Screenplay
Reprise

by

S Guy Macher
EXT STREET --DAY

Detective THORPE, 50, fit as a college half-back, runs down a street in Old Toronto. He is dressed in pants and sports jacket with tie fully snugged around his muscular neck. Although he is wearing hard leather soled shoes, he easily overtakes a fit young JOGGER in jogging gear. THORPE nods as he breezes by. The jogger’s pride is stung and he picks up his stride and pulls alongside Thorpe but quickly falls back as Thorpe picks up more speed.

POV JOGGER:

THORPE disappearing up the street.

EXT BUS STOP --DAY

THORPE trots up to the the bus stop. He is breathing normally and has not even worked up a sweat. He stands at the bus stop with a MANICURED MAN with a brief case, TIRED WOMEN with SULLEN CHILDREN and a PROSPECT FOR JUVY HALL. Thorpe isn’t happy to be riding Toronto Transit. To ease his discomfort he lights a smoke. Two drags later the bus arrives.

He steps on board taking one more drag.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Hey Mack, no smoking. (points to the camera) I get a fine, too, if you get caught on tape.

THORPE
Yeah, sorry.

THORPE pinches the butt and sticks it in his pocket.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Yeah. But I’m all Taranah now.

BUS DRIVER SHINE points to his MAPLE LEAF pin on his lapel.

As the bus pulls away, the JOGGER jogs past the bus stop, puffing heavily.

THORPE finds a spot near the front of the bus. Toronto drifts by. Out of habit he reads the driver’s Photo ID.

POV THORPE:

Robert Gordon Shine

Badge Number 091101

THORPE looks about the bus and reads a warning about H1N1 flu.

(CONTINUED)
POV THORPE:
 Get your flu shots now!

THORPE keeps looking: faces, traffic, ads. He’s bored and slightly irritated. Clearly no one on the bus is happy, except the smiling MR ROBERT SHINE.

POV Behind ROBERT SHINE but you can tell he’s smiling. He turns his head to check traffic. Yep, he’s smiling.

THORPE checks his watch. He’s going to be late.

Stop after stop passengers board and depart. MR ROBERT SHINE has a pleasant GOOD MORNING and GOOD DAY to everyone.

THORPE is grudgingly won over and starts to grin.

Stuck in the corner of the windshield is a PHOTO of ROBERT in a big green stetson is surrounded by kids in white stetsons under a Junior Rodeo banner. The other, a PHOTO of two pretty pre-teen girls girls and their mother who obviously supplies the good looks gene. All three of them have megawatt smiles. ROBERT is no Brad Pitt but he exudes the pure happiness of man who knows he is blessed.

THORPE
 Nice looking family.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Thanks. Those ladies are the reason I push this barge around five shifts a week.

THORPE pulls himself out of the seat.

THORPE
My stop. Thanks.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Yeah, see ya again.

THORPE
Not likely. My car will be fixed by morning.

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INT POLICE STATION —--DAY

THORPE sorts through papers on his desk; a PAMPHLET about the flu comes to hand and he PITCHES IT into the trash. His cell phone RINGS.

THORPE
Hi, Sweetie.

(CONTINUED)
ELKA
Dad, my film is going to be shown on Cinescope next month.

THORPE
That’s wonderful, Elka.

ELKA
I would love for you and Mom to come to the studio.

THORPE
We will be there. Just let her know the details. I’ll clear the decks here.

ELKA
Love you, Dad.

THORPE
I love you, Elka.

There’s a KNOCK on the door which opens. A large grey haired man, CAPTAIN VAN FLEET looks in. THORPE beckons him in with a wave.

I’ve got to go, Elka. Van Fleet has arrived. No, I won’t give him a hug. Bye, Sweetie.

VAN FLEET
How are things with Elka, Chief?

THORPE
Her latest film will be aired on Cinescope soon, Admiral. She sends her love.

VAN FLEET savours the thought.

VAN FLEET
Mmmmm. Perhaps this is the beginning of her career, Chief.

THORPE
I’m praying it is. What’s on your mind, Admiral? Not art films, surely.

VAN FLEET
Actually, yes. One of Cinescope’s regulars just turned up in a dumpster in Little Jamaica. Alexy Vega.

THORPE
The Yank who films street crime?
VAN FLEET
Yes, Chief. I’m surprised we didn’t get this call a long time ago. He’s been doing this for five or six years.

THORPE
I hope Elka’s not filming crime.

VAN FLEET
No, she’s working on a film with dogs in it.

THORPE
How do you know this?

VAN FLEET
Facebook. Madeline thought it would be a good way to kept track of people I care about.

EXT LITTLE JAMAICA --DAY
A row of dumpsters behind a tenement. A parking lot littered with junked cars, busted up furniture, and liquor. YOUNG MEN watch menacingly from doorways and windows. THORPE squats in a dumpster with ALEXY VEGA and cloud of flies. A patrolman, OFFICER PETE GREENWELL, standing on tip toes, peers over the edge.

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
Alexy’s been filming around here for six months.

THORPE
Any suspects come to mind.

GREENWELL looks over to the menacing MEN in the doors and windows.

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
Just about anyone around here. I’ve been warning Alexy since he got here.

POV THORPE:
ECU ALEXY VEGA with a neat hole in his forehead.

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
My Bag Lady found him, Detective.

BAG LADY hovers near the patrol car looking hopeful.

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
I don’t think I’ll need anything from her, Pete.

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
She’s expecting a reward, Detective.

THORPE
She wasn’t motivated by civic spirit, uh?

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
Look around, Detective. There’s not much spirit, civic or otherwise, around here.

THORPE vaults out of the dumpster, impressing OFFICER PETE GREENWELL with his athleticism.

THORPE
Mr Vega filmed his killer. Nice ECU shot, too.

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
E see you?

THORPE
Extreme Close Up.

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
Oh, yeah nearly point blank. Nearly. There are no powder burns that I could see, Detective.

THORPE rolls the tape for OFFICER PETE GREENWELL.

POV OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
A thug in a green, yellow and black woolen hat.

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
Alphonse McKinley. He’s probably over there watching us.

THORPE looks over the tenements. BAG LADY is no longer by the patrol car. She’s shuffling away as quickly as she can.

THORPE
Your tipster feels nervous.

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
She’s not the only one.
THORPE
Yeah, I feel a little chilly myself.

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
Want to find and arrest him now?

THORPE
No, Captain Van Fleet will send out the gang squad. I don’t want any more violence around these women and kids.

OFFICER PETE GREENWELL
This will kill his mother. She’s a good woman, Detective.

THORPE
So was Misses Custer.

EXT FOOTBALL FIELD --DAY
THORPE watches a Saturday morning pick up flag football game among COLLEGE CO-EDS. After few plays, one of the players, LIONEL THORPE, spots Thorpe.

LIONEL
Hey, Dad! Come and play a few downs.

THORPE trots onto the field. LIONEL tosses the ball to him. The TEAM gathers round.

THORPE
Who’s quickest?

SEVERAL PLAYERS
Lionel!

THORPE
I’ll drop one over your left shoulder in the end zone.

SCEPTICAL PLAYER
That’s a 60 yard throw.

LIONEL
He can do it, Thomas.

A quick SNAP COUNT and general confusion but LIONEL rockets down the sideline, as THORPE scrambles before unleashing a perfect pass, just as predicted. The TEAM trots back to THORPE.

(CONTINUED)
SCEPTICAL PLAYER
You’re one hell of a passer, Mr Thorpe.

THORPE
I’ve lost a bit of distance but can still manage the short stuff.

LIONEL and TEAM high five THORPE.

LIONEL
You should play a series for the other team just make it fair, Dad.

THORPE
I don’t have much time, Lionel. Elka’s film will air on Cinescope in a few weeks.

LIONEL
Yeah. I’ll try to make Elka’s premiere if possible.

THORPE
How are your studies going?

LIONEL
It’s a grind. I’m glad to get out here a couple of times a week.

THORPE
Mom will call you with the details about the premiere.

LIONEL
Elka and I chat daily by computer.

THORPE
Mom likes to talk to you.

SCEPTICAL PLAYER
Come on, Lionel. We’ve got another study session in twenty minutes.

INT THORPE’S OFFICE --DAY

The camera THORPE retrieved is connected to a TV set. The film rolls:

A gang banger, snarling like a wildcat, rushes the camera. He thrusts a 9 mm pistol held sideways at camera. A SHOT. As the camera sinks it captures the image of the shooter.

VAN FLEET turns from the screen with great disgust.

(CONTINUED)
VAN FLEET
I got used to things after a year or two on the streets. Now things are going sideways again. What kind of slime does that?

THORPE
And leave the evidence.

VAN FLEET
People kill for fun. I don’t know, Chief. Perhaps retirement is close at hand.

THORPE
Don’t retire today. We should have this joker by the six o’clock news, Admiral.

VAN FLEET
Homicide and capture in a news cycle. It will look good at the next commissioner’s meeting.

THORPE
You can do the TV conference. Gang squad is your baby, after all. I’m headed home. I only came in on the way to get my car.

VAN FLEET
Tires again, Chief?

THORPE puts on his jacket and VAN FLEET head out of the room and down the hall. A middle-aged woman, MADELINE JONES, signals for VAN FLEET to come into her office. She is nearly as tall as VAN FLEET and a bit stern. She looks over half-frame bifocals when she speaks.

MADELINE JONES
John, I have the staffing reports ready for your signature.

MADELINE JONES acknowledges THORPE with a quick smile.

VAN FLEET
Madeline, I didn’t expect you to be here, today.

MADELINE JONES
You have a very busy week ahead full of department meetings, John.

VAN FLEET
(to Thorpe)
I’ll have my boys pick up,

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3)

VAN FLEET (cont’d)
Alphonse. Give my best to Reva
and the kids, Chief.

THORPE
Certainly. (to Madeline) Have a
nice day, Madeline.

7 INT THORPE’S LIVING ROOM ——DAY

The room is airy and feminine with bright colours and
flowers. Only the leather recliner suggests a man lives
there. THORPE enters, loosening his tie and hunting for
the remote.

THORPE
Reva! I’m back.

THORPE picks up the remote, sits in his recliner and scans
for sports. Reva, his wife of 28 years, flits in. She’s a
pixie with short ginger hair and bright eyes and smile.

REVA
Was there a problem with the car,
Chief?

THORPE
No. Why?

REVA
You’ve been gone for four hours.

THORPE
Oh, I stopped by the station and
solved a homicide.

REVA
That’s good.

THORPE
I saw Lionel, too.

REVA
What a busy detective you’ve
been. Would you like a beer?

THORPE
Please. Elka called.

REVA goes to the fridge. THORPE sits in his recliner and
appears to study the ceiling. Reva returns with a mug of
beer.

REVA
Elka dropped by. All excited
about her film premiere. You will
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
REVA (cont’d)
be able to get time off, Chief, right?

THORPE
I’m not missing my daughter’s public TV premiere.

THORPE talks a large quaff from the mug.

REVA
Public access, Chief. It’s a rung down from TVO, I’m afraid. Maybe even two rungs, but it’s a start.

THORPE
Elka had such a promising start in accounting.

REVA
She’s chasing a dream, dear. She can fall back on accounting but it would be like assuming another life for her, now, Chief.

THORPE
It would be a better life.

REVA
You know what they say about the other side of the fence.

THORPE
I know what prisoners say about it.

REVA
Did you really solve a murder, today?

THORPE
Yes, I did.

REVA
You are a brilliant detective, Chief.

REVA kisses him lightly on the cheek and sits on his lap.

THORPE
No, it was dead easy, Reva. The victim managed to film his own murderer.

REVA
Oh! And you found the film?
THORPE
The murderer left the camera with the body!

