other a long beat.

GUS
No, sir. You won't. There's smoke off yonder on the horizon. They're gonna want your badge.

NICK
(after a long beat)
I got tired of being played with.

GUS
(after a beat)
You sure got real conclusive ways
of demonstrating that.

They almost smile at each other, then --

NICK
(almost to himself)
She knows where I live and breathe.
She's coming after me.

GUS
(after a long beat)
What is it you got between you?

NICK
(after a beat; to
himself)
I don't know.

GUS
Somethin', though.

A beat, and then Nick looks at him.

NICK
Yeah.
(a beat)
Somethin'.

INT. HIS APARTMENT - NIGHT

He sits in front of the TV, watching a lame sitcom. A bottle of Jack Daniels is half-empty in front of him. He is smoking a cigarette.

BETH
(behind him)
I still have my key.

He looks at her, looks away at the sitcom.

NICK
I don't want to see you, Beth.

He keeps watching the sitcom. A long beat.

BETH
 (suddenly angry)
 Damn it! Don't shut me out! You
 owe me more than that?

He goes to the TV, shuts it off.

NICK
 I don't owe you anything; you don't
 owe me anything.
 (he looks at her)
 We went to bed -- what was it? --
 ten or fifteen times?
 (he smiles)
 It wasn't memorable enough to carry
 any obligations.

BETH
 (after a long beat)
 Sometimes I really hate you.

NICK
 (smiles)
 Yeah? Well why don't you find some
 friendly therapist and work some of
 that hostility out.
 (a beat)
 But take my advice. Put a little
 more life into it than you usually
 do.

A beat, and she suddenly hurls herself at him in absolute
 fury, trying to claw at his face. He grabs her, blocks her.
 They look at each other a long beat and then he lets her go.

The emotion of the moment is gone now -- they turn away from
 each other.

BETH
 (finally)
 I'm sorry... I don't usually... act
 like that.

Nick looks at her a beat.

NICK
 How could you let him have my file,
 Beth?

A long beat, then --

BETH
 (not looking at him)
 He was going to recommend your
 discharge a behavioral disability.
 I made a deal with him. He could
 review the session notes himself.
 It was the only way I could keep
 you on the force.

She looks at him. He looks away from her.

NICK
 You did it for me.

BETH
 Yes. I care about you. I did it
 for you.

He turns away from her.

NICK
 (quietly)
 Get out of here, Beth.
 (a beat)
 Please?

He goes to the Jack Daniel's, pours some more. She looks at
 him pour it and turns to go.

INT. HIS APARTMENT - NIGHT

He is asleep on the couch -- the TV is on to a blank screen.
 The Jack Daniel's is mostly gone. The phone on the coffee
 table RINGS. It RINGS again. He wakes, picks it up,
 listens.

NICK
 Yeah.
 (a beat)
 Okay.

He hangs it up. He sits there a long beat, staring. He
 looks disturbed.

EXT. THE ALLEY BEHIND THE TEN-FOUR BAR - NIGHT

He walks down the alley. There are lots of police cars,
 flashing lights, uniformed men, coroner's men.

As he walks down the alley, he sees Lt. Walker, Gus, and several of the Internal Affairs men we saw earlier in Nilsen's office. They are standing around a Lincoln Town Car.

They look at him as he comes closer to them -- then move aside.

He can see into the car now. Martin Nilsen lies against the front seat. He has been shot in the head. Nick stares.

GUS

One shot. Close range. Probably a .38 caliber revolver.

Nick stares at Nilsen's body. They watch him.

LT. WALKER

Give me your gun, Nick.

A beat, and then Nick gives him his gun. Walker smells it, shakes his head, gives it to one of the Internal Affairs men.

NICK

(to Walker)

You think I --

GUS

I don't son, but I got the minority opinion.

INT. POLICE INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

He sits in the same room that Catherine sat in --surrounded by four or five Internal Affairs men, Lt.

Walker, Gus, and Captain Talcott. Lt. Walker and Gus sort of sit back -- I.A. is running the investigation. The same police stenographer -- the same plain young woman -- is sitting in the room who was there with Catherine.

NICK

Okay. I went after him. I lost my temper.

AN I.A. MAN

Do you have any evidence that he showed your psychiatric file to anyone?

NICK

(after a beat)

No.

Beth Gardner comes into the room. They look at her.

AN I.A. MAN
We'll speak to you afterwards, Dr.
Gardner.

Nick gives her a look.

BETH
I'd like to sit-in if you don't
mind.

THE I.A. MAN
I'd really rather --

TALCOTT
I don't see anything wrong with Dr.
Gardner sitting-in if Detective
Curran doesn't object.

Nick looks at her, shrugs.

AN I.A. MAN
Where were you tonight?

NICK
Home. Watching TV.

AN I.A. MAN
All night?

NICK
Yeah.

AN I.A. MAN
Were you drinking?

He looks at Beth.

NICK
Yeah, I was drinking.

AN I.A. MAN
When did you start drinking again?

NICK
(after a beat)
A couple days ago.

BETH
I saw Detective Curran at his
apartment around ten o'clock. He
was sober and lucid.

(MORE)

BETH (CONT'D)

I asked him in my capacity as his departmental therapist about his altercation with Lt. Nilsen. He expressed regret and displayed no hostility.

AN I.A. MAN

(to Beth)

How long were you at his apartment?

BETH

About fifteen minutes. I saw there was no reason for my concern and left.

She and Nick look at each other. He looks away and lights a cigarette.

AN I.A. MAN

There's no smoking in this building.

NICK

(after a beat)

What are you gonna do -- charge me with smoking?

It is the exact line that Catherine used. A long beat.

LT. WALKER

I'll ask you once, Nick -- for the record did you kill him?

NICK

No.

They look at him a beat.

NICK (CONT'D)

Come on -- I'm going to storm into his office in front of everybody in the afternoon and then that night I'm going to kill him? I'd have to be really dumb to do that.

AN I.A. MAN

Going after him before gets you off the hook for killing him that's your alibi.

LT. WALKER

Like writing a book about killing a guy gets you off the hook for killing him.

AN I.A. MAN

(to Walker)

I don't understand. What are you talking about? What book?

LT. WALKER

(to Nick)

Private joke.

NICK

I don't think it's funny.

GUS

(grins)

Well, hell, son, it's got a certain ring to it, I'll say that.

INT. POLICE DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

He is by the elevators with Gus and Lt. Andrews. He spots Beth going for the stairway.

NICK

(to Lt. Andrews)

I'll get my stuff tomorrow.

INT. THE STAIRWAY

NICK

Beth.

She stops. He catches up to her. They walk down the flights together. They speak quietly.

NICK (CONT'D)

Thank you.

She looks at him, smiles. They keep walking down the steps.

BETH

It's the least I could do... considering I got you into this mess with those reports.

NICK

(smiles)

No. I mean it, thank you.

She looks at him, smiles.

BETH
How do you know Catherine Tramell
saw my reports?

NICK
She knows stuff about me that only
you know.

BETH
(after a beat)
She must really be something.
(she smiles)
From a clinical point of view.

NICK
What was she like in school?

BETH
I hardly knew her. She gave me the
creeps, though. I don't know why.

EXT. THE BUILDING - NIGHT

They get outside. Beth kisses him quickly, softly on the
cheek.

BETH
Get some rest. Promise?

He nods. She starts walking toward her car.

NICK
Beth. I didn't mean what I said.
About --

BETH
(smiles)
Yes you did. I'm a big girl. I
can handle it.

She goes to her car.

INT. THE DETECTIVE BUREAU - NEXT DAY

He is cleaning his desk out, putting things into a duffel
bag. Only Andrews is in the room. We see Lt. Walker sitting
in his glass-enclosed office.

He closes the duffel bag, looks at the place a long beat.

Andrews is watching him. He goes up to Andrews

ANDREWS
 (after a beat)
 Take care, you hear?

NICK
 (after a beat)
 Did you find out about her parents?

ANDREWS
 You're on leave, man.
 (a beat)
 You're on psycho leave. I'm
 talking to a possible whacko here.

NICK
 You know I'm whacko, Sam, what'd
 you find?

