

BACKSTROM

PILOT

"DRAGON SLAYER"

Written by

Hart Hanson

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Feb 25, 2013 - WHITE PRODUCTION SCRIPT
Mar 05, 2013 - BLUE PRODUCTION SCRIPT
Mar 18, 2013 - PINK PRODUCTION SCRIPT
Mar 24, 2013 - YELLOW PRODUCTION SCRIPT
Mar 26, 2013 - GREEN PAGES (15 PAGES)
Apr 02, 2013 - GOLDENROD PAGES (3 PAGES)
Apr 05, 2013 - SALMON PAGES (6 PAGES)
Apr 25, 2013 - 2nd WHITE PAGES (6 PAGES)

Character

1. DET. EVERETT BACKSTROM
2. DET. NICOLE GRAVELY
3. DET. JOHN ALMOND
4. DET. FRANK MOTO
5. SGT. PETER NIEDERMAYER
6. NADIA PAQUET
7. GREGORY VALENTINE
8. ANNA HOLT
9. DR. DEB CHAMAN
10. GENE VISSER
11. CASSANDRA LASTRANGE
12. CHARLES TURNER
13. ALYSON COX
14. TOBIAS PERCIVAL IV
15. SENATOR PERCIVAL
16. SANDRA PERCIVAL
17. ARCHIE DANFORTH
18. PRESIDENT LEYLAND EATON
19. GENERAL COUNSEL REBECCA FORRESTER
20. TV ANCHOR
21. BARTENDER (STUNT)
22. VISSER BAD GUY #1 (STUNT)
23. VISSER BAD GUY #2 (STUNT)
24. VISSER BAD GUY #3 (STUNT)
25. VISSER BAD GIRL #1 (STUNT)
26. GRAVELY'S LOVER
27. ALYSON'S LOVER
- XX. STUNT COORDINATOR
- X1. BACKSTROM STUNT
- X2. GRAVELY STUNT
- X3. ALMOND STUNT
- X4. MOTO STUNT
- X5. NIEDERMAYER STUNT
- X10. VISSER STUNT
- X20. ND STUNT DRIVER 1
- X21. ND STUNT DRIVER 2

Locations

INT. ALYSON COX'S LIBRARY CARREL
EXT. BACKSTROM'S PLACE
INT. BACKSTROM'S PLACE
EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / ATOP THE WOODEN BRIDGE
EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / BENEATH THE WOODEN BRIDGE
EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / THE POND
EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / THE WOODEN BRIDGE
EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / ULTRA-MODERN SOLARIUM
INT. BEECH COLLEGE / ULTRA-MODERN SOLARIUM
INT. BEECH COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
EXT. CHINATOWN STREET CAFE
INT. GRAVELY'S VEHICLE (TRAVELING)
INT. OLD DORM BLOCK / TOBY'S DORM ROOM
INT. POLICE ASSOCIATION HEALTH BUILDING
EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS
INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS / JAIL VISITING
INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS / MEDICAL OFFICE
EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS / ROOF
INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS STAIRWELL
EXT. RIVERSIDE BAR
INT. RIVERSIDE BAR
INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP
INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP / BACKSTROM'S OFFICE
INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP / INCIDENT ROOM
INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP / INCIDENT ROOM
INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP / INTERROGATION ROOM
INT. VENI VIDI VAGINA STRIP CLUB / DRESSING ROOM
INT. VENI VIDI VAGINA STRIP CLUB / GYNECOLOGY ROW
EXT. WHOLLY GROUND COFFEE SHOP
INT. WHOLLY GROUND COFFEE SHOP

BACKSTROM
PILOT: "Dragon Slayer"

1 EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / BENEATH THE WOODEN BRIDGE - NIGHT 1

Two Portland Police detectives, a middle-aged black man and a melancholy white woman, stand in the pouring rain beneath a wooden bridge on the campus of Beech College. DETECTIVE JOHN ALMOND (50's, African-American, kind, warm) regards a printed up photo of 19 yr. old Tobias Percival IV, smiling, happy; Almond's face is semi-obsured by his plastic-wrapped fedora. DETECTIVE NICOLE GRAVELY, (30's, adept at suppressing her emotions, sad, competent, beautiful) stares upward from under her umbrella, her facing getting wet -

GRAVELY

And verily, it came to pass in the city-state of Portlandia, Tobias Percival, evil logger baron, begat Governor Tobias Percival Jr, who begat State Senator Tobias Percival III, who in turn begat Tobias Percival IV.