REVA
He didn’t even take the tape?

THORPE
Not the brightest goon, for sure. I think Elka may have known the victim.

REVA
What? It was a friend of hers? Oh, Chief.

THORPE
Not a friend. A fellow film nut.

REVA
Oh God. Is she in danger?

THORPE
No, Reva. This character, Alexy Vega, filmed criminals in Little Jamaica. I think he had a death wish.

REVA
Oh, poor Elka. She takes things so much to heart. You will let her know that the criminal was caught, won’t you? So she doesn’t worry.

THORPE
I’ll do that, if you will stop fretting. Deal?

REVA
I’ll stop.

THORPE
What’s for lunch?

REVA
Beer and brats on the patio.

THORPE
What’s the occasion?

REVA
Summer. It won’t last much longer. We should live every moment of life, Chief. Just to be thankful for it.
INT THORPE’S BEDROOM   --NIGHT

THORPE fusses with his tie. REVA is deciding what to wear.

THORPE
I don’t suppose most of the audience will be wearing jackets much less ties. Probably some will be barefoot. I hope you spoke to Elka about her shirt and stuff.

REVA
What about her shirt?

THORPE
Something that isn’t so transparent.

REVA
When did she wear a see-through blouse?

THORPE
Dinner last Tuesday. When she brought her friend, Gerhardt.

REVA
Dear, that blouse had embroidery in all the proper parts. You do worry yourself.

THORPE
No, other people worry me. Mostly my daughter and my son.

REVA
And me?

THORPE
Nope. You’re completely competent to look after yourself.

REVA
(holding up dresses)
How nice of you to say so, Chief. Do you think this dress or something more casual, like this?

THORPE
(stripping off the tie)
Let’s go casual, so we fit in.
INT TV STUDIO --NIGHT

The studio is packed and nearly everyone is formally dressed. THORPE and REVA enter.

THORPE
We must be in the wrong studio.

REVA
No, there’s Elka.

THORPE
Don’t you normally co-ordinate your outfits with Elka?

REVA
Momentary lapse, Chief. Hon, over here!

ELKA, 23, is a tall athletic woman with long brunette hair flowing over her bare shoulders. She wears a simple knee-length black shift and a pearl choker.

ELKA
Mom, I thought you would wear your long black dress with the scoop neck. I borrowed your pearls.

REVA
You look wonderful, Elka. We thought we’d come bohemian.

ELKA
Well, at least you’re here.

THORPE
Where’s Gerhardt?

ELKA
Oh, he’s with Ingrid his girlfriend.

THORPE
That’s good news. Glad he has someone special in his life. I’ll get my department tie from the car.

ELKA
No, Dad. This is a very broadminded crowd.

THORPE
Yes, I know. You can bring home another woman’s boyfriend for dinner and no one, hardly, minds.

(CONTINUED)
ELKA
Come, I have a spot for you up front.

THORPE
Is Lionel here yet?

ELKA
He called. He’s on his way.

THORPE
Is he bringing somebody?

REVA
Hush.

THORPE
Must we sit so close to the cameras?

REVA
Sit and behave, Chief.

THORPE turns in his seat to watch the entrance. LIONEL enters with young woman in tow. Thorpe smiles and waves to catch Lionel’s eye.

LIONEL
Mom, Dad, this is Arianna.

THORPE
My pleasure.

REVA
So nice to meet you, Arianna. That’s a very pretty name.

THORPE
Elka will be pleased to see you. Lionel. Arianna are you in engineering?

ARIANNA
Oh no, Mr Thorpe. I work at the pizza joint that Lionel and his study buddies come to after studying.

THORPE
A man has to keep up his strength. Right Lionel?

LIONEL
Right.

(CONTINUED)
REVA
Are you a student, too, Arianna?

LIONEL
Arianna has a psych degree.

ARIANNA
I’m enrolled in a master’s program for next spring.

THORPE brightens.

THORPE
That’s very responsible. Which university?

ARIANNA
UCLA.

THORPE goes sour.

REVA
That’s a fine university. You should be very proud, right Chief?

Before THORPE can answer, the MC comes on stage.

MC
Welcome to Cinescope, Channel 103’s homage to film of all kinds.

THORPE
(whisper)
She’s right about that.

REVA
Hush, or I’ll call a cop.

MC
...several films tonight starting with "Dogs" by E K Thorpe.

THORPE
E K?

REVA
It sounds professional.

THORPE
You can’t tell she’s a she!

The film ROLLS.
INT TV STUDIO  --NIGHT CONTINUOUS

A few minutes later. The lights are BROUGHT UP as the film fades from the screen.

THORPE
I’m not sure why the dog died in the end.

REVA
It’s art, Chief. It’s supposed to be ambiguous in spots.

THORPE
That’s why the dog was a Dalmatian, I suppose.

REVA
Hush.

ARIANNA
I liked it. I see a touch of Skinnerian theory in it.

LIONEL
Did you hear that, Dad?

THORPE
Yes. Actually, I thought about skinning something while I watched.

LIONEL smirks.

MC
Now, we get to meet E K Thorpe, writer and director of "Dogs".

The APPLAUSE is more than polite. THORPE smiles proudly.

THORPE
I guess it’s a commercial success judging by that reception.

MC
E K, what was the motivation for this film. Extraordinary use of the sepia by the way. Very much an Edwardian cachet.

ELKA
I wanted to express a holistic interpretation of love. The sepia gave the film a timelessness. And using the dogs as characters allowed a universality that human actors were incapable of.

(CONTINUED)
MC
In what way?

ELKA
Well, the dogs were without nationality, ethnicity, or gender even.

MC
Oh! The subtlety of the artistic mind. What did our audience think?

Another burst of APPLAUSE.

ELKA
Thank you, all. Thank you, Gigi.

MC
Thank you, E K Thorpe, writer, director of "Dogs". Available in the lobby on DVD or download at Cinescope dot O R G.

ELKA leaves the stage as MELISSA VEGA, an elegant blonde with Modigliani eyes, enters.

REVA
Oh, the poor woman. So soon after her husband’s death.

THORPE
The show must go on.

MC
Next please welcome Melissa Vega the wife of our dear late friend Alexy Vega.

THORPE
I suppose we can’t walk out now.

REVA
Sit.

MC
Welcome, Melissa. All of us want you to know that Alexy was a dear, dear friend and a wonderful film maker.

The audience APPLAUDS in sincere agreement.

MELISSA
Thank you, Gigi. Alexy’s passing was and is still a terrible shock. I mean I look to find him in his studio but...

(CONTINUED)
MC
We all support your effort at
closure, Melissa. I suppose that
is why you have brought Alexy’s
very first film for us to see.
From his days in New York City,
in fact from that awful day eight
years ago.

MELISSA
Alexy was drawn to the street
that day and started filming an
accident very near the towers...
But Alexy can tell the story.
Roll film!

The film rolls. Hand held camcorder in black and white. A
car accident, a relatively minor one but it shuts down
both lanes. Tempers flare. The camera is in everyone’s
face. The drivers push Alexy away. A cabby shouts
obscenities out the window. A man with a wooden case with
some lettering on it is pushing his way down the sidewalk
and shoves the wrong person. An altercation breaks out. A
man takes a punch to the nose. The screen is suddenly full
of a bloody nose. Then it pulls back for a full head shot.
In the background a plane heads for the Twin Towers. An
explosion. Full telephoto takes us to the Tower and the
camera starts moving down the street.

11 INT CAFE --NIGHT

ELKA and FRIENDS and REVA and THORPE sit around a large
table. Everyone is sipping white wine.

REVA
I wish Lionel didn’t have to go
right after the movie.

THORPE
Arianna had to report for pizza
duty.

REVA
Oh. She was a lovely person.

THORPE
I wish he would date girls who
aren’t moving three thousand
miles away in a few months.

REVA
We can’t have everything, Chief.

ELKA
What did you think of the movie,
Dad?

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
Interesting. The sepia was a nice touch.

REVA
Why did the dog die?

ELKA
It was about love, Mom. It always ends tragically.

REVA
That hasn’t been my experience, darling.

REVA pats THORPE’S arm.

ELKA
I guess I’m a pessimist.

THORPE
Alexy Vega was an optimist. Or crazy.

ELKA
His film was a metaphor for what happened that day. The disruption of life. The needless fight between the men.

THORPE
There was something strangely familiar about the film.

FRIEND
Yes, I don’t know how Alexy achieved that. He was a pure genius. To Alexy.

They CLINK glasses, toast and refill. A WAITER serves the bruschetta.

12 EXT BURNING BUILDING --NIGHT

A burning store front. Flames threaten the nearby buildings. It’s a beat up neighbourhood. The fire is going to increase property values. The street is littered with PATROL CARS and COPS and FIRE EQUIPMENT and FIRE FIGHTERS. A few STREET PEOPLE gawk.
13 EXT BURNING BUILDING --NIGHT

Yellow tape demarks the area. The flames have been beaten but smoke still emanates from the smashed windows and door. There are fewer cruises now and the gawkers are gone. FIRE FIGHTERS are rolling hoses. THORPE rolls up in an unmarked car, flashes his badge at a PATROLMAN who waves him through the tape.

14 INT BURNED OUT ROOM --DAY

A taped off crime scene, still smoldering. A FIRE INSPECTOR chats with a PATROLMAN. FIRE FIGHTERS collect their equipment. THORPE slips easily through the minefield of destruction to join them.

FIRE INSPECTOR
Chief, we have a female body for you.

THORPE
Homicide, Dan?

FIRE INSPECTOR
It wasn’t an accident. There’s gasoline over everything, except her. Could be suicide.

THORPE
What was she doing here?

FIRE INSPECTOR
Lived here. There’s a small apartment in back.

THORPE
Any weapon?

FIRE INSPECTOR
A bottle of Canadian Club.

THORPE
Let’s take a look at the victim.

FIRE INSPECTOR
She passed out before the fire started, I’d say. No soot in her mouth. No hanky panky. Not many clues left.

The FIRE INSPECTOR draws the cloth from the victim’s face, the twenty-sixer of Canadian Club against her cheek.

THORPE
But lots of suspects, Dan.

(CONTINUED)
FIRE INSPECTOR
Well, she’s all yours, Chief. My report is going to say arson.

INT THORPE’S OFFICE --DAY

THORPE is replaying Alexy Vega’s film. He watches then rewatches. VAN FLEET walks in the open door.

VAN FLEET
Still watching that, Chief?

THORPE
There’s something about this film which seems familiar, Admiral.

VAN FLEET
Public disturbance. They are all pretty much alike. The individuals change but events hold their character.

MADELINE JONES appears in the doorway.

MADELINE JONES
Oh, John, I picked up your suit for tonight’s meeting with the commissioner. Your notes are in the pocket.

VAN FLEET
Thank you, Madeline.

MADELINE JONES
You need to leave by 5:30. I will call you at 5:15. Please excuse my interruption, Detective Thorpe.

THORPE
Any time, Madeline.

VAN FLEET
Thank you, Madeline.

MADELINE JONES leaves. VAN FLEET says nothing for several beats.

What else do you know, Chief?

THORPE
The only thing I know is that we have at least one more criminal involved.

(CONTINUED)
VAN FLEET
But the deaths are tied together somehow?

THORPE
Not sure. It wasn’t a robbery. There were some very expensive cameras left behind. Most everything was destroyed. On purpose. Doused and lit. The fire was so hot it burned the top of the bus shelter outside.

VAN FLEET
And no physical clues left?

THORPE
Just an empty bottle of CC by the lovely head of Melissa Vega.

16 INT THORPE’S LIVING ROOM --DAY
ELKA and a young man, GUNNY, carry boxes into the living room. REVA directs them. THORPE enters with a puzzled look.

