Untitled Allan Loeb Project
Based on the novel “The Rabbit Factory” by Marshall Karpf

by
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Revised Network Draft
June 4, 2010

Scarlet Fire
Los Angeles, CA

Lionsgate Television
2700 Colorado Ave. Ste. 200
Santa Monica, CA 90404

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FADE IN

TEASER

INT. FAMILYLAND - MORNING

Think Disneyland sans mice and ducks. FAMILIES enjoy rides and attractions that are all based on Lamaar Studios intellectual property. This is where synergy synergizes.

Meet EDDIE ELKINS as he happily walks down Fantasy Avenue. He has big floppy ears, a black nose and a bushy tail. He’s a giant rabbit mascot dressed in blue and red overalls named Rambunctious Rabbit.

A little CHINESE KID runs up to him

CHINESE KID
Rambunctious Rabbit... can my mom take a picture of us?

Rambunctious Rabbit enthusiastically shakes his head then puts his arm around the kid.

His MOTHER snaps the shot with her iPhone.

Rambunctious Rabbit pats the kid on the head then moves on by way of a hippety-hoppety dance.

And we follow Eddie, aka Rambunctious Rabbit, as he heads into a tunnel known as...

THE RABBIT HOLE

This is a vast underground world hidden beneath Familyland’s 866 acres of electric cable, sewage lines, refrigeration pipes, employee locker-rooms and bathrooms.

Eddie removes Rambunctious Rabbit’s head and we see him for the first time. He’s in his 40s with what’s left of his hair a sweaty mess swirling around his head. He passes a SECURITY GUARD.

SECURITY GUARD
(laughing)
Hey Eddie... kid piss on you today?

EDDIE
(rolling his eyes)
That happened once.

SECURITY GUARD
Lakers won last night.

As he quickly passes by...

EDDIE
But the bastards didn’t cover...

Eddie winds his way through the maze of ductwork, looks over his shoulder then veers into a small corner out of sight.
He lays the rabbit head on the floor as he removes a Marlboro Red from its pack and leans against a water pipe.

As Eddie lights up the smoke and sucks in a deep drag... we see a rope lower from up above.

The rope cuts deep into Eddie’s neck as his eyes open wide and he drops the cigarette.

And Eddie tries to scream, but nothing comes out.
And Eddie tries to breath, but nothing comes in.

And Eddie dies.

END OF TEASER
ACT 1
EXT. REDONDO CALIFORNIA - MORNING
A sleepy beach town that lies under the foothills of Palos Verdes.
Find a small house closer to town than the ocean. It’s not an expensive home but a perfect starter-outer... which was the original intention.

JOANNIE (V.O.)
... I didn’t want to let my bitterness consume me. People can do that when they’re sick. They spend the rest of their lives angry.

INT. MIKE LOMAX’S HOUSE - MORNING
Dirty laundry scattered over old furniture... Los Angeles Laker Framed Posters on the wall.

JOANNIE (V.O.)
So I guess I let this consume me. Writing to you...
The blinds are closed... this place is seriously in need of a cleaning. We pan across the coffee table to find an opened envelope next to a pile of unopened mail...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
This must be hard for you. Getting this letter... a year after you thought you’d never have to listen to me again.
And we land on MIKE LOMAX, mid 30s, a bit rugged, tired eyes, strong genes that are just beginning to lose their battle to a number of things... most notably the loss of the woman who wrote the letter he’s currently reading.

JOANNIE (V.O.)
Part of me thinks what I’m doing is selfish... keeping you from truly moving on so I have something to live for.

Mike brings down the letter, takes a deep breath then lifts it back up with shaky hands...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
But then I realized that this wasn’t about me, it was about you.
A car horn HONKS from outside. Mike just keeps reading... unblinking.
JOANNIE (V.O.)
Because you don’t realize it’s a holiday until you show up to work and see a tree in the building. And because you let the dry cleaning pile up in the corner of the living room until you have nothing left to wear.

Lomax looks over to the massive mound of dirty clothing piled up in the corner. Then right back to the letter...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
And basically, because... even though you’re a genius when it comes to certain people’s death, Detective Lomax... you’re a total retard when it comes to your own life.

He laughs aloud... shakes his head...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
See, you need me... at least for a little while to help clean you up for the next.

He sharply looks away from the letter... he has trouble breathing. Emotions exploding inside.

JOANNIE (V.O.)
I know... that one hurt me too.

But no tears... never tears for Mike Lomax. Now his cell phone rings...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
But there’s going to be a next, Mike... there has to be.

And Mike Lomax... as he moves to a drawer, removes a picture from it and looks at it.

We can see her now... arms wrapped around him as they stand on a dock in Catalina... wind blowing through her hair... she was beautiful.

He just stands there... in the middle of this dark, lifeless living room. In total shock.

Until Mike looks down at the letter one last time...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
I really am sorry I died on you... it was very bad form on my part.

The cell phone rings... the car horn honks...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
I’ll make it up to you... I promise.
And that’s it. Silence.

INT. TERRY LEXUS ES 250 - MORNING

Lomax gets into the car. His partner DETECTIVE TERRY BIGGS, a mop of greasy black hair, funny and charming. Biggs is tall, dark and ugly... but good ugly.

The kind of ugly that gets laid more than many of the good-looking brands. But Terry doesn’t focus on getting laid anymore... he’s happily married now.

BIGGS
What the hell? I’ve been out here nine minutes... I was honking and calling you.

And Biggs turns to find himself staring down the barrel of a .22 caliber Glock pointed right at his head.

LOMAX
I’m going to ask you one question and I need you to answer it with the truth.

Eyes going wide...

BIGGS
Okay...

Slow and clear as can be...

LOMAX
Did you send it?

BIGGS
Send what?

LOMAX
The letter. The letter from Joannie.

BIGGS
Joannie’s dead.

LOMAX
I’m aware.

A beat. Then...

BIGGS
No.

And Lomax brings down the gun. He’s a complete mess.

BIGGS
Go on.

In absolute shock... just piecing it together on the spot...
LOMAX
Sometimes when I get home after a long day, I save the mail for tomorrow.

BIGGS
Yesterday was definitely a long day.

LOMAX
And now it’s tomorrow.
(and then)
She was writing me letters all that time she was in the hospital...

Biggs calmly waits for his partner to collect himself... then...

BIGGS
What did the letter say?

LOMAX
That she was writing me a bunch of letters.

Lomax takes another moment to convey this... as if he’s also telling this to himself for the first time.

LOMAX
That someone -- she won’t say who -- is going to start sending them to me a year after she dies.
(beat)
That this mystery person is going to send a letter every week and make it so I receive the letter every Monday.

Biggs is awestruck. And then...

BIGGS
You okay?

Vacantly staring straight ahead...

LOMAX
No.

BIGGS
You wanna take the day off?

LOMAX
No.

As he finally puts the Lexus in drive...

BIGGS
Then let’s go try to make someone’s day worse than ours...
EXT. FAMILYLAND - DAY

The park’s open for business... it’s as if their beloved rabbit mascot had never been murdered.

EXT. GRANGER GIRAFFE LANE - DAY

As Lomax and Biggs head through the park...

LOMAX
You ever been here?

BIGGS
Last summer Marilyn and I took the two youngest. Polly got sick all over me and Bethany complained the whole time.

Lomax just looks at him.

BIGGS
What?

LOMAX
It’s weird.
(beat)
Two years ago you were just another single frustrated chump trolling South Bay bars getting rejected by stewardesses.

BIGGS
I didn’t get rejected all the time.

LOMAX
You get the point.

With a shrug...

BIGGS
I don’t know. They’re my kids now. That’s how life works.

They approach an administration building where a woman waits for them outside. She is AMY CHEEVER, 35ish, brunette, Orange County pretty.

AMY CHEEVER
Detectives Lomax and Biggs?

Showing his credentials...

BIGGS
That’s us. I’m Biggs.

AMY CHEEVER
I’m Amy Cheever. I’m Lamaar’s vice president of corporate communications.

As Biggs writes that down on his notepad.
BIGGS
How do you spell that?

AMY CHEEVER
Corporate communications?

BIGGS
No, your name.

AMY CHEEVER
Like the writer.

He nods.

BIGGS
Um-hm...
(then)
... and how does he spell that?

She nods over to a GUARD in a golf cart who drives over.

AMY CHEEVER
C-H-E-E-V-E-R.

LOMAX
What exactly do you do for Lamaar?

As she jumps on the cart and motions them to join her...

AMY CHEEVER
I work out of Burbank, I handle all public relations for Lamaar.

Lomax and Biggs get on the cart and they ride...

BIGGS
(looking at all the families)
And you want to make sure this stays out of the press?

AMY CHEEVER
Yes. Like all media conglomerates these days, we’re a public company. Wall street shoots first and asks questions later. I assume you want to see the body?

