

Corrupt Cop

written by

ASHLEY BAINBRIDGE

INT. - GYM - EVENING

John, early 20s, wearing Tank top and shorts, jogging on a treadmill whilst listening to music through earphones. Kathy enters holding a microphone in one hand and some photographs of John in the other, she is broadcasting live.

KATHY (INTO MICROPHONE)
We are here at the gym where alleged corrupt police officer John Cooper works out every evening after he finishes his shift on duty.

Kathy moves to John and switches off the treadmill

KATHY (TO JOHN) (CONT'D)
So... John. What do you have to say about the allegations that you are working with the Eastside Runners?

John covers his face from Kathy's camera and moves over to the punch bag ignoring Kathy's question

KATHY (CONT'D)
Wow... ignoring the question.

looks back at her camera

KATHY (INTO MICROPHONE) (CONT'D)
Well... I guess the allegations must be true. Everyone knows when someone refuses to answer a question it's because they're guilty.

Kathy gestures at the cameraman to follow her over to where John has moved. John takes one last punch at the bag.

JOHN
(Angry)
Just...

Takes a deep breath

JOHN (CONT'D)
leave me be. I don't want to answer your stupid questions.

KATHY
What makes you think I'm here to ask my "stupid" questions again?

JOHN
(Trying to stay calm)
Why else would you be over here? You do realize I'm an officer of the law right? I can arrest you for harassment.

Kathy opens her mouth as if to start speaking but says nothing

JOHN (CONT'D)
Why are you still here?

KATHY
(Sarcastically)
Why are you a corrupt cop?

JOHN
Again with the fucking questions? I'm
not a corrupt cop!

John leaves the gym pushing the camera away from him as he
leaves, the door slams

CUT TO:

EXT. - OUTSIDE GYM - EVENING

The streets are fairly quiet with a few cars passing
occasionally. John paces back and forth breathing heavily
clenching his fists.

JOHN (TO HIMSELF)
How the fuck does she know about the
Eastside Runners?

CUT TO:

INT. - GYM - EVENING

KATHY
How dare he touch my camera! Does it
still work alright?

Cameraman looks over the camera and gives a thumbs up to Kathy
to say the camera is fine he then points at Kathy signaling he
is recording again

KATHY (CONT'D)
Well...
(Clears Throat)
That was erm... eventful.

EXT. - OUTSIDE GYM - EVENING - CONTINUOUS

Kathy walks outside following after John and coughs as if trying
to get his attention.

JOHN
Look... Kathy? Was it? I think we got
off on the wrong foot but I want it
to be clear, I'm not a corrupt cop.

KATHY

How do you explain these photos of you with the Eastside Runners not in uniform AND not making any attempt to arrest any of them?

Kathy shows John multiple photos of him with the Eastside runners

JOHN

(Annoyed)

Really? I try to be nice and calm with you, and this is the first thing you're going to say?

(Sighs)

When those photos were taken I had no idea who the Eastside runners were. I was still in the academy for crying out loud.

KATHY

Well if that's the case, how do you explain this photo taken exactly four days prior to the photos of you and the Eastside Runners?

Kathy shows John a photo of him graduating the academy and gaining his medal from the chief

FADE TO BLACK.

JOHN (VO)

I didn't always want to be a cop. In fact the thought of being a cop never even crossed my mind... ever. I was more of a... space kid. The planets, the stars, infinity. I still remember the day that changed my life forever.

INT. - JOHN'S BEDROOM - AFTERNOON

FLASHBACK: John, 8 years old. John is in his bedroom playing with space toys (Rockets, Astronauts, etc.) It's fairly quiet with most of the noise made by John himself; some sounds leak through the window from the street (people talking, cars)

YOUNG JOHN

5...4...3...2...1... BLAST OFF!

(Makes rocket engine noises)

We have liftoff!

A bang is heard through the window as a person is hit by a car. John jumps up and peers through but is unable to see as a crowd of people are blocking his view; he runs downstairs. Sounds of John running downstairs are heard followed by a slam of the front door.

EXT. - OUTSIDE JOHN'S HOUSE - AFTERNOON

Young John pushes his way through the crowd to get to the front and sees his mother lying on the ground.

JOHN (VO)

I remember her lying there on the road, blood pouring from her nose. We always had a special connection and she was trying to tell me something but... she couldn't, she couldn't get the breath to. I vowed to her there and then that I would get the bastard who did this.

John looks up and sees the car driving off he looks back at his mother on the ground, dead. John then buries his head into her

CUT TO BLACK.

EXT./INT. - POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON - CONTINUOUS

A montage sequence showing John growing up and becoming a cop. 8 yr old John enters the police station but is turned away. A police officer escorts him out with his hand on John's shoulder; John is in tears.

INT. - GYM - EVENING

Continuation of montage. John, now a teenager, training in the gym to get in a physical shape. Multiple shots of him hitting a punch bag, running on a treadmill, lifting weights (bench press, dead lifts, bicep curls), cardio workout (sit ups, plank, push ups). His frustration is evident as he often stumbles on the treadmill.

INT./EXT. - POLICE STATION - AFTERNOON

Continuation of montage; repeat of the earlier scene. Now an adult John is accepted into the force and is escorted by his sergeant (hand on shoulder motif). John is smiling.