A beat, and Andrews opens the file.

ANDREWS
 The boat blew. There was a leak in
 the gas line. There were two
 previous repairs. There was a five-
 mil policy on both of 'em. A real
 heavy investigation. Zilch. Goose-
 egg. It was an accident.

NICK
 (after a beat)
 Thanks.

He sees Lt. Walker looking at him. He goes into Walker's
 office.

LT. WALKER
 I.A.'s going to talk to you more
 about Nilsen. They're handling the
 investigation, we're not. Stay in
 touch with Dr. Gardner, it'll help
 on the evaluation.

NICK
 (after a beat)
 She killed him.

LT. WALKER
 Beth? Now you've got Beth killing
 people?

NICK
 Catherine Tramell. It's part of
 her game.

LT. WALKER

First you've got her buying your file. Now you've got her killing Nilsen. Forget her, willya? Go someplace. Sit in the sun. Get away from this goddamn fog. Get her out of your system.

NICK

You don't but it, do you? She knew nobody would but it.

(he smiles)

She knew I'd say she did it. And she knew nobody would buy it.

Lt. Walker looks at him a long beat.

LT. WALKER

She's screwing with your head, Nick. Pretty soon you're gonna look in the mirror and think you're seeing her.

EXT. HIS APARTMENT

It is in the Marina District; on a street like Cervantes.

He gets out of his old Porsche; he sees her black Ferrari there. She is sitting on the front stoop. She wears an Indian jacket, jeans and a T-shirt. He goes up to her. She looks at him a beat.

CATHERINE

I heard about what happened. What good's a shooter without his gun?

She smiles.

NICK

(a beat)

How exactly did you hear?

CATHERINE

(after a beat)

I have attorneys. They have friends. I have friends. Money buys you a lot of attorneys and friends.

NICK

(after a beat)

I don't know about that I don't have any money I don't have any attorneys Gus is my only real friend.

CATHERINE

(smiles)

I wasn't talking about real friends. Why doesn't Gus like me.

NICK

(after a beat)

I like you.

CATHERINE

Do you?

NICK

(smiles)

Yeah. Would you like to come up and have a drink?

She looks at him a beat.

CATHERINE

I didn't think you'd ask me.

He looks at her a beat.

NICK

(smiles)

I'm not that easy to figure.

They start walking inside. She walks ahead of him. He watches her. She turns suddenly.

CATHERINE

You're not easy to figure. I'm just very good at figuring.

NICK

(after a beat)

Don't get too cocky.

CATHERINE

Why not?

NICK

You can make a mistake.

CATHERINE
 (smiles)
 Not me.

And she turns, heads inside; he follows her.

INT. HIS APARTMENT - DAY

They walk in. She looks at the bareness of the place.

CATHERINE
 You should put some warmth into it.
 You don't want it to reflect on
 your personality.

She turns, smiles at him. He looks at the bottle of Jack Daniel's; there's not much left.

NICK
 Jack Daniel's okay? It's gonna
 have to be.

CATHERINE
 Fine.

NICK
 Ice?

CATHERINE
 (smiles)
 Please.

There is a palpable tension between them.

He takes the ice out, opens a drawer, takes out an icepick.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 Let me do that. You like to watch
 me doing it, don't you?

She smiles; a beat and he hands her the icepick. She takes it, starts to use the icepick, her back to him. He lights a cigarette.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 Can I have a cigarette, please? I
 told you you'd start smoking again.

He watches her working on the ice.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 Light it for me, will you?

He does, steps to her. She parts her lips -- he puts it on her lip, watches it. Their eyes are on each other.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Thank you.

She works on the ice again, opens the cabinets for glasses.

NICK

What did you pay Nilsen?

CATHERINE

(doesn't look at
him)

Isn't he the policeman that you
shot, Shooter?

She makes the drinks.

NICK

What if I asked you not to call me
Shooter?

CATHERINE

What if I call you Nicky?

NICK

(after a beat)
My wife used to call me that.

CATHERINE

(smiles)
I know, Nicky, but I like it.

She hands him his drink, holds hers.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Cheers. My friends call me
Catherine.

NICK

What did Bobby Vasquez used to call
you?

CATHERINE

Bitch mostly, but he meant it
affectionately. You don't have any
coke, do you? I love coke and Jack
Daniel's.

NICK

(after a beat)
There's Pepsi in the fridge.

CATHERINE

(smiles)

It's not the same thing, is it?

They look at each other a long beat, their eyes very involved.

NICK

(quietly)

Where's it going? What do you want from me?

Their faces are close together.

CATHERINE

Say -- "What do you want from me, Catherine?"

NICK

(after a beat,
quietly)

What do you want from me, Catherine?

A beat, and she suddenly turns away.

CATHERINE

(brightly)

I brought you something.

She goes to her purse, takes a paperback book out of it. We see it -- The First Time, by Catherine Smith. He looks at it.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

(smiles)

Aren't you going to thank me?

NICK

What's it about?

CATHERINE

A boy kills his parents. They have a plane. He makes it look like an accident.

He stares at her. A long beat, then --

NICK

Why does he do it?

CATHERINE

To see if he can get away with it.

They look at each other a beat.

NICK
When did you write it?

CATHERINE
(after a beat)
You mean did I write it before my
parents died?

NICK
Yes.

CATHERINE
No. I wrote it years afterwards.

He watches her; she has turned away from him -- and then she
turns back to him in a different mood.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
(smiles)
You're not going to stop following
me around now just because you're
on leave -- are you?

NICK
(after a beat)
No.

CATHERINE
Good. I'd miss you.
(a beat)
You can get into trouble, though.
You're not really a cop anymore.

NICK
I'll risk it.

CATHERINE
Why take the risk?

NICK
To see if I can get away with it.

She looks at him; she smiles.

NICK (CONT'D)
How's your new book?

CATHERINE
I'm getting deeper and deeper into
my character.

They look at each other a long beat.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
Thanks for the drink.

He nods, say nothing as she goes to the door --

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
I'm leaving the house around
midnight. In case you're going to
follow me.
(a beat)
I'm going down to Johnny's club.

NICK
(after a beat)
I'll meet you there.

She looks at him a long beat; and she's gone.

INT. THE STAIRWAY

As she is going down the stairs, Gus Moran is coming up.
He does a real double-take as he goes by her.

CATHERINE
(smiles)
Hi, Gus.

He looks at him a long beat, and he goes upstairs, into
Nick's apartment.

INT. NICK'S APARTMENT

Nick stands at the window, watching her outside. A long
beat, and he looks at Gus.

GUS
(after a beat)
Forgive me for askin', son, and I
don't mean to belabor the obvious,
but why is it that you've got your
head so far up your own ass?

NICK
(after a beat)
She want to play? Fine. I can
play.

GUS
(after a beat)
Everybody that she plays with dies.

NICK
(after a beat,
quietly)
I know what that's like.

INT. JOHNNY BOZ'S CLUB - NIGHT

It is dark, cavernous there are a thousand people in here. The MUSIC is ear-splitting, pulsing. Lights flash.

The floor is huge. At one time, this club was a church.

He walks around the sides, a drink in his hand, looking for her. He doesn't see her.

The he catches a glimpse of Roxy. She is dancing with another woman. He watches her. She is wearing pants and a jacket, her hair off to the side. She looks very masculine tonight.

Roxy laughs at the other woman, leaves her on the floor, starts moving through the sea of dancers. He follows her through the press of bodies. She goes towards the men's room. She walks in.

INT. THE MEN'S ROOM

It is large, dark, shadowy It was once the sacristy.

A crowd scene men and women. Roxy presses through them.

A haze of crack smoke; we see people doing poppers.

She opens the door to a toilet stall, walks in. Nick is behind her. As the door opens, he sees Catherine.

She wears a black motorcycle jacket, a very short skirt, stiletto heels. Her hair is up. He make-up is severe, In the darkness, in the shadows she looks about 19. A hot 19.

A hot flash-trash 19.

She is in there with two men -- one of them is a big, body-built black guy. She has a vial of something near her face.

