MALIBU DETECTIVE

A One Hour Dramatic Series

by

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TEASER

EXT. MALIBU BEACH - NIGHT

A man swims through the water in a black wet suit with snorkel and goggles. He swims up to the beach and crawls out of the water.

He shuffles across the sand to the shade of a rock outcropping. He hugs against the rock and removes the goggles and snorkel revealing his face. This is MATT SULLIVAN, 35.

Matt slings a small waterproof backpack off his shoulders and opens it. He puts the goggles and snorkel into a plastic bag and then into the backpack. He takes out black gloves and a ninja mask and puts them on. Then he takes a night vision scope from the backpack.

Matt looks through the night vision scope at a house on the beach. The windows are dark. Looks like nobody is home.

Matt puts the night vision scope back into the bag and slings it over his shoulders.

Matt scrambles across the beach and hops the fence into the yard of the house.

EXT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt zips from shadow to shadow through the incredible garden, past statues, fountains, amazing arrangements of exotic plants.

Matt makes it to the wall of the house. He presses his back up against the house and slides along the wall. He ducks under the sill of a window and pops back up on the other side.

Matt squats down and examines a bundle of wires that go into the house through a hole just under the window.

Matt unslings his backpack and takes out a small electronic device. He presses the device to each of the wires in turn. The last wire causes an LED on the small device to flash.

Matt takes the knife from his belt and slices a sliver of insulation off the wire, exposing the braided copper strands underneath.

Matt attaches an alligator clip from the small device to the exposed copper wire. He flips a switch on the device. A green LED lights up.

Matt examines the window. He can see the lock on the inside.

CONTINUED:

Matt takes out what looks to be a compass, but with a diamond glass cutter in the place of the pencil. He presses it to the window and draws a circle on the glass. He then makes an X through the circle. He taps the X in the middle and the glass breaks, but only on the lines that he scored, leaving a perfect circle in the glass.

Matt reaches in the hole and unlocks the window. Matt lifts the window and climbs in the house.

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt climbs through the window, avoiding stepping on the broken glass and slowly lets the window down.

MATT
(to himself)
Official findings Jordan, your security system totally blows.

Matt walks through the house. He stops as he approaches the front door. His eyes go wide.

Matt pulls the ninja mask off his head revealing his shocked face.

In the entry hall by the front door is a man, JORDAN FREEMAN, 35, on the floor in a pool of blood, throat slit.

END TEASER

ACT 1

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt stares in shock at Jordan lying in a pool of blood. He rushes over to him.

MATT
Jordan!

Jordan's eyes open. He cracks a big grin and start laughing.

JORDAN
You should see your face.

MATT
Jerk!

Jordan gets up.

JORDAN
Looks pretty real, huh? Had one of my SFX makeup people whip it up for me.

MATT
That's really not a nice thing to do to a guy who's spent too much time in war zones.

JORDAN
Ooh, I'm sorry, Matt. I didn't think. When you told me you were gonna test the security system tonight by breaking in, all I could think about was pulling a prank on you.

MATT
So, you faked your death. That's messed up. You scared the crap outa me.

JORDAN
Call us even for you dating my sister in high school.

MATT
This is like the fiftieth time you've called us even for that.

JORDAN
Yeah, well, you've got a lot to make up for.
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Tell me, did you really have to dress as a ninja to test the security system?

MATT
No, but I was gonna be wearing the wet suit anyway since I had decided to approach from the sea.

JORDAN
The sea? Who would try to rob my house with an amphibious assault?

MATT
I know it isn't the most plausible idea, but I wanted to test the system with a worst case scenario.

JORDAN
So the ninja mask?

MATT
Just kinda completed the outfit. I didn't want to alert your neighbors and have them call the police. So, yeah, I dressed as a ninja.

JORDAN
Let me get this straight, your logic here is that my neighbors would call the police if they saw my friend, who I've introduced them to, sneaking around my house in the middle of the night, but they wouldn't call the police if they saw a ninja sneaking around my house in the middle of the night.

MATT
The idea was that nobody would see me at all and have any reason to call the police.

JORDAN
And how'd the security system check out?

MATT
It sucks. I bypassed it in less than a minute.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt kneels in front of the window where he broke in. Jordan looks where he is pointing.

MATT
See here, the cable for the security system goes through this hole in the sill and is exposed on the other side. I spliced into it and put a false signal on the wire. So when I popped a hole in the window and...

JORDAN
What? Popped a hole in my window?

Matt stands up and steps away from the window. He motions to the broken glass on the floor and the perfect circle cut out of the window.

MATT
Yeah, I had to actually break into your house to test the system.

JORDAN
You didn't say you were gonna break my window.

MATT
Oh, come on. You own a multimillion dollar home in Malibu and you are complaining about a broken window?

JORDAN
I figured you were gonna pick the lock on the door or something. That is why I was laying on the floor in the front hall.

MATT
The window was an easier access point. The door is pretty solid. There are three or four better places to break in than the front door.

JORDAN
But you can fix that right?

CONTINUED:

MATT
Yeah, we'll get a surveillance system and do a better job with wiring the security system, better sensors. Also there is a trellis outside in the garden that gives easy access to the second floor. You'll want to remove that.

JORDAN
How much is this gonna cost me?

MATT
Nothing compared to the 100 million you just made off your syndication deal.

JORDAN
Touche. When can you get this stuff installed?

MATT
Just need to order the components. So, couple days.

JORDAN
Cool. Grab us some beers. I'm gonna go clean this crap off.

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt, now dressed in jeans and a polo shirt, and Jordan, no longer bloody, sip beers.

MATT
I appreciate everything you've done for me, Jordan, but I hate feeling like a mooch.

JORDAN
You're not a mooch. You're my best friend, who for the last 15 years has been serving our country, while I have just been creating freakin TV shows. You're the one who should be loaded and I should be mooching off you.

MATT
I just think it is time for me to move out and get my own place.

Jordan gets up.

CONTINUED:

JORDAN
Okay, come on.

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Matt follows Jordan into the office, not sure what is going on.

Jordan goes to one of the built in bookcases and removes a false set of books revealing a safe.

Jordan unlocks the safe and flips through several documents. Finds the one he is looking for, takes it and closes the safe.

MATT
What are you doing?

JORDAN
Sha!

Jordan crosses to his desk and takes a pen. He starts writing on the document and then signs his name. He opens the desk drawer, takes out a set of keys and hands them to Matt.

MATT
What's this?

Jordan hands the document to Matt.