LOMAX
No, we were hoping we could ride the roller coaster.

She looks at him.

LOMAX
Sorry, weird day for me.

INT. RABBIT HOLE/CRIME SCENE - MORNING

The forensic TEAM is on the scene taking samples and the chalk outline is of a massive rabbit.
We find JESSICA KEATING, 30s, curly blond hair, Midwestern friendly with a glorious smile.

As she greets them...

JESSICA
I had a Rambunctious Rabbit lunch box growing up.
(shaking her head)
Now he’s dead.

BIGGS
(to Jessica Re:Amy)
This is Miss Cheever... spells it like the writer does. She works for Lamaar. Doesn’t want any press.

JESSICA
Oh... well let me call my friends at the Associated Press and call off the breaking story.

AMY CHEEVER
I’d just like to get more information before our brand is tarnished.

Jessica turns to Lomax and Biggs.

JESSICA
Cause of death was strangulation. He was stealing a smoke here...

Lomax points out the exact spot of the murder.

LOMAX
It’s out of the site of the security cameras. This was a daily thing for him and the killer knew that.

AMY CHEEVER
Are you saying the killer works for Familyland?

LOMAX
I’m saying the killer knew his routine and knew this area was outside the arm of surveillance. That’s all I’m saying for now.

Biggs looks to Jessica...

BIGGS
Weapon?

And Jessica turns to Amy.
JESSICA
Miss Cheever, could you please excuse us?

AMY CHEEVER
(offended)
Really?

JESSICA
Yes. Really.

Stepping forward with conviction...

AMY CHEEVER
Look, I’m representing Lamaar Studios here. We are a 28 billion dollar company that employs over fifteen thousand southern Californians. We pay hundreds of millions of dollar in taxes and have very close ties with the Governor.
(beat)
So I’d appreciate it if I could be kept in the loop in here.

The three detectives just stand there in silence for a beat, until... Lomax turns to Biggs with...

LOMAX
I think she makes some excellent points. I think she should be allowed to stay.

BIGGS
That’s a great idea. And then I think it’d be fun if we called a press conference and brought them into the loop.

LOMAX
(in mock concern)
But will there be enough room in the loop for them?

BIGGS
Oh yeah... the loop’s real big.

AMY CHEEVER
Are you guys done?

JESSICA
They do this.

With a fuck you smile...

AMY CHEEVER
I’ll be right over here.

And Amy moves on... giving them their privacy.
JESSICA
(right back to business)
Okay, here’s the deal with the murder weapon. It’s the Wacky Pack jump rope... they sell it here in the gift shop.

As he jots down on his pad...

BIGGS
I’ll have all the gift shop surveillance footage sent to the precinct and a list of names of anyone who put that jump rope on their credit card in the past thirty days.

JESSICA
Then there’s this. We found it in the victims pocket.

She holds up a little book...

JESSICA
It’s an old fashioned flip book. You know, when you flip the pages, the picture looks like it’s moving.

As Lomax moves to a box of latex evidence gloves and places a pair on...

LOMAX
Let me see.

And she hands it to Lomax who places his gloved-thumb on the front edge and begins to flip. As the pages fly by, the picture animates and the middle digit of the hand pops up... giving us the finger.

Lomax shakes his head with a frustrated smile...

LOMAX
I hate when the killers get cute.

END OF ACT 1
ACT 2

EXT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT/PRECINCT – DAY

A nondescript building in El Segundo near LAX. Planes can constantly be seen and heard taking off and landing here.

As the Lexus parks in the lot. As they get out of the car and head for the Precinct.

And they head into the...

PRECINCT

As they head past the desk with a UNIFORMED OFFICER behind it...

   LOMAX

   I need a joke.

   BIGGS

   Ahhh... dinner at Joannie’s father’s tonight.

... and into the back...

HALLWAY

Nodding to various OFFICERS and DETECTIVES as they walk...

   BIGGS

   Okay... “what did the doctor say to the midget?”

   LOMAX

   I don’t know.

   “You’ll just have to be a little patient.”

   BIGGS

   Anna told it to me.

Shaking his head...

   LOMAX

   Do you have any jokes that don’t come from your new nine-year-old daughter?

After Biggs thinks about that for a beat...

   BIGGS

   Not anymore.
INT. HOMICIDE OFFICES - DAY

A cross between a large bullpen of cubicles and a dorm room. It has much more personality than would be expected. Pea green vinyl furniture with a dark red velour couch thrown in.

The walls are adorned with a bunch strange framed paintings all from the same artist. Each painting is of a different ship... but each vessel is distorted as if it were in a fun house mirror.

Lomax and Biggs share this office with Jessica Keating and THELONIOUS MUELLER, late 20s, who is sitting at his computer... at all times.

Thelonious is the best computer investigator in the world and despite his name, he’s as white bread as they come. He’s from Oregon and his father was a huge jazz fan thus the name.

As they head in...

LOMAX
Thelonious, tell us everything we need to know about Eddie Elkins.

Reading off his monitor...

THELONIOUS
Gladly. Eddie Elkins was born in Milford Delaware January ninth, 1908...

Lomax and Biggs share a look...

THELONIOUS
... he was best known for leading the Eddie Elkins' Orchestra which was one of the ground breaking dance bands of the early 1920s.

And Thelonious looks up.

THELONIOUS
Oh... you wanted to know about the Eddie Elkins who was killed this morning?

BIGGS
Mike does. I’d like you to keep going on about band leader Eddie.

THELONIOUS
Okay. This is what I got. He moved here eight years ago from Sacramento.

LOMAX
Why?

THELONIOUS
Because it was Sacramento.
Lomax nods... good point.

THELONIOUS
Judging by some of the websites he had subscriptions to... he was a gambler.

Biggs raises an eye brow... that could be something.

THELONIOUS
He was also recently married. Lucky lady’s name is Kim-Ly Phan.

LOMAX
Vietnamese.

THELONIOUS
Yup. Just got her citizenship here.

As Biggs checks out one of the paintings on the wall...

BIGGS
So what? Did he meet her in Vietnam or something?

THELONIOUS
Not sure. But she’s sixteen years younger than him.

Lomax smiles as he’s already onto something...

LOMAX
Can you find out who her immigration lawyer was?

Typing on his keyboard...

THELONIOUS
I can try.

BIGGS
(re painting)
This a new one?

Still typing... not looking away from his monitor...

THELONIOUS
Yup. That’s the USS Eaton... sunk off the Florida coast in 1949.

LOMAX
Did you ever think to ask your wife why she only paints deformed images of vessels from famous shipwrecks?

THELONIOUS
Isn’t it obvious?
(beat)
She’s out of her mind.
And he finally looks up...

    THELONIOUS
    Lawyer on her citizenship
    application was listed as--

Before he can say it...

    LOMAX
    John Scalarto.

Surprised, Thelonious looks up from his monitor to Lomax.

    THELONIOUS
    How’d you know?

    LOMAX
    Scalarto runs an immigration scam.
    He sells husbands and wives to
    immigrants seeking citizenship.

And Lomax notices a young UNIFORMED OFFICER sitting at a desk.

    LOMAX
    Who are you?

The officer opens his mouth to speak, but...

    BIGGS
    Oh, this is great, Mike. He’s a
    rookie who stopped a pursuit by
    conducting a point perfect bump-and-
    corner.

    LOMAX
    Impressive.

    BIGGS
    Accept only...

Breaking into laughter...

    BIGGS
    ... he bumped and cornered the
    wrong car.

Lomax laughs...

    BIGGS
    True story. Scared the hell out
    some Priest.

    UNIFORMED OFFICER
    He wasn’t a priest, he was a
    seminary student.

    BIGGS
    Hey, Bump and Corner, nobody asked
    you. (to Lomax)
    (MORE)
BIGGS (cont’d)
I call him Bump and Corner, don’t even want to know his real name. He’s our slave for the whole month.

LOMAX
Good to have you, Bump and Corner.

And Lomax stands... paces...

LOMAX
So Elkins was in debt. Heard he could make a few grand marrying some Vietnamese broad and took the deal. Maybe he didn’t treat her well. Maybe she killed him.

BIGGS
Or whoever the dude was that paid Elkin’s to marry her. Maybe he was an illegal but had the cash to bring her over and get her citizenship.

Heading for his desk...

BIGGS
Bump and Corner, have a black and white bring her in.

Bump and Corner nods.

LOMAX
No. We’ll bring Scalarto in. We’ll threaten him with a thousand immigration violations and get the name of whoever paid for Kim-Ly’s citizenship.

BUMP AND CORNER
Got it.

And Lomax sits at his desk which is attached to Biggs’ so they face each other.

LOMAX
I’m sorry I put a gun to your head this morning.

With a shrug...

BIGGS
Not the first time it’s happened. (beat) Go home, Mike. Take a shower.

