Who Killed Miko?

a play with two acts

# Cast of Characters

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| --- | --- |
| Miko Liwanag | The deceased detective. |
| Michael Malilim | Miko’s protege. A corrupt detective.  Loud-mouthed, overconfident, and aggressive. |
| Angelo Manatili | Miko’s protege. A venerable detective.  Reticent, pessimistic, awkward. |
| Faye Liwanag | Miko’s wife. Journalist |
| Karl Gabriel Kamandag Dena Cruz | Miko’s best friend. Internal Affairs  Investigator. Chubby. |
| Lillian Sturmovich Mendoza | Miko’s one-night-stand. A famous celebrity. Attention seeker. |
| Darlene Von Bach Lagian | Miko’s ex-girlfriend. Rich entrepreneur. |
| Eugenio Lin | An old elite Chinese entrepreneur. Slow speaker. |
| Henchman 1 | Gun in a suit. Employed by Eugenio. |
| Henchman 2 | Gun in a suit. Employed by Eugenio. |
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# Notes on the set

The set should be a thrust, extending towards the middle aisle(adorned by a funeral carpet) if possible. The main centerpiece is the coffin, located as near to the audience as possible to simulate an intimate funeral. There are chairs beside the coffin, and a podium on the other side. If possible, two adjacent rooms must be elevated or placed upstage. The first room is the study. There is a study table, with stacks of paper, an answering machine, and a file organizer. A corkboard is located above the study table, studded with paper clippings and images connected by strings. The other room, the bedroom, has a queen-sized bed facing the door. There’s also a closet where a person could fit inside. Another area must be set for exterior scenes, where a single standing ashtray exists.

There should also be an area where a long table could be striked in and out. A single chair sits on the head of the table. The lighting on this area must be able to produce unidentifiable silhouettes.

# ACT I

*“There is no greater love than this: that a person would lay down his life for the sake of his friends*.” John 15:13

# Prologue: Introspection preparation

*Morose piano tunes start to play. Lights fade in to reveal the silhouette of a man sitting beside the coffin. His briefly shudder with grief. He pulls out a phone, the phone lights up. He sits his chin on his palm, hesitating. He brings the phone to his ear. A female voice(Faye) comes out of the phone.*

FAYE(PHONE): Hello, dear. (He pulls the phone away from his ear, stands up and exits the stage.)

# Scene 1: THE DEATH OF THE IMMINENT

*Low lights reveal the silhouette of a long table. A man(Eugenio) sits on the left end, while a big man(Karl) and a woman(Lily) stands on the opposite end. The woman slides a folder across the table towards the seated man. The man takes it and reads it silently.*

Eugenio Whose plan is this?

(The man and the woman hesitate.)

Eugenio Is this yours?

Lily No.

Karl It’s mine.

Eugenio This is too…

Karl Implausible?

Eugenio Impractical… Can’t we do anything else?

Lily What else can we do?

Eugenio Anything except this. This is…(lengthy pause)

Karl Is?

Eugenio Inconceivable

Lily but not impossible.

Karl All the more reason to act soon. The suspect might change names

again, and leave town, this time for good. How could we solve this if

it were to happen?

Eugenio You are the NBI agent, you tell me.

Karl Internal Affairs. I’m not an agent.

Eugenio Potato, po ta toe. It seems unlikely to happen anyway.

Lily Unlikely? The suspect has changed their name thrice already

Eugenio but looks the same.

Karl That can change too

Eugenio by growing their hair?

Lily Skin color, facial reconstruction, tattoos.

Karl Behavioral analysis shows no probability of physical alteration.

Eugenio Good. Tattoos can be identifiers.

Karl They can be surgically removed.

Eugenio Eh… What’s my point?

Karl We need to act. NOW

Eugenio You think this would work?

Lily We know it could work.

Eugenio Could?

Karl Would.

Eugenio It should. // Then go ahead.

Karl I’ll make the arrangements.

Eugenio You owe me

Karl nothing! This isn’t for me

Lily and the resources have all been paid for.

Karl You should be owing me, you proposed this conspiration, to secure

your leathery old hide.

Eugenio It better be…

Lily Leathery and old?

Eugenio secured. I’ll send my men. Do not speak about this.

Lily Of course.

*Lights switch focus on the entrance to Miko’s* *home. Two men are*

*guarding the door. Michael* *stands two meters away from them,*

*phone to his ear. A female voice can be faintly heard from his*

*phone. Michael watches the guards as Angelo tries to enter.*

Michael We’re leaving? What do you mean we’re leaving?!(He shouts as he

hurls his phone on the ground, he hurries to pick it up.) Hello?

Who’s we? You can’t leave me! Agh! (He locks his phone and lets loose a stream of curses.)

*One guard scans Angelo with a hand-held weapon detector. It beeps on his left hip. The guard pulls out a German pistol, a gray Sig P226. The other guard pats him down, pulls out an auto knife. The guard stows the weapons away and lets Angelo pass.*

Michael Going to war, buddy?

(Angelo pretends not to hear him.)

*Michael pulls out a similar gun but colored black. He pulls out the clip and hands it over.*

Michael Standard issue. (He pulls out his badge and waves it briefly at the guard's face.)

*The guard extends his palm, asking for the piece. The other motions Michael to raise his arms for a pat-down.*

Michael You can't take away my bae! (Points to the other guard) Touch me and I'll whoop your ass!

Henchman 1 Sir, we can't allow you inside with weapons on you. We will keep it safe.

Michael Did you just call her an "it?"

Angelo Oh, calm yourself and just hand over the piece.

Michael Piece?

Angelo Piiiiiece, (he hurriedly adds,) of art.

Michael (nods slowly) You better take care of her.

*Michael points the gun at the Henchman 1. Henchman 1 steps aside in panic, the other one pulls out his gun. Michael twirls the gun and offers the gun by the handle. Henchman 1 grabs the gun and gets out of the way to let Michael pass, with a lingering gaze of contempt in his eyes.*

*Angelo and Michael proceed inside.*

Michael It's better to be prepared. (He pulls out a similar auto knife from his left heel.) Good thing they didn't find this beauty.

Angelo Better be prepared for what?

Michael Ahh... the usual, kitchen duties. (laughs)

Angelo It would be best if you kept that tucked away.

Michael It be bester if you shut your mouth.

Angelo You mean, better.