JORDAN
These are the keys and the title to your new Airstream trailer.

MATT
My what?

JORDAN
It's parked at the Malibu Mobile home park.

MATT
I can't accept this.

JORDAN
And you don't need to worry about mooching off me, because it's not mine, it's yours.

MATT
A trailer? In a trailer park?

CONTINUED:

JORDAN
A beautifully restored Airstream in Malibu. So, it's not your average tornado magnet trailer park.

EXT. MALIBU MOBILE HOME PARK - DAY

CRANE DOWN - as a mint condition 1980s red Ferrari slowly drives past rows of trailers and mobile homes, approaching the camera.

PAN as the Ferrari passes, wiping the frame, revealing a beautifully restored classic Airstream Trailer.

Into the frame comes Matt on a bicycle. He stops at the Airstream and dismounts.

WOODY, 45, walks in front of his trailer, lost in his own little world.

MATT
Morning neighbor.

Woody jumps a little, takes a quick glance at Matt, looks away and then shuffles into his own trailer.

WILLY (O.C.)
Don't worry about Woody, he's a little shy with new people.

Matt turns and sees WILLY, 75, grizzled but with a soft kindness to his eyes.

WILLY (CONT'D)
Aspergers syndrome, high functioning form of autism. No social skills, but damn genius when it comes to computers and electronics.

Willy thrusts out his hand.

WILLY (CONT'D)
I'm Willy.

Matt shakes.

MATT
I'm Matt.

WILLY
You a friend of Jordan's?

CONTINUED:

MATT
Yeah, we grew up together.

WILLY
Well, he's not here. Hardly ever comes up to the park anymore. He lives up the PCH just south of Point Dume.

MATT
I know, I was staying there with him after I got out of the military.

WILLY
Oh yeah? Marines, two tours in Korea.

MATT
Army, Military Police, multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

WILLY
You back for good?

MATT
Yeah. Got my Private Investigator license and am doing security consulting for Jordan and some folks he knows in the area.

WILLY
He letting you stay in the trailer?

MATT
Actually he just gave me the trailer. So, I'm your new neighbor.

WILLY
Well it's good to meet you neighbor. Come with me. I'll introduce you to Woody, once you get past the barrier he is great guy.

They walk up to Woody's trailer and Willy raps out a special knock on the door.

WOODY (O.C.)
(shouting from inside)
Come on in Willy, I'm decent.

CONTINUED:

WILLY
Got a new friend to introduce you to.

Woody opens the door a crack and peeks out.

WILLY (CONT'D)
This is Matt. He is a friend of Jordan's. He just got out of the Army and is moving into Jordan's Airstream.

WOODY
That's a real nice trailer. I set up the wireless network in there. If you have any problems, let me know. I'm using a custom encryption that I designed myself.

MATT
Really. I'm gonna be upgrading the security system at Jordan's house. I could really use some custom encryption software. Any chance you could help me with that?

WOODY
Yeah, I'd be happy to. Jordan is a good guy. Way nicer than the lady who used to rent that space. Do you need any other stuff?

Woody opens the trailer door completely, revealing the interior of his trailer. It is covered entirely in electronics.

MATT
Wow, it's like you hired the borg as your interior designer.

Woody busts up laughing.

WOODY
That's good. I like you Matt. Come in. Lets build Jordan the best security system ever.

EXT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - FRONT GATE - DAY

Woody stands at the top of a ladder. He is mounting a small security camera to a column at the front gate.

Jordan pulls up in his British racing green Jaguar convertible, top down.

CONTINUED:

JORDAN
Woody! What are you doing up there?

WOODY
What? Hey, I'm just helping Matt put in your security system.

JORDAN
Cool. So, I guess you guys hit it off, huh?

WOODY
Yeah, he's your friend and Willy likes him and he's funny, so.

Woody shrugs.

JORDAN
Good, part of the reason I kept that trailer for so long was that I didn't want you to get stuck with a crazy new neighbor. Matt's a great guy. You'll love having him next door.

WOODY
Yeah, he's around back I think. Or he was when I saw him before.

JORDAN
Thanks.

He hits the button on his door opener and the gate swings open.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Come in and say bye before you go. Don't just sneak outa here. I got some of that good Mexican coke inside.

WOODY
(thrilled)
Mexican coke, awesome, I'll be in when I'm done with the camera. It has full spectrum, infrared and ultraviolet. Better than anything you can buy outside of Japan or South Korea.

JORDAN
That's truly awesome, man. See you in a bit.

CONTINUED:

Woody nods awkwardly and goes back to work as Jordan drives in the gate.

EXT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

Matt talks with MANUEL, 40, a Hispanic gardener.

MANUEL
I hate to just trash it. It is a beautiful trumpet vine. You don't see them out here much.

MATT
It's gotta go, that trellis makes too good of a ladder up to the second floor.

MANUEL
Bet I could split it and grow it up over an arch at the beach side gate. Would it cause a problem there?

MATT
I got no problem with it. But it's Jordan's yard, so I can't speak for him.

MANUEL
He don't care. Here he comes, watch.

Jordan walks across the back yard towards them.

MANUEL (CONT'D)
Hey Jordan, I'm gonna split this trumpet vine and grow it over an arch by the back gate.

JORDAN
You're the Man-well. You do what you want. How's it going Matt?

MATT
Good, almost done. Woody is installing the last camera.

JORDAN
Yeah, I saw him when I pulled in.

MATT
We've got some tests to run after that on the software. Figure I'll do another break-in test tonight.

CONTINUED:

JORDAN
Are you gonna go all shinobi again?

MATT
Maybe. We'll see how I feel.

JORDAN
Well, I'll be out at a premiere tonight, so you'll have the house to yourself.

MANUEL
Which young hottie are you taking with you tonight? Not that crazy Cindy chick?

JORDAN
That 23 year old has been? No. I'm going stag, but I won't be coming home alone. So have your test done by 2am Matt.

Woody comes around the corner of the house carrying the ladder. He leans it up against the wall and walks over to Matt and Jordan.

WOODY
Camera is done. Where's that Mexican coke you promised me?

Matt's eye's go wide.

JORDAN
Inside. Come on.

MATT
Welcome to Hollywood, I guess. Not sure what I think about this.

JORDAN
What?

MATT
I'll just stay out here while you guys do business.

JORDAN
Do business?

MATT
Yeah, you know, the Mexican coke.

Jordan looks confused for a second and then realization hits him and he starts to laugh.

