
ACT 1: Script

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Scene 1: Murder of Shanice

The curtains open to reveal a dark alleyway, bits of junk and litter lying across the ground, an assortment of wheely bins are present. A spotlight is the only source of light present; it illuminates Shanice Durkin as she enters from stage right.

Shanice: "Tommy... Are you there?"

She walks further into the alleyway, to stage centre, the spotlight follows her. Fred emerges from the shadows, cloaked in dark clothing, the only bit of colour on his body is two twin red stars on his left and right shoulders. He walks close behind Shanice, looks around the alleyway before plunging a knife into Shanice's back, she lets out a strangled cry as the blade pierces her, he lets her fall to the ground and flees into the alleyway to stage left. As he flees the star on his left shoulder falls to the ground.

Margaret Durkin enters from stage right, walking slowly with her cane in hand; another spotlight follows her as she walks, she sees Shanice's body lying on the ground.

Margaret: "Ah poor baby, someone had too much drink now didn't she?"

Margaret smiles.

Margaret: "Come on now Shan Shan, time to go home now."

She taps Shanice with her cane, but there's no response, she pokes her again.

Margaret: "Shanice? Shanice!"

Her eyes widen and she falls to her knees, realising her granddaughter, Shanice, is dead. She wails out in despair.

Margaret: "My baby! My baby is dead. No- my poor, poor baby-"

The light fades to black as Margaret sobs.

Scene 2: Crime Scene Investigation

Fade up on them alleyway, full lights. Two detectives enter the stage from stage right. Shanice's corpse and the pin Fred lost lays on the ground from the night before. The two detectives approach the body, Bob crouching down to inspect the body. And Felicia paces around the scene, looking at the ground for anything suspicious.

Bob: "Alright, who do we have here?"

Felicia: "Shanice Durkin; Age: 22, Occupation: College Student, surviving family: her grandmother, Margaret Durkin, the same person who called the police about the murder."

Bob takes out a notepad and pen from his pocket.

Bob: "Ok so, victim was stabbed from behind."

He leans over the body to look closer at the stab wound.

Bob: "Stab wound looks to be about... 8 inches deep, murder weapon possibly a kitchen knife."

Bob jots something down in his notepad. Felicia is still pacing but is looking at the small trail of blood that was left as the killer fled.

Felicia: "There's a trail of blood drops back here, probably from the murder weapon."

Bob looks up at her, jots that into his notepad and stands up to look at the blood drops.

Bob and Felicia both crouch down to take a closer look at the blood drops. Following them to the end of the stage.

Bob: "Suspect fled the scene, further into the alleyway. But there doesn't seem to be anywhere back there to go, interesting."

The pair of the walk back to the body in centre stage. As they walk, about halfway back, something catches Bob's eye and he stops, cocking his head and narrowing his eyes.

Felicia: "What is it?"

Bob walks over to the red star on the ground and picks it up.

Bob: "A decoration of some kind I think."

Felicia shoots him a confused look, while saying

Felicia: "Why are you picking it up then?"

Bob: "...Just a hunch."

Light fades to black.

Scene 3: The Interviews

Margaret Interview

Fade in on police interview room. There is a table centre stage with two chairs on one side and a single chair on the other. On one side sits Felicia and Bob., on the other is Margaret. Bob looks across the table, his hands clasped and speaks.

Bob: "So, you are Margaret Durkin, grandmother of the late Shanice Durkin, correct?"

Margaret nods her head.

Magaret: "Yes, that's me."

Felicia: "Where were you when the murder happened?"

Margaret: "I was walkin' down the street when I heard Shanice's voice from the alleyway."

Bob: "And what was she saying?"

Margaret: "Something about some Tommy fella."

Bob: "What do you know about Tommy?"

"I don't know anything about him. Please officer, find who did this, find who killed my baby." *(breaks down in tears)*

Tommy Interview

Bob: "So, Tommy, how do you know Shanice."

Tommy: "Shanice, who's Shanice? I don't know any Shanice."

Felicia: "Well," *(slams files on desk)* "according to the files, you two went to school together, and several of Shanice's friends have said about you and Shanice meeting up on a regular basis."

Bob: "Do you know what the punishment for lying to a police officer is?"

Tommy: "Uh, um." (bites lip) "no?"

Bob: "Half a decade behind bars, so what's it gonna be, you gonna give us a better answer"

Tommy: "...Fine, I know her yes, and I was going to meet her there but I didn't kill her, I never showed up, I was meeting with another customer."

Bob: "Customer, what are you selling?" (leans over table)

Tommy: "I want my lawyer."

Felicia: "Alright then, call them, we can wait."