REVA
Elka’s moving back, Chief.

ELKA
Just until I get distribution. Dad, this is Gunny. He’s a best boy.

THORPE
Is he? Nice to nice meet you, Gunny.

GUNNY
Same here, sir. I’ve heard a lot about you.

THORPE
Some of it complimentary, I hope.

GUNNY
Very much so.

REVA
Gunny, put that in the bedroom, please.

GUNNY
Nice meeting you, Mr Thorpe.
THORPE
Thank you. Hope to meet you again. Sometime.

REVA
(whispering)
He’s not staying.

THORPE
(calling out)
Nice to meet you, Gunny.

REVA
There’s a cold beer in the fridge.

THORPE
Do you need a hand with this, my darling?

REVA
It’s mostly done. You relax. we’re going to Vitorio’s for supper.

THORPE
Now I understand why you said "You relax".

REVA
It would be nice for you to invite Gunny now. So it doesn’t seem forced, later.

THORPE
What’s my motivation?

REVA
Happy females in the house.

Gunny heads back for the last box.

THORPE
Gunny, you will join us for supper? You can clean up here.

GUNNY
Yes. Thank you, Mr Thorpe.

Gunny leaves.

REVA
He’s a very polite young man. Handsome, too.
THORPE
The hungry ones are always polite.

REVA
He’s very handsome, isn’t he? They would be beautiful.

THORPE
Who?

REVA
Gunny and Elka’s children.

THORPE
I only offered to satiate one of his hungers, Reva.

REVA
Oh, I was only thinking.

THORPE
What’s Elka thinking?

REVA
Her and Gunny? Oh no, Chief. He’s not her type.

THORPE
Handsome and beautiful are everyone’s type. At first, at least.

REVA
You are so suspicious of all young men.

THORPE
Just the ones who hang around my daughter.

REVA
You’ll give yourself a medical condition, Chief.

THORPE
I have some bad news for Elka. The wife of Alexy Vega died in an arson, last night.

REVA
Oh, my! Thank God, Elka has moved back home where we can keep an eye on her.
THORPE
Yeah, there’s that benefit.

REVA
What is happening out there, Chief?

THORPE
I don’t know. I think I should tell her. It’s going to be on the evening news.

INT ELKA’S BEDROOM --DAY CONTINUOUS

The room is girly-girl pink surfaces plastered with film posters. ELKA is arranging her closet. Clothes are heaped on the bed and the vanity table. Cardboard boxes are stacked in the corners.

THORPE
Sweetie, I have some bad news.

ELKA
No need to say it, Daddy. Gunny isn’t moving in with me.

THORPE
Yeah, I know. He’s not your type really, is he?

ELKA
Of course not. I’m surprised you knew that.

THORPE
Your daddy is a detective.

ELKA
What’s the bad news?

THORPE guides her to sit on the bed.

THORPE
Melissa Vega died last night in an arson, last night. I didn’t want to spoil supper but you would have heard it on the news.

ELKA starts to CRY. REVA enters to console her.

ELKA
Can we just stay home? I’m not hungry, now.
REVA
Of course, Darling.

THORPE
I’m sorry. I didn’t want to ruin things, Sweetie.

ELKA
No, thanks for telling me. It would have been worse in public, Daddy.

THORPE
I’ll take Gunny and get some pizza.

ELKA
Get some wine, too, Daddy. Melissa would have wanted that, I think.

THORPE
Sure. Life goes on.

18  EXT PARKING LOT  --DAY

THORPE inspects two slashed tires on his car. He snaps his cellphone open and speed dials.

THORPE
Mr Belinski? Jim Thorpe. It happened again.

BELINSKI
A flat tire? Again, Mr Thorpe?

THORPE
Two of them.

BELINSKI
I’ll send the truck, but I’ll have to order them. Tomorrow afternoon soon enough?

THORPE
I guess it will have to be, Mr Belinski.

THORPE checks a shot-out surveillance camera high on a light pole. Lying a few feet from the base is a BRASS CARTRIDGE CASE.

POV THORPE: The primer end of a 9mm casing

THORPE picks it up on his pen and flips open his cellphone.

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
Admiral, have one of your monkeys
wait for me.

VAN FLEET
Evidence?

THORPE
Yes.

VAN FLEET
The murder?

THORPE
Tire-slashing.

19 INT THORPE’S KITCHEN --DAY

THORPE looks as if he smells something bad.

REVA
Hon, the department pays for the
tires.

THORPE
That’s not the point, Reva. Now,
I have to take the bus to work.

REVA
Take a cab, then.

THORPE
The department won’t pay for
that.

REVA
Think of it as an adventure,
Chief. Or a little vacation.
Something a little different.
That’s the way to think about it.

THORPE
Yeah.

REVA
Artists try different things to
free up their creative juices.
You may think up a solution to
something.

THORPE
Like world peace?

REVA
You never know, Chief. Trudeau
used take off in an Air Force
(MORE)
REVA (cont’d)
jet, flying all over the country,
just to think.

THORPE
Yeah, but he never took the bus,
did he? Besides, what did he ever
think up?

REVA
Nothing that I know of. But, at
least he tried.

20 EXT STREET --DAY
THORPE runs down the street meeting the same JOGGER who is
again overtaken in a few strides. Again the college man
picks up his pace and pulls back alongside Thorpe. They
run side by side for half a block.

Up the street about 30 yards a car begins to back out and
blocks the sidewalk. JOGGER pulls to a stop. THORPE
hurdles the hood of the car and continues running without
breaking stride.

POV JOGGER:
THORPE disappearing down the
street.

21 EXT BUS STOP --DAY
THORPE looks over the PEOPLE waiting for the bus. It’s a
different group than the one he waited with on Saturday.
The bus approaches. Thorpe gets on last. He looks up into
the camera above the DRIVER. It’s a woman this time.

POV THORPE
Latricia Tawny Brown
Badge Number 021209

Toronto slides by under Thorpe’s uninterested gaze. He
checks out the driver’s ID again.

THORPE
Excuse me, Ms Brown.

LATRICIA BROWN
We can only talk when the bus
stopped, mister.

A bus stop comes into view in the windshield.

(CONTINUED)
LATRICIA
Okay, how can I help you?

THORPE
Do you know a driver on this route with a happy smile and a Brooklyn accent?

LATRICIA
Happy smile? That’s Robby Shine!

THORPE
Yeah, Robert Shine, that’s his name.

The bus pulls away and Latricia maintains silence until the next stop.

LATRICIA
Robby’s always helping people.

THORPE
He helped me solve a problem.

LATRICIA
(handing over a business card)
That shows you how to leave an official compliment. Those look good on a driver’s record.

THORPE
Thanks, Ms Brown. I’ll mention you, too. Next stop is mine.

22 INT INTERROGATION ROOM --DAY

A Jamaican GANG BANGER, the star of Alexy Vega’s last movie, is shackled to a chair in a nova of light. THORPE is standing in the shadows behind the light.

THORPE
You look good on screen, Alphonse.

GANG BANGER
Ma name’s Trick D, mon.

THORPE
Not according to your mother. I think I understood her. She was crying, of course. But, yeah, she said "Alphonse".

(CONTINUED)
GANG BANGER
Ma ol lady don know nutin’, mon.

THORPE
I’m not sure you meant to say that, Alphonse. Logically speaking. Why’d you shoot Alexy Vega? He was on your side.

GANG BANGER
He rat us out, mon.

THORPE
We never got any information from him. He always blurred faces of criminals before he showed his films.

GANG BANGER
Yeah, he be wack, mon. He be wack.

THORPE
The gun you used also was used to shoot out a streetlight a few blocks from here.

GANG BANGER
Ha ha ha, mon you be wack. A light?

THORPE
Yeah, then the shooter slashed my tires.

GANG BANGER
Mon, you be good. Wack buh good.

THORPE
Thanks. You guys don’t make it too hard. But thanks, Alphonse.

23 EXT THORPE’S DRIVEWAY —-DAY
THORPE pulls his sedan into the garage. He checks the two new tires before closing the garage door.

24 INT THORPE’S LIVING ROOM —-DAY
THORPE heads for his recliner and remote and scans for sports, settling for football highlights. ELKA stalks in with her camera rolling. She circles THORPE as she films.

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
Sweetie, I have a job for you.

ELKA
Not the gutters again, Dad. Can’t Lionel help with that? Don’t look at the camera.

THORPE
It’s not gutters. I need a film editor.

ELKA
That’s me. Don’t look at the camera.

ELKA positions herself between THORPE and the TV.

THORPE
I’m not sure how that’s possible.

ELKA
I’m done now. What’s this editing job you have?

THORPE
I need a close look at Alexy Vega’s film. That 9/11 thing.

ELKA
I can’t edit that, Dad.

THORPE
Can you blow up a few frames of it?

ELKA
Perhaps. I’m an artiste not a technician.

ELKA turns and heads down the hallway.
Come on, Dad. I set up a studio in Lionel’s old room.

THORPE
Old room?

ELKA
Well, he’s not using it right now.
Moments later. By the door sits Lionel’s hockey bag and a few hockey sticks. Several computer screens, cameras, and lights seem littered about the room. Lionel’s photo in a hockey sweater is still attached to one wall.

ELKA
Will you take that bag of Lionel’s stuff somewhere?

THORPE
Maybe I’ll drop it off at the dorm.

THORPE inspects the studio while ELKA finds Alexy Vega’s 9/11 movie DVD. Amateur film making seems to be an expensive past time.

ELKA
What do you want to look at?

THORPE
The bloody nose. Actually the ECU and drawback after that.

ELKA
You know a lot about film.

THORPE
I learnt from a professional film maker, Sweetie.

ELKA
Got it.

THORPE looks and nods.

THORPE
That man is Richard Gary Shine. He disappeared after 9/11. Everyone thinks he died in the North Tower where he worked.

ELKA
How do you know?

THORPE
One of the Admiral’s monkeys tracked him down.

ELKA
I’m wondering about the ethics of filming on the street, Dad. I’m an extension of Big Brother.

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
You are Big Brother. Can you blow up that case he’s carrying? I think that has the answer.

ELKA
It’ll take a minute.

THORPE
I looked at it through a magnifying glass and it seemed to have the Twin Tower logo on it.

ELKA
Is this connected to Alexy’s murder?

THORPE
No, we have that joker. This might be related to the murder of Mrs Vega. I ran the name Shine and found that he disappeared after the attack and was presumed killed.

ELKA
Presumed? So they never found his body?

THORPE
No, but many people were never accounted for, so that’s not unusual.

ELKA
But everyone got buried. I saw that on the news.

THORPE
A lot of remains were distributed just to provide closure, I believe the term is.

POV ELKA: The computer screen
TWIN TOWER LOGO

ELKA
That’s what you were looking for?

THORPE
Yeah, it sure confirms what I thought I saw.

ELKA
You didn’t really need me for this, Dad.
THORPE
If I went to court saying I found this with a magnifying glass a lawyer would laugh me off the stand. Now, I have professional confirmation.

ELKA
Great! How does this fit with Melissa’s murder?

THORPE
Not sure. I can’t say until I speak with his wife, Mrs Robert Shine.

ELKA
You mean Mrs Richard Shine.

THORPE
No. Richard was a bachelor.

26 EXT HOUSE ON QUIET STREET --DAY
The house is modest but neat with fall flowers blooming in abundance. THORPE knocks on the door and OLIVIA SHINE answers. She’s 35, with a pretty smile, attractively dressed and well turned out.

OLIVIA SHINE
Can I help you?

THORPE
I’m Detective Jim Thorpe. I would like to speak with Robert Shine.