*Michael sticks the flat of the blade on Angelo's cheek, making him flinch away.*

*Michael tucks his knife back into his heel. Angelo composes himself and walks to the seat beside the coffin. Michael sits himself beside Angelo.*

*The lights on them dim, and immediately, a spotlight reveals Faye standing on the podium.*

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# Scene 2: THE DEATH OF MY CHILDHOOD: FIRST EULOGY

Faye Hi. My name is Faye Liwanag, I am Miko’s wife. I would like to thank you all for coming today, to mourn with us. I’ve known Miko since we were kids. There are a million memories I could share about him. He had a lot of talents, and plenty of notable achievements, and contributions that the world knew him for. I could tell you all about it and it’d take a few days and a few buckets of tears to speak of his accomplishments alone. There is no point in doing that, though, we already know that much about him. Let me tell you, instead, about what he wanted to be known for.

I remember one night, when we were children. We laid beneath the stars, talking about life, God, death and family. He stared at me with all seriousness, and asked, "what would you want the world to remember you for?" I said I wanted to be the world’s most renowned journalist. \*laughs\* It was my childhood dream, and still is. "I want to be the world’s most famous detective," he said. “I shall uncover the truth and protect it from those who seek to hide it.” And I shall tell the world about, I replied. Miko always believed in the goodness of man, and that by being a detective he could protect the good and uncover the truth. He grew up to be benevolent, honest, loyal, humble, kind, patient… (laughs) don’t let me go on and on, you know him, there are about a thousand words to describe him. We’ve all known him as a very good man. He grew up… and he got to be a detective, and in his profession, he was the perfect personification of what he believed in. The protector of truth! I think that’s what he would’ve wanted me to tell you about him. To remind you about goodness, honesty, innocence, and justice because that’s what he believed in, that’s what he lived for.

# Scene 3: THE DEATH OF UNFAMILIARITY

*Michael and Angelo get up to approach Faye.*

*Faye steps off the podium to meet them.*

Faye Angelo, Michael, thank you for coming.

*Angelo approaches Faye takes her hand and kisses it.)*

Angelo (Trying to wipe away his tears.) What a touching eulogy, Faye. It must be really difficult for you. I’m ashamed I hadn’t been able to attend my late wife’s funeral… it was just // too // painful.

*Michael acknowledges Angelo with a nod, and a lingering gaze of contempt. Michael pulls Faye towards him and pecks her on the cheek.*

Michael What’s this dipshit doing here? Don’t you have to go cry somewhere, like… not here?

Angelo It is none of your business but Faye has employed me to investigate something for her, and, no, a gentleman does not bawl when mourning.

Michael Should I remind you that you were once a failure, Angelo? Oh wait! You are a failure, beeetch! If you think you could get away with failing another case, don’t think that I’d let you disgrace our master’s name. I wouldn’t allow it! Certainly not in his presence (points to the coffin.)

Angelo I did not fail… the case was umm… indeterminately put on hold. Red tapes, and inquiries and what not. If I could say, I think my work was sabotaged. Injustice is what it is!

Michael Faye, make this loser go away. I’m way fucking better at this. I assure you.

*Angelo looks at his feet and walks a bit away rubbing his arm.*

Angelo (Mumbles indistinctly) I… I don’t know. (Faye trails Angelo.) You know, what? Maybe, he’s right. I haven’t really taken any cases since I messed up

Faye Nonsense! Nonsense. Do not listen to his harsh words. They are as harsh as they are untrue. I believe that you’re perfect for this job, being his protégé and all, and you bear the same values that he had.

I know you’ve yet to find that which you seek. You may think that you can’t accomplish anything but that sits only in your mind. So, grab that thought by its chair and shove it off its seat. You can do it!

Angelo I… I don’t know.

Faye You can do it.

Angelo I don’t think I can but I’ll try.

Michael Try?! (laughs) Try not to fail, Angelo and try hard. If you fail this time I’ll make sure the world remembers you as the greatest failure of a detective. Your face will be a new standard of failure. When you go out, mothers will point at you and tell their children, “Do not be like him.” (laughs)

I don’t think I’m needed here. I don’t want to hang around losers too, so, see ya. (walks away)

Faye Oh, do wait, Michael. Don’t leave. In fact, I wanted to ask you for a favor. (Michael’s interest is piqued.) I was hoping both of you could work together on this case.

Michael And what is the nature of the case?

Faye Murder.

Michael I thought you already hired Angelo, why involve me?

Faye I thought it would honor him if his successors were the ones to solve this enigma.

Angelo So, you want us both to investigate the master’s death? If that’s the case I can’t work with this man! You know very well he disdains Miko’s virtues and wishes to do things his way.

Michael Blab la bla. That’s all I heard from your whiny little mouth. I’m most certain that my “virtues” are way better than yours and Miko’s, and much much practical.

Angelo His… methods are different than ours.

Faye That which you lack, may complement you. You know what they say, “two minds”

Michael are better than none (points to Angelo and laughs.)

Angelo And what, sully the justice which he deserves?

Faye Oh, I’m just presenting the facts. The decision rests upon you two.

Angelo Besides, don’t you think that is inappropriate? We are both involved professionally and emotionally with the victim.

Michael You’re the only one who’s emotional here, weakshit.

Faye So, what say you, gentlemen? Would you set aside your rivalry for this matter?

Angelo What rivalry? I’m in. For truth I shall succeed.

Michael (Wraps his arm around Angelo’s neck, does a blowjob gesture on Angelo’s cheek and laughs.) Suck seed! (Angelo pushes him away.) I assure you, I will stop at nothing to find this… bad person.

Angelo miscreant

Michael Don’t call me names, bano.

Angelo It’s another word for bad person.

Michael Don’t you comment on my choice of words.

Angelo Choice of words? I thought you only knew a handful of words.

Faye Boys… anyway, this is good. So, I’ve invited all the people who could possibly have murdered Miko.

Michael Why the fuck do you think that’s a good idea? If I hypothetically kill a man, the last place I’d go is his funeral. Hypothetically speaking…

Angelo To emulate sympathy? It would make them look less guilty. You know, on rare cases, murderers like to feed on the sympathy for their victims or they actually are sympathetic, if it were an accidental homicide.

Michael Has it not occurred to you that Miko killed himself?

Faye Impossible. Miko had not the propensity for suicide.