She sees Nick watching her. She whispers something to the tall black guy. He looks at Nick, smiles a condescending smile.

The door to the stall closes

INT. THE CLUB

He is walking along the side, watching the floor, a drink in his hand. The song ends and it seques right into the Stones's "Miss You."

He sees her. Her black leather jacket is off.

She wears a very tight, flimsy top, the short skirt, the heels. She is dancing with Roxy and the black guy. He watches her move... watches her body.

She turns, sees him, dances, watches him... gets between Roxy and the black guy... they sandwich her with their bodies... keeps moving, turning... eyes on him... playing to him with her body. He watches.

A long beat, and he goes up to them. His movements are almost trance-like. They look at each other. A long beat.

Catherine stops dancing. he reaches for her. She moves away. A beat their eyes are on each other. She moves a step towards her. A beat, as they look at each other... and they start to move together.

Their eyes are on each other as they move, the eyes burning... the movements tighter, hotter... and he suddenly grabs her and kisses her... as they keep moving... the song seques into the Stones's "Gimme Shelter."

She is melting into him now, kissing him... Tex watches, expressionless... the black guy is gone... he holds her by the back of the neck, kissing her... their bodies pressed into each other... his hands are on her butt now, pulling her into him now, almost holding her up now... and then under her skirt, under her panties... as he kisses her neck.

People around them stare... he moves his hands under her top as she keeps moving with the song, her head back, her back almost arching... cups her breasts now... she keeps moving... the song sweeping them into its rhythm "it's just a shot away, it's just a kiss away, a kiss away..."

They devour each other. Right there on the floor. Barely able to hold it back. As Tex watches expressionless. As people stop dancing and stare.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HER BEDROOM

It is dark. We can't see clearly. A side table, lines of cocaine on a small mirror. A CD player The Stones play "Love In Vain."

There are mirrors all over the walls and ceiling. They are in bed. The bed is big and brass.

Atop her... he kisses her neck... his hands under her, raising her... he moves down, kisses her breasts... puts his mouth around a breast... she arches, moves... he kisses her shoulder... biting into it... she opens her mouth... we hear no cry... we hear the Stones.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HER BEDROOM - LATER

The Stones play "Monkey Man."

Atop him... she kisses his chest, licks it, lowers her head... lower... lower... he arches his back... her mouth comes up... her mouth on his lips again... he turns her. Atop her... he moves her legs apart... (the CAMERA is behind them)... she holds his back... digs in her nails... rakes his back with them... digs in again... his back bleeds... he moves inside her... harder... the nails dig... blood trickles down his back.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HER BEDROOM - LATER

The Stones play "Wild Horses."

He is behind her... she is on her stomach... he rises her by her hips... kisses her back... races her spine with his tongue... traces her lower back... he kneels... moves into her... kisses her neck... his fingers are in her mouth... as he moves.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HER BEDROOM - LATER

The Stones play "Sympathy for the Devil."

Atop him... she leans close over his face, her tongue in his mouth... kneeling over him... she moves his arms above his head... moves higher atop him... her breasts in his face...

she reaches over to the side... a white silk scarf is in her hand... she moves higher above him... kneeling over his face... moving oh-so-slightly... his face strains towards her.

The scarf in both hands now... she starts to tie his hands with it... his eyes are open, watching her... she ties it loosely, gently... it isn't tight... but his hands are tied to the brass bed.

She kisses him... moving her hips lower now... over his chest... lower...

And he is inside her... her arms above him... his eyes open... she kisses his neck... bites but not hard... moves... grinding hard against him now.. she is on her knees... head arches back.. her breasts high.. still grinding.

Her back arches, strains... he strains toward her... she holds her arms high... she comes out of the arch... shivering... falling over him... the scarf loosens... his arms come forward and hold her close.. closer... closer... as she moves with slight... shivery... movements.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HER BEDROOM - NIGHT

It is dark, quiet. Pindrop quiet. He is sitting on the side of the bed, his head down... his back a line tracing of dried blood. She is asleep nest to him, naked.

He looks around the room. The white scarf around the bedpost... the coke on the side-table... clothes all over the floor.

He gets up, walks into the bathroom.

INT. HER BEDROOM - NIGHT

The light is too bright. He looks at himself in the mirror. He pours the water, lowers his head, puts cold water on his face. A long beat, he comes back up, opens his eyes. Roxy is in the mirror behind him. She startles him.

He looks at her in the mirror a long beat, doesn't turn.

She is expressionless; she wears the same thing she wore at the club.

He lowers down into the basin again, puts more water on his face, comes back up, uses a towel this time, finishes with the towel. She is still looking at him in the mirror the same way. He looks at her in the mirror, doesn't turn.

ROXY
 (quietly)
 If you don't leave her alone, I'll
 kill you.

He looks at her a beat, then turns --

NICK
 Tell me something, Rocki. Man-to-
 man.
 (he smiles)
 I think she's the fuck of the
 century, don't you?

For a second, she looks like she's going to spring at him, then controls it and turns to go.

NICK (CONT'D)
 How long you been here, Rock? You
 like to watch, do you?

ROXY
 (after a beat, looks
 at him)
 She likes me to watch.

And she turns and she is gone.

INT. HER BEDROOM - NIGHT

He lies on the bed in the dark, quiet room. He is on his back, his eyes open. He has his arm around her. She is asleep.

CATHERINE
 (murmurs)
 Nicky.

He looks at her.

INT. HER BEDROOM - MORNING

He wakes up. She is not there. He looks around. The white scarf is gone. The coke on the side table is gone.

In its place, a scrawled note "The Beach -- C."

EXT. HER STINSON BEACH HOUSE - DAY

A cold and foggy day. He gets out of his old Porsche, walks down the driveway. He sees her out on the beach by the water. A small bonfire is near her. He walks towards her.

Roxy watches him, expressionless, from an upstairs window of the house. He doesn't see her.

He walks up to Catherine. She has an Indian blanket over her and is wearing a black felt English derby hat, her hair loose underneath.

NICK
(expressionless)
'Morning.

She doesn't look at him -- he smiles slowly. She doesn't smile and she doesn't seem to like his smile, either. She walks along the beach. He walks with her. A long beat.

NICK (CONT'D)
I think Roxy got jealous.

She looks at him. He looks like he is trying to hide a smile.

CATHERINE
(after a beat)
She's seen me fuck plenty of other
guys.

That wipes the hidden smile off his face. He looks at her, walks with her. A long beat.

NICK
Maybe she saw something she didn't
see before.

CATHERINE
She's seen everything before.

She looks at him; he's smiling now.

NICK
She's never seen us before.

He's serious. She looks at him. She smiles slowly.

CATHERINE
Did you think it was so special?

NICK

I told her it was the fuck of the century.

He can't hide his smile anymore. She says nothing, keeps walking.

NICK (CONT'D)

(after a beat)

What did you think?

CATHERINE

I thought it was a pretty good beginning.

They look at each other. They keep walking. A long beat.

NICK

How about Roxy? Is she a fuck of the century, too?

CATHERINE

(after a beat)

Do you want her to join us sometime?

He looks at her: she's serious.

NICK

I didn't mean for me -- I meant for you.

She looks at him.

CATHERINE

I'm not as judgmental about women as I am about men.

They keep walking. A long beat.

NICK

How's your shoulder?

CATHERINE

Fine. How's your back?

NICK

It hurts.

She stops, looks at him. A long beat.

CATHERINE

We're alike, you know.

A beat, he looks at her --

NICK

Are you kidding? You think this is my idea of morning-after conversation?

CATHERINE

(keeps walking)

Do you want personal insights and adolescent secrets? I don't do those.

They keep walking.

NICK

You mean getting inside you isn't going to get me any deeper into your character.

She looks at him. A beat. She smiles slowly.

CATHERINE

Not unless you confuse my character with my body parts.

They keep walking. A long beat.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Were you frightened, Nicky?

He looks at her.

NICK

(after a beat)

I thought that business with the scarf was pretty nifty.

CATHERINE

I told you I had a vivid imagination.

They look at each other. A long beat.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

You shouldn't play this game.

NICK

(after a beat)

I don't have a choice.

Their eyes are into each other.