EXT. LOS FELIZ - NIGHT

As Lomax’s 2002 Ford Ranger parks in front of this 1930s rambling California Hacienda that has expanded without any architectural rhyme and reason.
Holding a bottle of middle-of-the-road Cabernet, Lomax emerges from his truck, stares down the house and sucks in a deep breath.

INT. CASA BIG JIM/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lomax heads in and they’re already at the dinning room table.

    BIG JIM
Detective Lomax has arrived...

AND BIG JIM

50s, a Teddy Bear of a man and Mike’s father-in-law, doesn’t look up from his food...

Jim’s new wife ANGEL, 40s, always looks like a Latin movie star ready for her close up, smiles warmly at Lomax.

As SKUNKIE, a shaggy haired mutt, lays at Big Jim’s feet.

Handing Angel the wine...

    LOMAX
Sorry, I’m late. New case broke.

    BIG JIM
You see that game last night?

As he sits... shaking his head...

    LOMAX
Bynum really should’ve kicked it out to--

And Lomax stops short because he notices that there’s someone at the table he has never met... DIANA TRANTANELLA, late 30s, a high school cheerleader making a graceful transition toward 40 with dirty California blond hair that’s not store bought and a kick-ass body that has some weight to it in all the right places.

    BIG JIM
Mike, this is Diana, she’s a nurse and a friendly lady. Don’t bore her.

Diana smiles at Lomax.

    DIANA
You can bore me, it’s fine.

Lomax looks to Big Jim who has his best poker face on, then to Angel who can’t help but smile as if this exact moment is going to be featured in a wedding toast in two years.

    LOMAX
(to Diana)
How do you know Big Jim and Angel, Diana?
DIANA
Well, my mother and Angel know each other...

ANGEL
Nancy and I chat at the farmer’s market.

Turning to Angel...

LOMAX
I see. So you’re not particularly close with Diana?

BIG JIM
That’s why we invited her here tonight, dummy... to get to know her better.

LOMAX
Yes, I could see how important it would be for you two to get to know a strange--

Immediately turning to Diana...

LOMAX
Strange as in unfamiliar not weird.

DIANA
(with a smile)
Get it.

And right back to Big Jim...

LOMAX
-- woman from the neighborhood who’s mother shares the same interest in fresh vegetables as Angel.

Passing the platter of stew to Lomax...

BIG JIM
Stop being a Detective and eat...

INT. DINNER - LATER

As Jim opens up a second bottle of wine and Angel serves dessert...

LOMAX
Jim, did you ever drive for any Lamaar movies?

BIG JIM
Definitely. For years. Why?

LOMAX
This new case. I shouldn’t really talk about but...
Looking over to Diana...

LOMAX
I’m amongst friends.

She confirms with a smile.

LOMAX
One of the mascots was killed at the park this morning.

DIANA
I grew up on Lamaar movies.

Big Jim pours himself some more wine...

BIG JIM
It was a different world when I was driving there.  
(beat)
See it wasn’t Viacom and Time Warner and Newscorp... it was Mr. Warner and Mr. Disney and of course... Mr. Lamaar.

LOMAX
Did you know him?

BIG JIM
Not personally. I was just another fat teamster on the lot.  
(beat)
But he wasn’t well liked. He came from one of those Bible Belt states. He was racist and sexist and all the other ists. Not a good guy.

LOMAX
Is he still alive?

BIG JIM
Naw, died four years ago... right after he sold the studio to some Japanese Conglomerate.

And suddenly... Diana breaks into kiddie’s song.

DIANA
“Wild-and-woolly and running away.  
Bushy tail shaking and running away.  
Rambo, Rambunctious and running away.  
Don’t run away.  
My favorite rabbit is running away.”

They’re all looking at her now...

DIANA
I loved that song.
LOMAX
Yeah... it was Rambunctious Rabbit
who was killed.

DIANA
Now who would want to kill a giant
rabbit?

LOMAX
They tell me it’s my job to find
out.

And the table quiets down... Lomax looks over to Diana.

LOMAX
What did the doctor say to the
dwarf?

DIANA
Um... not sure.

LOMAX
You’re going to be my little
patient.

She just looks at him.

LOMAX
I said it wrong. It’s supposed to
be “you’re... going to be...
little” wait, it was a midget not
a dwarf.

Now the whole table is just looking at him.

LOMAX
Know what? Forget it.

And he stands...

LOMAX
I’m going to the bathroom.

INT. BIG JIM’S HOUSE/BACK HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lomax heads for the bathroom and passes by Big Jim and
Angel’s bedroom. And he stops walking.

BEDROOM

And we find Mike Lomax as he quickly moves into the bedroom
and immediately begins going through all the drawers.

A detective doing a detailed search with thorough precision.

And into the closet... working in record time. Until...

BIG JIM (O.S.)
Mike... do you want coffee?
Big Jim stands in the doorway and Pretends it’s not weird that his son-in-law is riffling through his closet.

And Mike Lomax... caught red handed... stepping out from the closet...

LOMAX
Are you sending them?

BIG JIM
Sending what?

LOMAX
The letters.

As it washes over him...

BIG JIM
That’s right -- it’s been a year.

LOMAX
Are you sending them?

No.

LOMAX
Who is?

BIG JIM
I honestly don’t know.

Stepping forward... looking Big Jim right in the eyes...

LOMAX
How many are there?

BIG JIM
A lot. She couldn’t write them when you were visiting the hospital so she did it when we were. (beat) I didn’t like it at first... didn’t think it was healthy.

As the big man sucks back some emotion...

BIG JIM
Then I realized it was all she had to look forward to.

And Lomax holds his father-in-law’s look for a definitive moment... until he simply says...

LOMAX
Decaf.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lomax returns and has a seat. It’s only Diana and him now. A bit uncomfortable.
LOMAX
So you don’t think it’s weird that he’s trying to fix you up with his dead daughter’s husband?

DIANA
No. I think it’s adorable.

LOMAX
I see.

DIANA
And he explained to me that she asked him to do this.

This new information stuns Lomax.

DIANA
I guess she figured you’d have trouble doing this yourself.
(beat)
I can see why.

Lomax takes that in for a moment, then looks her straight on...

LOMAX
Look, I know it might be difficult to find a good man out there.
(beat)
And I get it, the thirty-five-year-old plus never-been-marrieds can be sketchy and the divorcees can be risky which leaves you the widowers. We’re real clean with a bit of wounded bird thrown in. And let’s not forget the fact that you’re a nurse.

A bit stunned...

DIANA
Wow.

As he stands...

LOMAX
And you’re hot. I’m not going to lie... you do it for me.
(beat)
But I’m not back out there...

As he motions to the room around him... notably the childhood pictures of Joannie on the mantle...

LOMAX
... especially not in here.

And with that, Lomax goes.
EXT. SANTA MONICA HOMELESS SHELTER - NIGHT

A small shelter a few blocks off the ocean. The line of HOMELESS snakes out the door.

INT. SANTA MONICA HOMELESS SHELTER - NIGHT

A cafeteria line is set up with VOLUNTEERS dishing out food to HOMELESS. Find one of the volunteers who is dishing out potatoes. He is...

           RONNY LUCAS
              (greeting a homeless woman)

     Beatrice, you look different today, did you change your hair?

Ronny’s a very good looking guy in his late 20s. He has movie star looks... that’s because he is a movie star.

           BEATRICE

     Nope. It’s these...

And she pulls out her new teeth...

           RONNY LUCAS

     Wow. They make a world of difference.

She winks at him and goes. And a new homeless guy steps up that Ronny doesn’t recognize.

           RONNY LUCAS

     Hi I’m Ronny, welcome to the shelter. This is your first time, yes?

The man, tall, fortyish, road-weary and wearing an old dirty rain coat, just nods.

           RONNY LUCAS

     What’s your name?

           MARK

     Mark.

           RONNY LUCAS

     Where you from?

           MARK

     Indiana.

As he drops the potatoes on the Mark’s plate...

           RONNY LUCAS

     What part? I’m from Indiana.

           MARK

     Munster.

Ronny brightens up...
RONNY LUCAS
No way! That’s where I’m from.

MARK
Yeah, I know. I’ve seen some of your movies.

And Mark moves on.

EXT. SANTA MONICA HOMELESS SHELTER/PARKING LOT - NIGHT
As Ronny heads for his Prius...

VOICE (O.S.)
Hey. Mr. Lucas.

Ronny turns to see Mark standing there.

RONNY LUCAS
Mark.

Mark just stands there for a moment, then...

MARK
I got my kid with me. I don’t think... I can, you know, handle her anymore. She’s six.

Ronny’s suddenly concerned.

RONNY LUCAS
You have your child with you now?

Mark leads Ronny to an alley...

MARK
We’re sleeping in the alley but I don’t think I can take care of her anymore.