Angelo He showed no signs of suicidal tendencies, he wasn’t

Michael depressed? You must have noticed it. Miko was a sad sack. He just knew how to hide it in public. It was impossible not to notice the occasional table thumps, and he rubbed his arm as if trying to hug himself. His decision making, he would always second-guess himself, overthinking

Angelo the downside of a brilliant mind. Those are signs of indecisiveness, not depression.

Michael Say what you want. You can’t ignore the truth. Are these all the people, you say?

Faye You could expect another one arriving late. He’d be coming from a Presidential function.

Angelo Eugenio Lin?

Faye Yes.

Michael The president’s Chinese bastard? Fuck that guy, he wants to turn the Philippines into a Chinese province.

Angelo Eugenio?

Michael The president.

Angelo You speak just like him. How shall I describe it… undiplomatic? Coarse, and uneducated.

Michael Diplomacy… ah the weapon of people who can’t take a hit. Speaking of coarse, that’s what your face will look like when I’m done with you.

Angelo Are those all the delegates?

Faye Yes. Everyone who’s here, and Mister Lin. Anyone else who does not belong here should be dispatched… sent away… forced to leave. Yes… forced to leave. (gestures to the guards) understood? (Guards acknowledge her.)

I told the other mourners that the funeral starts tomorrow, so there would be no confusion and you could do your business undisturbed, relatively. These are fewer than what you’d expect to be visiting tomorrow.

Michael (Gestures to the audience.) These?

Faye This is better so as not to arouse suspicion… and… I just wanted to be the first one to know. There will be a couple more eulogies to be delivered. Make sure you question them all.

Michael Seriously? This is fewer? Better get started then. (Michael walks up to an audience member) You! Who killed Miko? (Faye pulls him away.)

Faye I think you should start with those two. That lady is Darlene, and that guy is Karl. Keep in mind, it would be BEST if you find the killer before the last eulogy, before they all leave.

Angelo We’ll get on with it then.

Faye I shall leave you to it then. I’ll go and accommodate our guests. (Faye leaves.)

Angelo She sounded a bit scary there. “It would be BEST”

Michael Anything is scary for you. “It would be BEST” if you don’t hinder me in any way. (Angelo flinches.) See?

# Scene 4: THE DEATH OF KINDNESS

Michael I think we should start with that lady(points to a member of the audience.)

Angelo The lady in the (describe audience’s outfit)?

Michael Yes. She looks like she’s killed people before.

Angelo That’s not how profiling works.

Michael Or we could start with that guy (points to another member of the audience.) He looks like he’s hiding something.

Angelo He must be hiding his laughter at your impetuous attempts to solve this case.

Michael Impetuous?

Angelo Lacks thought, impulsive, reckless. We should start with the basic sources of investigation. Scene of the crime

Michael We’re here.

Angelo Evidence

Michael Nada.

Angelo Witnesses?

Michael All these people!

Angelo Ahh… how are we supposed to question this much people?

Michael I’m pretty sure Faye can stall. I bet she can find a talkative person to share a eulogy or two. Anyway, let’s start with the crying lady. She looks guilty to me.

Angelo Maybe she’s just crying because she knows Miko very well.

Michael You don’t have to be defensive with me, you big crybaby. I saw you tear up at Faye’s eulogy.(laughs)

Angelo I was sitting beside the lamp, the light was too bright, made my eyes sweat.

Michael Yeah right.

(*Michael and Angelo approaches Darlene.)*

Angelo Hi, are you okay?

Darlene Oh. (sobs) of all the questions you could ask me, “are you okay?” Seriously? Why don’t you go ask him if he’s okay. (points to the coffin)

Michael Excellent question, captain obvious! I’m sure here eyes were just sweating.

Darlene (Sobs) Whaaat?

Michael Do I have to explain such a simple thing. Look over there. (Michael points to the light. Darlene looks and immediately regrets it.) Blinding, isn’t it? Your eyes sweat to protect itself.

Darlene No!!! I’m obviously crying, you blithering idiots. What do you want from me?

Michael Oh... well. I’m Detective Michael. This is Detective Angelo. I was wondering if we could ask you a few questions, miss Darlene.

Darlene Just call me Darlene.

Michael And you could just call me anytime you feel sad, sweetheart.

Angelo Oh shut up. Is it okay if we ask you some questions, Darlene?

Faye Ask away, detectives.

Angelo So… when was the last time you saw Miko?

Darlene Oh. (starts crying) The last time. The last time I saw him… Let me start from the beginning. Well, the first time I met him was at a sports fest seven years ago. It was in Uni. We were opponents in the football league. Oh, what brazen moves he had. He was an animal in the field. He wasn’t only a great detective, he was an outstanding athlete as well. Have you heard Faye’s eulogy earlier? He was such a good man. \*sobs\* Have I told you he was a gentleman on the field and off it. He was different… our team was playing dirty, but he never resorted to cheap tricks. He had the temper of a turtle.

Michael temper of a turtle?

Darlene I cheered for him, that day. I cheered him on til my voice got sore. \*cries\* (Angelo walks away to get tissue. Comes back to hand it to Darlene) Thank you, kind sir. So, yeah. After the game, he walked up to me and asked me out but I couldn’t say yes because I had to buy stuff for a friend, see, my friend was going to propose to his girl and I was responsible for the cake and the doves and the, and the \*sobs\* He was so kind, he insisted on doing the errands for me. Could you get me a glass of water, dear?

Michael Waiter! (Looks up and around as if looking for a waiter.) Waiter! Sorry, I don’t see any waiters around, and I definitely am not one.

Angelo Excuse his arrogance, he can’t live without it. I’ll go get you some water. (Angelo leaves to get water)

Darlene As I was saying. He did errands for me. He was like a pool of overflowing kindness and he just wanted to shower me with it.

Darlene (Angelo enters with glass of water and hands it to Darlene.) Thank you, dear. He was really kind, he invited me to a feeding program once ~

Michael Okay! We get it, he’s so kind, he’s hot, he’s awesome. We get it. You guys were in love. Get on with it, when was the last time you saw Miko? (Darlene starts crying)

Angelo Chill, niggah! The lady’s in mourning, give her some space.

Michael We’re wasting time here, Angelo. You might be enjoying doing her bidding and listening her to reminisce, but this isn’t a therapy session, this is an investigation and we have a deadline.