ALMOND

Maybe the boy killed himself on account they wore out his name.

COME AROUND TO REVEAL -- A DEAD 19 YR OLD BOY

hangs from the bridge by a leather cord. He is painfully young, athletic, good looking, dressed in a faux-shearling flannel shirt over a hoodie; on his left foot is a heavy combat-type boot. The right foot is clad only in a sodden work sock, sagging from the steady rain -

ALMOND (CONT'D)

Too early and too wet for Backstrom? Perks of being the boss.

GRAVELY

Mandatory physical. Moto will bring him here directly after.

(off Toby's corpse)

I can see you want to pray for the boy. Say hi to God for me.

Gravelly moves off. Almond looks up at Heaven, removes his fedora, and prays intently -

ALMOND

Jesus, it's my intention to pray
for this poor boy's immortal soul
but You can see into my heart so
You know my Dark Secret which is
that I implore You, Lord Jesus, to
work Your wonders that Backstrom
fails his physical or, even better,
if it be Thy will, call him home to
Your loving arms by hitting him
with a truck. Amen.

Almond feels simultaneously ashamed and unburdened.

CUT TO:

2

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS / MEDICAL OFFICE - DAY

2

DETECTIVE EVERETT BACKSTROM, 40's, hung-over, worn, wary, in
constant opposition to the world, sits in his boxing shorts
on the examination table, facing DR. DEB CHAMAN (East Indian,
male, earnest) -

DR. DEB CHAMAN

What do the following have in
common: hyper-tension, hepatitis,
anemia, enlarged heart?

BACKSTROM

I got 'em all and you could use 'em
to fail me outta my job.

DR. DEB CHAMAN

More importantly THEY COULD KILL
YOU! Are you still drinking?

BACKSTROM

Absolutely not.

DR. DEB CHAMAN

When a patient says "absolutely
not" he is absolutely lying.

BACKSTROM

If Hindus are so smart, why do 98%
of you live at the dump?

DR. DEB CHAMAN

Five years ago you were demoted to
Traffic because of your health--

BACKSTROM

That was just the excuse.

DR. DEB CHAMAN

Please, share the truth with me.

BACKSTROM

I arrested a white supremacist who killed six Indians -- not Tandoori Indians, like you, whoo-who like Geronimo.

DR. DEB CHAMAN

They demoted you for catching a mass murderer?

BACKSTROM

Or because at the press conference I sang: *One little, two little, three little Indians--*

DR. DEB CHAMAN

Despite that, we have a Police Chief, three months on the job, who wishes to bring you back.

BACKSTROM

I worked with Chief Holt when she was a detective. She totally appreciates the full Backstrom package.

DR. DEB CHAMAN

First you must convince me that you will not drop dead chasing a villain down an alley.

BACKSTROM

I'm an underpaid Hindu police doctor ... how much payola do I need to pass a guy on his physical, nobody gets hurt?

DR. DEB CHAMAN

You get hurt! You will die.

BACKSTROM

All the men in my family die young, nothing we can do about that.

There's a KNOCK on the door and uniformed OFFICER FRANK MOTO (early thirties, an ex-fighter, earnest, honest, not very bright) sticks his head in -

MOTO

Sorry to interrupt, Det. Backstrom--

BACKSTROM

Dr. Deb, meet Officer Frank Moto,
the reason I will never chase
villains down alleys.

MOTO

Chasing's my job. Dead body out at
the College.

BACKSTROM

I'm done here. Bring the car.

Moto nods and leaves. Chaman dashes off a prescription -

DR. DEB CHAMAN

Here is my prescription.

BACKSTROM

(reading the prescription)
Make a friend.
(to Chaman)
What am I? Six?

DR. DEB CHAMAN

You have one week to fill this
prescription or back you go to
traffic.

BACKSTROM

Two things, Deb. One: knowing I
don't have long to live gives me
the courage to do what's right.
Two: Deb is a girl's name.