CATHERINE
(after a beat)
You're in over your head.

NICK
(after a beat)
I know.

A long beat. They look at each other.

CATHERINE
I've got a book to write. I'll see
you around, Shooter.

A beat, and she walks away towards the house. He watches her.

INT. A COUNTRY AND WESTERN BAR - NIGHT

Nick walks in. Waylon Jennings is on the JUKEBOX. Gus is sitting at the bar wearing jeans, a cowboy shirt, and a cowboy hat.

Nick goes, sits next to him.

NICK
(grins)
What is this place? Hillbilly
heaven?

He glances around.

GUS
(loud)
Where in the fuck you been? I went
over to your place.

He is drunk, slurring. Nick sees it.

NICK
Easy there, partner -- I wasn't
there.

GUS
I went over last night, too.

NICK
(grins)
I wasn't there last night, either.

Gus takes a long, drunken look at him.

GUS
 You... fucked her! Goddamn dumb
 sonofabitch... You fucked her!
 Goddamn, you are one dumb
 sonofabitch --

NICK
 (trying to quiet
 him)
 I'm not gonna get AIDS, pop --don't
 worry about it. I always use a
 rubber.

GUS
 (loud)
 I don't give a... flyin'... chili-
 bean... fart about AIDS!

NICK
 (grins; quietly)
 You oughta use a rubber, pop. You
 really should.

GUS
 (loud)
 What in the hell for? You think
 I'm gettin' any at my age? I don't
 like blue-haired women. I don't
 like 'em.

NICK
 (straight)
 You don't like punk rockers?

GUS
 (loud)
 Say what?

INT. A DINER - NIGHT

Gus is eating chili, drinking coffee. Hick keeps pouring him
 more coffee.

NICK
 (grins)
 You feeling better?

GUS
 (loud)
 I feel fine!

Nick pours him more coffee; Gus guzzles it.

GUS (CONT'D)
 (loud)
 How could you fuck her?

It gets some looks from the other people in her -- Nick shushes him, pours him more coffee. He drinks it.

GUS (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 You wanna die, son? What is it -- those goddamn tourists -- you still feel so bad about that you're wigglin' your way into an icepi --
 (suddenly louder)
 We got too many goddamn tourists comin' here anyway -- plenty more goddamn tourists where they goddamn came from.

Some people here really give him the looks now. Gus looks angrily away from them, drinks more coffee.

NICK
 (after a beat;
 quietly)
 I'm not afraid of her.

GUS
 (loud)
 Why the hell not?

NICK
 I don't know. I'm just not.

GUS
 (loud)
 That's her pussy talkin' --He gets a real nasty look from a very fat woman eating a cheeseburger. He winks at her. The woman looks away from him, shaking her head.

GUS (CONT'D)
 (smiles; to Nick)
 It ain't your brain.

They look at each other a long beat. Gus drinks more coffee. He sits back, pulls his cowboy hat over his eyes.

A long beat.

GUS (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 I.A. done did a track on Lt.
 (MORE)

GUS (CONT'D)

Martin D for Dickhead Nilsen. They found a safety deposit box with fifty- thousand dollars in it, taken out three months ago, used that one time.

He looks at the fat woman again -- leers at her obscenely.

She looks away.

NICK

(after a long beat)

It doesn't make sense. She didn't know me three months ago.

GUS

Maybe it wasn't her that paid him. Maybe the money was for somethin' else. How the fuck do I know? I'm just an old city cowboy tryin' not to fall outta his saddle.

Nick looks at him and smiles a thin smile; he's not there, he's completely preoccupied.

INT. A CAR - NIGHT

Someone is watching as he and Gus come out of the diner.

EXT. THE STREET - NIGHT

He stands by Gus as Gus gets into his battered, rusted, vintage Cadillac.

NICK

You all right, pop? You want me to drive you?

GUS

In that little pissant car of yours? Hell, no. I ain't gettin' no back pain disability retirement - I'm gettin' me a full pension and a real gold-plate Seiko watch.

NICK

Come on, I'll drive you in this thing.

GUS

You think I'd let you drive my Cadillac car?

(MORE)

GUS (CONT'D)
I ain't lettin' no hear-up-his-ass
person drive my Cadillac car.

And he steps on the gas and ROARS out of there, forcing Nick to get out of the way. Nick looks after him a long beat, shakes his head.

INT. A CAR - NIGHT

Someone is following him slowly as he walks down the street. He turns a corner, walks down the alley towards his Porsche, parked behind the country and western bar.

The car suddenly speeds up -- ROARS down on him from the back, full bore.

EXT. THE ALLEY

He hurls himself across the Porsche's hood... barely avoiding the car. He sees the car at the end of the alley, turning out. It is a black Ferrari.

INT. HIS PORSCHE

He GUNS it down the alley, makes a wild turn in the direction the Ferrari turned.

EXT. THE STREET

The Porsche dodges around cars very fast, almost side-swiping them, looking almost out of control, its MOTOR screaming.

INT. THE PORSCHE

He sees the Ferrari turn ahead. When he gets to where it turned, he turns wildly.

EXT. THE STREET

The Ferrari is making fast, wild turns into little streets in North Beach, its MOTOR screaming -- the Porsche is gaining ground behind it, making turns.

INT. THE PORSCHE

The Ferrari is up ahead and makes a wild right turn onto a road going up a hillside. He yanks the wheel hard.

EXT. THE STEPS

The Porsche rockets up the steps -- bouncing high into the air, almost out of control.

INT. THE PORSCHE

As it crests the steps and gets to the street. Nick GUNS it and it looks like it flies high down the hill-side into blackness.

EXT. THE STREET

But it lands on more steps -- heading downward -- bucking, almost spinning, it bounces onto the next street.

INT. THE PORSCHE

Another set of steps leading up he GUNS it, it rockets up, ROARS, bucking --

EXT. THE STREET

And lands on the next street. Nick makes a wild right turn onto the street. And the black Ferrari appears from around a curve to the right, heading right for him.

INT. THE PORSCHE

Nick steps on the GAS and heads head-on for the Ferrari. The Ferrari SCREAMS head-on for him.

EXT. THE STREET

And at the last moment, in the game of chicken, the Ferrari tries to swerve around him on this narrow road, goes out of control and over the side, turning over and over as it rolls down the hillside.

EXT. THE HILLSIDE

The Ferrari has landed right-side up.

He runs down the hillside and gets to it. A beat, and he opens the car door.

Roxy lies hunched over the wheel, her eyes open. Her neck is broken. She is dead.

EXT. THE HILLSIDE - NIGHT

Police lights have been set up. He stands there with Lt. Walker and several of the Internal Affairs men.

LT. WALKER

Tell me again. I want to hear you say it again.

NICK

(after a beat;
sheepish)
It was an accident.

LT. WALKER

You're driving around North Beach for no particular reason and this car won't get out of the way --

NICK

I don't think she meant to go off the hill, do you?

LT. WALKER

(quietly)
Don't fuck with me, Nick. I don't need a reason to put your ass in a sling.

He and Nick look at each other a long beat. Andrews comes up to them with a piece of paper in his hand.

ANDREWS

Full name, Roxanne Hardy. Last address -- Cloverdale, California. No priors, no convictions. The car is registered to Catherine Tramell.

Lt. Walker looks at Nick like he's going to kill him. Nick looks calmly away.

LT. WALKER

You knew her, didn't you?

NICK

Gus and I talked to her at Tramell's house. All we did was write her name down.

LT. WALKER
 (after a beat)
 I told you to stay away from
 Tramell.

NICK
 (after a beat; smiles)
 Yeah. But you didn't tell me to
 stay away from her car.

Walker looks at him in absolute disbelief.

AN I.A. MAN
 I want you in Dr. Gardner's office
 at nine o'clock. You're out of
 control, Curran.

NICK
 (to the I.A. Man)
 Who are you guys gonna sell my file
 to this time?

They stare at him. He watches as Roxy's body is taken away.

INT. A POLICE CONFERENCE ROOM -DAY

He walks in. He looks good, in control. Beth Gardner is sitting there with two middle-aged MEN, both of them wearing suits, who smile and scrutinize him the instant he walks in the door.