INT. - POLICE ACADEMY - EVENING

Continuation of montage. A repeat of the earlier scene in gym. John is more experienced and so stumbles less. Sergeant behind encouraging him.

EXT. - POLICE ACADEMY TRAINING FIELD - MIDDAY

Continuation of montage. John is going through the assault course to complete his training and gain his first rank of constable. He looks happy, successful, satisfied.

INT. - POLICE CHIEF'S OFFICE - DAY

The chief is standing behind his desk looking out the window waiting for John to arrive. On his desk are papers, a brown folder with the word "CONFIDENTIAL" written on it in big red letters.

JOHN
(enters)
You called for me sir?

CHIEF
Yeah, sit down John. This is a delicate matter but something I think I can trust you with.

JOHN
Sir?

CHIEF
We've got a problem. The Eastside runners are rearing their ugly heads again and there's potential for a shitstorm that we need to avoid.

JOHN
Where do I fit in to all this? This is way above my rank.

CHIEF
Yeah, well, that's why you're here. We've been impressed with you, John. The way you dealt with the Marsh Lane murder set a lot of tongues wagging. You're good and people know it. You'll fit in with the MIT.

JOHN
MIT, Sir?

CHIEF
Major Incident Team.

JOHN
So... i'm being promoted?

CHIEF
Well, not exactly. You're going undercover to infiltrate and stop them. IF your mission is successful, you may become part of the MIT, permanently.

JOHN
I... I don't know what to say!

A moment of awkward silence as John processes the news

JOHN (CONT'D)

How am I going to get in there
without raising suspicion? Won't I
have a wire on?

CHIEF

We've already thought about that. We
had our tech team place a hidden,
untraceable transmitter into this
phone.

The chief places a seemingly normal smartphone on his desk

CHIEF (CONT'D)

With this we will be able to hear
every conversation between anyone
withing a two meter radius of the
phone. Even if the phone dies the
transmitter will continue to work.
Its fool proof. We've thought of
every possible situation that could
go wrong and a way to bail you out of
it. We've got you covered.

JOHN

So it's recording us right now?

CHIEF

No. To begin the recording you need
to place your right index finger onto
the finger print scanner on the back
of the phone. Only your finger print
is recognised and it will still
unlock the phone as it normally would
to prevent suspicion. Give it a try,
I can disable it again after.

John places his finger onto the scanner on the phone which
causes the phone to vibrate. John quickly removes his finger.
The Chief chuckles but quickly pulls himself together.

CHIEF (CONT'D)

Don't worry; that's how you know it's
recording.

JOHN

Oh... Right...

The chief ends the recording by using his finger on the scanner.

JOHN (CONT'D)

I thought it only responded to my
finger?

CHIEF

It only begins to record with your
finger. My finger stops the
recording.

The chief then plays the recording from his computer

CHIEF (CONT'D)
See. Crystal clear.

JOHN
That's incredible

CHIEF
It is. We have the best tech team in
the country. We're counting on you
John.

John stands and begins to leave.

CHIEF (CONT'D)
Oh and one last thing. Whilst
undercover you will go by the name
Eric. Got it?

JOHN
Got it. Sir.

EXT. - A STREET - EVENING

John is sitting in a car scoping out the Eastside Runners
hideout which resides behind a tall metal gate between two
buildings. He is wearing a leather jacket and ripped jeans.

JOHN
(Huffs)
Here we go.

John gets out of the car and begins to walk over to the gate
where he is greeted by a chubby bald man standing on the other
side; also wearing a leather jacket and ripped jeans.

CHUBBY MAN
What do you want?

JOHN
I was told to come here for the
meeting.

CHUBBY MAN
Really? Seven...

JOHN
Five

The chubby man opens the gate for John to enter

CHUBBY MAN
Over there.

He points John towards a small building.

JOHN
(Under breath)
So far so good.

John walks over to the building and peeks through the window. Inside the room is a wooden table and two wooden chairs, sitting on the chair furthest from the door is the leader of the Eastside Runners. Two buff men stand either side of him. All are wearing the same clothing as the man at the gate. John takes the phone out of his pocket and presses his finger against the scanner to start the recording. He knocks onto the door and slowly pushes it open. The leader stands and slams his hands down onto the table.

LEADER
(Angrily)
Who the fuck are you?

Both men beside him step forwards and punch their hands cracking their knuckles as they do.

JOHN
I... I'm Eric... I was told to come
here for the meeting.

Both the men standing look at the leader and he nods. One of the men grabs John as the other searches him. He pulls the phone from John's pocket and throws it onto the table. The leader picks it up, has a quick look at it then throws it back onto the table.

LEADER
Please. Take a seat. I didn't mean to
scare you there Eric. We need to know
we can trust you. You want to join
us... correct?

JOHN
Yeah.

LEADER
Why?

JOHN
Well...

Both the leader and the two men behind him begin to laugh. After a few seconds John joins in. The three Eastside Runners stop abruptly.

LEADER
I'm kidding

JOHN
You were?

LEADER

Of course I was. I already know why
you're here.

JOHN

You do?

LEADER

Of course I do. I know everything
about you John.

JOHN

(Nervously)

Everything?

LEADER

Oh yeah. But most importantly. I know
what happened to your mother.

John sits in silence staring at the floor trying not to cry

LEADER (CONT'D)

And I know exactly who did it.