OLIVIA SHINE
Oh, is he in trouble?

THORPE
It’s about his brother, Richard.

OLIVIA SHINE
Richard was killed in the towers, Detective. On nine-eleven.

THORPE
Yes, I know. There’s still a few questions about that.

OLIVIA SHINE
Oh, it upsets...

BUS DRIVER SHINE O/S
Who is it, Livvy?

ROBERT SHINE comes to the door.
OLIVIA SHINE
It’s a detective, Robby. About Richard.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
My brother is dead, detective. Have we met?

THORPE
I’m Jim Thorpe. We met on your bus. I asked if you were from Brooklyn.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
And made a comment about my family?

THORPE
Yeah, nice family.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Yeah, I remember you. Why are you involved in a death from New York City?

THORPE
Your brother was in a movie which was shown on a public access station.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
It’s okay Livvy. (he kisses her) I’ll be a few minutes.

OLIVIA SHINE dutifully leaves.
My brother? This was an old film I take it.

THORPE
The day of 9/11. Actually, the moment of.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
From a camera in the tower? They told me they never found anything about Richard.

THORPE
No, this was shot some distance from the towers just before the first plane hit. In fact, Richard is on screen as the jet hits.

ROBERT SHINE stumbles back into the foyer, tipping over a small table. OLIVIA SHINE quickly appears and embraces her husband.
OLIVIA SHINE
Oh, Robby, Robby! (to Thorpe) No more, please!

THORPE
I barely got started, Mrs Shine.

OLIVIA SHINE
(caressing Robert’s head)
Please, detective, no more questions. It took so long for Robby to recover from Richard’s death.

THORPE
Please forgive me, Mrs Shine.

THORPE scoops up ROBERT SHINE as if he were a toy and places him on the couch in the front room. Robert begins to regain consciousness.

OLIVIA SHINE
Robby. Robby, darling.

THORPE
I’m sorry. I could call an ambulance.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
No. (then much weaker) No. I’m just dizzy.

OLIVIA SHINE kisses her husband and then guides THORPE to the door.

OLIVIA SHINE
He took so long to recover.

THORPE
Yes, it’s difficult losing a brother. Particularly a twin.

OLIVIA SHINE
Twin? No. Richard was about two years older than Robby.

THORPE checks his notebook.

THORPE
September the eighteenth 1972?

OLIVIA SHINE
That’s Robby’s birthday.

THORPE
And Richard’s?

(CONTINUED)
OLIVIA SHINE
Sometime in April, I think. They spoke only on Christmas.

THORPE
My sincere apologies, Mrs Shine. They looked very much alike, don’t you think?

OLIVIA SHINE
I never saw a photo of him.

THORPE
Never?

OLIVIA SHINE
Their home burned in 89 or 90. Everything was destroyed.

THORPE
The family split up then.

OLIVIA SHINE
Yes, Robby came here and Richard stayed with a neighbour or someone.

THORPE
Did they ever get together?

OLIVIA SHINE
No. Just after we got married, I suggested we all meet but Robby got very angry with me. We eloped since neither of us had any family in Canada.

THORPE
I have film of Richard. It was shown on Cinescope last Saturday. The public access station. Not many people watch it.

OLIVIA SHINE
Oh, Robby watches that show. It’s one of the causes he supports.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Livvy, Livvy!

OLIVIA SHINE
I must go. I don’t want him to regress, Detective.
THORPE knocks on a door. A very beautiful girl, JESSICA, answers.

THORPE
(slightly dazzled)
I must have the wrong room. I’m looking for Lionel Thorpe.

JESSICA
You have the right place.

JESSICA opens the door. LIONEL and FRIENDS are swatting for an mid-term.

LIONEL
Dad? Come in. What’s up?

THORPE
I have your hockey bag. Thought you might need it.

LIONEL
Uh, yeah. Hey let’s take a short break. I want to show my dad around the place a bit.

THORPE and LIONEL walk down the hall. There’s a lot of partying going on.

THORPE
Pretty girl.

LIONEL
That’s Paul’s friend, Jessica.

THORPE
Oh. Anyway, I brought your hockey gear. Elka just remodelled your bedroom.

LIONEL
Remodelled my bedroom?

THORPE
Well, you chose to live here. She’s back home. Your bedroom is E K Thorpe Pictures, Inc.

LIONEL
She’s following her dream.

THORPE
A scout dropped by.

(CONTINUED)
LIONEL
Dropped by, where?

THORPE
Okay, it was a guy I knew.

LIONEL
A guy who scouted you.

THORPE
He’s still a scout, Lionel.

LIONEL
Dad, I’m going to be an metallurgist-engineer, not a hockey player.

THORPE
But you could play five years and then do engineering.

LIONEL
That’s your dream, Dad. I’m a hack player. Third string. I’m not Jim Thorpe.

THORPE
I don’t want you to have regrets, that’s all.

LIONEL
Dad, metallurgists think that transparent metals are possible. Metal you can see through but 80% lighter than glass. And ferro-ceramics for engines that can take twice the heat. That means twice the power. This is the industry of the future.

THORPE
That’s good. Should I take the hockey gear back?

LIONEL
No, I’ll play pick-up hockey once a week. Come play with us some night.

THORPE
It will be great to play with you, again.

LIONEL
Jim Thorpe and Jim Thorpe junior on the same team? The guys won’t let that happen.
THORPE
Well, they’d be stupid to let that happen. Give me a call then.

LIONEL
Yeah. I need to get back to study.

THORPE
That girl, Jessica? She’s taken, is she?

LIONEL
Soon to be engaged, if that’s what taken means.

THORPE
Don’t leave that too long, either.

LIONEL
Dad, you worry too much.

THORPE
That’s what dads do.

28 EXT LAKESIDE --DAY

A cold grey Lake Ontario stretches to the horizon. VAN FLEET sits on a bench by the shore. His mane of grey hair is buffeted by the ON-SHORE WIND. THORPE approaches with a bag of burgers and coffee.

THORPE
I knew I’d find you here, Admiral.

VAN FLEET
Criminals always return to the scene of the crime, Chief.

THORPE
You’ve got to stop saying that. Cheeseburger?

VAN FLEET
Thanks.

VAN FLEET scrunches up a post it note and puts it in his pocket.

THORPE
What was that?
CONTINUED: (2) 41.

VAN FLEET
A reminder not to come here.

THORPE says nothing.
  From Madeline.

THORPE
She’s a good assistant, Admiral.
  Very efficient.

VAN FLEET stares out at the lake, not quite listening to THORPE.

VAN FLEET
I never remember to bring any lunch with me. I guess I never plan to stay long. But I always do.

THORPE
What are you looking for, Admiral?

VAN FLEET
The only answer I don’t have. Why. Why. Why.

THORPE
My people don’t ask that question. Not the cosmic one. Not the philosophical one. We ask things like, "Why do moose have big noses?"

VAN FLEET
And the answer?

THORPE
Because God gave the small noses to pretty women.

VAN FLEET
You must be part Irish.

VAN FLEET eats the burger in silence, still looking out at the lake. He takes the coffee and sips slowly. Why does God take things away, Chief?

THORPE
Because He only lends His things to us. Life and health and wealth. We can’t keep any of it.

VAN FLEET
Why did He take it back so soon?

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
No man knows that, Admiral.

VAN FLEET
The report said Melissa Varga blind drunk.

THORPE
Blind drunk? We’re not using a scale of numbers anymore?

VAN FLEET
Madeline had the number. Point two or something. She might have died from alcohol poisoning.

THORPE
So it could be simple arson?

VAN FLEET is distracted. Several beats slip by.

VAN FLEET
Why are you here? Not in the cosmic sense.

THORPE
I visited Robert Shine. He had a very peculiar reaction to my questions about his brother.

VAN FLEET
How peculiar?

THORPE
He fainted. Staged a faint, I think.

VAN FLEET
Might have been real. Loss of a loved one, Chief, does strange things to a man.

THORPE
They weren’t close. The missus didn’t even know the brother was a twin.

VAN FLEET
Odd. I suppose I should get prepared for some heated up lawyer pounding my desk about police harassment.

THORPE
I have a feeling, Robert doesn’t want this exposed any more than it has been already.

(CONTINUED)
VAN FLEET
Do we know he saw this movie?
Even if he did, it was a two
second shot. He could have missed
it.

THORPE
His wife said he always watched
the program. He’s one of those
supporters, apparently. I think
he saw it.

VAN FLEET
Maybe he’s just a private man.
Not all of us are publicity hogs,
Chief.

THORPE
Yeah. I think his wife wants to
know more. I expect her to show
up one day soon.

VAN FLEET
Did you tell her they looked like
twins?

THORPE
Yes. Now I just wait.

VAN FLEET
More Cherokee lore?

THORPE
If you want a horse to come to
you, let him see you lie down in
the grass. In an hour,
curiosity drives right over to
you.

VAN FLEET
And that works with women, too?

THORPE
Your guess is as good as mine,
Admiral.

29 EXT THORPE’S PATIO --DAY

THORPE is grilling steaks. REVA is cutting back dried up
vines in her garden.

REVA
There, that looks better. Table’s
set. Did you remember to keep
Elka’s veggie burgers away from
the steaks, Chief?

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
Yes, ma’am. Where is she?

REVA
She went to get Gunny.

THORPE
Why doesn’t he drive?

REVA
Chief, he doesn’t own a car.

THORPE
Neither does Elka. Can’t you talk to her about getting back into a real job?

REVA
Like hockey?

THORPE
Lionel squealed, did he?

REVA
No, I figured you’d try to convince him, one last time.

JIM THORPE
Okay, it was one last time. I just don’t want him to wake up in the wrong dream.

REVA
He’s very nearly the best student in his class, Chief.

JIM THORPE
Yeah. Yeah, that’s an exciting world he dreams about. Tell me why is this Gunny person coming here? I thought he was an acquired taste.

REVA
Just be nice, Chief.

Thorpe’s sedan rolls up the drive.

JIM THORPE
Now I have no excuse for the burnt steak.

REVA
Oh, he’s a vegetarian, Chief.
THORPE
He ate meat on pizza night.

REVA
Elka can be very persuasive.

THORPE
I can burn veggie burgers, too, you know.

GUNNY and ELKA are holding hands as they come out of the house.

ELKA
Dad, you remember Gunny.

THORPE
Yes, even though he’s not my type.

ELKA
Daddy!

THORPE
Come on, sit down. The steaks are done.

GUNNY
I don’t eat meat anymore, Mr Thorpe.

THORPE
Oh, darn I have this extra one, Gunny. Are you sure? Perhaps I shouldn’t tempt you.

GUNNY
Perhaps you shouldn’t.

ELKA
Dad, meat just makes men aggressive.

THORPE
Veggie burgers it is, Gunny.

30 EXT PATIO --DAY

The meal has been eaten, except for the extra steak, which GUNNY eyes hungrily. Reva is clearing the table and ELKA is pouring coffee. THORPE is enjoying a cigarette.

ELKA
You should quit, Dad. I can’t understand how an athlete would take up smoking.

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
It’s a cultural thing.

ELKA
Gunny quit smoking. Didn’t you, Gunny?

GUNNY smiles weakly.

THORPE
Good. I intend to quit. Except for ceremonial times. Gunny, what are your plans?

GUNNY
Plans?

THORPE
Yeah, what do you intend to do with your life?

GUNNY
Make films, I guess.

THORPE
Is there money in films? In indies, I mean?

GUNNY
It’s really about art, Mr Thorpe. Not money, per se.

THORPE
But so much of life is about money, per se. Like rent, car payments, steak and beer.

GUNNY
I’m nearly a CPA, Mr Thorpe.