CONTINUED:

JORDAN
Oh, I can see how that sounds bad. Not cocaine. Coco-cola in Mexico is made with real sugar not that high fructose junk. I've got a bunch in my fridge. Woody introduced me to them when I was living in the Airstream.

Matt laughs.

JORDAN (CONT'D)
Come on, you should try one.

MATT
Are they really any different?

WOODY
Yeah, they taste like Coke from before New Coke.

MATT
That's Coke Classic though.

WOODY
No, they made New Coke so that people would hate it and then they could reintroduce Coco-cola Classic without the public noticing the slight change in taste when they switched to the cheaper high fructose corn syrup from sucrose.

JORDAN
Believe me you are gonna take one sip and flash back to the early eighties.

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Four bottles of Mexican Coco-cola are taken from the fridge. All four are uncapped in quick succession.

Matt takes a long pull on the Mexican Coco-cola. Delicious.

MATT
Oh, yeah. Big Wheels, Atari 2600, Eye of the Tiger. You're right, it's like I'm 8 again.

EXT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt stands outside the house. He dials his cell phone.

CONTINUED:

MATT
Hi, this is Matt Sullivan. I'm going to be running a test on the security system here. Account number is 6806-371. Override code is marklar. M-A-R-K-L-A-R. So no need to call the police if it goes off. It's not on now? Jordan must have forgot to set it when he went out. I'll go inside and turn it on. I'll give you a call when the test is done. Thanks.

Matt hangs up the phone.

MATT (CONT'D)
Gotta turn it on for it to do any good, dude.

Matt walks up to the front door and takes out his key. He opens the front door and goes inside the house.

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt enters through the front door and goes to the security panel mounted on the wall. He hits some keys and the panel beeps.

Matt reaches for the doorknob and sees a smear of blood on it. He looks down and sees several drops of blood on the floor. He follows them to the stairs and up to the second floor.

At the top of the stairs he sees a large knife sticking in the wall. Blood dripping down the blade onto the wall.

MATT
Out at a premiere tonight huh? It's a good thing you make crappy TV shows and not horror movies because this is half-assed.

Matt calmly follows the blood drops and smears to the master bedroom.

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

A bloody footprint is on the carpet in front of the door to the master bathroom, which is closed.

Matt rolls his eyes, walks over and opens the door.

Jordan lays naked in the tub, legs dangling over the side. Blood is splattered everywhere.

CONTINUED:

Matt stands in the doorway doing a slow clap.

MATT
Bravo. You really, really outdid yourself tonight. The being naked is a nice touch.

No response from Jordan.

MATT (CONT'D)
I'm sorry I took your sister's virginity, okay. Jordan this isn't funny.

Matt panics and rushes into the room. He takes Jordan's wrist and checks for a pulse.

MATT (CONT'D)
Oh, God.

OFF MATT - realizing his best friend is actually dead.

END ACT 1

ACT 2

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Matt sits on the couch in shock, telling his story to the POLICE OFFICER.

OFFICER
How long have you known Mr. Freeman?

MATT
Since we were kids, his family lived down the street from mine.

OFFICER
And what were you doing at his house tonight?

MATT
I am doing some security consulting for him. Just installed a new security system today and was going to run a test tonight. I called the alarm company to let them know. They said the alarm wasn't on. This made me suspicious and I came in the house and found the blood downstairs. Then I found Jordan in the bathroom.

OFFICER
Do you know anyone with any reason to wish Mr. Freeman harm?

MATT
No. I just got out of the Army a couple months ago. Jordan and I kept in touch with email, phone call here and there, occasional visit while I was on leave. I really don't know the ins and outs of his daily life.

OFFICER
I noticed a camera at the front gate when we came in. Is that hooked up to a recording device?

MATT
Yeah, it's part of the new security system. There are actually four cameras hooked up.
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

MATT (CONT'D)
The front gate, beach side gate, and either side of the house.

JUMP CUT TO:

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - HOME OFFICE - NIGHT

Matt opens a cabinet revealing a computer.

MATT
The cameras and the security sensors all feed into here. With the system off, the sensors weren't active, so there won't be any data there. But the cameras all run 24/7. Each of these drives is meant to cover a different day.

Matt pops out the first hard drive.

MATT (CONT'D)
Here you go. Hope it helps.

INT. DUKE'S - NIGHT

Matt trudges up to the bar and slumps onto a stool.

BRIANNA, 25, a sassy, sexy, very engaging bartender spies Matt with his head in his hands and comes over to him.

BRIANNA
You sir, need a drink.

MATT
I do.

BRIANNA
(after a beat)
Anything in particular?

MATT
Something strong. Some kinda mouth on fire rot your gut whisky.

BRIANNA
Whisky is an angry man's drink. You angry?

MATT
Yeah, and sad.

She pours him a glass of whisky, neat.

CONTINUED:

BRIANNA
You lost somebody, and not like a girl breaking up with you. A member of your family?

Matt takes the whole thing in a gulp. He exhales slowly. Feeling it burn his mouth, not giving in, conquering it, allowing it to cleanse his palate, hoping it will wash away what he has seen.

MATT
Close enough. Another.

Brianna pours him another drink. He sips this one.

BRIANNA
What's your name?

MATT
Matt. What's yours?

She takes another glass and pours whisky into it.

BRIANNA
Bri.

She raises the glass.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)
To those who couldn't be here, you are missed.

They clink glasses and both down their whisky.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DUKE'S - NIGHT - LATER

Matt sits at the bar, head in his hands. Tears streaming down his face, onto his arms, making little puddles on the bar. Between sobs he whimpers.

MATT
Maybe if I went over sooner I could have done something...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DUKE'S - NIGHT

Matt is sits at the bar, slumped forward. Sniffling.

CONTINUED:

MATT
If I never moved out maybe I could have helped him. Or maybe they would have killed me instead. I should have died, not Jordan.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. DUKE'S - NIGHT

Matt peels himself off the bar stool and he staggers toward the bathroom. He is obviously plastered. He sways and grabs hold of a trash can and then pitches forward and vomits into the trash can.

Brianna comes over and helps him to stand up. She gives him a towel. He wipes his mouth.

MATT
Thank you.

BRIANNA
Lets get you home Matt. Where do you live?

MATT
Malibu. I live in Malibu.

BRIANNA
Okay, you'll need to be more specific.

MATT
Trailer park.

BRIANNA
Okay. Come on. That's on my way home. I'll take you.

MATT
Thanks, Bri, you're the bestest ever.

BRIANNA
Don't puke in my car.

MATT
Don't drive fast.

They exit the bar.