RONNY LUCAS
That’s perfectly understandable. You’re doing the righ--

Before Ronny Lucas can finish his sentence. Mark quickly produces a baseball bat from his raincoat, lifts it high in the air and swings for the fences... slamming it down right onto Ronny Lucas’s head.

END OF ACT 2
ACT 3

INT. LOMAX’S REDONDO BEACH HOME - EARLY MORNING

Lomax awakes to urgent knocking on the door. He throws on the robe, heads over to the door and peers out of the window to see Big Jim standing there.

Lomax sighs and opens the door.

LOMAX

Jesus Jim, it’s five thirty in the morning.

BIG JIM

Nice French exit last night.

Lomax nods, turns around and heads for the kitchen...

LOMAX

I didn’t appreciate the ambush.

Big Jim walks in, sits on the couch and looks around the place...

BIG JIM

A man needs a maid.

LOMAX (O.S.)

Neil Young.

BIG JIM

You were rude to Diana.

As Lomax heads in with two cups of coffee...

LOMAX

I’m not ready to date anybody.

BIG JIM

Presumptuous. You think she was so hot to meet you? You think a woman that looks like that doesn’t have choices?

LOMAX

Then why was she there?

BIG JIM

She’s got a kid in her ward who’s obsessed with homicide detectives... wants to be you. She had Lamar Odom come visit the ward and the kid could care less.

And Big Jim looks right at Lomax...

BIG JIM

She came because she wanted to convince you to visit this kid before he dies.
Mike swallows that back... embarrassed...

LOMAX

Jesus...

BIG JIM

Yeah... I guess you mentioned something about her being desperate to heal wounded birds or something.

LOMAX

How was I supposed to know there was a dying kid involved?

BIG JIM

You’re a detective. Aren’t you supposed to get all the information before you act?

Lomax cringes confirmation of that as Big Jim places down a piece of paper on the table and stands.

BIG JIM

That’s her number. Make good with this.

LOMAX

You could’ve called, you know?

As Big Jim heads for the door...

BIG JIM

I’m retired, Mike... I’ve got nothing better to do.

... and goes.

INT. TERRY BIGGS’S KITCHEN - MORNING

Lomax sits across from Biggs who is currently laughing his ass off.

BIGGS

Well now you gotta see the dying kid.

One of Terry’s adopted daughters, ANNA, nine-years-old, sits at the table inhaling her cereal.

LOMAX

Really?

BIGGS

Yes. And you need to apologize to her.

LOMAX

No, I don’t.

BIGGS

You do and you know you do.
Lomax doesn’t say anything but they both know Terry’s right.
Biggs laughs some more while shaking his head...

    BIGGS
    God, I wish I was there.

    LOMAX
    Yeah, I really was a jerk-off to her.

    BIGGS
    (re Anna)
    Hey hey! Language.

Anna just looks up from her cereal with milk all over his face...

    ANNA
    I know what a jerk-off is.

    BIGGS
    No you don’t.

    ANNA
    Yes I do. If someone uses the move “the jerk” in a dance off then it becomes a “jerk-off” and nobody can use that move again... because there are no backsies allowed.

    BIGGS
    So you did know what it was. Now get your books, the bus is going to be here in a minute.

As she runs off... Lomax laughs.

    LOMAX
    I still can’t get over how just two years ago--

Interrupting...

    BIGGS
    The stewardess did not reject me, Mike.

    (and then)
    Okay, so I grilled Scarlato last night and he gave up the name of the man who paid Elkins to marry the young Vietnamese girl. They should have him to us today.

Lomax nods.

    LOMAX
    Big Jim says Dean Lamaar was not a well liked guy.

Biggs nods.
BIGGS
Don’t really remember him.

LOMAX
That’s because you’re from the East Coast. He was on every billboard out here when I was growing up.

Biggs phone rings and he picks it up. As Terry takes the call, Lomax looks at all the pictures on the fridge of Terry’s instant family. His new wife and her four daughters... Terry’s sudden thrust into the role of husband and father.

Again Lomax shakes his head in disbelief and Terry brings down the phone.

BIGGS
Ronny Lucas was just found beaten to death in Santa Monica.

LOMAX
The actor?

BIGGS
Yup.

Biggs is already heading for door...

LOMAX
So?

BIGGS
So Lucas’s last four movies were for Lamaar.

As they head through the house...

BIGGS
Lucas did a movie a few years ago about a little leaguer that was in a slump.

And out to the...

DRIVEWAY

Moving quickly...

BIGGS
Lucas played the coach who gave the kid a magic baseball bat. That bat with the movie’s logo sells at the Lamaar gift shop and--

Bee lining for Biggs’s Lexus...

LOMAX
And that bat was used to beat Lucas to death.
BIGGS

Exactly.

EXT. SANTA MONICA HOMELESS SHELTER – MORNING

As Lomax and Biggs get out of the Lexus and head for the shelter which is a MADHOUSE of news vans and people...

BIGGS

So much for keeping this from the press.

Fighting their way through the maze of COPS, NEWS CREWS and RUBBERNECKS...

Somebody immediately finds their side.

LIEUTENANT Brendan KILCULLEN. He’s an Irishman with sixty extra pounds and six kids.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN

I’m tired. I had to notify the wife earlier then I’ve been on the phone with The Mayor and The Governor for the rest of the morning. I don’t have any energy left.

As they pass through the crime scene barricade of yellow tape...

BIGGS

Want us to do it?

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN

Do what?

BIGGS

Shout at us. Light a fire under our asses.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN

Would you please?

Biggs nods and turns to Lomax.

BIGGS

(imitating Kilcullen)
Catch this goddamn rabbit killer and catch him fast. I’ve got people in places higher up than me ready to throw me to the wolves.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN

Just say the words... don’t do me.

Biggs nods... stops with the imitation but keeps going.
BIGGS
I don’t want either of you to go home or get laid or even sit on a toilet until this goes away. Do you understand me?

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
Very good job.

And they all reach Jessica Keating who was obviously called out of bed for this.

JESSICA
This one’s got me. I know I’m not supposed to get emotional about dead people but this one really sucks. He was a good actor and a good guy.

They all nod and leave Jessica to her job.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
His wife said they got a flipbook in the mail last week. But this time instead of the finger it gives the peace sign.

LOMAX
(pointing out)
What if the swear finger Eddie got was actually a number one and the peace sign here was actually the number two?

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
What do you mean?

LOMAX
Elkins was killed with a Lamaar jump rope and Lucas was killed with a Lamaar bat.

As that registers on Kilcullen...

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
Please don’t say what you’re about to say next.

LOMAX
I won’t.

And then Lomax turns to Biggs.

LOMAX
You say it.

BIGGS
We have a serial killer on our hands that’s targeting people associated with Lamaar Studios.
LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
(to Lomax and Biggs)
I hate you both.

LOMAX
Truth hurts boss.

Kilcullen sighs and throws a cigar in his mouth.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
Okay. I need you guys to go tell that to Ike Rose.

BIGGS
Who’s Ike Rose?

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
CEO of Lamaar. One of the most powerful people in Hollywood and on Wall street.

Lighting the cigar...

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
He’s going to have to make the call on how to protect his studio without telling any of them they’re in danger.

EXT. HOMELESS SHELTER - MORNING

As they head for the car...

BIGGS
I’ve never met a powerful Hollywood mogul before.

LOMAX
Really? Most of my best friends run studios.

BIGGS
How come I’ve never met them?

As they get into...

TERRY’S LEXUS

Biggs driver’s seat, Lomax shot-gun.

LOMAX
We like to do our own thing. You know? Fly to Cabo in our private jets, partake in the latest synthetic drugs, sleep with actresses.

Biggs laughs as he drives the car out of the lot...
BIGGS
Just as long as you make it tonight to Dakota’s birthday party, we rented out all of Damon Busters.

LOMAX
Wait, Dakota’s the oldest, right?

Gunning the accelerator...

BIGGS
Hell if I know.

EXT. IKE ROSE’S ESTATE/BEL AIR – DAY

As Terry’s Lexus heads through the gates of this enormous mansion.

INT. IKE ROSE’S ESTATE/LIBRARY – DAY

An enormous room that looks like a hunting lodge… deep mahogany wood, bookcases everywhere, a fire blazing in the bg.

Lomax and Biggs are lead in by an old ASIAN HOUSEMAN to find...

IKE ROSE
40s, not an inch taller than 5’4, shaved head by way of the “bald better than balding” than camp.

IKE ROSE
You must be Detectives Lomax and Biggs, Ike Rose.

They shake Ike’s hand.

IKE ROSE
Have a seat.

They do...

IKE ROSE
This is my assistant Richard. I’ve asked him to take notes.

Lomax looks RICHARD up and down. It’s more than just a casual glance… he’s reading the man.

It’s something he does very well.

LOMAX
No it’s not. He’s wearing a Patek Philippe watch that costs more than I make in a year. He’s your lawyer, isn’t he?