THORPE
Really? Elka, did you know this?

ELKA has just returned with a fresh pot of coffee.

ELKA
Know what, Daddy?

THORPE
That Gunny is a CPA?

ELKA
We met in an accounting class, Dad.

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
Nice secure business. You’d make lots of money for your hobbies.

GUNNY
Yes. What are your hobbies, Mr Thorpe?

THORPE
Police work doesn’t leave much time for hobbies. I play a few sports but it’s work, work, work.

ELKA
Dad is working to find the murderer of Melissa Vega.

GUNNY
A very severe critic.

ELKA
Gunny!

GUNNY
I mean. Someone saw something he didn’t like. He destroyed all of Alexy’s work in that fire.

THORPE
What do you think of Alexy’s 9/11 film, Gunny?

GUNNY
I think the beginning was tacked onto a very ordinary, in terms of technique, film. The subject was compelling but the technique was prosaic. And there’s no editing. In my opinion. You should ask Elka, she’s the expert.

THORPE
Elka loved the film.

ELKA
Hmmm.

THORPE
Gunny, do you think the beginning was real? Or was it staged?

GUNNY
Real. The accident was real. Two expensive cars were involved. No indie could afford that kind of damage. The dialogue went nowhere.
THORPE
How about the man with the bloody nose?

GUNNY
You know, Mr Thorpe, I’m not sure. After the plane crashes into the tower, it seems he is buoyed up somehow.

ELKA
Buoyed up? What did he do? Is he even in the film after the ECU and pull back?

GUNNY
Yes, we see him in the corner of the frame just after the plane hits. Then again as the tower starts to collapse. He looks hopeful, somehow.

THORPE
Elka, run that film again, please.

ELKA
Now?

THORPE
Please, Sweetie. Gunny and I will be in when I finish this smoke.

31 INT LIONEL’S OLD ROOM NOW STUDIO --DAY
The movie is booted up. GUNNY and THORPE bookend ELKA in front of the screen.

THORPE
Okay, Gunny, show me what you are talking about.

GUNNY
Take it to the bloody nose and drawback.

ELKA skips to the ECU.
Look at his eyes. He is not even angry that he was punched, just sad and accepting.

ELKA
I think you are right, Gunny.
Now, move ahead to the impact.

GUNNY watches closely then points to the back of a man’s head.

That’s Richard and watch his ears. They rise because he is smiling.

ELKA
God, what a monster.

THORPE
A defence lawyer would laugh that out of court. But it’s a very interesting observation, Gunny. It might lead to some idea of why he disappeared that very day.

GUNNY
Go to the collapse. Richard has moved closer to the towers but still in front of the camera.

GUNNY points to a man a mile from the camera.

ELKA
How can you tell that’s him?

GUNNY
He has the case. Now watch when he realizes he is too close and turns to run. Blow it up, Elka, please.

ELKA
God! He’s smiling!

GUNNY
It’s so far from a normal reaction that I’d say the man is an actor. But Alexy Vega never staged anything.

ELKA
What a delicious conundrum, Gunny!

THORPE
How did you see this, Gunny?

GUNNY
I watch every movie frame by frame.
ELKA
Why?

GUNNY
To see the changes in composition. I guess I enjoy pictures more than movies.

ELKA
Hmmm.

THORPE
So a man disappears and he’s hopeful. Of what?

GUNNY
A new life, Mr Thorpe. That gives a man hope.

32 INT THORPE’S BEDROOM --NIGHT

THORPE and REVA are in bed. Reva is reading some thick novel. Thorpe is staring at the ceiling.

THORPE
That Gunny is quite a bright young man, Reva.

REVA
Polite, too.

THORPE
And quite handsome, don’t you think?

REVA
What’s your angle?

THORPE
Nothing, but he’s nearly a CPA. He met Elka in class last year. This film lark is just a hobby.

REVA
Elka said he helped solve your case, too.

THORPE
Solved no. But he is very observant. I wonder if he hunts?

REVA
Oh sweet fool. He’s become a vegetarian. For Elka, at least.
INT THORPE’S OFFICE — DAY

THORPE is shuffling papers. VAN FLEET ushers in OLIVIA SHINE. Thorpe snaps to attention.

THORPE
Mrs Shine. Good of you to come. Did you find parking?

OLIVIA SHINE
Oh, I took the bus. We don’t own a car.

THORPE
Oh. I guess living downtown is better without the hassle.

OLIVIA SHINE
I suppose. I’d like to see that film of Richard, Detective Thorpe, if I may.

THORPE
Yes, of course, Mrs Shine.

VAN FLEET
It’s ready to roll, Chief.

OLIVIA SHINE
Oh, are you the chief?

THORPE
No, that’s just my nickname, Mrs Shine. I call Captain Van Fleet, Admiral.

OLIVIA SHINE
Oh.

THORPE
Why do you want to see this film now?

OLIVIA SHINE
I was hoping to find why Robby was so upset by Richard’s death. Really, they weren’t close.

THORPE
Let’s watch. Richard gets punched and has a bloody nose. It looks bad. But he seems to be fine.

OLIVIA SHINE watches the movie without a stir until the drawback. VAN FLEET freezes the frame on the close up of Richard.

(CONTINUED)
OLIVIA SHINE
My word! He looks like Robby! I mean...it is him.

THORPE
Do you think Richard is a twin to Robert?

OLIVIA SHINE
It looks like it.

THORPE
Does Robert know you came, Mrs Shine?

OLIVIA SHINE
No. He seemed to regress after your visit.

VAN FLEET
Regress?

OLIVIA SHINE
After his recovery, eight years ago, he was a very much nicer man. He had been...he had been an angry man. He hated driving the bus. He felt tied down by the girls.

VAN FLEET
When did he begin to have problems with his memory?

OLIVIA SHINE
About three weeks after 9/11 Robby disappeared. He didn’t report to work. He had been drinking...

THORPE
Because of Richard’s death?

OLIVIA SHINE
No. He used that as an excuse. But he had been drinking a lot for months before that. The police found him wandering along the Don River. He didn’t remember anything or anyone.

THORPE
What was the problem?

OLIVIA SHINE
The doctors were baffled. He didn’t have a mark on him, except

(MORE)
OLIVIA SHINE (cont’d)
a little scar on his nose. He was
dirty and confused. He didn’t
know me or his best friend from
work. Nothing. But he was nice,
you know, happy. He couldn’t stop
smiling.

THORPE
How long was he like this, Mrs
Shine?

OLIVIA SHINE
In a few days he started to
remember me. I told him as much
as I could about our life and
about the girls. He made notes.

THORPE
Notes?

VAN FLEET
About what?

OLIVIA SHINE
Where he went to school.
Everything. What he liked to eat.

THORPE
And after several months he
returned to normal.

OLIVIA SHINE
No. Even today, he can’t remember
things until I tell him. We went
to Niagara Falls and he didn’t
remember being there on our
honeymoon. But he had become so
kind and didn’t drink anymore or
smoke. And he liked corned beef.

THORPE
Corned beef?

OLIVIA SHINE
He never liked it before.

VAN FLEET
There’s more to this film but
it’s just about the towers
burning and collapsing. Do you
wish to see it, Mrs Shine?

OLIVIA SHINE
No. But I would like a print of
that picture of Richard.
CONTINUED: (4)

VAN FLEET
I’ll go arrange that now. Nice to have met you, Mrs Shine.

OLIVIA SHINE
My pleasure, Captain.

THORPE
What do you think Robert will say if he knew you had come here?

OLIVIA SHINE
He will believe I came only to help him. I don’t want him to go back to the man he was. Robby knows I love him and he loves me.

34 INT HOCKEY RINK NIGHT

Two pick-up teams are on the ice in a deserted rink. The clock reads 12:30 am. THORPE races down ice for a puck and then turns back and stick handles through the team of opponents until he has only LIONEL to beat. Thorpe feints left then attempts to push the puck between Lionel’s skates but is stopped just as the BUZZER sounds.

VOICE ON SPEAKER
All right you rats, clear the ice. I want to go home!

THORPE meets LIONEL near the net.

THORPE
I must be getting old.

LIONEL
Hey, I’ve seen that move a hundred times.

35 INT THORPE’S LIVING ROOM -- NIGHT

THORPE is watching a hockey game on TV but which no real interest. He spots REVA who is ironing a dress.

THORPE
Neighbourhood Watch meeting tonight?

REVA
No. It’s for Elka. She’s meeting Gunny. He has some news for her.

THORPE
Great.

(CONTINUED)
REVA
Now, Chief, Gunny is a fine young man.

THORPE
Handsome and polite.

REVA
Yes. (whispering) He just landed a job with Dunwoody.

THORPE
Wow.

REVA
Shush. He told me so I would insist that Elka meet him tonight. He wants to surprise her.

ELKA breezes in. She is not nearly ready to go anywhere special.

ELKA
Mom, I’m going in my work clothes.

THORPE
Work clothes?

ELKA
Daddy, I’m filming the streets. Jeans are practical.

THORPE
I work the streets, too. And I wear a suit and tie. Gunny has asked you to meet him and politeness demands some effort.

ELKA
Tribalism.

THORPE
What?

ELKA
You men. You have a drink together and rah rah rah instant bonding.

THORPE
It’s just a mark of respect to dress up a bit.

REVA holds up the dress. It is slinky.
That’s more than a bit.

(CONTINUED)
ELKA
I’d forgotten how sexy that dress looks on me, Mom.

ELKA steps close so REVA can see how the dress looks.

REVA
Oh, that deep blue looks so beautiful on you, Elka.

THORPE
It may be too fancy for a simple weekday meeting. Reva, she has something more...

ELKA presses the dress to her body and spins.

ELKA
You mean less alluring, don’t you, Daddy? It’s this or jeans and Doc Martins.

THORPE crosses the room to ELKA and takes her lightly by the shoulders.

THORPE
Wear that. But you be sure to remind Gunny that I work for the police department.

ELKA
Daddy, I’m not a little girl anymore.

THORPE kisses her forehead.

THORPE
That’s not as comforting as you might think, Elka. Will you need the car?

REVA
(quickly before Elka can answer)
No, dear, Gunny is picking Elka up. Now go get ready. He’ll be here for you in an hour.

ELKA may sense a conspiracy but she smiles and hustles to her room.

THORPE
Do you think our little girl is about to become engaged?

(CONTINUED)
I don’t know, Chief.

I thought women had this sixth sense about these things.

She’s turned down others.

She has? I never heard about any.

It’s a non-event, Chief.

Really? How many non-events?

Oh, I should think a dozen. At least. Now do be nice when Gunny gets here.

A dozen? Did you turn down a dozen proposals?

Not quite that many, Chief. Elka is much prettier than I ever was.

Waiting for the right man, were you?

The most persistent one, in any case.

I know pretty and you were and are. How many proposals did you turn down?

I turned down two.

Why?

I was testing your ardour, Chief.

You mean Francis never proposed to you?
REVA

THORPE
I knew he was an idiot. I was ready to propose the moment I saw you.

REVA
You did.

REVA takes down the ironing board.

THORPE
Livvy came to the station to see the movie. She was shocked how alike Richard and Robert are, were, I guess.

REVA
In looks, dear. Even twins have personality differences.

THORPE
Robert’s personality changed after Richard disappeared.

REVA
For the better?

THORPE
Apparently. She’s very protective of her husband. She doesn’t want him to regress, as she puts it.

REVA
Well, some good came out of the tragedy. It must have been a shock losing someone as close as a twin.

THORPE
They didn’t grow up together and weren’t close. But Robert had a huge reaction to Richard’s death.

REVA
What kind of huge reaction?

THORPE
Total amnesia which even now is not completely cleared up. He needs to be prompted.