EXT. MALIBU MOBILE HOME PARK - NIGHT

At the entrance off PCH, Matt gets out of Brianna's black BMW. He stumbles a bit and sways as he shuts the door. Brianna rolls down the window.

BRIANNA
You sure you wanna walk? You're pretty sloshed. I could drive you up to your trailer.

MATT
No, I'm good. I wanna walk a little to clear my head.

BRIANNA
Be careful, okay.

MATT
Thanks.

Matt trudges along the road into the trailer park.

Matt walks for a little while. He kicks a soda can in his path. It bounces off a large rock and ends up back in his path.

Matt eyes the can. He starts to bubble with rage. He stomps on the can. It wraps around his shoe and gets stuck to his foot. He kicks his foot a couple times and it comes free. Then he pounces on it and stomps the can over and over again until it is flat.

WILLY (O.C.)
I think you got it.

Matt slowly looks up. Willy sees the horror on his face.

WILLY (CONT'D)
What is it, Matt?

MATT
Willy. Jordan was murdered tonight.

OFF WILLY - total disbelief.

CUT TO:

EXT. MALIBU MOBILE HOME PARK - NIGHT - LATER

Matt, Willy and Woody are sitting around a small camp fire by Willy's trailer. Willy and Woody are drinking beer. Matt is drinking a bottle of water, still hammered.

CONTINUED:

WOODY
The drug cartels. Maybe they killed Jordan to send a message.

MATT
Was Jordan involved with them?

WOODY
Doesn't have to be. They could be trying to move in on the Hollywood crowd and maybe they just picked Jordan at random and killed him.

WILLY
Why would they do that?

WOODY
To send a message!

MATT
What kind of message?

WOODY
That they can get to anyone. Or it could be the C.I.A.

WILLY
The C.I.A.?

WOODY
Yeah, they got Arbenz, Che, they loosed A.I.D.S. in the Congo. Maybe Jordan was working on a show about something they didn't like.

MATT
I don't think it was the C.I.A., Woody.

WOODY
Who else has the technology to get past my security system?

MATT
The system wasn't on, so they wouldn't need technology.

WILLY
It is most likely someone he knows personally. Whenever there is a murder it is usually the husband or wife or girlfriend.

CONTINUED:

MATT
He doesn't have a steady girlfriend. Seems like he goes out with a different girl each week.

WILLY
Maybe that is the problem. Maybe one of them didn't like him going out with other girls?

MATT
So she killed him? Too flimsy. She'd have to be pretty messed up to do that.

WILLY
It's Hollywood and he likes to date young actresses...messed up kinda comes with that territory. Or maybe a business partner. Who gets that 100 million from his syndication deal if he dies?

WOODY
Chemtrails.

MATT
What?

WILLY
Here we go.

WOODY
Don't "here we go" me Willy, they are real. And dangerous. Maybe Jordan found out who is doing it and they killed him to keep him quiet.

MATT
What is he talking about?

WILLY
Conspiracy nonsense.

WOODY
It's not nonsense. It is big business and it is killing people.

MATT
We're not gonna solve this tonight.

Matt gets up and staggers over to his trailer.

EXT. MALIBU POLICE STATION - DAY

Matt rides up on his bike, dismounts and locks it on the rack. He goes inside the police station.

INT. MALIBU POLICE STATION - DAY

Matt stands at the front desk yelling at the POLICE OFFICER on duty.

MATT
He was my friend. He is now dead. I want some damn answers!

Matt puts his hand to his head and grimaces.

OFFICER
I am sorry for your loss sir. But I can’t give you any information.

MATT
Oh, come on!
(sighs, stops yelling)
Please, I’ve got a splitting headache. My best friend was murdered and I just want to talk to someone. Please.

OFFICER
Well, I guess you can wait for the Chief. But I don’t know when he’ll be available.

MATT
I’ll wait.

OFFICER
Follow me. You want a cup of coffee while you wait?

MATT
And a greasy cheeseburger.

OFFICER
What?

MATT
Old hangover cure. Coffee would be wonderful. Thanks.

INT. MALIBU POLICE STATION - DAY - LATER

Matt sits in the waiting area, sipping a cup of coffee. The door to the Chief's office opens and Brianna steps out along side MALIBU POLICE CHIEF LEE CONNORS, 55.

Brianna hugs the Chief.

CHIEF
You stay outa trouble young lady.

BRIANNA
I will dad.

She turns and sees Matt.

BRIANNA (CONT'D)
So, what did you do last night after I dropped you off that landed you in here?

MATT
Nothing. I'm just visiting.

BRIANNA
Does this have to do with your friend?

MATT
Yeah.

BRIANNA
Well, Matt, this is my dad, the Chief of Police. Dad this is Matt. I'll leave you two to talk.

Brianna pats Matt on the shoulder and heads out. The Chief shows Matt into his office.

INT. MALIBU POLICE STATION - CHIEF'S OFFICE - DAY

Matt sits across from the Chief.

MATT
Look, I want to help. I'm a licensed private investigator, former Military Police, I have a degree in criminology. I can help. Please, let me help. Make me a special deputy or something.

CHIEF
You know I can't do that.

CONTINUED:

MATT
Then at least tell me what you have so far. Give me some peace of mind that something is being done. Some progress is being made.

CHIEF
I can't discuss details of an ongoing investigation with you, Matt. You know why.

MATT
(after a beat)
Because I'm a suspect.

END ACT 2

ACT 3

INT. MALIBU POLICE STATION - CHIEF'S OFFICE - DAY

Matt and the Chief continue their conversation.

CHIEF
Yep, you're a suspect. You found the body. Your fingerprints were on the front doorknob and the one to the bathroom.

MATT
Because I touched those doorknobs when I came in and found him.

The Chief looks down at the open file on his desk.

CHIEF
You're just back from Afghanistan, I see.

MATT
Yeah.

CHIEF
Any signs of PTSD?

MATT
You think I had a flashback and killed Jordan because I thought he was Al Qaeda?

CHIEF
Thought crossed my mind. You flip out, kill him, then use your investigative knowledge to manipulate the crime scene and make yourself seem innocent.

MATT
Come on. You don't really think I killed my best friend, do you?

CHIEF
Coroner puts time of death around 7pm.

MATT
Yeah, he had a premiere to go to around 9. Killer found him in the shower.

CONTINUED:

CHIEF
Where were you around 7?

MATT
I was at the mobile home park.

CHIEF
Got any witnesses?