IKE ROSE
Very good, Detective.
LOMAX
Well, this isn’t my first rodeo.

IKE ROSE
I didn’t want Richard’s presence here tonight to censor anything you were working on so we thought it was best if we just called him my assistant. Should he go?

Biggs cannot hide how impressed he is. He’s looking around the room wide-eyed... like a child.

LOMAX
No, he can stay.

IKE ROSE
Your Lieutenant said on the phone that you believe this might be the work of a serial killer directed at Lamaar Studios.

LOMAX
That’s right.

Lomax glares at Biggs. “Get your head in the game” Biggs just shrugs... he’s never seen a house like this.

IKE ROSE
And as you know, we’ve been able to keep this matter from the press so far.

LOMAX
But if I’m right, you’re going to have to tell your employees they may be at risk and then the press will find out and the stock will get hammered.

IKE ROSE
And you don’t care about the press finding out or the stock price.

LOMAX
No, I don’t.

IKE ROSE
Well you should. We all should. It effects thousands of people.

LOMAX
Um-hm, Mr. Rose, who can you think of that might want to harm the company?

Ike stands, moves to wet bar and makes himself a drink.

IKE ROSE
We’ve been getting some resistance from ultra right-wing groups about our deal with Camelot Casinos.
BIGGS
What kind of deal?

IKE ROSE
We’ve leased Lamaar intellectual property rights of our characters to Camelot for many uses. One of which is for the themes of their slot machines.

(beat)
Some of the groups believe that’s cheapening our brand.

LOMAX
Also, Camelot isn’t known for being the cleanest company.

IKE ROSE
What is that supposed to mean?

LOMAX
They’re mafia... everybody knows that.

Rose laughs...

IKE ROSE
Detective Lomax, this is a new age. Everything’s gone corporate. It’s not Bugsy Siegal’s -- or even Marty Scorsese’s -- Las Vegas anymore.

LOMAX
I think you might be being a little idealistic and it makes me ask... how is the deal with Camelot going?

IKE ROSE
Great. I’m very close with senior management and it couldn’t be going better for both sides.

Ike then offers Lomax a...

IKE ROSE
Drink?

LOMAX
No thanks.

But then Biggs steps forward with...

BIGGS
What kind of whiskey do you have?

Lomax smiles at the men...

LOMAX
Excuse us.
And Lomax takes Biggs aside. They have this whole conversation under their breath...

LOMAX
What are you doing?

BIGGS
I grew up in a two bedroom apartment in the Bronx. There were five of us. I’ve never seen anything like this and I bet he has like a thousand dollar bottle of whiskey and I want to try it.

LOMAX
We don’t drink on the job.

BIGGS
We don’t drink on the job. You say that like we’re married. “We don’t like...”

Pointing across the room to a Paper Machee sculpture of a ballerina...

BIGGS
How much do you think that sculpture’s worth?

LOMAX
I don’t know. Listen, this guy could be either very helpful to us or very hurtful. We need to--

BIGGS
More or less than fifty thousand dollars?

LOMAX
We need to earn his trust and not back down-- way less.

BIGGS
I don’t think so. I think it’s worth more.

From across the room... patiently waiting...

IKE ROSE
Are you guys okay? Is there anything we can help with?

LOMAX
We’re fine, Mr. Rose. We’ll be with you in a minute.

And right back at Biggs...

LOMAX
It’s like two feet tall.
BIGGS
Rich people don’t care how tall it is. It’s probably a Monet.

LOMAX
Monet didn’t do statues. He was a painter.

BIGGS
I’ll bet you a hundred bucks. Over/under’s fifty grand and I’ll take the over.

LOMAX
How will we know?

BIGGS
I’ll take a picture of it with my iPhone and email it to Thelonious.

LOMAX
Fine, you’re on.

And Lomax heads back over to Ike Rose and his lawyer, Richard while Biggs pretends to take in the place while removing his iPhone from his pocket.

LOMAX
Mr. Rose, I understand your situation but I believe you need to alert your employees and customers that they may be in danger.

Inside of a cringe...

IKE
Customers.

Biggs lines up the picture and takes it. Richard eyeing him all the while.

LOMAX
It’s your call. I can’t make you. But I’m quite sure there’s someone out there with a grudge against Lamaar who’s already killed one of your mascots and one of your stars.

Ike slowly nods.

IKE ROSE
Okay, Detective Lomax, I hear you.

Biggs joins them with a wink to Mike... he got the picture.

IKE ROSE
You have no idea what this is going to do to our brand and our stock price... but I’ll shut down all Lamaar operations.

(MORE)
IKE ROSE (cont’d)
It’ll take at least five hours to orchestrate something like this without causing a panic. I’ll schedule a press conference tomorrow.

LOMAX
It’s the right thing to do.

Biggs gets a call on his phone. He checks the caller id and...

BIGGS
Excuse me.

... he steps aside to take the call. Ike continues...

IKE ROSE
I want you to know that I am willing to give you everything and anything at my disposal. My plane, Lamaar’s private security force, our information and research computer teams.

Lomax nods as Biggs joins him.

BIGGS
We need to go, Mike.

And head for the door, but...

IKE ROSE
And guys...

As Lomax and Biggs turn back to face Rose.

IKE ROSE
That statue is the work of Hannah Elizabeth Rose... my eight year old daughter.

(beat)
I would guess it to be worth considerably less than fifty thousand dollars.

EXT. IKE ROSE’S ESTATE/BEL AIR – DAY

They head for their car...

LOMAX
I’m going to have Thelonious do a check on Ike Rose.

As Biggs nods and makes sure they’re far away from the house...

BIGGS
That was Lieutenant, someone who works for Lamaar just received a flip book in the mail.
LOMAX
Hey... I’ll deal with it. You got Dakota’s birthday party.

BIGGS
No, this is more important.

LOMAX
Yes. To someone who has no kids.

And looking his partner dead on...

LOMAX
Terry, I got it.

After Biggs capitulates with a nod.

LOMAX
So who was the lucky winner of free Lamaar merchandise?

INT. LAMAAR STUDIOS/AMY CHEEVER’S OFFICE - NIGHT

As Lomax looks at the flip book featuring Rambunctious Rabbit holding up two thumbs and wearing a t-shirt with a big thumb on it... to make the number of thumbs total 3.

He’s sitting across from...

AMY CHEEVER
I don’t want to stop doing my job.

LOMAX
Miss Cheever, you’re going to stop doing everything. We’re putting you in Federal Protection.

And we pull back to see they’re in the company of two UNIFORMED OFFICERS.

END OF ACT 3
ACT 4

INT. AMY CHEEVER’S OFFICE – DAY

As a nervous Amy Cheever looks out the window.

    AMY CHEEVER
    It’s just someone trying to scare us. It’s just... a bully.

He can tell she’s very upset... but trying to maintain her composure.

    LOMAX
    We’re going to get them, Miss Cheever.

And she leans forward...

    AMY CHEEVER
    How can I help?

Lomax just looks at her for a long moment, then...

    LOMAX
    Tell me about Dean Lamaar.

    AMY CHEEVER
    I never met him. I came here after he died.

Black and white pictures of Lamaar Studios grace the walls... most taken in the 50’s and 60’s.

    LOMAX
    But you know all about him.

Amy nods.

    AMY CHEEVER
    Dean Lamaar had a lot of enemies. But many of those people are dead now.

    LOMAX
    Are there any that come to mind that could hold a grudge against not only Dean but Lamaar Studios as well?

Without hesitating...

    AMY CHEEVER
    Yes.

    LOMAX
    And who would that be?

    AMY CHEEVER
    Someone who’s dead.
Indulge me. I like stories and your schedule just opened up.

Amy capitulates then points to the wall above Lomax’s head. To a picture of two men standing together at the gates of Lamaar Studios circa 1953.

AMY CHEEVER
(pointing out)
That’s Dean Lamaar and that’s Lars Egg. Lars was a friend of Dean’s from the war. They were both cartoonists and ended up together in a unit that made military training films. And after the war, they came out to Los Angeles together and worked in a nickel-dime animation house.

Lomax takes out his pad and pen and begins to take notes.

AMY CHEEVER
Now, Lars Egg was a much more talented cartoonist than Dean but Dean was more of a risk-taker. So when it came time to strike out on his own... Dean could do it.

LOMAX
While Lars stayed put in the nickel-dime animation house.

Amy nods.

AMY CHEEVER
So after Lamaar Studios was up and running, Dean hired his old friend away and Lars was happy to come. It was Lars who created Rambunctious Rabbit and gave him all sorts of children because, well... he was a rabbit.

LOMAX
It was Lars? I thought it was Dean who invented--

AMY CHEEVER
Everybody does. That’s what we want you to believe.
(beat)
But it was Lars who created the one character who built this whole place.

LOMAX
And let me guess... it was Dean who made all the money.
AMY CHEEVER
Yes. When Lars wanted just a small piece of the pie, Dean fired him.