Darlene Huhuhu. Forgive me, I was trying to avoid the question. \*sobs\* I haven’t seen Miko for a year. A few weeks after my mom died, \*sobs\* He thought it would make me happy \*sob\* he proposed to me. Did you know, while we were dating he couldn’t hold my hand nor kiss me whenever he liked. He said he wanted to respect me. He treated me like a I was a sacred deity, respectful, or too much. He was perfect but I was scared. I told him… I told him…

Michael What did you tell him?!

Darlene I told him, "I’m sorry. I really like you but you’re too nice."

Michael I’m too nice?! Seriously? What the fuck did you want? That he kicks in the face and ask, "will you marry me?" Would that have done the trick? Or was that still too nice?

Darlene (Bawls) That’s exactly what he said. "I’m done being nice," he said. He flipped the table with my mother’s ashes on it. "You’re dead, Miko Liwanag! You’re so dead!" I got so mad. I’m so sorry I got mad. \*sobs\* You’d understand, wouldn’t you? My mother just died, and he gave her a second death. He never came back after that, he never called. \*sobs\* I might as well have killed him. \*sobs\* I killed him.

Michael That sounds like a confession to a crime, I’m sorry for your loss madame but I would have to put you under arrest. (pulls out handcuffs)

Angelo Don’t be stupid, MICHAEL! That wasn’t a confession. Please, stop crying, Darlene. It’s okay, you didn’t kill Miko. (Darlene walks away, Angelo trails her. Angelo whispers to her,) did you kill Miko?

Darlene No… (cries uncontrollably) but in my heart I did. (Darlene runs away from the scene.)

Michael You’re the one being stupid. She just admitted killing Miko. (Michael offers Angelo the cuffs) Now, go get her and slap her on the wrists. It’ll only take a while for me to pry from her how she killed him, and I would have solved this case.

Angelo There’s no way she could’ve killed Miko. She was so in love with him, she couldn’t have. You know we don’t have evidence, and we haven’t even interrogated the other suspects yet.

Michael We will interrogate the other suspect, but you know a confession to a crime is enough to warrant an arrest.

Angelo And that’s your method of justice? What heresy is this?

Michael I told you, I’d do anything to succeed.

Angelo Don’t be so quick to claim success. (Angelo puts on a mad tone)Put those cuffs away, and I’m not asking.

Michael Ooh. Are you gonna quit being mister nice guy, too?

Angelo Faye!

Faye Yes, dear?

Angelo Do you mind if we ask you some questions?

FAYE Go on.

Michael How did Miko die?

Faye (Faye chokes on her words and fans herself with her hands.) I don’t think I’m ready to talk about it. Can we do this later, please?

(Faye walks away)

# Scene 5: THE DEATH OF FRIENDSHIP

*Michael and Angelo approach Karl. Angelo pulls a chair right next to Karl and sits on it cowboy style. MICHAEL is standing.*

Michael Karl, am I right? Don’t tell me you’re Miko’s lover too.

Karl Hahaha. No bruh. I’m his best man.

Angelo I’m Angelo, this is MICHAEL. We’re

Karl detectives. I know. Miko had told me about you two. So, are you investigating his death?

Michael Yes, and are you planning to lose weight?

Karl I’m diabetic, you asshole. It runs in the family.

Michael No one runs in your family, you fat fuck. (The two almost start to brawl but Angelo stops them.)

Angelo Sorry, Karl. I apologize for my partner’s indecency. (He bows while saying,) sorry. You’re being too mean, MICHAEL.

Michael (Darlene approaches the podium, fighting back tears.) And you’re being too soft. Look, lady talks-a-lot is preparing to talk a lot more and we still have plenty of people to question.

Angelo Quit yapping and get to it then.

Michael That’s more like it. Try saying it from your balls, though, so you’d sound more intimidating. Okay, listen closely. This is how you do it properly. So, Karl is it? State your whole name, for the record.

Karl Karl Gabriel Denacruz.

Michael Denacruz? Did your mom mistype your name or something?

Karl No, some dumbass validator mistyped it when I had my name changed.

Michael Oh, you had your name changed, from what?

Karl Karl Gabriel Kamandag

Michael (Michael bursts out in laughter.) Why the fuck would you change such a cool name? It sounds like a superhero’s name. Karl Kamandag, the superhero that can turn into a pig or a snake. (laughs.)

Karl (Karl raises his fist.) One more fat joke and I’ll stick this up your pooper.

Michael Ooh. He has odd fetishes too. Karl Kamandag, the

Angelo quit it. Stop it or I’d let him do to you what he said.

Karl I can’t. (keeps laughing.) Karl Kamandag, Karl Kamandag.

Michael (Michael gets serious.) Karl Gabriel Kamandag, sounds like the friend that would bite you on the ankle when you least expect it.

Karl That’s exactly why I had to change my name. I can’t stand it. I can’t work as an investigator and be called a snake. “Ooh, there goes Kamandag again slithering around. Sneaky Karl’s at it again.” I’ve had enough of it during my childhood and I just wanted to change it.

Michael Sneaky biggy snakes don’t slither around, they roll to get to places. (laughs. Karl starts seething with anger.)

Angelo Oi, stop it.

Michael Why are you so agitated? Have you bitten someone lately?

(Karl swings at Michael but narrowly misses.)

Feisty, feisty, mister pig-snake. Hissss (laughs)

(*Angelo pulls Michael away from Karl.)*

Angelo Where are you going with this?

Michael I’m establishing a baseline of aggravation. What for, oh wise one, you ask? So we can question him later but I’m hoping he’d be more truthful then.

Angelo but why?

Michael This over-sized serpent is too eager to share details, and he is quick to answer in a placid voice.

Angelo Ahhh… you think he’s lying, about what? You’ve only asked him about his name.

Michael There’s a subtle difference between a man who’s eager to cooperate and a man who’s eager to mislead. I bet you can’t tell the difference ‘cus you’re often deceived by the latter.

Angelo I can’t totally deny that. I guess you take lead then.

(*Michael and Angelo both return to Karl, who seems a bit calmer than before.)*

Karl Back for more insults I presume?

Michael I dislike talking to you so, I’ll ask you answer. (Karl nods.) How long have you known Miko?

Karl I’ve known him since we were kids.

Michael How long?

Karl Twenty-seven years.