BETH
 Hello, Nick. This is Dr. Myron and
 R. McElwaine. They've been asked
 to consult with me on this
 evaluation.

They shake hands with him.

DR. MYRON
 Sit down, Nick.

Nick gives him a look: What did he think he was going to do -- stand there?

He sits down, looks at them. A beat, as they look at him, then --

DR. MCELWAIN
 (courtly)
 Nick -- when you recollect your
 childhood, are your recollections
 pleasing to you?

Nick looks at them a long beat in disbelief.

NICK

(calmly, directly)

Number one I don't remember how often I used to jack off, but it was a lot. Number two I didn't get pissed off at my dad -- even after I was old enough to know what he and mom were doing in the bedroom. Number three I don't look in the toilet before I flush it. Number four I don't wet the bed and haven't for some time. Number five You can go fuck yourselves because I'm out of here.

INT. THE CORRIDOR

He is walking away quickly. Beth is with him, trying to keep up. She is very angry.

BETH

What is your problem? I'm trying to help you. Why won't you let me help you?

NICK

I don't need any help.

BETH

Yes you do. Something's on with you.

(a beat)

You're sleeping with her, aren't you?

A beat, he stops looks at her, then keeps walking.

NICK

What is this interest you've got in her?

BETH

My interest is in you, not in her. She seduces people, she manipulates

--

NICK

I thought you hardly know her.

BETH
I know the type. I'm a
psychologist.

He stops, looks at her.

NICK
(after a beat)
That means you manipulate people
too, doesn't it, Beth? You're a
practicing psychologist -- that
means you're better at it than she
is.

She looks at him a long beat.

BETH
(quietly)
I feel sorry for you, Nick.

A beat, and she turns and walks away.

EXT. ROAD TO STINSON HOUSE - DAY

Nick is driving down winding road to Stinson house. He is driving very fast, passing other cars on the winding and twisting road.

INT. THE STINSON BEACH HOUSE - DAY

Nick enters and shuts door. Looking around, he does not see her.

NICK
Catherine!
(after a beat)
Catherine!

Finally he sees her sitting by the window. He walks over to her.

CATHERINE
(near tears)
I should have known. I came into
the house when you were down on the
beach. She looked at me so
strangely. She left right after
you.
(a beat)
I shouldn't have let her watch us.
(MORE)

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
She wanted to watch me all the
time. She tried to kill you,
didn't she?

NICK
(a beat)
Did you like her to watch?

CATHERINE
(a long beat)
Do you think I told her to kill
You?

NICK
(softly, with
intensity)
No.

CATHERINE
(after a beat, near
tears)
Everybody that I care about dies.

She is about to break into uncontrollable sobbing. Nick puts
his arms around her.

NICK
(soothing)
It's OK. It's OK.

CATHERINE
(quietly, almost
begging)
Make love to me.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

They are seen rolling and turning around on each other.

Their love making is sensual, sincere.

Later in bed.

NICK
(calmly, but
seriously)
Do you think she killed Johnny Boz?

CATHERINE
(surprised, startled)
For what... to set me up? She
loved me she wouldn't frame me.

NICK

(a beat)

Maybe she got jealous of Johnny
Boz, too.

CATHERINE

(after a beat)

No, she didn't... she never got
jealous before... she got excited.

(a beat)

I don't have luck with women. There
was this girl I met while I was in
college. I slept with her once.
She started following me around,
taking my picture. She dyed her
hair, copied my clothes. Lisa
something... Oberman. It was
awful.

A long beat, he looks at her.

NICK

I thought you didn't do adolescent
secrets.

CATHERINE

(after a beat)

I never have before.

EXT. THE DECK - MORNING

It is a bright, sunshiny day. He is out there looking at the
water. She comes up behind him, hugs him.

CATHERINE

(full of life)

Isn't it just beautiful? I love it
here like this.

He looks at her.

NICK

(cold)

We're still playing games, aren't
we?

She looks hurt.

CATHERINE

No.

NICK
(cold)
No?

CATHERINE
No more games, Nick. I'm tired of
playing games!

They have their eyes on each other.

NICK
Then tell me about Nilsen.

She turns away from him. He watches her.

CATHERINE
You won't believe me.

NICK
Try me.

A beat, she looks at him.

CATHERINE
I paid him \$50,000 in cash for your
psychiatric file.

NICK
(after a beat)
When?

CATHERINE
About three months before I met
you.

NICK
Why?

She turns away from him.

CATHERINE
I'd read about your shootings in
the papers. I decided to write a
book about a detective. I wanted
to know my character.

NICK
You paid \$50,000 for your
character?

CATHERINE
I would've paid more. I wanted to
know everything about you.
(MORE)

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Then you came down here after Johnny got killed... it gave me a chance to get to know my character better.

NICK

(after a long beat)

What about the other night. What about last night? Was that to get to know your character?

CATHERINE

(after a beat)

Maybe I'm losing interest in my book.

Their eyes are on each other.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Do you believe me?

NICK

(after a beat)

I don't know.

CATHERINE

I'll convince you.

And she kisses him slowly, with more and more heat, on the lips.

The cordless phone on the deck table goes off. It keeps RINGING. She breaks finally from the kiss, picks it up.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Hello?

She listens a beat, then hands him the phone.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

It's Gus-who-doesn't-like-me. He takes the phone.

NICK

Catherine says you don't like her.

INT. THE DETECTIVE BUREAU - DAY

GUS

(on the phone)

She's right. You got an icepick in you yet?

EXT. HER DECK - STINSON

Catherine sees him smile.

CATHERINE
What did he say?

NICK
He asked if I had an icepick in me
yet.

CATHERINE
(smiles)
Funny.

INT. THE DETECTIVE BUREAU - DAY

GUS
(on the phone)
You know that stuff they say about
how you can judge people by their
friends?

EXT. HER DECK

NICK
I don't believe it.

INT. THE DETECTIVE BUREAU - DAY

GUS
Why not?

NICK
(smiles)
You're my friend, Gus.

She watches him.

INT. THE DETECTIVE BUREAU - DAY

GUS
(seriously)
I'm gonna make you believe in it,
friend.

INT. CLOVERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

In CLOSEUP: We see a large, glossy photograph of Roxy.

She looks about thirteen. She has braces in her teeth.

Nick is looking at the photo -- it is in a file in his hands. He sits there with Gus in front of a woman juvenile officer.

He turns the file and we see a glossy of a little boy in a pool of blood.

Nick looks up at the woman.

NICK

(after a beat)

How old was she when this happened?

THE WOMAN

Fourteen. We seal juvenile records until they're deceased. That's why you didn't find it in your computer.

GUS

What was the motive?

THE WOMAN

She said she didn't know herself, just sort of did it on impulse.

(she shrugs)

The razor just happened to be there.

They stare at her.

THE WOMAN (CONT'D)

That's what she said.

INT. CLOVERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY

It is a small, old, rural building a lot of Four-H type stuff on the walls.

NICK

I don't understand what the hell's going on here, pop.

GUS

Ain't that hard, son. This young farmgirl, she got tired of all that attention goin' to her little brothers -- she fixed 'em. Just like 'ole Hazel Dobkins fixed her whole family -- except young Roxy here, she didn't use a wedding present. She used Daddy's razor.

EXT. THE CLOVERDALE POLICE DEPARTMENT

They are going to their cars, parked side by side. The Porsche looks pretty badly banged up.

GUS

It sure makes you wonder what they talked about when they set themselves down in front of the campfire at night. You ever met any of her friends who hasn't killed somebody.

Nick looks at him.

GUS (CONT'D)

It musta beat your ordinary everyday girl talk.

Nick get into his car, sits there a beat.

NICK

I'm not sure anymore she did it.

GUS

(after a beat)

Which one you talkin' about now, son? We know ole Hazel did it; we know young Roxy did it -- and the other one Well, hell, she's got that magna come lawdy pussy on her that done fried up your brain.

Nick looks at him.

INT. THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE - U.C. BERKELEY

A young woman is checking a computer. Nick is with her.