MATT
Yeah. My neighbors, Woody and Willy. We grilled some chicken and shot the breeze till I went to Jordan's at 11 to test the system.

CHIEF
(after a beat)
I believe you, son. We just don't have a lot to go on with this.

MATT
Anything from the surveillance footage?

CHIEF
That would be sharing details again. I can't do that. But believe me, every available resource is on this case. Go home. Grieve for your friend. We've notified Mr. Freeman's family. Go be with them. Support each other.

EXT. SARAH FREEMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Matt gets out of Willy's 1970s Dodge Charger.

MATT
Thanks Willy.

Matt takes a deep breath and walks up to the front door as Willy pulls away.

The front door opens, revealing SARAH FREEMAN, 32, Jordan's younger sister. She is in tears and rushes out of the house and throws her arms around Matt.

SARAH
Oh, Matt, I can't believe he's really gone.

Matt hugs her tight, stroking her hair.

INT. SARAH FREEMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Matt sits with Sarah on the couch.

SARAH
You've got to do something. You're a detective right? You can find whoever killed my brother.

MATT
Believe me, I'm going to try. Is there anyone you know of who could do this?

SARAH
The police asked me the same question. Who would want to hurt Jordan? I mean there are plenty of people who don't like him. Ex girlfriends, his old manager. But murder? No.

Sarah starts to cry.

SARAH (CONT'D)
What am I going to tell my kids? They get home at 2:30. How do I tell them their uncle Jordi has been killed?

Matt hugs her.

MATT
It will be okay. We'll get through this.

Sarah looks up at him and then kisses him. Matt pulls back.

MATT (CONT'D)
Sarah, what are you?

SARAH
I need to feel something good, something besides pain.

She kisses him passionately.

MATT
This isn't the way, Sarah.

Matt pushes her away.

CONTINUED:

SARAH
Please. It's been almost 20 years since we were together. Please, I need this right now.

She leans towards him again.

MATT
We can't. I've always hoped we'd have a second chance. But not like this. Not now.

She looks down at his chest and nods. He hugs her tight as she sobs.

SARAH
Promise me you'll find the person who did this.

MATT
I promise.

INT. WOODY'S TRAILER - DAY

Matt and Woody sit at the main computer terminal in the trailer.

WOODY
So, this isn't exactly the reason I setup an off site backup but I'm glad I did.

Woody cues up the video from the four surveillance cameras.

MATT
The chief said time of death was about 7pm.

WOODY
Okay lets skip ahead.

He skips ahead in the time line.

WOODY (CONT'D)
Okay, here we are at 6:30.

The four cameras show no activity.

MATT
Can you fast forward while we watch?

WOODY
Yep. Here is two X speed.

CONTINUED:

The video speeds up.

A car pulls past the front gate camera and parks so that just the trunk is visible in the frame.

MATT
There we go.

Woody makes just the font gate camera full frame.

WOODY
Lets back this up and see the whole thing.

Woody backs up the video to before the car enters. Then plays it.

The car pulls in and parks.

MATT
What is that, a BMW?

WOODY
Audi. A5. 2009.

A figure in a heavy coat and hood gets out of the car and walks up to the front gate. The figure punches in the code on the keypad. The gate swings open. The figure shuffles through the gate.

MATT
They knew the code to the gate. It’s someone Jordan knew. Fast forward until they come out.

Woody zips through the video until the gate opens again. Then he goes back to normal speed. The same figure runs out of the gate and hops in the car. It turns around and peals out down the road.

WOODY
Official time, 7:13pm.

MATT
That’s our killer.

WOODY
Not much to go on.

MATT
Yeah.

CONTINUED:

WOODY
Can't tell if it is a guy or a girl.

Woody backs up the video.

MATT
Hold it there.

Woody pauses the video. We can see the back of the car pretty clearly.

WOODY
Audi. A5. 2009. I know cars.

MATT
I wasn't doubting you. Can you zoom in on the license plate?

WOODY
Yeah.

Woody zooms in on the license plate. It is a fuzzy bunch of pixels.

MATT
Can you enhance it at all.

WOODY
I'll turn up the contrast and sharpness.

Woody fiddles with some sliders and the license plate comes into better focus. Still not totally readable.

WOODY (CONT'D)
It's a California plate.

MATT
First number is a 3.

WOODY
The last two numbers are obscured by the shadow over here.

Woody points to the shadow covering part of the plate.

WOODY (CONT'D)
I don't think I will be able to get anything out of that.

MATT
If we can at least get a partial plate. That is something.

CONTINUED:

WOODY
That looks like a K.

MATT
I was thinking it was an R.

WOODY
That is an A for sure.

MATT
And that's a 5.

WOODY
So 3, K or R, A, 5. I can hack the DMV database and run a custom search algorithm that will bring up all the plates with those characters that are issued to 2009 Audi A5's.

MATT
I don't know, that's super illegal isn't it.

WOODY
Yeah, but nobody will catch me. I bounce my internet hookup off four different satellites. One isn't even a communications satellite. There is no way even NASA could track me.

MATT
How long will it take?

WOODY
Couple hours.

MATT
Do it.

QUICK MONTAGE - Woody typing. Programing code running across the screen. DMV records flipping by at high speed on the screen.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MALIBU MOBILE HOME PARK - DAY

Matt and Willy walk.

WILLY
The Chief of the Malibu Police called me after I dropped you off.

CONTINUED:

MATT
Checking my alibi?

WILLY
Yeah. He doesn't really think you did it. He's just following through. I've known Lee for years. He used to work traffic control on a bunch of stunt shoots I worked on. Good guy.

MATT
Stunt shoots?

WILLY
Yep. I was a stunt man for 40 years. It's a damn miracle that all my parts are still working at this point.

The door to Woody's trailer flies open.

WOODY
Matt! Search is done!

MATT
You were right about that guy, damn genius.

WILLY
You have no idea. Back in the 80's he made a computer to compete with IBM and Apple. Made the whole thing from scratch in his parents basement. 100 times faster than anything on the market. Problem was he couldn't actually get it out of the basement.

INT. WOODY'S TRAILER - DAY

Matt looks over the search results with Woody and Willy.

WOODY
There are a bunch of hits, since it was only a partial plate.

MATT
Can you give me a print out summary of the search results?

WOODY
Already printed one. Here.

CONTINUED:

Woody hands Matt a piece of paper with names, addresses and plate numbers.

MATT
(to Willy)
Wanna go for a drive?

EXT. STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - DAY

COOL MUSIC MONTAGE - Willy drives. Matt sits shotgun with a camera. They track down the cars listed on the print out. They snap pictures of the drivers...all possible killers.