Michael From where?

Karl We grew up in the same neighborhood together, Miko, // Faye and I. We were practically brothers.

Michael And your profession?

Karl Investigator

Michael Which agency?

Karl (pauses) Elegy Security

Michael Elegy, the one owned by Eugenio Lin?

Karl The exact one.

Michael Ha, snakes in a basket. I bet you fit in very well. So, when was the last time you’ve seen Miko?

Karl Last time I saw him was nine months ago. Faye… she thinks so highly of him. Sure, Miko’s a good man, WAS a good man. He hasn’t always been the saint that everyone knew him for.

Michael What do you mean?

Karl Miko was an honest man. We were always accountable to each other about events in our life. We kept no secrets from each other. He changed… I think something happened after he and Darlene stopped dating. He started keeping secrets from me, and lie to me.

Michael What secrets? By the way this is progressing, it sounds like he’s cheating on you man. You sound like he’s your ex

Karl ex bestfriend. Have you heard the story of Joseph the dreamer? His brothers threw him into a pit. He was kept there for days, until he was sold into slavery. That’s what happened. I found one of his dirty little secrets. I confronted him and he wouldn’t admit it. He used me and sabotaged my work by putting redtape investigations on me. I lost creditability, man. He sold me out. How am I supposed to make a living now?

Michael You run off to an organization as shady as you. Elegy.

Karl I can only do small work in Elegy, like physical security.

Michael You mean like a bouncer? I admit you look like you bounce well(laughs). What secrets are you taking about, huh? You’re hiding something. You’re involved in his death aren’t you? Stop talking so cryptic.

Karl I thought friendship was the most important thing that human beings valued. If you’re asking about who killed whom, Miko killed our friendship. And for what? For a girl. Bros before hoes, we used to say. I thought witnessing his death would bring me satisfaction. I was wrong.

Michael What was the secret? That he cheated on you with another man?

Karl Oh shutup! I wouldn’t betray his secrets even after what he did to me. A ruffian like you wouldn’t know a thing about loyalty.

Michael Don’t talk to me bout loyalty! I was married for seven years! I’ve practically known my wife since we were infants, and I never cheated on her once. I devoted my life to her. The profession I took up was to complement her dream job. We were supposed to be a team, but suddenly she packed up her things and went off into the night. She called me saying she wasn’t content, that she was leaving, but she was already in a car, far away. Oh it doesn’t end there, have I mentioned that she was leaving with someone else? I had a best friend too. We went through university together. Heck, I’m the only reason that twat even graduated. We were (fingers crossed) this close, inseparable. One day, when he needed money, he took a “loan” and left the bill on my name. That cumbucket could’ve asked me for money but he went behind my back instead, and disappeared. If he or she came back, I would forgive them, probably. If that isn’t loyalty, then why don’t you tell me, Karrrl? What is loyalty?

*(A ruckus ensues at the entrance to Miko’s home. Karl, recognizing the voice, starts walking toward the entrance.)*

# Scene 6: THE DEATH OF INNOCENCE

*(Lily comes running in, cursing and shouting profanities about Miko. Faye trails her, looking alarme.)*

Faye Michael! Stop that woman! She shouldn’t be here, make her leave!

*(Karl and Lily catches sight of each other. Karl runs to Lily, pretending to constrain her, but he whispers something in her ear just before she slips through his arms. Lily runs up to the coffin and spits on it. Michael pulls her away from the coffin)*

Lily Unhand me you filthy beast! Let me compose myself.

*(Michael pulls away. Lily walks to the coffin.)*

Lily Ha! He’s dead! The miserable fool is dead! Everyday, I’ve asked God to take me away, but he took you instead! I’ve suffered for days, waiting for this moment. Truly, good things come to those who wait. (Spits on the coffin) You deserve that, you filthy lout!

Faye Angelo, make her leave. Drag her away if you have to.(Michael and Angelo pulls her away) She’s not wanted here. I might do bad things to her.

LILY Go to hell! You bastard! Go to hell! (starts uttering curses)

\*NEW\*

(After struggling for a while)

LILY Wait wait wait! A moment of silence please! I would like to say a few things.

(Everyone stops)

LILY They say man came from dust and in death shall return to dust, pero sa pag-inog ng oras babalik ka sa tae, at ang libing mo ay isang malakas na flush sa toilet kasi bullshit ka! (laughs)

\*END\*

After pulling her outside, Lily is still unnerved.

LILY That filthy dog! Haha! He’s dead! I’ve waited for this! He deserved it! I hope he gets tortured down there, burn him, burn him slowly. Burn him in the pit of fire, til he asks for forgiveness.

ANGELO Lady, please calm down. We would like to ask you a few questions.

LILY Burn him with the coldest flames! Burn him with the hottest rains! He deserves it!

MICHAEL Hold on, I know how to calm her down.

(Michael tries to kiss Lily)

LILY (Lily screams) Rape! Rape! Get away from me, you filthy dog! You uncivilized bastard son of a gun!

(Lily starts crying)

MICHAEL Calm down, lady! We just need to ask you a few questions. And excuse me that wasn’t rape, my lips didn’t touch anything.

ANGELO Attempted rape, then. Miss Lillian, right? Please (angelo reaches out to pat Lily and comfort her. She squirms away) we just want to talk to you. I assure you I’ll arrest him for attempted rape after this.

LILY Get away from me! You men are all the same! You filthy dogs!

MICHAEL Now that’s being sexist.

ANGELO Shutup, Michael. You’re not helping. Please, ma’am, we’re investigating Miko’s death

MICHAEL and your suspicious behavior has lead us to consider you as a suspect.

LILY He deserved it! After all he’s done to me! Everything he has taken away from me, he has paid for with his death.

ANGELO Lily, please explain yourself.

\*NEW\*

LILY You explain yourself, who the fuck are you?

MICHAEL Michael

ANGELO Angelo

MICHAEL You?

LILY You see me on TV, you know who I am.

ANGELO Please, can we ask you a few questions.

LILY “Can I have your autograph?” Of course, kuha mo kong ball pen.

ANGELO That wasn’t the question. It’s about Miko.

LILY That little shit? What about it.

MICHAEL How did you know him? Where were you when he died? Why did you kill Miko?

LILY I refuse to speak without my lawyer! This is an outrage. Are you saying I killed Miko?  
ANGELO No, no, no. We just want to know how you’re affiliated with Miko.