(CONTINUED)
REVA
Like an actor, Chief.

36 INT POLICE CAR --DAY

THORPE is watching a football practise at the University of Toronto through the windshield. His cellphone RINGS.

VAN FLEET
Chief, Mrs Shine wants to meet with you.

THORPE
When?

VAN FLEET
Now. At the Tim’s a block from her place. Can you make it?

THORPE
Depending on traffic.

VAN FLEET
She sounded... spooked. That’s the only way I can put it.

37 INT POLICE CAR --DAY

POV THORPE: Pulling into Tim Horton’s parking lot.

38 INT TIM HORTON’S --DAY CONTINUOUS

THORPE surveys the area but does not see Mrs Shine.

39 EXT TIM HORTON’S --DAY CONTINUOUS

THORPE spots Mrs Shine half way down the block heading back to her house. He goes to his cruiser and heads out after her.

40 INT POLICE CAR --DAY CONTINUOUS

POV THORPE through windshield closing on OLIVIA SHINE who is walking quickly. He lowers the window.

THORPE
Mrs Shine, Mrs Shine.

OLIVIA SHINE
Can you take me somewhere? Out of the neighbourhood?
THORPE
Hop in.

OLIVIA SHINE ducks into the back seat of the cruiser and sprawls on the seat.

OLIVIA SHINE
Get out of here. But stay off the bus route, Detective Thorpe.

The cruiser leaves quickly and wanders the back streets until OLIVIA SHINE sits up. THORPE pulls the cruiser to the curb.

THORPE
Is this about your husband?

OLIVIA SHINE
I don’t know.

OLIVIA SHINE hands a notebook page to THORPE.

POV THORPE:
The print out of the screen shot of Richard Shine.

THORPE
I don’t understand the significance of this, Livvy.

OLIVIA SHINE takes a deep breath.

OLIVIA SHINE
Robby didn’t have a scar on his nose until after the police found him near the river.

THORPE
And Richard has a scar in this picture a month before Robert went missing for a day.

OLIVIA SHINE
Yes. The same scar, Detective. The very same.

THORPE
Does Robert know you have this picture?

OLIVIA SHINE
Is it Robert? Is the man coming to my bed tonight, Robert?

THORPE
I don’t know, Livvy. He doesn’t know about this photo, right?

(CONTINUED)
OLIVIA SHINE
No. What do I do now? I don’t feel safe anymore at home with... that man. And the children.

THORPE
Do you have a place to go? A relative?

OLIVIA SHINE
My family lives in Wales. My close friend lives a block away.

THORPE
Would you go to a shelter?

OLIVIA SHINE
No. I don’t want to embarrass him. What if I’m wrong? He’s been a good man, a good husband, a good father.

THORPE
But...

OLIVIA SHINE
I think the man I love... loved is the brother of the man I married.

THORPE
How would you like to have swine flu?

INT OLIVIA SHINE’S BEDROOM --DAY
A nurse, KARA DOOLEY, ties a hospital mask over a nervous OLIVIA SHINE’S mouth.

KARA
You must wear this whenever you leave this room. Even if no one is around.

OLIVIA SHINE
I can’t leave my room?

KARA
That’s why it’s call quarantine, Livvy. You must appoint one person to bring your meals and leave them by the door. That person must wear a mask, too.
OLIVIA SHINE
No contact? Not even with my daughters?

KARA
Jim explained the situation to me. This will protect you and not raise suspicions. Please, just wear the mask and stay in here, alone. No calls, except a 911 call. I will drop by every day to check on you.

OLIVIA SHINE
I don’t think this is a good idea anymore.

KARA
It’s this or sleep with the man who comes to your bed.

OLIVIA SHINE
That’s not...

KARA
Livvy, that’s exactly what you think. You must stick with the rules.

OLIVIA SHINE
I’ll try.

KARA
You must. If what you think is true, then... You must keep this secret.

OLIVIA SHINE
I will. What is Detective Thorpe going to do?

KARA
He’ll think of something.

INT THORPE’S KITCHEN --DAY

ELKA flits into the kitchen. She admires her ENGAGEMENT RING. THORPE is finishing breakfast.

ELKA
Isn’t it beautiful, Daddy?

THORPE
For a beautiful woman, Sweetie.
ELKA
I’m going to make a film of it.

THORPE
I can see the Cinescope movie poster now.

ELKA
It’s not just about the ring. It’s about all the emotion and symbolism of it.

A CAR pulls into the driveway. ELKA peeks out the window.

ELKA (cont’d)
It’s the Admiral!

ELKA dances to the door to greet VAN FLEET. He envelopes her in a bear hug.

VAN FLEET
Congratulations, Elka. I brought you a little engagement present.

ELKA steps back and takes the bottle.

ELKA
Krystall!

THORPE
There goes the department’s petty cash for a month.

REVA comes to see what the commotion is.

REVA
Admiral. What’s the occasion?

VAN FLEET
My goddaughter’s engagement, Reva!

REVA
It’s so wonderful to see you again, Admiral.

VAN FLEET
I’ve been busy for... too long. Elka, I am so happy for you. I’ve thought of you as a daughter since... for a long time.

ELKA
You’re a darling man, Admiral.

ELKA kisses his cheek. VAN FLEET is chuffed.

(CONTINUED)
VAN FLEET
I must be going. Do you want a lift, Chief?

THORPE
No, thanks, Admiral. I’m going green. I’m taking the bus.

REVA straightens THORPE’S tie.

REVA
Who are you? And where is my husband?

REVA kisses him hard on the lips.
Never mind, I’ll keep you.

THORPE checks his watch.

THORPE
Got to rush. See you at the station, Admiral.

43 EXT BUS STOP — DAY

THORPE is all smiles this morning, bouncing on his toes in anticipation of the arrival of the bus. There is a FAMILIAR FACES at the bus stop. Thorpe nods an acknowledgement. The BUS pulls into view. Thorpe boards last.

THORPE
Good morning, Robert.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Oh, yeah. Car trouble, Detective?

THORPE
Just doing my part for a nice clean city.

THORPE up front so he can speak with ROBERT. The bus pulls away.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
You could see that these abandoned wrecks get towed. They mess up a fine neighbourhood.

THORPE
Quite a problem is it? Oh, I’m sorry, we’re not supposed to chat when the bus is in motion.

THORPE points to the camera and then makes a HUSH SIGN with his finger before his lips. When the bus stops ROBERT turns to Thorpe.

(CONTINUED)
BUS DRIVER SHINE
Some wrecks stay there for weeks.

THORPE is distracted.

THORPE
Oh... yeah. I’m sorry, I just noticed that flu poster. I didn’t get a shot, did you?

The bus is moving again.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Naw, I...

THORPE
Say no more. Big brother is watching.

THORPE seems to lose interest in chatting and gazes distractedly out the window. Toronto streets and traffic slip by the window.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Detective, this is your stop.

The bus pulls to the curb. THORPE disembarks.

THORPE
Thanks, Robert. See you after my shift.

44 INT THORPE’S OFFICE --DAY

VAN FLEET is seated by the door smoking under a NO SMOKING ordinance sign. THORPE CLATTERS away on the computer.

VAN FLEET
Going back eight years might not be possible, Chief, especially since you don’t know when the car would have been picked up.

THORPE
Would it be cross referenced somehow?

VAN FLEET
We used to send plates back to the province or state. We’d do that once a year. Check for January 2002.

THORPE
Three hundred non-Ontario plates returned. Twenty-three for New (MORE)
THORPE (cont’d)
York State. But no names just numbers.

VAN FLEET
Their authorities hunt them down and charge them a fee. I’ll put a research monkey on this. They thrive on this stuff. It drives me nuts.

THORPE
Me, too. Let’s go for lunch.

VAN FLEET
I’ll meet you at my car. I’ll put my best gal on this.

45 EXT HOT DOG WAGON --DAY
VAN FLEET carries a cardboard tray of dogs and coffee. THORPE sits on a bench in a small park and checks his notebook.

THORPE
That was nice of you to that today, Admiral.

VAN FLEET
Elka’s like a daughter. I think of her that way, in any case.

THORPE
A bottle of Krystall is a bit extravagant. But thanks, Admiral.

VAN FLEET
I have no one else to spend my money on, Chief.

VAN FLEET sits beside THORPE and divvies out the lunch. Run this whole thing by me again.

THORPE
Livvy thinks Richard has replaced Robby.

VAN FLEET
And she thinks this because of the scar?

THORPE
Yeah. Her husband didn’t have a scar on 9/11 but Richard did. Three weeks later, hubby, whoever he is, has the same scar.
VAN FLEET
But we never found Robert. His brother didn’t say "Leave town so I can take your place." Robert was murdered. Had to be.

THORPE
Have your monkey do a John Doe search. I don’t remember anyone from that time, though.

VAN FLEET
Me neither. Of course, I was pre-occupied at that time.

THORPE
Stay with me, Admiral. I need your help.

VAN FLEET
She said he changed personality. I say she’s right. I say her husband is Richard.

THORPE
Yes, but how do we prove that?

VAN FLEET
We find Robert.

INT THORPE’S FRONT ROOM

THORPE is flopped in his recliner. REVA loosens his tie.

THORPE
It was awful, Reva. And Robert wasn’t even driving the bus on my return trip.

REVA
I guess I have my husband back. The man this morning was much more romantic.

THORPE
I think the man living with Livvy is really Richard.

REVA
And the real Robert is dead?

THORPE
Yep. Dead eight years. Even if we found him now, it would be tough to make any real conclusions.

(CONTINUED)
REVA
So he killed Robert and Melissa? Perhaps there are clues?

THORPE
That place almost melted. It damaged the bus stop outside!

THORPE goes silent. REVA watches him.

REVA
What’s wrong, Chief?

THORPE
Not sure. Something about bus stops and something Livvy said. I’m going to call Kara and ask her to check for me.

THORPE calls from his cellphone. It RINGS ONCE. KARA answers as REVA leaves the room.

KARA
Hello, Jim. I’m just heading out to see Livvy.

THORPE
Great. I caught you on time. Will you ask Livvy if they have a family car?

KARA
Sure.

THORPE
You’re not going to ask why, Kara?

KARA
You’ve already told me the answer to the question, why, Jim. I’ll text you an answer.

THORPE
Why not just call?

KARA
You will have a record of the answer if I text you. I suppose you’ll need it for the trial.

THORPE
Good optimistic thinking, Kara. Livvy’s kids will be safe, won’t they?

(CONTINUED)
KARA
If Robert or whoever doesn’t figure it out. I’ve got to go. I want to be there before he gets home.

THORPE sinks back into his recliner and nods off. REVA has returned with a mug of beer. She smiles and puts a light blanket over him.

47 INT THORPE’S FRONT ROOM --DAY
THORPE is still napping. His cellphone RINGS and he awakes. He flips the phone open and reads the text.

POV THORPE: THE CELL PHONE SCREEN
No vehicle since 01
K. Dooley RN

48 EXT BUS STOP --DAY
The bus pulls to a stop and the doors snap open.

POV ROBERT SHINE:
The face of THORPE smiling broadly.

THORPE
Good morning, Mr Shine.

POV THORPE:
The face of ROBERT SHINE slightly less happy than usual.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Still on this clean city kick, Jimbo?

THORPE
Jimbo? My momma called me that.

The bus pulls away.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Why are you here, Detective?

THORPE places his finger before his lips. SHINE stops the bus.

THORPE
Why are you harrasing me, Detective?

I’m just being eco-friendly.
BUS DRIVER SHINE
Eco-friendly?

THORPE
Respect for the land.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Part of your heritage, Jimbo?

THORPE
A man’s heritage is important, isn’t it, Mr Shine?