LOMAX
So much for loyalty.

Nodding. Lomax finishes jotting his notes, then looks up to her with...

LOMAX
I want to see him.

AMY CHEEVER
Lars Egg?

LOMAX
No. Dean Lamaar.

INT. LAMAAR ARCHIVAL DEPARTMENT/PRIVATE SCREENING ROOM - DAY

As they sit in the dark room.

SHERRY
This was played as people stood in line for the Cosmic Cat’s Space Plunge when the ride first opened.

Meet SHERRY WASHINGTON, 60s, runs the video archives at Lamaar as she pops a VCR into a player.

And they watch old footage of DEAN LAMAAR, circa 1990, he’s a white-haired patriarch sitting behind a desk.

He looks more like everybody’s favorite uncle than a Hollywood mogul.

DEAN (FOOTAGE)
Welcome to the Cosmic Cat Space Plunge. We all know our friendly feline because he’s always chasing our favorite rabbit... but what happens when our favorite cat accidently gets sent up to space?

Cheever leans into Lomax...

AMY CHEEVER
What’s the purpose of this?

LOMAX
I want to get a feel for the guy.

And she doesn’t lean back. Lomax notices... they’re sitting very close. As Dean drones on...

LOMAX
What else do you have?

SHERRY
I have Dean’s Farewell.
LOMAX
Dean’s Farewell?

SHERRY
The last thing he recorded. His farewell to the company. He died two weeks later. They found it on his desk after the funeral.

She places a new DVD into the player.

And we now see Dean sitting at the same desk holding a pen and signing some papers. He looks up and acts surprised as if he didn’t know the camera was there. He still holds the pen while he speaks.

DEAN (FOOTAGE)
Oh... hello.

There’s a time stamp on it... May 5th 2004.

DEAN (FOOTAGE)
I’m Dean Lamaar. As you know, a few years ago, Lamaar Studios was purchased by Abunai World Wide.

(beat)
Now that I’ve stayed around to help our Japanese friends with their transition it’s time to say goodbye to the studio I built and called home for the last fifty-four--

Suddenly on the footage, everything shakes violently. Dean reacts.

DEAN (FOOTAGE)
What the hell is going on?

And there’s a man’s voice off camera...

VOICE (O.S.)
Earthquake, Deanie! Get under the desk.

Sherry stands up...

SHERRY
Oh, this is the raw footage. I’ll get you the finished--

LOMAX
No. This one’s better.

Suddenly the picture goes out.

LOMAX
Who was talking in the footage?

SHERRY
Teddy.
LOMAX
Teddy?

SHERRY
Teddy Barth. He was Lamaar’s right hand man. A bit dim but very loyal. Dean bought him a little house right next to his estate and they were inseparable.

LOMAX
Is he still alive?

Sherry just shrugs.

LOMAX
Can I keep this tape?

SHERRY
Be my guest.

And Lomax takes the discs as Amy Cheever walks him to the door...

LOMAX
You’re gonna go with them and they’re going to take you somewhere where you will be very safe.

She nods. Still a little shaky.

AMY CHEEVER
Why send that book before killing someone? What are they trying to prove?

LOMAX
I don’t think they’re trying to prove anything, Miss Cheever, I think they’re trying to scare us.

Stopping at the door...

AMY CHEEVER
Why?

LOMAX
Because somehow they directly benefit from the fear... because they’re crazy... because they’re very angry for some reason... take your pick.

And she looks into his eyes...

AMY CHEEVER
You’re not giving me much confidence, Detective Lomax.
LOMAX
I know this isn’t going to make any sense to you, but... with this case, I already know what I don’t know and trust me, that’s a good thing.

And off that, Lomax goes...

INT. TEDDY BARTH’S HOME/DINNING ROOM - MORNING

Lomax and Biggs sit across from TEDDY Barth, 70s. ANDREW, 30s, his caretaker, is close by in the kitchen by making tea.

TEDDY
I used to know a bunch of you guys. We did a few cop pictures in the 60s and used you guys as consultants. Herbie... Herbie... I forget now. He was real joker. He loved to mess with the actors. Ever see “Blue Holiday?”

LOMAX
No.

TEDDY
That was a good one. Eddie Ford and Natalie Wood.

Lomax nods. But Teddy just shakes his head.

TEDDY
No. That’s all wrong. That picture never got made. We wanted to make it with Eddie Ford and Natalie Wood but turns out she was under contract at Warner Brothers and we couldn’t get her.

LOMAX
Mr. Brand, we’d like to talk to you about Lars Egg...

Getting frustrated...

TEDDY
No... that’s not right. She wasn’t under contract. Deanie didn’t like her for the part.

BIGGS
Mr. Brand...?

As Andrew hands a cup of tea to Biggs...

ANDREW
I’m sorry... he gets frustrated. Sometimes he’s a sharp as a tack, but most of the time it’s like this.
And Teddy slams his fist down on the table...

TEDDY
Gryzbowski! Herbie Gryzbowski, that’s his name. He’s Polish. You know him?

LOMAX
We don’t.

Andrew grabs Teddy’s arm and looks into his eyes.

ANDREW
Teddy, Lars Egg. You remember Lars?

TEDDY
Lars Egg. Wasn’t a good name to bring up around Deanie I’ll tell you that.

LOMAX
Deanie didn’t like Lars?

TEDDY
Nope. Not after his son tried to kill Deanie.

Jotting this down...

BIGGS
Lars’ son?

TEDDY
Danny.

Biggs jots down the name as Lomax looks around the room. His face focuses on a desktop computer on a table across the way.

TEDDY
Tried to run Dean over after Dean and Lars parted ways.

BIGGS
What happened?

And as Teddy talks, Lomax stands and looks around the room. He looks over pictures of Teddy from a long time ago... many with Dean Lamaár.

Pictures taken on sets... on the lot... some with celebrities.

TEDDY (O.S.)
Dean couldn’t be killed. He was a tough son of a bitch.

Lomax focuses in on a picture of Teddy taken on a golf course... Teddy setting to drive the ball.
TEDDY (O.S.)
And they took care of Danny good.

As Lomax heads back over to the table and looks at Andrew...

LOMAX
Are you two the only people who live here?

ANDREW
He lives here alone. I only come three days a week.

LOMAX
Well, we took up enough of your time. Thank you.

Biggs flashes Lomax a look... why is he cutting it short?

EXT. TEDDY BARTH’S HOME - MORNING

As Andrew walks them out...

ANDREW
Sometimes he makes it up, you need to know that. It’s hard to separate truth from fiction... like all those movies they made.

Lomax looks across the lawn at a huge estate. It’s a weird sight... a huge estate with this little home almost on its front lawn.

LOMAX
(re estate)
That was The Lamaar Estate.

ANDREW
Yes. Dean wanted Teddy close.

(beat)
Nice family lives there now... he’s a plastic surgeon.

Lomax takes one last look at the estate, nods over to Biggs and they head for their cars...

After Andrew goes back inside.

BIGGS
Okay, give it up. I know that look.

LOMAX
Something didn’t feel right.

(beat)
First of all, the computer in there had the mouse on the left side.

BIGGS
So?
LOMAX
So... Teddy’s right handed.

BIGGS
How do you know?

As he breaks for his truck...

LOMAX
The way he drives a golf ball.

And Biggs stops walking, facing his partner with...

BIGGS
Mike.

LOMAX
Yeah... ?

BIGGS
You need to go to the hospital.

LOMAX
But I’m not sick.

And Biggs continues walking... leaving Lomax to figure out what he meant.

EXT. SUNSET BLVD - MORNING

As Lomax drives... mind at thought. He stops at a light and looks up to see a billboard with Ronny Lucas on it under the caption... “Thanks For The Memories... We Will Miss you!”

And Lomax turns away. The light turns and Lomax comes to a conclusion as he rips the truck into a u-turn and heads the other way.

EXT. WOODLAND HILLS HOSPITAL - MORNING

As Lomax’s truck parks in the hospital lot.

INT. LOMAX’S TRUCK - NIGHT

As Mike Lomax eyes down the red brick building and sucks in a heavy breath.

INT. PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY UNIT - MORNING

Lomax heads through the hallway whose walls are covered with artwork created by the child patients. Artwork full of raw honesty and powerful optimism.

And Diana waits for him at the desk.

DIANA
Detective.

LOMAX
Nurse.
After regarding her for a long beat...

LOMAX
I owe you an apology. I guess I--

DIANA
(interrupting him)
Stop talking.

As she rounds the desk and starts down to the hall...

DIANA
Showing up here is your apology and I accept.

A nervous as hell Lomax now in tow.

DIANA
Hugo’s parents went home about twenty minutes ago. He wanted to see you alone. He’s in the day room.

They arrive at the door to the day room and Lomax can barely breathe. She regards him...