MICHAEL And why you killed him.

LILY What’s in it for me?  
MICHAEL Kung umamin ka ngayon, at i-announce mo sa publiko, susuportahan ka nila. Positive publicity?  
LILY Negative yun

MICHAEL Edi gawin mo dalawang beses. Diba negative times negative is positive?

ANGEL Bitch, please. What’s in it for you? Here’s a chance to prove yourself innocent ayaw mo pa. What’s there to lose?

LILY What have I to lose, tanong ng lalaking hindi saanmang paraan madadamay sa imbestigasyong to.

MICHAEL Excuse me, miss. Nakataya trabaho namin sa imbestigasyong to. Kaya wag mong bali-walain ang ginagawa namin dito.

LILY Your job is temporary! It’s replaceable. You can just get your ass back up and find another job but the questions you’re asking me, pagkatao ko nakataya ditto. I don’t even know you and you’re asking me to scour my darkest memories, shit, memories that I pray, everyday would soon forget. What have I to lose? The last piece of humanity that that dead man tried and failed to take away from me. What made you think That I’d simply hand it over to you?

MICHAEL Darkest memories ba kamo? Darkest memories? (whispers) Pre, kaw mag-simula, nahihiya ako eh. Hehe

ANGELO The love of my life died a few days ago.

\*END\*

LILY Miko and I met in Uni. We went out with some of our friends because it was his birthday. That night, he taught me how to smoke, drink and party.

MICHAEL What’s wrong with that? If I were you, I would’ve thanked him.

LILY I was a devout catholic. I was happy before I did all that. I was innocent from the vices of the world and he robbed me of it. He taught me how to sin.

MICHAEL You said so yourself, he taught you but you’re the one who did it. Who cares about innocence anyway, it’s meaningless. It’s consumable, perishable. It’s like a scab that you must peel off at one point of your life. It’s bound to come off.

ANGELO Easy for you to say, because you’ve never valued purity. You don’t know what it means because you’ve never had it for a long time. You obviously don’t know what it means.

MICHAEL Shutup. I don’t care if I lost my innocence earlier than what you people say is normal. Besides, it’s not like he took her virginity away. (Lily starts crying)

LILY We had a tad too much to drink. I told him no, I was saving it up for someone special. It was a part of me that I wanted my future lover to have. Who would ever love me now?

MICHAEL All this banter. I think we’ve wasted enough time. I’ll go look for Karl, you go inside.

ANGELO Not really a waste of time. She just gave us a motive.

\*NEW\*

// MICHAEL ANGELO LEAVE

// Karl enters approaches Lily, comforts her with a hug

KARL I told you to wait.

LILY Wait? Ilang taon mon a sinasabi sakin yan. Gano katagal mo pa ba ko paghihintayin?

KARL I wasn’t talking about that, don’t bring it up now.

LILY Wait //pause Ano gusto mop ag-usapan?

KARL I’m pissed off. You could have ruined our plan. You might as well have barged inside and told everyone that

LILY Shutup! Maraming tenga sa paligid. Ano, ikaw naman magbubulgar sa plano?  
KARL Bakit ka pumunta ditto?

LILY //cries I just wanted to see if the bastard’s really dead. He took my innocence (cries harder) I’d only feel relieved if I see his corpse.

KARL Stop acting! Nakokonsensya ko sa ginagawa natin.

LILY Oh stop it! I was just trying to see if you’d comfort me (touches his lips) with your sweet words, your embrace (reaches for his belt) your company.

(KARL backs away)

KARL Just wait!  
LILY PUTANG INA KARL. Hanggang ngayon, yan parin sasabihin mo sakin? Wag mo sabihing nakokonsensya ka. Di lang ikaw ang may konsensya ditto. (CRIES)  
KARL Lily, please

LILY NAKNAMPAGONG! I’m not acting this time!

// Pause

LILY I’ve waited years for you. You tell me you love me but you never showed it. Ilang gabi ako naghintay, nakahiga sa kama, nag-iisa, nanlalamig, nagtataka, “mahal mo ba talaga ako?” //pause Sagutin mo ako, Karl!  
KARL Oo. Mahal na mahal kita. It may seem na I never showed it but I never gave up on you. Even after what you did. Hindi ba sapat yun para patunayan ang pag-ibig ko sayo?

LILY No! I want you, Karl. I’ve always wanted you but you keep saying, wait. (cry cry) I couldn’t wait for you. I… forced your bestfriend instead.

KARL It’s not a big deal.

LILY It is a big deal! You know what kind of person Miko is! Iisipin niya siya ang nagkamali, na sya ang may kasalanan. Isipin moa ng pagdurusang sinapit niya, para mag-sisi habang buhay sa bagay na di naman nya ginawa.

//pause

KARL And that’s why this plan would work! Konsensya laban sa konsensya.

LILY Do they know about Faye?

KARL Hindi. We just have to keep them off of Faye until this is all over.

LILY Good.

KARL Please, just wait a little while longer. It’ll all be over soon.

LILY I can’t wait any longer.

//pause

KARL (lapit kay Lily) You don’t have to. Let’s just do it.

LILY We can’t (reaches for Karl)  
KARL We can’t. (Reaches for Lily but misses)

\*END\*

LIGHTS DIM

# Scene 6 : THE DEATH OF CONFIDENCE

MICHAEL Karl’s outside. I made sure he can’t leave. He’s speaking in code, Angelo. He must be hiding something.

ANGELO I don’t know, he seemed to be speaking in bro-code and he means to say, ’My bro just died and I don’t want to talk about it.’

MICHAEL I was pretty sure he said something about witnessing his death. Even if he wasn’t the killer he might lead us to him.

ANGELO Give him some time. He’s in mourning,

MICHAEL. We’ll talk again with him later. Oh! While you were gone, I interrogated the other guests and the results are inconclusive. They’re old friends whom he hasn’t seen in years.

MICHAEL There you go again, acting like a softie. Whew. So far we’ve got no clue as to whom the killer is, no apparent reason for his death, and no more suspects on the list. What do we do now?

ANGELO We could quit. I feel like, we’re nowhere near success. Might as well claim we never took the case, so it won’t blemish our records.

MICHAEL And that’s why you’ve never had a girlfriend. Might as well not love and not feel pain. Hahaha. You’re pathetic. Shrug off that loser attitude and get your bearings straight.