EXT. TOPANGA CANYON - DAY

MONTAGE ENDS - Willy and Matt are parked along the road eating some fries and sipping their sodas. They are watching a black Audi parked in the driveway of a house.

A man, DIEGO RONALDO, 29, exits the house and flips up the hood of his sweatshirt. He has a messenger bag over his shoulder.

QUICK FLASH - Surveillance footage with the murderer going into Jordan's house, hood up.

Diego tosses his messenger bag in the passenger seat, gets in his car and pulls out of the driveway.

MATT
Follow him. My gut is talking to me.

WILLY
Sure that isn't the burger? Mine isn't settling so good.

They pull out and follow Diego. They pull up behind him and follow him to:

EXT. VENICE CAFE - DAY

Willy and Matt pull over and park. They watch as Diego sits down with a WOMAN.

Matt takes pictures of Diego and the woman.

After talking for a little while, the woman hands Diego a brown envelope.

MATT
What's going on here? This isn't a social meeting.

CONTINUED:

Diego shakes her hand and then goes back to his car.

Diego pulls out, Willy and Matt follow him.

EXT. PCH - DAY

Diego spots Willy and Matt in his rear view mirror. He panics and takes off.

WILLY
We've been made.

MATT
Don't lose him!

Willy weaves in and out of traffic trying to catch up with Diego.

Diego pulls off PCH going up:

EXT. TOPANGA CANYON - DAY

Willy and Matt follow Diego up the winding road.

Diego zips around some cars stopped at an intersection and runs the red light. A turning car, skids and spins out, blocking most of the intersection.

WILLY
He's not getting away that easy.
Hold on!

Willy floors it and weaves around the cars in front of them, then yanks the wheel to the right. The Charger tips up onto the two passenger side wheels and Willy guides it through the small gap in the intersection with just inches to spare. Willy leans to his left and the car slams back down on four wheels.

MATT
Jesus!

WILLY
That's nothin'. I told you I was a stunt man. Watch this.

Willy hits the gas and they catch up to the Audi. Willy zips around in front of the Audi and slams on the breaks. Smoke billows out from the screeching tires. He jerks the wheel to the side and the car spins around. It comes to rest blocking the road ahead of the Audi.

Diego hits the breaks and the Audi screeches to a halt.

CONTINUED:

DIEGO
(in Portuguese)
I'm sorry, man. I'm sorry. I'll pay. Just take me to the bank. I'll get you the money right now.

Matt and Willy get out of the Charger and approach the Audi.

WILLY
What's he sayin?

MATT
I don't know. Lets hope he speaks English.

Sirens coming towards them from both directions. Police cars come into view. They screech to a halt.

OFFICER
(over his loud speaker)
Down on the ground, both of you. Keep your hands where we can see them and don't make any sudden moves.

Matt and Willy share a look. They both raise their hands.

END ACT 3

ACT 4

INT. MALIBU POLICE STATION - CHIEF'S OFFICE - DAY

Matt and Willy sit in the chairs in front of the Chief's desk.

The Chief looms over them, his fists planted on the desk reading them the riot act.

CHIEF
You have some cajones Mr. Sullivan, pulling something like this in my town! Let me remind you, sir, you were a murder suspect just this morning. You're on thin ice mister. Shape up or get outa Malibu. And you Willy, what were you thinking pulling that car up onto two wheels? You're lucky nobody was killed!

WILLY
Lee, you've stood by and seen me do that stunt dozens of times. Nobody was ever in danger.

CHIEF
My ass! There is a difference between doing that on a movie set and doing it on a public street! Now the man you were following has agreed not to press charges against you.

MATT
Charges should be pressed against him. I think he's the killer.

CHIEF
Impossible.

MATT
Not so. The car he was driving is the same make and model as the car that pulls up to Jordan's house in the surveillance video.

CHIEF
How'd you know about that? Who's leaking you information?

CONTINUED:

MATT
The security system has an off site backup. Nobody leaked anything.

WILLY
The guy's car matched the car in the video and had a partial match on the license plate.

The Chief wasn't expecting that.

MATT
You guys couldn't read the plate?

CHIEF
No.

MATT
Maybe we can help each other. We give you the partial plate number and you tell me what I want to know about the driver. Diego Ronaldo.

CHIEF
And how'd you get his name from a partial license plate? Hack the DMV? And add in obstructing justice for using the partial plate as a bargaining chip.

The Chief sighs. He slowly lets himself down in his desk chair.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
Why are you guys making this so hard on me? I wanted to just give you a good talkin to and then let you go.
(considers for a second)
Well, in for a dime, in for a dollar. Diego Ronaldo can't be the killer. He was in Brasil till this morning. He's a cinematographer. You followed him today to a meeting with a musician friend of his who wants to make a music video. He sees you two turkeys following him afterwards and panics, thinks you are after him for some bets he lost on soccer games. He's not pressing charges, because he is happy you weren't trying to break his legs.

CONTINUED:

MATT
Maybe the killer borrowed his car. Ask him if anyone had access to the car.

CHIEF
I did. The car was in long term parking at LAX. Exact same milage. He recorded it because, being on a business trip, he was going to write the mileage off.

WILLY
Damn. He felt like the guy to me too Matt.

CHIEF
Felt? We don't go on felt. Give me the plate number so the professionals can take over on this.

MATT
Plate number is 3, K

WILLY
Or R.

MATT
A, 5.

CHIEF
Get outa here. And you two pull anything like this again and I swear your butts are toast!

INT. MALIBU POLICE STATION - DAY

Matt and Willy walk through the front offices of the police station.

They pass an old lady, MRS. SEAVERS, 73, giving a report to an OFFICER.

MRS. SEAVERS
Not the front one, they just stole the back one.

Matt slows down as he passes.

MRS. SEAVERS (CONT'D)
The number was 3KA571.

CONTINUED:

OFFICER
Is your car in the parking lot?

MRS. SEAVERS
What? No, it's at home. I didn't want to drive over here with no license plate. That's illegal.

Matt takes out his cell phone and types in 3KA571.

EXT. MALIBU POLICE STATION - DAY

Matt and Willy exit the police station. Matt takes out the list of possible matches and looks down the list.

MATT
Not on the list.

WILLY
What's not on the list?

MATT
That old lady's stolen license plate.

WILLY
She probably doesn't drive an Audi.

Matt dials his phone.

INT. WOODY'S TRAILER - DAY

Woody answers.