DIANA
(re Lomax’s nervousness)
He’s a fourteen year old boy not a bad guy with a gun.

LOMAX
At the moment -- I’d prefer the bad guy with a gun.

INT. DAY ROOM - MORNING

Lomax heads in and sees HUGO, 14 but looks 11, sitting in a wheelchair and wearing a hat that says “Bad Hair Day” on it.

LOMAX
You must be Hugo.

Shaking hands...

HUGO
And you must be Detective Lomax.

As he takes a seat next to the kid...

LOMAX
I am. I... um... got you this.

And Lomax hands Hugo a Navy Blue LAPD baseball hat. Hugo smiles wide... revealing a mouth full of braces.

As he takes off Bad Hair Day, lays it on the table and puts on the LAPD hat.

HUGO
How’s it look?
LOMAX
Bitchin’.

Lomax shakes his head in embarrassment of using the word bitchin.

HUGO
Okay Detective, I’m gonna put you to work. Look at me and tell me what doesn’t fit.

Lomax immediately throws on Bad Hair Day and regards Hugo.

LOMAX
Not sure.

HUGO
Yes, you are. You just don’t want to say it.
(beat)
It’s okay. You can say it.

LOMAX
You have new braces.

Hugo smiles again.

HUGO
You’re good.

Lomax softly nods.

HUGO
My parents think they can trick God.
(looking away)
Who knows? Maybe they can.

And they sit in silence for a moment, until...

HUGO
Why’d you want to become a detective?

Without missing a beat...

LOMAX
To make the world a little more fair.

HUGO
Bitchin’.

Another silence. Until...

LOMAX
This is nice.

HUGO
Yeah...
LOMAX
Been a crap week.

HUGO
Tell me about it.

Diana walks by and looks in on them before moving on... trying not to be obvious.

HUGO
You single?

LOMAX
No, I’m married.

HUGO
To a dead woman.

Lomax looks at him...

HUGO
(re Diana)
She tells me everything.
(beat)
Take her somewhere nice, she works hard.

Lomax nods... taking the order in stride. And then...

LOMAX
Hey Hugo...

Hugo looks at him.

LOMAX
What did the doctor say to the midget?

HUGO
I don’t know.

LOMAX
You’re just going to have to be a little patient.

HUGO
That’s really stupid.

LOMAX
I know.
(and then)
Do you mind if I come visit you again?

Biting back a smile...

HUGO
If I’m available.

END OF ACT 4
ACT 5

INT. LA COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT PRECINCT – DAY

Lomax and Biggs head in... Thelonious looks up from his computer.

LOMAX
Who shall we start with?

BIGGS
Ike Rose.

Lomax writes “Ike Rose” in large letters on the big white marker-board.

Thelonious points to an article he’s pulled up.

THELONIOUS
This is a copy of Ike Rose’s contract. By SEC rule, it’s available to all shareholders of Lamaar.
(pointing)
This little paragraph states in legalese that if Lamaar’s stock trades under $15 a share voiding a split at any time during the tenure of Ike’s contract, Lamaar can fire him.

BIGGS
So it’s kind of like a slaughter rule in baseball?

THELONIOUS
Exactly... considering the stock was at $67 bucks a share when he signed his contract.
(beat)
But here’s the thing. It goes both ways. Meaning--

LOMAX
If it trades below $15 a share, he can get out of his contract as well.

As he brings up a chart on his screen...

THELONIOUS
Bingo! This is Lamaar’s stock over the last year. See this blip here... over the course of three days Lamaar’s stock went down from $83 to $55 bucks a share.

BIGGS
But that’s nowhere near $15.
I know. But the reason for the decline was a rumor.

Typing again...

Which I ended up identifying in the chat rooms of day-trading sites.

Lomax turns to Biggs...

LOMAX
(re Thelonious)
How good is he?

BIGGS
He’s the best. It’s disturbing. He’s Lebron James.

Thelonious smiles... keeps going...

The rumor was that Ike Rose was trying to get out of his contract with Lamaar in order to run Camelot Casinos Inc. He was frustrated with always answering to the micromanaging Japanese board members and Camelot’s a huge company with billion dollar properties in Las Vegas, Connecticut and Macau.

And mob ties.

BIGGS
But Lamaar wouldn’t let Rose out of his contract.

Correct.

Lomax turns to Biggs...

LOMAX
Remember how close Ike said he was to Camelot Senior management?

BIGGS
Yup. And now news of Lamaar Studios being under attack is everywhere.

As Thelonious pulls up a headline on his computer... CNBC.com which reads...

"Fearing For Safety of Employees -- Lamaar Indefinitely Closing All Operations. Stock Expected To Plummet At Open."
THELONIOUS

Correct.

Lomax barks over to Bump and Corner.

LOMAX

Let’s get a warrant for Ike Rose’s computer and office.

As Lomax stands and writes down a new name on the board under Ike’s...

LOMAX

Danny Egg.

THELONIOUS

(reading off his computer)
Okay Danny Egg, forty-eight years old, works off and on for the city as a water treatment operator. He did three years at Camarillo State Mental Hospital starting in 1982.

Lomax nods.

LOMAX

And when did Lars Egg leave Lamaar?

Thelonious types for a beat, then...

THELONIOUS

1981.

BIGGS

Makes sense. Lamaar screws Danny’s father over, Danny tries to run Lamaar over and gets three years in the nut house for it.

Lomax shouts over to Bump and Corner...

LOMAX

Do we have Egg yet?

BUMP AND CORNER

Not yet. We have a black and white waiting for him at his home.

Lomax looks at the board... at those two names.

The whole office looks on as Lomax slowly moves to the board and writes numbers next to each name... he then writes “Field” under Danny Egg’s name.

The board now looks like this...

Ike Rose    2-1
Danny Egg   3-1
Field       4-1
And Biggs announces...

BIGGS
Give me ten bucks on Danny Egg.

Lomax nods and writes it down.

THELONIOUS
I’ll take Rose for twenty.

Lomax takes note of that.

BUMP AND CORNER
Can I get in this?

Lomax and Biggs share a look...

LOMAX
Why not?

BUMP AND CORNER
I want the field. Five bucks.

And then... asking Lomax

BUMP AND CORNER
How come you don’t bet?

As he goes...

LOMAX
Because I like to know what I don’t know.

INT. LOMAX’S REDONDO BEACH HOME - NIGHT

Lomax brings in an armful of DVDs from Lamaar and lays them in a pile on the floor. He then sits on his couch in silence.

And three things are laid out before him. That bottle of Macallan whiskey, that letter from Joannie and that slip of paper with Diana’s phone number on it.

Lomax focuses on the letter for a long moment then angrily brushes it off the table. He then looks at Diana’s number for a moment then sends it onto the floor with the letter.

And as Mike Lomax reaches for that bottle of Macallans...

DARKNESS

Until a phone rings... a light goes on and we find ourselves with Terry Biggs in bed with his wife MARILYN.

He fumbles for the phone...

BIGGS
Hello...
INTERCUT WITH LOMAX

Still on couch... now a bit drunk...

LOMAX
It has to be Egg.

BIGGS
Mike, it’s midnight.

LOMAX
I’m sorry. I still think of you as-

Looking over to sleeping wife and quietly getting out of bed.

BIGGS
A single man... I get it.

Taking the cordless phone with him into the bathroom...

BIGGS
I remember when I used to wake you
and Joannie up... when it was me
who was two sheets to the wind with
some crazy theory on a case...

LOMAX
I loved those calls.

Whispering...

BIGGS
Now I get to love them.
(and then)
Why Egg?

LOMAX
Rose has a financial motive and I
get that, but...

Taking a moment to gather his thought...

LOMAX
Whoever’s doing this has a lot of
hate inside of them.
(beat)
Killing innocent people... those
flip books and the choice of murder
weapons.

BIGGS
It’s true.

LOMAX
I think I’m gonna owe you thirty
bucks.

BIGGS
They bring in Egg yet?
LOMAX
Bump and Corner said not yet

There’s a beat of silence, then...

LOMAX
I’m sorry I woke you guys up.

BIGGS
Don’t worry about it.

LOMAX
Good night--

INT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT/PRECINT - DAY

Lomax heads in to find Biggs waiting for him.

BIGGS
You don’t owe me thirty bucks.

LOMAX
Why not?

BIGGS
Danny Egg’s been an in-patient in Four Winds Hospital in Albany for the last month.

LOMAX
That’s a mental hospital.

BIGGS
Bingo. He’s still nuts. But he ain’t our guy.

As he throws $10 in the desk...

BIGGS
I called up there and there’s no way he’s been orchestrating these murders. As they put it he’s in the middle of an aggressive “electro-therapeutic” program and hasn’t been in contact with anyone for three weeks.

Lomax nods. They sit in silence, until...

BIGGS
Wanna come over for dinner tonight? Marilyn’s making her chili.

LOMAX
Can’t.