ANGELO You said so yourself. We don’t have any clues, we don’t have any suspects.

MICHAEL Yes, but we have time. And we have that fat fuck who’s hiding something. I’ll make him talk. (Cracks knuckles).

ANGELO Don’t do this, MICHAEL. We’re at a funeral and what you’re about to do is illegal.

MICHAEL What about funerals?

ANGELO You know. People are in mourning. Show some respect.

MICHAEL Okay, out of respect I’ll do it outside then. Where there is no funeral. Stay here and keep an eye for anything suspicious.

(MICHAEL exits)

(Angelo approaches Faye)

ANGELO Hey Faye, quick question. When was the last time you’ve seen Miko?

FAYE Three days, ago. I remember, I saw Darlene leaving.

ANGELO Wait what?

FAYE Oh, hey, the Eulogy’s starting. I have to go fix something.

ANGELO Faye, what caused Miko’s death?

FAYE I’ll talk to you later.

LIGHTS FADE OUT

# Scene 7: THE DEATH OF A GOOD MAN: SECOND EULOGY

LIGHTS FADE IN

SPOT ON PODIUM AND ON MICHAEL

Darlene is on the podium, about to give her eulogy. On the side are MICHAEL and Karl. (MICHAEL approaches Karl and asks questions)

DARLENE The first time I met Miko was in a soccer game. He was an excellent athlete but he thought otherwise. He could score a hundred goals but he’d beat himself up for the tiniest mistakes. He may seem confident, and in control but deep inside he thought of himself as useless, inadequate, and incompetent. No one saw that but I did. The way he’d shake his head when he misses a shot or kick the grass when the enemy scores. I cheered for him, I shouted his name over and over again just so he won’t quit. That’s how we’ve met. We dated a couple years after but unfortunately that came to an end. We all know how kind Miko is. He believed in doing things right. He never got his hands dirty. There came a point in his career when his friend was undermining his work. It was unbearable watching him get played. He was so pliable because of his kindness. Then I thought I could help him. I ended it. "You are too nice," I told him. I thought it would’ve helped. I have never been so wrong. He came to me three months after we broke up. He said he saw what I meant. That the world isn’t good at all to nice guys. He said, "being nice doesn’t get you anywhere."

(MICHAEL starts roughing up Karl)

He went into my house and took everything he had given me. To be honest, it made my heart flutter. Here’s a guy who knows how to take charge, I thought. He changed the way he worked. He employed unorthodox methods to get the job done. It was nice to see him take control. He finally got rid of his pessimism... but arrogance took its place. I was just trying to help... I killed a good man and darkness took his place.

KARL Stop! Stop it! I’ll talk! The girl killed him! That’s all I could tell you.

MICHAEL Seriously? After I beat the shit out of you, you still have the strength to be cryptic? Who’s the girl?! (Karl passes out) Damn it!

I had a best friend too. He was a fucking cunt. Very bad influence. He taught me to do things… differently. I admit, I liked the power that he showed me. I could command people with the subtlest show of force, and I had an outlet for my frustrations. Gahhh!! It feels so fucking good to be able to say what I want whenever I want. Fucking hell, I felt so stressed all my life trying to avoid cussing but shit feels great and fucking hell, the feeling of bone meeting flesh is just satisfying. My wife didn’t like it though, so she packed up her things and took off with someone else, and my bitchass bestfriend also disappeared. He turned me into something that

LIGHTS FADE

# Scene 8: THE DEATH OF PATIENCE

(MICHAEL enters the scene)

ANGELO What did you do?

MICHAEL What had to be done.

ANGELO You did not ~

MICHAEL It gets results!

ANGELO It’s wrong!

MICHAEL Don’t tell me what’s wrong and what’s not. The truth is you’re wrong and I’m not. The only leads we’ve gotten so far is because of me, because my methods bring results.

ANGELO And if these methods were used on you what would you think?

MICHAEL I’d understand. I’d shove my morals aside and make way for what should be done.

ANGELO That sounds stupid

MICHALE You sound stupid. This way, it’s more efficient. Wala kang limits, you can do anything you want to do, anything you NEED to do.

//pause

ANGELO Do you know what separates us from animals? It’s not the ability to think. It’s the ability to have Values. That’s the difference between life and mere existence.

MICHAEL Puta ka pala eh! Pumunta ko ditto para mag-imbestiga, di para making sa sermon mo. Kung yun ang pakay ko, sa simbahan ako tumungo, hindi ditto.

ANGELO Ahh, wow. Ikaw nagsimula nito. Sabi ko lang you sound stupid. Ikaw ang nagpahayag ng opinion mo.

MICHAEL Just shut up.

ANGELO I give up! So what did he say?

MICHAEL "Ughhh! Aghhhh! MOMMY!" and "tama na po parang awa nyo na!"

ANGELO What did he say?!

MICHAEL Okay, okay. “The girl killed him,” said the man who screamed like a girl.

ANGELO Who’s the girl?

MICHAEL That’s what I tried to ask him but he passed out. Haha pathetic piece of shit.

ANGELO The girl! You mean Darlene?

MICHAEL Probably. Have you noticed anything suspicious?

ANGELO Probably. I think it must be her.

MICHAEL But I thought you said she couldn’t have killed him. There’s no motive. You think she’d kill Miko for breaking her mother’s urn?

ANGELO No, but she lied to us. She said the last time she saw him was a year ago. I talked to Faye a moment after you left, and she said she saw Darlene leave Miko’s house three days ago.

MICHAEL Guess when’s the last time Karl saw Miko?

ANGELO & MICHAEL Three days ago.

ANGELO Look, Faye’s about to deliver the last Eulogy. We have to gather Karl, Lily and Darlene before everybody leaves.

MICHAEL Okay, I think i know where this is leading.

LIGHTS FADE OT

# Scene 9: THE DEATH OF APATHY : THIRD EULOGY

LIGHTS FADE IN

SPOT ON PODIUM

Faye is delivering her eulogy on the podium.

FAYE The last time I saw Miko was years ago. He woke me up one night. It wasn’t like one of those nights that we gazed upon the heavens. It was cloudy and the stars were nowhere in sight. Miko wore a pallid face, and a voice as sullen as the skies above. He asked me, ’Faye, what is kindness, what is innocence, what is love?’ They’re what makes you yourself. ’If I lose these, do I cease being myself?’ Yes. Yes, you do.