INTERCUT CONVERSATION WITH ABOVE SCENE

MATT
Woody. Got a lead.

WOODY
Nepalese Maoist Rebels, I was thinkin the same thing.

MATT
Wow, I don't know what to say to that. Uhhh...Can you run a plate for me?

WOODY
Yeah. Got the DMV still up, figured we might need it.

MATT
Number is 3K

CONTINUED:

WOODY
Hah! I was right.

MATT
3KA571.

Woody types.

WOODY
Searching. Hit. Gladis Anne Seavers, drives a red Cadillac.

MATT
Address.

WOODY
It's not the right car, Matt. We are looking for an Audi.

MATT
The killer stole Mrs. Seavers' licence plate and put it on their Audi.

WOODY
Hmmm, okay. She lives at 7121 Zuma View Place.

END INTERCUT CONVERSATION

EXT. 7121 ZUMA VIEW PLACE - DAY

Matt and Willy pull up to the house. Matt gets out with his camera.

MATT
Keep the car running. This should just take a second.

Matt walks over to the red Cadillac parked in the driveway.

Matt snaps a photo of a footprint in the mud on the side of the driveway.

Matt kneels down and examines the rear bumper of the Cadillac. In the dust build up is a perfect thumb print.

QUICK FLASH - The killer puts their bare hand on the bumper while unscrewing the license plate.

Matt takes several pictures of the thumb print.

Willy toots the horn. Matt looks and sees a police cruiser make the turn down the street.

CONTINUED:

Matt casually walks over and gets in Willy's car.

They drive off, passing the police cruiser with Mrs. Seavers in the passenger seat.

INT. WOODY'S TRAILER - DAY

Woody sits at the console. Matt and Willy stand over his shoulder.

The photos Matt took load on the monitor.

WOODY
Lets see what you've got here.

He pulls up the first photo. It is of a middle aged woman sitting in a black Audi.

MATT
No, this is the surveillance stuff. Skip ahead about fifty pictures.

Woody scrolls through the thumbnails creating a stop motion animation of the people Matt photographed in the surveillance montage earlier.

The footprint photo comes up, breaking the effect.

MATT (CONT'D)
There. Stop. The rest are pictures of a hand print on the dust of the bumper.

Woody scrolls through some of them.

WOODY
And you want me to check the print against the FBI database?

MATT
(not expecting that)
You can do that? Really?

WOODY
Yeah.

Woody selects a photo. Isolates the thumb print. Tweaks some settings and a very detailed image of the thumb print becomes visible.

WOODY (CONT'D)
Thought we might need to do this eventually.
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

WOODY (CONT'D)
So, I already hacked the FBI fingerprint database while you guys were out driving around.

He brings up the FBI fingerprint database window with a click. Loads the image of the thumb print and starts the search.

WOODY (CONT'D)
This is gonna take some time. You guys wanna play trivial pursuit?

MATT
Not right now. Can you do anything with the footprint?

WOODY
I could probably match the tread to the type of shoe.

MATT
Could you match that shoe print to a photo of another shoe print?

WOODY
Yeah, that would be easy.

MATT
Great.

Matt unplugs the camera.

WILLY
Where we off to now, Matt?

MATT
Not we, Willy. I don't want to get you in more trouble. I'm heading to Jordan's house. Get some crime scene photos for the boy wonder here to analyze.

Matt steps out of the trailer.

EXT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - DAY

Matt takes pictures at the front gate: Tire tracks in the mud by the driveway. Skid marks on the road. The key pad for the gate.

Matt walks up the front steps to the house. He pauses.

QUICK FLASH - From scene 12 - Matt puts the key in the door and turns it.

CONTINUED:

MATT
I didn't feel the bolt move. It was already unlocked.

Matt looks at the flower pot at the front door. The dirt is torn up. He kneels down and looks intently at it. He raises the camera and snaps a picture.

QUICK FLASH - The killer digs through the dirt in the flower pot and takes out the spare key.

MATT (CONT'D)
They knew the gate code. Guess they knew where the spare key was, too.

Matt opens the door and takes a photo of the bloody door handle.

INT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - DAY

With trepidation, Matt slowly walks into the bedroom. He stops at the bloody footprint.

Matt raises his camera and takes a picture.

QUICK FLASH - The killer's bloody shoe comes down on the carpet. In the background Jordan gurgles and gasps for breath. Blood spewing out of multiple wounds. The killer closes the door.

Matt cautiously approaches the closed bathroom door.

A loud CRASH from outside makes Matt jump. Indecipherable angry voice outside.

Matt pads across the room to the window and peeks out.

Outside Manuel has dropped an arch shaped trellis. He gets it standing up straight and precariously carries it.

Matt takes a glance at the bathroom door. Then back at Manuel outside.

Manuel drops the arch shaped trellis again and starts cussing in Spanish.

EXT. JORDAN FREEMAN'S HOUSE - BACK YARD - DAY

Manuel gets the trellis upright again and starts to carry it. It wobbles around about to tip over at any second.

MATT
Manuel, let me give you a hand.

CONTINUED:

Matt rushes over and takes one side.

MANUEL
Thank you Matt. How did the security check go the other night?

Matt stops.

MATT
You didn't hear. Right who would think to tell the gardener.

MANUEL
Tell me what?

MATT
Jordan was murdered.

MANUEL
That isn't funny Matt. Where is he? Sick bastard.

MATT
It's not a joke.

MANUEL
What happened?

MATT
Nobody really knows. Cops don't know, I don't know. All we know is that the killer knew the code to Jordan's gate, I think they knew where the spare key was and they stole an old lady's license plate and put it on their Audi.

MANUEL
Audi? Black?

MATT
Yeah. Did Jordan know someone with a...

MANUEL
Yeah. Cindy.

MATT
Wait, Cindy Logan? The tabloid chick?

CONTINUED:

MANUEL
Yeah, he dated her for a couple months when she got outa rehab, after she got outa jail and was supposed to be all clean.

MATT
Yeah, he mentioned that he hooked up with her. I thought she was just a notch in his bedpost.

MANUEL
Well they were going pretty hot and heavy for a while. Then she blows up at him at his office one day and he dumped her.

MATT
What did she blow up at him about?

MANUEL
I don't really know. I just remember Jordan telling me that she went all psycho and he dumped her right there in front of everyone, Producers, Network and Studio Execs. A week later she failed a drug test and violated her probation.

MATT
So she went back to jail?

MANUEL
Only for like a week. You know how it goes with these celebrity party girls.