THE WOMAN

Anderson. Jack W. Donald M. I'm sorry. No Lisa.

NICK

Did you check all four years?

THE WOMAN

Yes I did.

NICK

(in disbelief)

Can you check again?

She gives him a look, but punches it in again.

THE WOMAN
No Lisa Anderson, detective.

NICK
(after a beat)
Can there be some mistake?

THE WOMAN
(straining patience)
Only if you're making it.

He looks at her.

EXT. CATHERINE'S HOUSE ON DIVISADERO - DAY

He gets out of the Porsche, starts to go in. He looks disturbed Catherine comes out of the house with Hazel Dobkins, the old woman we saw with her in Mill Valley. Nick watches them a beat, then goes up to them.

CATHERINE
Hazel , this is Nick. I told you
all about him. This is Hazel
Dobkins.

HAZEL
(smiles)
You're the Shooter, aren't you? How
are you?

He looks at her a long beat.

NICK
Fine. Thank you.

He looks at her sort of warily.

NICK (CONT'D)
(to Catherine)
Can I talk to you a minute?

CATHERINE
(to Hazel)
Honey, why don't you go in the car?
I'll be right there.

The old woman starts going to the Ferrari.

HAZEL
(brightly)
Goodbye, Shooter.

Nick looks at Hazel a beat, then at Catherine.

NICK

You like to hang out with murderers
or what? Did you know Roxy --

CATHERINE

Of course I knew.

He looks at her a long beat.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

(casually)

Look. Sometimes when I do my
research, I get involved with
people. It happened with you, too.

She smiles. He looks at her, doesn't know what to say.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Killing isn't like smoking. You
can quit.

He looks at her What did she say?

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

(preoccupied)

I've go to go. I promised to get
her home by six o'clock. She just
loves "America's Most Wanted."

America's Most Wanted? She turns to go.

NICK

There was no Lisa Anderson at
Berkeley when you were there.

She stops, looks at him a beat.

CATHERINE

What were you doing, checking up on
me? What for?

He says nothing. A long beat, she looks hurt.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

(after a beat)

Henderson.

And she's gone.

INT. A PHONE BOOTH - DAY

He is on the phone.

NICK

Henderson. Lisa Henderson. With
an H.

He waits.

NICK (CONT'D)

You do?

INT. THE DETECTIVE BUREAU - NIGHT

He sits in front of a computer screen with Andrews.

ANDREWS

I can get my butt kicked for this.
You're not supposed to be in here.

NICK

It's not gonna take long, Sam.

We see the computer screen. The screen says LISA HENDERSON
DMV LICENSE CHECK We wait and then we see the words 1983
RENEWAL -- ELIZABETH GARDNER, 147 QUEENSTON DRIVE, SALINAS,
CAL.

Nick stares at the screen.

NICK (CONT'D)

Bring it up, will you, Sam?

A beat, and then we see the license itself It is Beth Gardner
on the photo. Nick stares.

ANDREWS

Hey, that's Dr. Gardner, isn't it?

NICK

Bring 1976 up.

A beat, and the license comes up. We see a young Beth
Gardner on the photo. She has blonde hair.

Nick stares.

INT. BETH GARDNER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

She walks in. The apartment is dark.

NICK
 You shouldn't leave your door open.
 She is startled.

BETH
 (after a beat)
 I didn't. Something's wrong with
 my lock.

A beat, she looks at him.

BETH (CONT'D)
 (cold)
 What do you want, Nick?

NICK
 (quietly)
 Tell me about Catherine.

She looks at him a long beat, then turns away --

BETH
 She told you, didn't she?

NICK
 (after a beat)
 What did she tell me, Beth?

BETH
 (after a long beat)
 I slept with her once in school.
 (a beat)
 I was just a kid. I was
 experimenting. It was just that
 one time.
 (a beat)
 She developed a... fixation... on
 me. She styled her hair like mine.
 She wore the same kind of clothes I
 did. It scared me.

She looks at him, sees his look.

BETH (CONT'D)
 Isn't that what she told you?

He looks at her a long beat.

NICK
 She told me it was you. You wore
 the same kind of clothes. You dyed
 your hair blonde.

A long beat as they look at each other.

BETH

I did dye my hair. It didn't have anything to do with her. I was a redhead for a while, too.

NICK

(after a beat)

Did you know Noah Goldstein?

BETH

I had him in two classes.

NICK

You saw all the reports, Beth!

Phil had you copied. You never said anything!

BETH

(after a beat)

What do I say -- Hey, listen, guys, I'm not gay, but I did fuck your suspect.

(she turns away)

I was embarrassed. It's the only time I've been with a woman.

She turns to him.

BETH (CONT'D)

She's really sick you know. Don't you know what she's doing? She knows I went to Berkeley. She knows I knew Noah. She makes up that story about me. She's handing you somebody who's obsessed with her.

NICK

She didn't hand you to me. She doesn't even know who you are. She told me about Lisa Henderson.

BETH

She knew you'd find out who Lisa Henderson is. You're a good cop -- what did she do? Tell you casually and make it seem irrelevant?

(she smiles)

Did she tell you in bed, Nick? That's how I'd do it.

Nick looks at her a long beat.

NICK
Why did you change your name?

BETH
I got married.
(a beat)
He was on staff at the clinic. I
was down in Salinas. It didn't...
last long.

He gets up. He looks at her a long beat.

BETH (CONT'D)
Nick -- Do you really think I...
that I could kill someone... I
never even met Johnny Boz. What
about Nilsen? What possible motive
would I have to kill him?

He turns to go.

NICK
You should do something about this
lock.

BETH
She's evil. She's brilliant. Be
careful, Nick.

He looks at her.

EXT. HIS APARTMENT - NIGHT

He gets out of his Porsche. He walks toward the door.

INT. HIS APARTMENT HOUSE - THE STAIRWAY

He starts going up the dark stairway. There is a hand on his
neck. He spins.

CATHERINE
(smiles)
Do I scare you, Nick?

He looks at her, doesn't say anything.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
(smiles)
I just thought I'd surprise you.
(a beat)
What's the matter?

NICK
 (after a beat)
 I found Lisa Henderson.

CATHERINE
 Did you? What's she doing?

He looks at her, doesn't say anything.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 You're not going to tell me what
 she's doing.
 (a beat)
 I thought we weren't playing games
 anymore.

NICK
 (after a beat)
 I did, too.
 (a beat)
 She told me it was backwards -- she
 said you even styled your hair the
 way she did.

Catherine looks at him a beat, then smiles.

CATHERINE
 And you believed her? I even went
 down to the campus police and made
 out a report about her.

He just looks at her.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 You still think I kill people,
 don't you?

NICK
 (after a beat)
 No.

CATHERINE
 Liar.

And she's gone.

INT. CAMPUS POLICE RECORDS ROOM - BERKELEY - DAY

He stands with an old CAMPUS COP. He is going through files.

CAMPUS COP
 Who'd you say you were with?

NICK

Homicide. San Francisco. He stops at a file, opens it.

CAMPUS COP

Don't you guys communicate over there? You must be the same way we are.

Nick doesn't get it.

CAMPUS COP (CONT'D)

There was a report about Lisa Henderson -- January, 1977 -- the file's not here.

NICK

What do you mean it's not here?

CAMPUS COP

San Francisco P.D. Detective Nilsen. Internal Affairs. You know him? Tell him we want it back. He's had it a whole year.

Nick says nothing.

INT. HIS APARTMENT - DAY

He and Gus sit there -- they look tired, upset.

GUS

So Nilsen had a report on her -- so what. You don't know what the hell was in it?

NICK

Catherine told me what was in it.

GUS

If she's telling you the truth.

NICK

Don't you get it, Gus? If Beth killed Johnny Boz to frame Catherine -- she wouldn't want anyone to know what happened at Berkeley. It gives her the motive to kill Nilsen.

GUS

How did she know Nilsen knew about it -- if it happened?

NICK

He was I.A. He probably asked her about it.

Gus thinks about it.

GUS

She'd have to be nuttier than a twenty-pound Christmas fruitcake. She's not the one who hangs out with multiple murderers -- your girlfriend is.