BLACKOUT

MICHAEL Let’s do a recap. Darlene’s motive for killing Miko

ANGELO is, Miko smashed her mother’s urn.

MICHAEL After they broke up, something happened. Something that made Miko sell out Karl. Karl confronts Miko, and Miko causes Karl to lose his career.

ANGELO His motive is vengeance. Lily’s motive is payback, for taking her innocence. How is it all connected?

MICHAEL Remember when Karl said he that Miko sold him out for a girl?

ANGELO yeah?

MICHAEL Who’s the girl that Miko violated?

ANGELO Lillian.

MICHAEL Lily was saving her purity for someone else.

ANGELO and that someone else is Karl?

MICHAEL You got it. Karl loved Lily, he found out what Miko did and tried to confront him. Miko got mad and redtaped Karl which caused him his job which drove Karl to kill Miko. To avenge his life and his beloved.

ANGELO I sense a plot twist here.

MICHAEL Darlene lied to us about the last time she met with Miko because she knew we were going to talk to Karl afterwards. She didn’t want Karl to know that she’s been meeting with Miko. You know why?

ANGELO Because she’s in love with Karl?

MICHAEL Exactly. It’s a big old love quadrangle. Miko did something wrong to Lily and Karl, Karl wants to avenge Lily, Darlene wants to protect Karl.

ANGELO You all met with Miko three days ago to do the deed.

KARL Now, wait. Where did all that come from?

ANGELO Faye told us that you guys met with Miko three days ago. The fact that Darlene lied about it means she is in connivance with you. KARL Now, you just made all that up. Three days ago, Miko came to us, not the other way around. Tell them, guys.

DARLENE He came to me to say sorry for the urn. Seriously, why would I kill him for such a fickle matter?

LILY Actually, I came to him. I was convicted by my conscience for taking Miko’s innocence.

MICHAEL Don’t tell me, you’re the one who stole Miko’s girl?

KARL I did. I was the reason he and Darlene broke up but you know what? He was the one who came to me apologizing. and he told me that he has forgiven me.

ANGELO No, this is all wrong.

MICHAEL You said the girl, killed him! Who’s the girl?

ANGELO I think we ruled out someone. She kept avoiding my questions all day.

MICHAEL She also tried to keep a potential suspect from entering the premises.

ANGELO Maybe she set this all up to put the blame on someone else.

MICHAEL Faye! Where are you?!

ANGELO Faye, please show yourself.

MICHAEL How did Miko even die?

ANGELO I don’t know. Faye kept dodging the question.

MICHAEL Maybe we should check the body, see how he’s killed and go from there.

ANGELO Maybe we should. (Michael and Angelo approach the coffin)

KARL Stop! Maybe you’re asking the wrong questions all along.

ANGELO What do you mean?

KARL You’ve been asking, who killed Miko, who killed Miko? Has it not occurred to you to ask yourselves why you killed Miko?

MICHAEL Yeah, that’s what we’ve been trying to find out. Start talking or I’ll tear you a new asshole, asshole. Why did you kill Miko? We thought you killed him to avenge your lover but we were wrong. So let’s just open the damn coffin.

KARL Stop! You’re the ones who killed Miko. You always thought that his morals was hindering you, that he was weak and pathetic and was a pushover. And you, you always blamed him for your failures. You’re always looking for someone to blame. This was no investigation. You insisted that we killed Miko, you imposed your motives on us.

MICHAEL See, he’s still protecting Faye. I bet you’re conniving with her.

ANGELO I bet she’s the one who killed Miko. Faye, now’s the last time to come clean, please show yourself.

KARL She can’t. She’s dead, Michaelangelo. When will you accept it? (Karl opens the coffin to reveal Faye inside) She couldn’t handle Miko’s death. He was her only friend, her only love, her reason to live. He’s what she believed in. She’s dead, Miko.

MICHAEL & ANGELO Stop calling me that!

KARL Why not, Miko?

MICHAEL & ANGELO I hate hearing that name.

KARL Why do you hate it? Because you know it rings of truth. Faye gave you that name and Faye is dead. Your death caused her sorrow, Miko. She lost you, and she lost herself.

MICHAEL & ANGELO No! You killed Miko! because he took your girl, you killed him for revenge!

KARL Why would you instigate an investigation of your own death, Miko? The doctor said that’s just a coping mechanism. I understand that, that’s why I let you play it out but imposing your motives on me is out of the line, Miko!

MICHAEL & ANGELO Don’t call me that!

KARL You couldn’t accept the fact that you changed, the death of your old self caused the death of Faye. So you investigate your death to look for someone to blame. Maybe you’re not dead after all. You’re the same Miko that likes to blame others.

MICHAEL & ANGELO I am not miko!

KARL Who are you really? Are you Miko, Michael or Angelo? (Faye sits upright)

FAYE Tell me, Miko, what is kindness, what is innocence, what is love?’

ANGELO They’re what makes you yourself

FAYE If I lose these, do I cease being myself?

MICHAEL Yes, you do.

ANGELO ’Then know, that Miko lives no longer. I have become somebody else.’

FAYE What do you mean?

MICHAEL ’I have become the monster I’ve always hated, the fear I’ve always fought. The values which comprise me, what’s left of it is naught.’

# ACT II

*“...he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!”*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

# Scene 10: THE DEATH THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN

FAYE You did not die in an instant. I had to watch you kill yourself again and again, day after day. You weren’t content with who you were. You wore your values like clothes, you chose whatever was in your mood. I could not bear watching you die again and again. I wondered why, you wouldn’t just be your true self but then again, how could I know if I haven’t tried? I’m sorry, Miko. I lost you, and with you I lost myself.

MICHAEL I know who I am. I am not weak, I do what must be done and nothing can stop me. Maybe Miko’s not yet dead but I’ll make sure he is. (draws gun)

ANGELO You can’t kill me, Miko. I am you.

MICHAEL & ANGELO I can, Miko, and I’m not you, I was you.

FAYE My emotions came a day late. Now my soul weeps... unheard. I was stuck in a horrid state, since the night you left me hurt. I let the winds bawl for me but still there’s none to feel. Just tell me one last thing Miko, for your happiness what values must you kill?

BLACKOUT

(Gunshot fires)

(END)