MATT
Career down the tubes, blames the guy who dumped her...not just any guy but a guy who could reignite her career...falls off the wagon. Kills him in a self loathing rage.

Matt's phone rings, he answers.

MATT (CONT'D)
Woody, whats up?

WOODY
Got a match on the finger print. Cindy Logan.

CONTINUED:

END ACT 4

ACT 5

INT. WOODY'S TRAILER - DAY

Woody sits at the computer console comparing the bloody footprint to the footprint in the mud. Matt and Willy stand behind him.

WOODY
Yeah, those footprints are the same shoe. Chucks, ladies six.

MATT
So, the shoe ties her to both scenes. This would be enough...if we could arrest her.

WOODY
We could show this to the Police, let them have our evidence.

WILLY
What do we say when they ask us how we got our evidence?

WOODY
Well...yeah, I guess we can't tell them about hacking the DMV and FBI.

MATT
Yeah. Plus the cops aren't too fond of me at the moment, so I doubt they'd even listen to me.

WILLY
You gonna hunt her down yourself?

MATT
Believe me I want to. But Jordan needs justice, not revenge.

WOODY
Maybe Willy could talk to the Chief. You're old friends, right?

WILLY
I think I cashed in any favors he owed me when we were in there earlier.

MATT
I think I know someone who the Chief would listen to.

INT. DUKE'S - DAY

Matt stands at the bar, Brianna listens to his pitch.

MATT
So I just need you to convince him to look at the stuff in this envelope and then go check these things out for himself.

BRIANNA
I don't know Matt.

MATT
Please. My best friend was murdered. I've found out who the killer is and can prove it...but I can't put her away. Your dad can. He just needs to check out these leads for himself.

BRIANNA
You are starting to build up a tab on the favors. Better hope I don't cash all these in at once.

MATT
So you'll do it?

BRIANNA
Yeah, I'll do it.

INT. MALIBU POLICE STATION - CHIEF'S OFFICE - DAY

Brianna sits in front of her dad's desk. The Chief looks through the contents of the envelope.

CHIEF
Matt Sullivan give you this stuff?

BRIANNA
Yeah. He just wants to see his friend's killer brought to justice. You can't fault him for that.

CHIEF
I don't. He does good work.

The Chief picks up his phone.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
Doris, have the forensics team meet me out front as soon as possible.

EXT. 7121 ZUMA VIEW PLACE - DAY

Mrs. Seavers opens the garage door and walks out with a garden hose. She walks around to the side of the house.

Mrs. Seavers hooks the garden hose up to the spigot. She turns on the water and tests the sprayer.

Mrs. Seavers walks to the driveway, dragging the hose behind her.

Mrs. Seavers reaches the car and aims the garden hose at her red Cadillac.

The Chief pulls up in his police cruiser.

CHIEF
(using his loudspeaker)
Drop the hose and step away from the vehicle.

Mrs. Seavers jumps and drops the hose. She puts her hands up and backs away from the Cadillac.

The Forensics Van arrives and parks. The FORENSICS TEAM gets out of the van.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
Photograph the entire area. Especially around the area of the license plate. And check the mud for any fresh footprints. There was a bloody footprint at the murder scene.

The Chief walks up to Mrs. Seavers.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
Mrs. Seavers, I'm Lee Connors, Chief of the Malibu Police. I am sorry for the intrusion, but we believe that your stolen license plate was used in a murder.

MRS. SEAVERS
My license plate was used to murder somebody?

OFF THE CHIEF - Stifling a laugh.

CUT TO:

INT. MATT'S AIRSTREAM TRAILER - NIGHT

Matt's phone is ringing. He picks it up.

MATT
Hello?

CHIEF
Matt Sullivan?

MATT
Yeah?

CHIEF
Matt, it's Chief Connors. Thought you'd want to know, we just picked up Ms. Logan.

MATT
So the package helped.

CHIEF
(dripping sarcasm)
I have no knowledge of any package or any help. We simply followed the evidence to the logical conclusion.

MATT
Thank you. I know I've been a royal pain in the ass, but...thank you.

CHIEF
We'll be questioning Ms. Logan when she arrives at the station. The door to the observation room will be open...if someone wanted to watch they could just slip in. You know, in case they need peace of mind, make sure progress is being made.

INT. MALIBU POLICE STATION - OBSERVATION ROOM - NIGHT

Matt stands at the glass watching CINDY LOGAN, 23, strung out, crying, caught, sitting across the table from the Chief.

CHIEF
What did you argue about that day in Mr. Freeman's office?

CINDY
He was supposed to get me back in the game. Put me in his new pilot.
(MORE)

CONTINUED:

CINDY (CONT'D)
He gave the role to another actress nobody had ever even heard of. I went off on him in front of everyone and he dumped me. He ruined my life.

CHIEF
And that was when you went on the cocaine binge.

CINDY
Yeah. Then I failed my drug test, went back to jail. After I got out, I saw him on TV at a the American TV Awards and he was with another girl and they were talking about his 100 million dollar syndication deal and I just snapped.

CHIEF
What happened Tuesday night?

CINDY
I don't remember a lot. But I killed him. I killed Jordan.

OFF MATT - the relief of closure.

INT. DUKE'S - NIGHT

Matt sits at the bar with Woody and Willy. Brianna is pouring drinks. A news story about Cindy Logan being arrested for murder plays on the TV behind the bar.

MATT
I'm not sure what I'll do now. Maybe I'll take the Airstream cross country and see my folks. I don't know think I'll be able to stick around here.

WOODY
Don't leave. What if some dumbass moves into your spot?

MATT
I just don't have a lot tying me to Malibu. Except that I lost my best friend here.

BRIANNA
I could see how that might sour you on a place. But give it some time Matt. Don't just runaway.

CONTINUED:

WILLY
Look at that.

TV ANCHOR
A reliable source indicates that Private Investigator Matt Sullivan may have contributed to the case, however the extent of his involvement is unknown.

WILLY
You're famous buddy. You gotta stay in Malibu now with all the other famous people.

MATT
We'll see.

Matt's phone rings. He answers.

MATT (CONT'D)
Hello, this is Matt.

WOMAN
Matt Sullivan? The Malibu Detective?

MATT
Yeah, I'm not really...

WOMAN
I would like to hire you. Would ten thousand dollars be enough of a retainer?

Matt's eyes go wide. He looks at his friends.

MATT
Uhh, well. We should really discuss the details of your case before we talk money.

Willy claps him on the back and the group shares a big smile...Matt isn't going anywhere.

END EPISODE