BIGGS
Big Jim’s.

LOMAX
No. I have a date.
And before Biggs can say anything... Thelonious heads in and slumps into his seat.

THELONIOUS
Not good.

LOMAX
What?

THELONIOUS
Ike Rose’s computer. Before any of the killings, he was finishing a contract extension with Lamaar, it wasn’t public information.

BIGGS
So?

THELONIOUS
So, Lamaar’s in the process of giving him the keys to the kingdom.

As he throws $20 on Lomax’s desk...

THELONIOUS
Full autonomy and a boat load of money... all in stock options. Makes the Camelot deal look like nonprofit.

BIGGS
Everything he wanted.

LOMAX
And there goes his motive.

And they all just sit there defeated... they’re back to square one and they know it.

Until the silence is broken by...

BUMP AND CORNER
Guess the field is looking a little better now.

BIGGS
Shut up.

INT. LOMAX’S REDONDO BEACH HOME - MORNING

Holding his morning coffee, Lomax sits down on the couch.

He looks at a picture on the mantle Joannie then sharply looks away to the pile of DVDs from Lamaar on the floor.

As he throws in one of the DVDs and watches...

On the screen pops Dean Lamaar standing next to Rambunctious Rabbit on the studio lot.
DEAN LAMAAR (FOOTAGE)
Hey Rambunctious, you want to introduce the Lamaar movie of the week for those nice folks at CBS?

The rabbit shakes no.

DEAN LAMAAR (FOOTAGE)
I guess it’s up to me then.

And Lomax continues to watch.

INT. LOMAX’S REDONDO BEACH HOME - LATER

It’s the footage we saw before. Dean Lamaar sitting at the desk... holding a pen...

LOMAX
(to the tv)
Holding that pen in your left hand... huh Deanie?

Time stamp reading... May 5th 2004.

DEAN LAMAAR (FOOTAGE)
Now that I’ve stayed around to help our Japanese friends with their transition it’s time to say goodbye to the studio I built and called home for the last fifty-four--

Suddenly on the footage, everything shakes violently. Dean reacts.

DEAN (FOOTAGE)
What the hell is going on?

And Teddy Barth... off camera...

TEDDY BRAND (FOOTAGE) (O.S.)
Earthquake, Deanie! Get under the desk.

Lomax pauses the footage and stares at the time stamp... mind churning.

And Mike Lomax picks up the phone...

INTERCUT WITH

Big Jim... tending his garden... answering his phone.

BIG JIM
Yeah...

LOMAX
Remember when you scored tickets for the Laker Finals game the night before Joannie’s graduation from art school?
BIG JIM
Sure.

LOMAX
And we were all set to go to the game but it was postponed a day due to an earthquake?

BIG JIM
How could I forget? It was total crap because art school isn’t really like college. It’s something adults do when they’re bored, it’s not like she was graduating from Stanford or something.

LOMAX
That’s what my feeling was.

BIG JIM
And that was the year we had Gary Payton and Karl Malone--

LOMAX
So you remember it.

BIG JIM
Like yesterday. My daughter vs. Laker Finals, no contest.

LOMAX
My wife vs. Laker finals, same result.
   (and then)
Okay, big question Jim... what year was that?

BIG JIM
That’s easy, 2004. They lost to the Pistons in five.

LOMAX
And when are the NBA finals?

BIG JIM
Last week of May.

With sudden excitement...

LOMAX
Exactly!

EXT. TEDDY BARTH’S HOME – DAY

As ten POLICE CARS screech to the halt. They storm the house... the Dean Lamaar Estate in the distance.
INT. TEDDY BARTH’S HOME - DAY

As the police, led by Lomax and Biggs, storm inside and arrest Teddy Barth and Andrew.

And Lomax turns to Teddy who’s being handcuffed...

LOMAX
You should’ve been an actor in the good old days, Teddy, not a secretary... that was a hell of an act at dementia you gave me.

Teddy just looks down to his feet as Lomax checks out a computer blueprint of the house that Thelonious just printed out for him.

LOMAX
Dean was paranoid. He built an escape tunnel and panic room in between his house and Teddy’s.

And they head down the stairs.

INT. TEDDY BARTH’S BASEMENT - SAME

Lomax checks the blue prints and points to a boiler.

LOMAX
It’s behind there.

They approach the boiler and Biggs feels it.

BIGGS
It’s a fake.

LOMAX
I just couldn’t get my mind around who could hate this man so much that they would kill two innocent people years after his death. (beat) But the only person with all that hate is that man himself. And it’s not years after his death...

Suddenly, the boiler and whole wall it’s on... slides open to reveal...

A BEDROOM

Where stands... waiting for them...

DEAN LAMAAR
Gentlemen.

INT. LA COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT/HALLWAY - DAY

LOMAX (V.O. POST LAP)
... because he didn’t die at all.
Lomax heads down the hall. Biggs finds his side.

BIGGS
Thelonious got the motherload from Andrew’s computer. He hired the killer out of Chicago. Chicago PD and FBI are on it now.

Lomax nods.

BIGGS
Also, Amy Cheever called and wanted to thank you.

LOMAX
Noted.

BIGGS
In person. She offered up a fancy dinner on Lamaar.

Lomax smiles...

LOMAX
I appreciate it... but tell her a card will more than suffice.

As Lomax takes that in while heading into the interrogation room...

INT. LA COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT/INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Lomax heads in. Dean Lamaar sits there. Bump and Corner finishes setting up the camera then looks excitedly over to Lomax... who hands him a $20 bill.

LOMAX
Congrats. Welcome to the team.

Bump and Corner pockets his winnings with a smile as he goes.

And we now get...

FOOTAGE OF DEAN’S LAMAAR CONFESSION

DEAN LAMAAR
My father wasn’t a good man. I’m not going to lie, he was sadistic. He would often throw me in the cellar when he got angry or when he drank.

AND BIG JIM

Sitting at his dinner table... laughing...

He’s sitting across from Lomax and Diana. They’re here for dinner again.

As Big Jim finishing his story and the table bursts out in laughter...
BACK TO THE FOOTAGE OF DEAN LAMAAR’S CONFESSION

DEAN LAMAAR
One time I found this lump of coal and began to draw on the cellar wall to keep from going crazy. I wrote characters... animals. But they spoke. And then they built me an empire. Those animals were the true loves of my life.

Lomax’s voice could be heard from behind the camera...

LOMAX (O.S.)
Then why’d you sell it?

DEAN LAMAAR
They told me they’d preserve the brand... preserve the vision.

AND A PRESS CONFERENCE

Where Ike Rose shares a podium with Amy Cheever, THE GOVERNOR and MAYOR and LT KILCULLEN. He happily announces the re-opening of all Lamaar Studio facilities.

As he shakes Lt Kilcullen’s hand...

AND BACK TO FOOTAGE OF DEAN LAMAAR’S CONFESSION

As Dean grows angry...

DEAN LAMAAR
But they didn’t. The violence, profanity, infidelity, nudity, deals with Las Vegas mobsters!
(beat)
It’s my name on this studio!!!

AND “MARK” FROM HOMELESS SHELTER

The man we remember beating Ronny Lucas to death with a baseball bat. As he leaves a pub on a snowy night.

We’re in Chicago. Suddenly, out of nowhere, LOCAL POLICE OFFICERS converge on him.

As they slam him to the ground and cuff him...

AND BACK TO FOOTAGE OF DEAN LAMAAR’S CONFESSION

LOMAX (O.S.)
Why fake your own death?

DEAN LAMAAR
Because I knew I’d be the primary suspect otherwise.

AND TERRY BIGGS
As he walks the streets of Lamaar Studio’s Familyland with Marilyn and her FOUR DAUGHTERS... who are now his four daughters. They’re here gratis of Ike Rose and they’re having a great time.

They all stop at the Familyland theater who’s marquee is broadcasting “Rambunctious Rabbit’s Musical Adventure”

As the girls drag Terry Biggs into the theater...

AND BACK TO FOOTAGE OF DEAN LAMAAR’S CONFESSION

DEAN LAMAAR
My life, my company, everything... was destroyed.

As he sucks in a deep breath then looks right at the camera...

DEAN LAMAAR
I really only had one thing to keep me going.

LOMAX
Which was?

DEAN LAMAAR
Revenge.

AND DETECTIVE MIKE LOMAX

Wearing a robe, walks out of his small house and down his driveway. He picks up the newspaper and looks at the headline... “Lamaar Stages Death Then Reigns Terror On His Own Studio” It’s important to also note the day on the newspaper... Monday.

LOMAX (V.O.)
There are other things that could keep someone going when all is lost.

Lomax opens his mailbox and sifts through his mail...

DEAN LAMAAR (V.O.)
Yeah... like what?

And as Detective Mike Lomax lands on a new letter from Joannie, we...

FADE OUT

END OF THE PILOT