NICK

She's a writer -- it's part of what she does.

GUS

(irate)

Goddamn writers -- all they do is use up trees and ruin people's eyes.

(a beat)

There's gotta be somebody at Berkeley who knows what the hell happened.

NICK

I know what happened. Catherine told me what happened.

GUS

(after a beat,
quietly)

You got goddamn tweety-birds flutterin' around your head, that's what you got. You think you're gonna fuck like minks, raise rugrats, and live happily ever after? Oh, man.

INT. THE STAIRWAY - HIS APARTMENT HOUSE - NIGHT

He has his key out to open his door. He hears MUSIC inside.

A beat, and he opens the door.

INT. HIS APARTMENT

It is dark. We hear a Rolling Stones SONG. He sees Catherine standing by a window, watching him. She wears black jeans and the black motorcycle jacket.

They look at each other a long beat.

NICK
How'd you get in here?

CATHERINE
I decided to give you one more
chance.
(a beat)
I missed you.

NICK
You didn't not see me long enough
to miss me.

CATHERINE
Did you miss me?

NICK
No.

CATHERINE
Come over here and tell me no.

He walks up close to her.

NICK
No.

She unzips her motorcycle jacket slowly. She wears nothing
underneath it.

NICK (CONT'D)
That's below the belt.

She reaches for him.

CATHERINE
Not yet it isn't.

She pulls him close.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
But we're getting there.

INT. HIS LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

They sit in the window seat, naked. His back is against the
wall. She sits against him. He has his legs around her.
They don't look at each other. She is smoking.

NICK

I have to do some research tomorrow.

CATHERINE

I'm very good at research. I'll help you.

NICK

No thanks.

CATHERINE

What are you researching?

NICK

I'm writing a book.

CATHERINE

(smiles)

Really. What are you writing about.

NICK

A detective. He falls for the wrong girl.

CATHERINE

(smiles)

What happens to them?

NICK

(after a beat)

They fuck like minks, raise rugrats, and live happily ever after.

CATHERINE

(after a beat)

It won't sell.

NICK

Why not?

CATHERINE

(after a beat)

Somebody has to die.

NICK

Why?

CATHERINE

Somebody always does.

EXT. THE SALINAS CLINIC - DAY

He walks in; it is a small valley hospital. He goes up to the desk. There are two women there.

NICK

Hi, I'm looking for a Dr. Gardner?

ONE WOMAN

(after a beat)

We don't have a Dr. Gardner on staff here.

THE OTHER WOMAN

Dr. Joseph Gardner?

NICK

(after a beat)

Yeah.

THE WOMAN

He died -- about five or six years ago.

NICK

(after a beat)

He was shot.

INT. SALINAS SHERIFF'S OFFICE - DAY

Nick sits with a sheriff's DETECTIVE.

DETECTIVE

He was walking home from work. They only lived a coupla blocks from the clinic. Somebody drove by and shot him.

NICK

What was the weapon?

DETECTIVE

.38 revolver. Never recovered.

NICK

Were there ever any suspects?

DETECTIVE

No suspects, no motive. Unsolved.

NICK

(after a beat)

Was his wife ever a suspect?

DETECTIVE

(after a beat)

I had another one of you guys down here from Frisco -- about a year ago -- he asked me the same question. What's this about anyway?

NICK

Routine.

DETECTIVE

Yeah, he said it was routine too. Now it's two guys saying it's routine.

NICK

Do you remember his name?

DETECTIVE

(after a long beat)

Nope, can't say that I do.

NICK

Nilsen?

DETECTIVE

That's him.

A long beat, then --

NICK

Was she ever a suspect?

DETECTIVE

Nope.

(a beat)

There was some talk; it never panned.

NICK

What kind of talk?

DETECTIVE

The usual -- a girlfriend.

NICK

He had a girlfriend?

DETECTIVE

Nope. She did.

(a beat)

Like I say. It never panned.

NICK
 (after a beat, gets
 up)
 Thanks.

DETECTIVE
 I hope I helped you out.

NICK
 (after a beat)
 You did.

EXT. HER HOUSE IN STINSON - AFTERNOON

He walks around the house; he sees her sitting out on the deck, a portable word-processor in front of her. She is smoking.

He goes up to her.

NICK
 (smiles)
 Hi. I missed you. I finished my
 research.

He moves toward her. She moves away, kills her cigarette.

CATHERINE
 I finished my book.

NICK
 How did it end?

CATHERINE
 (after a beat)
 I told you. She kills him.

They look at each other a long beat.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 (quietly)
 Goodbye, Nick.

He stares at her. A long beat.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 I finished my book.
 (a beat)
 Didn't you hear me?*

(a beat)

Your character's dead.
 (a beat)
 Goodbye.

He stares at her. He can't believe what she is saying.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 What do you want, Nick? Flowers?
 I'll send you some flowers.

NICK
 (after a beat)
 What is this -- some kind of...
 Joke?
 (a beat; he almost
 smiles)
 Are we playing games again?

CATHERINE
 (after a beat)
 The games are over. You were
 right. It was the fuck of the
 century, Shooter.

He stares at her.

A VOICE INSIDE
 Catherine?

Nick looks -- Hazel Dobkins is there.

Catherine still has her eyes on him.

CATHERINE
 Right there.

A beat, and then she turns to go inside. Hazel Dobkins
 smiles slowly at him.

EXT. THE POLICE PARKING LOT - DUSK

He sits in his Porsche, staring ahead. He is parked next to
 Gus' Cadillac. Gus is suddenly there, onway to his car.

GUS
 (excited)
 Catherine Tramell's roommate her
 freshman year. I got a call from
 her. I've been calling people who
 were in her dorm all day. She
 must've heard I was trying to talk
 to her. She says she knows all
 about Catherine and Lisa Henderson.
 She's over in Oakland. You wanna
 come with me?

Nick just stares ahead.

GUS (CONT'D)
You look like you seen a ghost,
son?

Nick looks at him.

INT. GUS' CADILLAC - NIGHT

Gus drives.

GUS
(excited)
Johnny Boz's psychiatrist has an
office on Van Ness. Guess who he
shares office space with? Dr.
Elizabeth Gardner.

Nick doesn't even respond. Gus looks at him.

GUS (CONT'D)
What in hell's the matter with you?

Nick doesn't say anything, stares ahead.

EXT. AN OFFICE BUILDING - OAKLAND - NIGHT

Gus gets out with Nick. It is an old building.

GUS
Where the hell you goin'?

NICK
(after a beat)
I'm going with you.

GUS
She said alone -- suite 405. It
ain't gonna take long.

A beat, and Nick gets back in the car.

INT. THE OFFICE BUILDING - NIGHT

Gus is on the first floor. There is no one around. He hits
the elevator button. A beat, and it comes. He steps in.

INT. THE ELEVATOR - NIGHT

He hits the button for the fourth floor.

The elevator rises a floor, stops. The door opens. There is no one there. Then it starts going up again. It rises to the third floor. It stops. The door opens. There is no one there. Then it starts to rise again.

EXT. GUS' CADILLAC - NIGHT

Nick sits there, staring ahead.

NICK
(suddenly, screaming)
Gus!

INT. THE ELEVATOR

As it goes up. It stops. The door starts to open. As it does -- a figure in a hooded raincoat sweeps into the elevator. It happens very fast. We see blonde hair around the face.

But we don't see the face itself -- the head is down, the hood up. There is an icepick in the figure's hand. The figure explodes into Gus. The icepick goes into his neck.

INT. THE STAIRWAY

Nick tears desperately up the stairway -- he hits the fourth floor door. It explodes open.

INT. THE FOURTH FLOOR

He stands there a beat, sees the elevator door open. He runs there, He sees Gus, crumpled into the corner of the elevator.

INT. THE ELEVATOR

He goes into the elevator -- holds Gus. He is dead. A long beat. He sees the gun in Gus' hand -- he takes the gun out of his hand. He runs out of the elevator.

INT. THE FOURTH FLOOR

He hears something. Gun in hand, he runs towards the SOUND. He stops, gun in hand, listens again. He runs again, hears nothing.