Some PASSENGERS begin to GRUMBLE. The bus ACCELERATES down the street. For the rest of the trip neither man speaks. THORPE gets off at his stop.

POV ROBERT SHINE:
The back of THORPE stepping of the bus.

Once on the sidewalk, THORPE lingers to watch the bus pull away. It enters traffic carelessly and cuts off a car. BRAKES SQUEAL and the HORN BLASTS.

EXT FOOTBALL FIELD --DAY

VAN FLEET and THORPE smoke and eat lunch in the bleachers of an empty stadium.

VAN FLEET
I enjoyed my time down there, Chief.

THORPE
I would have enjoyed running behind an old war horse like you.

VAN FLEET
I loved it. The smell of turf and sweat and a little blood.

THORPE
And a little fear.

VAN FLEET
It was wonderful. Nothing glorious like your career, Chief, but I lived for Saturday afternoon. Do you ever wish for those days?

THORPE
For the glorious days, not for the losses. You know, I played my last game half a lifetime ago, Admiral. I was 25.

(CONTINUED)
VAN FLEET
Why are we here?

THORPE
Because I can’t smoke and eat anywhere else. And I was hoping to catch a practise. You were headed to the lake.

VAN FLEET
How did you know that?

THORPE
You had that look, the look you have when you are not reliving your varsity football days.

VAN FLEET
I’ve become such a simple man, have I?

THORPE
A self-imposed restriction, I think, Admiral.

VAN FLEET takes a deep breath.

VAN FLEET
My monkey couldn’t find the name Shine among the New York plates. He may have taken the plates off.

THORPE
It was a low percentage play. Can we get a squint at video from bus cameras?

VAN FLEET
A fishing expedition?

THORPE
Very much so.

VAN FLEET
Can you narrow it down?

THORPE
The night of Melissa Vega’s murder. Video from the bus route which runs by the building from the early morning.

VAN FLEET makes a call. THORPE wanders out onto the field.
50 INT THORPE’S OFFICE --DAY

THORPE massages his brow. The video is mostly empty. Empty buses, empty stops, empty streets. A few thugs wait at a stop but the driver passes them. They chase the bus SCREAMING. A side window is SMASHED. The driver LAUGHS and CURSES them and reports the incident on the bus radio.

THORPE opens the window and lights a cigarette. He watches the screen half-heartedly. By the second drag, something catches his eye. He rushes the screen and rewinds the tape. A man gets on the bus a block from Alexy Vega’s studio. He avoids the camera and doesn’t acknowledge the driver’s greeting. He settles in a seat near the middle of the bus. He keeps his hat, a large green stetson over his eyes.

The man gets off a few stops from Shine’s house.

THORPE butts the cigarette in disgust.

51 INT THORPE’S LIVING ROOM --DAY

THORPE is back in his recliner. REVA, in the background, sets the dining table. ELKA follows Reva and adjusts each table setting.

ELKA
Daddy, please get ready.

THORPE
I am ready. I’m hungry.

ELKA
Put on a clean shirt, please?

THORPE drags himself from his recliner.

THORPE
Why are we acting like Gunny is a guest? He’s family now.

ELKA
Dad.

THORPE leaves. The DOOR BELL RINGS. ELKA rushes to her bedroom.

REVA
Come in, Gunny!

The door opens and Gunny appears with bottles of wine in each hand, which he gives to REVA.

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
Dinner smells wonderful, Mrs Thorpe.

REVA
Thank you, Gunny. Elka will be ready in a few minutes. Dinner in ten minutes.

THORPE reappears in a clean shirt.

THORPE
Gunny, nice of you to come, on such short notice. I have a little video segment I’d like your opinion on.

GUNNY
Another art film?

THORPE
A surveillance film of Melissa Vega’s murderer, I think. I want a frame by frame inspection.

GUNNY
Sure. Am I looking for something specific?

THORPE
A clue to who the man is. No, evidence that it is who I think it is.

THORPE hands GUNNY a laptop. They watch the video at normal speed. Gunny shakes his head.

GUNNY
I didn’t see anything.

THORPE
It was worth a try.

GUNNY
I need my own computer, Mr Thorpe. I have a special program. I will email the file to myself and look at it tomorrow. Okay?

THORPE
Okay, thanks, Gunny.

ELKA slips up to GUNNY and kisses him very passionately.

REVA
Dinner is nearly ready.

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
Don’t spoil your appetite with dessert kids.

52 INT POLICE CAR --DAY
THORPE drives past Robert Shine’s house. Kara’s car is parked in the driveway. He dials a number on his phone and texts a message.

POV THORPE: Meet Tims 10 min

53 INT TIM HORTON’S --DAY
THORPE places a tray with two coffees and donuts in front of KARA.

KARA
(eyeing the donuts)
Aren’t you afraid of becoming a stereotype, Jim?

THORPE
I’m too old to worry, Kara. Tell me about Mr Shine. Any frustration developing?

KARA
Actually, he’s been more understanding than most men are, Jim. He’s a saint. Are you sure you are right about this man?

THORPE
I’m sure. But proving that is tough. How is Livvy holding up?

KARA
She is going to need help no matter which way this goes.

THORPE’S cellphone RINGS.

THORPE
Thorpe.

GUNNY O/S
Mr Thorpe, I found something. A belt buckle.

THORPE
Can I come over now to see it?

(CONTINUED)
GUNNY O/S
No need I’ll email you an enhanced photo. You can check it out in a few minutes.

THORPE
Thanks, Gunny. Are you sure you wouldn’t like to try police work?

GUNNY O/S
Doesn’t pay enough. Elka wants a nice house and to be able to make films!

THORPE
Let’s meet for a steak sometime.

GUNNY O/S
Yeah. I’m going to tell Elka that I can’t live without meat. Got to run. I have an audit to finish.

THORPE
My future son-in-law has found a piece of evidence. I need you to see it.

KARA
Why?

THORPE
You need to know what you will be searching for, Kara.

THORPE polishes off the donut, takes his coffee, and leads KARA to the car.

KARA
I’m going to be ransacking Livvy’s place?

THORPE
Not ransacking. I think Mr Shine will have everything neat and orderly and in its place.

THORPE logs into his email and opens the document.

POV KARA: A screen sized picture of a belt buckle with an inscription, partially obscured. Part of large silver oval: ODEO 2001 SU

KARA
A cowboy belt buckle?
THORPE
That’s your objective, Kara.

KARA
I can’t go back until tomorrow.

THORPE
Tomorrow is soon enough. Just a cellphone picture. Don’t touch it.

54 EXT HOCKEY RINK --NIGHT

THORPE and LIONEL stash their hockey bags and sticks in the trunk of Thorpe’s car.

LIONEL
How’s Gunny fitting in, Dad?

THORPE
Very nicely. He’s got a good level head. And Elka adores him.

LIONEL
Adores him? Mom told you to say that, right?

55 INT THORPE’S CAR --NIGHT CONTINUOUS

THORPE
I am a trained observer, Lionel.

LIONEL
Even trained observers can see what they want to see.

THORPE
Yeah. Any adoring girls on your horizon?

LIONEL
Jessica split with Paul.

THORPE
Did that brighten your day?

LIONEL
A little.
INT THORPE’S BEDROOM --DAY

THORPE is fixing his tie before Reva’s vanity table. His cellphone RINGS.

THORPE
Thorpe.

POV THORPE: Cellphone screen text message
R wearing belt gtg

REVA enters. THORPE is smiling.

REVA
Who was that?

THORPE
Text from Kara.

REVA
I must keep an eye on her, judging from your smile, Chief.

THORPE kisses REVA.

THORPE
I think I just solved the Michell Vega murder. Now I must run for the bus, Reva.

INT BUS --DAY

THORPE sits in his now regular spot. ROBERT SHINE wheels the bus. He says nothing for several stops then he turns to Thorpe.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
What are you looking for, Detective?

THORPE
Who not what.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Who then?

THORPE
Two people. The murderer of Michelle Vega.

The bus pulls away from the stop.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
That’s one person who is...
THORPE
...shush!

ROBERT SHINE is visibly angry and frustrated. He stops the bus HARD. Passengers are jostled and CRY out in pain and surprise and anger. He stands up. His belt buckle is plain to see.

POV THORPE: The belt buckle
JUNIOR RODEO 2001 SUPPORTER
BUS DRIVER SHINE
Get off my bus.

THORPE
I’m still four blocks from my stop, Mr Shine.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
I’ll call the cops.

THORPE
I am a cop, Mr Shine.

SEVERAL RIDERS
Come on.
Get this crate moving.
I’m dialing 911.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Call the cops. Please.

A BURLY MAN comes forward.

BURLY MAN
Want me to throw him off, Robby?

THORPE
(showing his badge)
Please sit down, sir.

BURLY MAN
You’re a detective, are you, Geronimo?

The BURLY MAN grabs THORPE by the lapels. Thorpe grabs the Burly Man’s wrists and pulls free and twists Burly Man’s arm behind his back.

THORPE
If you go back to your seat, I’ll forget the assaulting a police officer charge. And the name’s not Geronimo. It’s Jim Thorpe.

(CONTINUED)
BURLY MAN  
(in pain and embarrassment)  
Yes, Mr Thorpe.

A squad car SKIDS to a stop in front of the bus. A COP gets out and boards the bus.

THORPE  
(flashing his badge)  
I need a ride for the driver and me back to the station, Officer.

BUS DRIVER SHINE  
For what reason?

THORPE  
For the murder of Melissa Vega, Richard. You better radio for another bus driver. We’ve inconvenienced these people long enough.

58 INT INTERROGATION ROOM --DAY

MR SHINE is shackled to a chair under an intense light in the middle of a dreary room. A large TV on a AV cart stands in the corner. VAN FLEET and THORPE walk about the room into the shadows and suddenly back into the light.

VAN FLEET  
Where is your brother?

BUS DRIVER SHINE  
He died on 9/11.

VAN FLEET  
Now, now, Mr Shine, we have a video of your brother on 9/11 and it’s clear he did not die that day.

BUS DRIVER SHINE  
Well, that’s what I was told. I want to see Livvy.

THORPE  
She has swine flu, Mr Shine.

BUS DRIVER SHINE  
How do you know that?

THORPE  
We work closely with the Health Office. I want you to watch the video we have. I know you’ve seen it but we have a sharper version.

(CONTINUED)
VAN FLEET
Roll it.

The video rolls on the large screen TV. VAN FLEET stops the video at the ECU of Richard.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
So?

THORPE
He’s alive. As the plane hits and later we see him as the towers collapse.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
I was lied to. Is that a crime?

VAN FLEET
Blow up the scar. See the scar, Mr Shine?

BUS DRIVER SHINE
So?

THORPE
You have the same mark.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
We’re twins.

THORPE hands ROBERT SHINE a PHOTO.

POV ROBERT SHINE: Photo of Robert Shine JUNIOR RODEO 2001

THORPE

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Again, so?

THORPE
No scar on Robert. A scar on Richard on 9/11.

VAN FLEET places another PHOTO before MR SHINE.

POV ROBERT SHINE: MUG SHOT
The scar is clear and matches RICHARD’S SCAR in the video.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Robert didn’t want Livvy or Marsha and Annabelle. He hated everything about his life.

(CONTINUED)
THORPE
So you killed him and took on his identity.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
I didn’t kill Robert. He left for Vancouver. He’s still there, I think. I gave him my car and my life savings.

VAN FLEET
That explains a lot of things. So you faked amnesia and gradually learnt your brother’s life.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
Yep.

THORPE
How did you know you wanted his life?

BUS DRIVER SHINE
I didn’t. But it was a chance. Livvy was so loving and...