Tommy pulls out his phone and calls his lawyer

Tommy: "Yeah, I need you here, now, I'm at the police station."

Fred Squirkel walks in, briefcase in hand.

Fred: "Fred Squirkel, at your service."

Fred takes a seat next to Tommy. He leans over and whispers to let him do the talking and it'll all be fine. He then extends his hand to the two officers to shake, first Felicia and then Bob.

Fred: "So officers, what seems to be the matter? Why have you brought my client into custody?"

Felicia: "Your client, was supposed to be meeting with the recently departed Shanice Durkin. He said he wasn't there; he was meeting with another customer."

Fred: "I see, well, as I'm sure my client has informed you, he runs his own business. He walks dogs for people and does dog sitting gigs. He was with another customer for his business, what's the harm in that."

Felicia: "A customer for a dog walking business, at two in the morning? Really, what sort of person schedules a meeting for a dog walker at 2AM, I ain't buying it."

Fred: "Well," (smiles coldly) "It doesn't matter if you believe us or not. You have no reason to suspect my client, you have no evidence that'll hold up in court, and you have no probable cause to hold my client here in detainment. He can leave if he wishes."

Bob: "Well then, I'm sure you wouldn't mind if we search his bag then."

Fred: "Of course not."

Tommy: "I'd rather you not."

Bob grabs Tommy's bag, and looks through it, he finds the drugs after a little while, he pulls out the bottle of pills

Bob: "Take him to the holding cell."

Tommy is taken away by another police officer, the depart to stage right.

Felicia: "Get out of here before we lock you up too."

Fred nods curtly and leaves.

Bob: "I'm gonna need these after today," (Holds up pills still in hand, he extends his hand with the bottle to Felicia) "You want some?" *Lights fade to black*

Scene 4: Bob's Spiral

The table is littered with various bits of evidence, pictures, records, DNA results. Bob sits back and rubs his face with his hand, exhaling.

Bob: "This doesn't make sense... why would Tommy kill Shanice when she was such a frequent client..."
Said whilst pondering, looking off into the distance one hand on his face, eyes creased.

Bob reaches for the bottle and downs the rest of it. He then sits up, leaning over the desk and begins to put the evidence together and mumbling to himself.

Bob: "Unless... unless he didn't kill her..."

He continues to move bits of evidence around on the table, connecting the pieces. He holds up the red star in one hand and stares at it for a moment, holding his other hand just on his lower face. After a moment, his eyes widen and his hand drops from his face.

Bob: "SQUIRKGEL!"

He bolts up and the lights snap to black.

Scene 5: Confrontation

Fade up on alleyway, Bob and Felicia enter from stage right, Felicia is trying to convince Bob that Fred isn't the killer.

Felicia: "Why would Tommy's lawyer be the killer, that doesn't make any sense."

Bob: "Explain the star then, did you see the mound of evidence I sent you."

Felicia: "Yes of course I did, but--"

Bob: "But nothing, look he'll be here tonight, I guarantee you of that, we just sit here and wait. And if I'm wrong then drinks on me."

Felicia: "But--" (she sighs) "Fine."

The pair of them crouch down behind a strewn over table in upstage centre.

Felicia: "This is stupid" (she whispers)

Bob: "Shhh, just wait for it" (he hisses back)

Margaret walks in from stage right, moving with her cane, she gets to centre stage and stops and looks around.

Margaret: "Where is he, he said he'd be here with my pills"

*Felicia moves to stand up but Bob stops her.
Fred enters from stage right, knife in hand, slowly approaching Margaret. Just before he reaches her, Bob stands up gun raised, aiming at Fred. Felicia stands up too, hand on her gun holster.*

Bob: "Freeze murderer! Or should I say, Fred Squirkgel!"

Margaret turns around and screams. Fred stops, he turns to Bob, pulling his mask down.

Fred: "Well, well, well officer, it seems you've caught me, good job, what' your plan now?"

Bob: "You're going away for a long, long time, you won't see the light of day again"

Fred: "I see, I'm not too fond of that idea"

Bob: "Well, that's too bad"

Fred: "Is it though, there's one thing you forgot"

Bob: "And what's that?"

Felicia raises her gun, holding it to Bob's temple.

Felicia: "I'm sorry"

She pulls the trigger and Bob falls to the ground dead, Margaret screams

Fred: "Well done"

He turns and walks over to Margaret who's backing up towards stage left

"No- wait- please..." Her voice is shaky and she's hyperventilating.

"I'm sorry, but no witnesses"

He stabs her in the chest and she slumps to the ground with a winded gasp. And the lights fade to black.