Behind him, we see a figure.

He spins suddenly, gun, in hand. Beth Gardner is there.
She wears a windbreaker. She has her hands in the pockets.

BETH
What are you doing here?

NICK
(screaming)
Put your hands up!

She stares at him.

NICK (CONT'D)
(screams)
Put your fucking hands up! Don't
move.

BETH
I got a message on my machine to
meet Gus here. Where is he?

She smiles a strange smile. She takes a step toward him.

NICK
(screams)
Don't!
(a beat)
I know about your husband. You
still like girls, Beth?

BETH
What?

She smiles strangely again, takes a step toward him.

NICK
(screams)
Take your hands out of your
pockets!

She moves a hand in a pocket and moves towards him fast --

BETH
What is wrong with you?

And he FIRES the gun. She is hit in the chest, goes down.

A long beat, and then he goes to her. He gets down on the
ground. Her eyes are open. He empties the pockets of the
windbreaker -- first one, then the other the pockets are
empty.

BETH (CONT'D)
(in a whisper)
I loved you.

And she dies.

INT. THE FOURTH FLOOR - LATER

A lot of policemen, coroner's guys, photos being taken.

Nick stands there with Lt. Walker, Harrigan, and some of the Internal Affairs guys.

LT. WALKER
(upset)
What made you think she had a gun?

Nick says nothing; he looks like a zombie.

LT. WALKER (CONT'D)
What the hell was she doing here?
What was Gus doing here?

Andrews yells to them from the stairway door.

ANDREWS
Lieutenant.

INT. THE STAIRWAY

A FORENSICS MAN very carefully handles a hooded rain coat in a stair landing. He wears gloves.

Nick is there with Lt. Walker.

The Forensics Man picks the raincoat up -- a long blonde wig falls out of it. There are flecks of blood on it.

He reaches into the pocket and pulls out an icepick. It has a thin steel handle and is bloody. He hands the icepick to an assistant.

He looks at the raincoat. It has blood on it.

THE FORENSICS MAN
It's departmental issue.

LT. WALKER
(quietly)
Jesus.

INT. BETH GARDNER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nick with Lt. Walker. Nick looks like a zombie. Andrews comes up to them. He has a gun in his hands.

ANDREWS

Thirty-eight caliber revolver.

Bottom drawer, bureau in the bedroom.

LT. WALKER

Have ballistics check it for Nilsen.

Harrigan comes out.

HARRIGAN

Lieutenant, you'd better come in here.

Lt. Walker goes into the kitchen. Nick follows him.

There are several cops around a kitchen cabinet. A drawer is open.

Walker looks -- we look with him. We see a copy of Love hurts, Catherine's paperback book, and a stack of photos of Catherine.

Walker picks the photos up, goes through them -- we see shots of Catherine in college -- Catherine at a fight -- Catherine with Johnny Boz -- Catherine with Roxy.

He hands the photos to Nick.

Nick stares at them.

LT. WALKER

I guess that's it.

INT. THE DETECTIVE BUREAU - NIGHT

Nick sits, his feet up. He looks like a zombie. With him are Lt. Walker, Andrews, and Captain Talcott. We see other plainclothesmen in the b.g. -- a flurry of activity, people on phones. A long beat.

LT. WALKER

She must've heard you on the stairway and dumped the stuff.

Nick says nothing, stares off.

A DETECTIVE comes over to them.

DETECTIVE

There was no suite 405 in that building. Catherine Tramell's roommate in her freshman year is dead. She died of leukemia two years ago.

An INTERNAL AFFAIRS MAN comes over to them.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS MAN

Our files on Dr. Gardner show nothing about a police report in Berkeley -- nothing related to Salinas, either.

A long beat -- the phone RINGS. Andrews picks it up, listens.

ANDREWS

Thanks.

He hangs up.

ANDREWS (CONT'D)

Ballistics says the .38 we found in her apartment matches Nilsen. No registration. They're checking with Salinas. The icepick is the same brand and model as the Boz weapon.

A long beat -- Nick just stares.

Harrigan comes up to them.

HARRIGAN

We checked the tape machines at Dr. Gardner's apartment and at her office -- both here and the one on Van Ness. No message from Gus on any of 'em. The one at her apartment was broken.

(a beat)

Johnny Boz's psychiatrist says he thinks he remembers Dr. Gardner and Boz meeting at a Christmas party at his house a year ago.

A long beat.

LT. WALKER
(after a long beat,
sadly)
You just can't tell about people,
can you. Even the ones you think
you know inside-out.

He and Nick look at each other a beat.

CAPTAIN TALCOTT
Congratulations, Curran.

Nick looks at him, expressionless.

EXT. HIS APARTMENT - NIGHT

He parks his car. It is dark. Foggy.

He starts heading inside.

INT. HIS APARTMENT - NIGHT

He goes in. He starts to walk up the dark stairway, we see
him walking up several flights of steps.

INT. THE CORRIDOR TO HIS APARTMENT

He opens his door with his key.

INT. HIS APARTMENT

He walks in. The apartment is dark.

A VOICE
(behind him)
Hi.

It is a whisper, almost a hiss. He spins, fast. Catherine
stands there, pressing herself against a wall. They look at
each other a long beat. She looks like she is almost in a
trance.

CATHERINE
I heard about it... on TV.

He looks at her, expressionless. A long beat, their eyes are
into each other. She looks like she is almost shivering.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 I can't allow myself to care about
 you -- I can't allow myself to care
 -- I can't -- I can't --

She looks very emotional. He moves towards her, puts his arms around her, holds her very close.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
 (in a whisper)
 I don't want to do this -- please --
 I don't want to do this -- I lose
 everybody -- I don't want to lose
 you -- I don't want to --

He presses her closer and closer to himself, holds her.

INT. HIS BEDROOM - NIGHT

It is dark; we can't see clearly.

Atop her... he makes love to her... gently... tenderly...
 hardly moving inside her... there are tears in her eyes...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HIS BEDROOM - LATER

Atop him... she is on her knees, straddling him... he is on his back, his eyes are closed... her head arches back... her breasts high... he strains toward her with his body... she holds her arms high... her right hand is in a fist...

(we only see the back of her hand and arm)... it comes down suddenly... he bucks... writhes... then her whole body falls on top of him.

A very long beat...

We can't see him... her body completely covers him...

And then finally he moves... turns her to the side... kisses her.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HIS BEDROOM - LATER

The Stones play "Sympathy For The Devil" in the b.g.; the MUSIC is low.

They lie next to each other on the bed. The CAMERA faces them. He lies, staring at the ceiling, on the left side of the bed, smoking a cigarette. She is curled away from him toward the right side of the bed. A long beat, then --

CATHERINE

What do we do now, Nick?

NICK

(after a long beat)

We fuck like minks. We raise rugrats. We live happily ever after.

We see her right arm go to the side of the bed and then over. He stares at the ceiling.

CATHERINE

I hate rugrats.

NICK

(after a long beat)

We fuck like minks. We forget the rugrats. We live happily ever after.

We see from an ANGLE to the left side of the bed now Her face is expressionless. Her right arm dangles over the right side of the bed. Her right hand is clenched. Is she holding something in it against her arm?

We see them from an ANGLE to the left side of the bed now: He turns his body away from her to put out his cigarette.

We see her behind him slowly turning towards him and the CAMERA. A beat, and he turns towards her.

They look at each other. A long beat as the SONG gets louder. We see them in CLOSEUP. We don't see her right arm.

CATHERINE

(in a whisper)

I love you.

A beat, and he kisses her. The CAMERA BACKS AWAY from them slowly to the right side of the bedroom as they kiss, and we--

FADE TO BLACK

... A long beat, as the SONG keeps playing... and we...

FADE IN:

We see them from the right side of the bedroom. And then the CAMERA LOWERS SLOWLY as they kiss with more and more passion.

It keeps going LOWER.

There is something under the bed. The CAMERA MOVES CLOSER towards it as "SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL" plays louder. We see it now in CLOSEUP as the bed rustles above...

It is a thin, steel-handled icepick.

The SONG plays LOUDER and LOUDER, and we --

FADE OUT

THE END