ROBERT SHINE falls silent and begins to cry.

VAN FLEET
But you killed Melissa Vega.

ROBERT SHINE shrugs hopelessly.

BUS DRIVER SHINE
I didn’t know she was there.

INT THORPE’S FRONT ROOM --DAY
REVA consoles ELKA who is lying on the couch, weeping. THORPE stand awkwardly behind the couch.

ELKA
Where’s Gunny? I called him twenty minutes ago. It’s such a lovely tragedy.

THORPE
Perhaps, there’s a film in it?

ELKA sits up.
It is full of human interest. What do you think, Mom?

THORPE (cont’d)
Just use people this time.

A car rolls up the driveway.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (2)

Gunny is here. Better get cleaned up. Don’t want to scare him off.

ELKA
I look that bad?

REVA
A little touch up wouldn’t hurt.

The DOOR BELL RINGS and ELKA heads for her bedroom.

THORPE
Come in, Gunny.

GUNNY looks worried as he enters.

GUNNY
Is Elka okay? She sounded very weepy on the phone.

REVA
A few tears. Of relief, mostly, Gunny. Elka has an artistic temperament.

GUNNY
(lovestruck and goofy)
Yeah!

THORPE
Your work solved the case, Gunny. I owe you a couple of steak dinners.

ELKA, freshened up, appears and GUNNY rushes to her. They embrace and kiss.

REVA
They make a nice couple, don’t they?

THORPE
Handsome and beautiful always does.

60 INT THORPE’S BEDROOM --NIGHT

REVA reads her thick novel. THORPE reads the Hockey News.

REVA
How is Livvy taking this, Chief?

THORPE
Kara had to sedate her. I’m going to see her at the hospital, tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)
REVA
What a shock it must be for poor Livvy. Any chance you can find Robert?

THORPE
I suppose. But who would want him back?

REVA
I would.

THORPE
Why?

REVA
So I could kick him. Hard. What about Marsha and Annabelle?

THORPE
They’re staying with a neighbour or friend nearby. Kara arranged it.

REVA
They must be so confused, Chief.

THORPE
Yeah. Did Lionel say anything about a girl named Jessica?

REVA
Is this the girl who impressed you last time you were at the dorm?

THORPE
I just said she was pretty.

REVA
Yes, that’s what you said. About six times.

THORPE
Did Lionel say anything about her?

REVA
They were going to the island for a bike ride this weekend.

THORPE
Good. I hope it won’t interfere with his studies, too much.
REVA
I thought you wanted him to ditch his studies and play for the Leafs?

THORPE
Lionel doesn’t want it. I don’t know why he doesn’t. But...

REVA
But, he loves engineering.

THORPE
Metallurgical engineering. I looked up what people are doing with metals. You know they have metal roofing which converts sunlight to electricity.

REVA
Well, I hope he doesn’t get distracted by this Jessica creature.

THORPE
What are Elka and Gunny up to this weekend?

REVA
I’m not her social events secretary, Chief.

THORPE
I just thought you might know. What should I say to Livvy?

REVA
I wouldn’t think anyone could say much. Losing two husbands would be too much for many women to overcome. Just hold her hand and let her talk or not.

THORPE
I was hoping for a large dose of feminine intuition. I’m just a hack detective.

REVA
Tell her that her girls are being looked after. Tell her that Rob... Richard loved her. Why not ask Kara to do this? Or at least, to take the lead. Livvy has developed a trust in Kara.
THORPE
I knew you had a dose of feminine intuition.

REVA
That’s an unfortunate phrase, Chief. But thanks for the compliment, dear. You and Kara should go together, just reassure Livvy that God is in His heaven.

THORPE
I told the Admiral that. I don’t think it helped.

REVA
It was nice to see him again. He dotes on Elka. We should invite him to dinner.

THORPE
I invite him twice a week, Reva. But he always finds some way to turn me down.

REVA
It doesn’t help him to stay in homicide. Have you suggested he do something else?

THORPE
Suggesting people choose another line of work isn’t my talent, dear.

REVA
I’ll invite him for Thanksgiving. I’ll tell him Elka will be here.

THORPE
Entice him to come for a feast, using our daughter as bait.

REVA
That’s not it and you know it, Chief.

THORPE
Will Elka be here?

REVA
Well, she does live here.

THORPE
She might have plans, already. What about Lionel and...

(CONTINUED)
REVA
...what’s her name?

THORPE
Jessica, I think.

REVA
You aren't sure of her name?
You're not a talented liar, dear.

THORPE
I’ll work on it.

REVA
Don’t you dare.

61 INT HOSPITAL HALL --DAY

THORPE finds Livvy’s room and knocks softly on the door.

OLIVIA SHINE
Come in.

THORPE peeks in, uncertain if he has the right room. He sees an empty and already made up bed. The door is pulled open.

POV THORPE: The smiling face of OLIVIA SHINE.

THORPE
Mrs Shine?

OLIVIA SHINE
Yes, detective. Why have you come?

THORPE
To see how you were coping.

OLIVIA SHINE
I’m doing very well, Detective Thorpe.

THORPE
Did Kara come to see you?

OLIVIA SHINE
Oh yes. Not today, of course. She called, she had a real emergency. Kara has been a great comfort, Detective.

THORPE
Good. I was expecting...
OLIVIA SHINE
...a hysterical woman. I half expected that myself but...

THORPE
...but?

OLIVIA SHINE
But, I have a man who loved me so much to take me, sight unseen. (off his look) Oh, I know the future is not bright but it wasn’t eight years or more ago.

THORPE
I don’t want you to get your hopes up, Livvy. He’s facing manslaughter and arson charges.

OLIVIA SHINE
Detective Thorpe, he told me he loved me every day when he left for work. And when he came home each night. He brought me flowers every Friday. He helped the girls every night with their homework. He did a lot of good, Detective.

THORPE
And some wrong.

OLIVIA SHINE
But he did wrong because he did not want to lose me and he won’t lose me.

The door opens and a NURSE looks in.

NURSE
Livvy, you can’t leave.

OLIVIA SHINE
My husband needs me and I’m going to be with him.

THORPE
She means it, ma’m. I’ll give you a lift, if you’d like.

OLIVIA SHINE
I’ve already called for a cab, thanks, Detective. Really, I can do this. I want to do this.
INT THORPE’S LIVING ROOM   --DAY

The house is decorated for Thanksgiving. ELKA, GUNNY, LIONEL and JESSICA are gathered around the table. THORPE enters to much APPLAUSE carrying the turkey. REVA follows with a camera. She leans into the picture frame and snaps a photo. FLASH.

POV REVA: THE DIGITAL PICTURE.
Six smiling faces.
There’s an extra place setting.

EXT ROAD THORP’S HOUSE   --DAY CONTINUOUS

VAN FLEET drives his car to the curb and sits a minute. Muffled APPLAUSE can be heard. Van Fleet starts to drive off, then reverses into the driveway.

INT THORPE’S LIVING ROOM   --DAY CONTINUOUS

The door bell RINGS. ELKA has seen VAN FLEET through the window and dances excitedly to the door. She introduces him to GUNNY and JESSICA. He kisses REVA before taking his seat.

INT THORPE’S FRONT ROOM   --DAY

In the background are the remnants of the feast. The MEN are gathered round the TV watching the football game. The WOMEN drift to and from the kitchen, wine glass in one hand and dirty dishes in the other.

EXT PATIO   --NIGHT

VAN FLEET and THORPE sit and smoke and drink coffee. The night sky is bright. It’s chilly but neither is wearing a coat.

THORPE
I’m glad you finally showed up, Admiral.

VAN FLEET
Me, too. Nice to be with a family, again.

They take a few drags silently.

THORPE
Feels like winter already.

(CONTINUED)
VAN FLEET
There’s a few warm days left, Chief. Don’t rush me through another year.

THORPE
Why did you turn up this year?

VAN FLEET
Besides the promise of eating a heavenly meal in the company of three lovely women?

THORPE
I guess that’s reason enough.

VAN FLEET
I was headed to the lake and as I was passing I realized I hadn’t packed a lunch.

VAN FLEET studies the sky.
Elka and Lionel seem to have chosen well. That Gunny is a sharp young man. And Lionel’s Jessica is not hard to look at, is she, Chief?

THORPE
She’s new. I hope she sticks around. She’s got a master’s degree already and graduates in a few months as an engineer. And not hard on the eyes. Gunny’s a CPA. Solid, just what Elka needs.

VAN FLEET
He’s crazy about her, too.

THORPE
Yep. Hope it’s permanent. She needs that. Mr Shine’s lawyer is filing a ton of paper. Seems Livvy is going to fight to bring him home.

VAN FLEET
Livvy has been a model of loyalty, Chief. According to my monkeys, she comes everyday to visit Robert... Richard... I wonder what she calls him?

THORPE
This is the easy stretch. He’s going to do real time. She’s got a bleak future.

(CONTINUED)
VAN FLEET
I don’t think she sees that, Chief. She sees a chance to repay a man for eight years of unconditional love. I think she’s the reason I’m here.

THORPE
Are we talking philosophy?

VAN FLEET
I’ve learnt not to talk philosophy with you, Chief.

THORPE
A man’s got to stay grounded, Admiral. Did I ever tell you why moose have big noses?

VAN FLEET smiles broadly.

VAN FLEET
Are you sure you’re not Irish?

THORPE
How is Livvy responsible for you coming to dinner, Admiral?

VAN FLEET
We both got hit a big blow. But she got up, Chief. I didn’t. I was headed out to that bench on the lake to wallow and I thought about Livvy and...

THORPE
... you beat the ten count, Admiral.

VAN FLEET
Yeah. I did, didn’t I?

67 INT THORPE’S BEDROOM --DAY

REVA is adjusting THORPE’S tie. He checks his watch and kisses her.

THORPE
Got to run, dear wife.

THORPE runs out almost colliding with ELKA. He kisses her, too and disappears out the door. Immediately the door closes it re-opens and THORPE retraces his route, again nearly bowling ELKA over. He takes REVA by the shoulders.

(CONTINUED)
REVA
What's going on, Chief?

THORPE kisses her.

THORPE
I love you, Reva.

REVA doesn’t answer. She smiles as THORPE disappears once more from the bedroom.

THORPE O/S
I love you, too, Elka.

ELKA O/S
Me too, Daddy.

EXT STREET --DAY

The JOGGER is waiting for THORPE to run past. The JOGGER is rested and dressed in light competition running gear. They run side by side for a half-block.

JOGGER
I've told my coach about you, mister.

THORPE
That an old guy out runs you?

JOGGER
Yep.

THORPE
What did he say?

JOGGER
He said you must be Jim Thorpe.

THORPE
I am.

POV JOGGER:
THORPE disappearing down the street.

EXT BUS STOP --DAY

THORPE smiles at the REGULARS at the bus stop. The bus pulls up. THORPE is the last to board.

BUS DRIVER
Good morning, sir.
THORPE
Yes, it is. You know, since I
been riding the bus, I haven’t
had my tires slashed.

BUS DRIVER
Never heard that reason before.
But, hey, it’s a reason.

THORPE
Yeah, I’ve been riding...

BUS DRIVER points to the NO TALKING WHILE BUS IS MOVING
sign.

BUS DRIVER
If they check the tape, I’ll get
fined.

THORPE nods and settles into his seat. JOGGER jogs by and
waves. Toronto slips by the windows. Thorpe pulls his
wallet out and fondles a copy of the Thanksgiving picture.
Thorpe sits quietly smiling for the rest of the trip. He
jumps up for his stop. As he gets off the bus, VAN FLEET
and MADELINE JONES drive into the police parking lot. Van
Fleet flips Thorpe a quick salute.