Backstrom leaves. Chaman is exhausted.

CUT TO:

3

EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / BENEATH THE WOODEN BRIDGE - DAY

3

Backstrom, drenched photo in hand, wearing green duck shoes,
a fluorescent orange poncho and a cap, stands with Almond and
Gravely regarding Tobias Percival hanging from the bridge -

GRAVELY

Body was found by a campus cop
doing his 6 am security sweep.

BACKSTROM

Why's the well-hung male model
wearing only one boot?

NIEDERMAYER (O.S.)

Ascend and all will be revealed!

They look up to see Forensics Liaison SGT PETER NIEDERMAYER (yoga-slim, triathlon fit, the Perfect Evolved Man) leaning over the bridge.

WITH BACKSTROM, GRAVELY, & ALMOND

as they move toward the top of the bridge -

BACKSTROM

I hate Niedermayer.

GRAVELY

You hate forensics, sir.
Niedermayer is collateral damage.

Niedermayer approaches -

NIEDERMAYER

I know you think that forensics are only for lawyers but to quote the Buddha, *"Things are not what they appear. Nor are they otherwise."*

ALMOND

What it appears is crazy that this rich, white boy kills himself.

GRAVELY

Broken heart situation? He's a Romeo who got Julietted?

BACKSTROM

Like you. Except with you, it's all Juliettes.

NIEDERMAYER

You and Dianne broke up?

ALMOND

I'm sorry, Nicole.

GRAVELY

You and your church made it pretty clear you never wanted people like me and Dianne getting married.

ALMOND

I can still be personally sorry for your personal pain.

Gravely can sense Almond's sincerity and nods grudgingly -

BACKSTROM

I'm your eco-lesbo-pro-bono anti-death penalty girlfriend. I totally freak out when the press nicknames you *Angel of Death* after you kill three guys in a shoot out.

QUICK POP: Gravely sits miserably on a bed, watching her girlfriend pack. PUSH INTO GIRLFRIEND'S POV - Gravely weeps.

ALMOND

Those shootings were justified.

NIEDERMAYER

The "Angel" part could be taken as a real compliment.

CUT AHEAD TO:

4 EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / ATOP THE WOODEN BRIDGE - DAY 4

Backstrom, Gravely, and Almond, all stand over the lone, soggy, laceless boot, surrounded by an active crime scene -

NIEDERMAYER

Ligature is obviously the missing lace. No rigor so dead less than three hours.

GRAVELY

Sad to think of this boy out here all alone in the dark, hanging himself with his own shoelace.

BACKSTROM

I'm declaring this death a possible homicide.

GRAVELY/NIEDERMAYER

(in unison)

Why?

ALMOND

Homicides the department covers meals. Suicides we're on our own.

NIEDERMAYER

I need a rationale for the coroner.

Backstrom looks toward the Asian and white students gawking from the other side of crime scene tape. Just inside the tape is an African-American Campus Security Officer -

BACKSTROM

Tell him Almond is questioning a suspicious party.

GRAVELY

What suspicious party?

BACKSTROM

That black African-American.

ALMOND

His color makes him suspicious?

BACKSTROM

Guy stands out like a raisin in a bowl of buttered popcorn!

Niedermayer LAUGHS, Gravely silences him with a look -

ALMOND

That raisin is campus Security Officer Charles Turner. He found the body and called us in.

BACKSTROM

Like Niedermayer said, it's not what it seems or otherwise. Who's for a hot breakfast?

Almond looks to Gravely. She shrugs. It's Backstrom's unit.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

5 EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / THE WOODEN BRIDGE - DAY

5

Gravely makes notes as Tobias Percival's body is removed from the bridge. POLICE CHIEF ANNA HOLT, (40's, shrewd, beleaguered) approaches Gravely -

CHIEF ANNA HOLT

Det. Gravely, do you know why I formed the Serious Crimes Group?

GRAVELY

Good morning, Chief. The SCG was formed to slay dragons without heed for politics-as-usual or public relations.

These two have the rapport of women who have to do twice as good a job as the men around them in order to stay even -

CHIEF ANNA HOLT

Are you parroting my own press release back at me?

GRAVELY

Yes, ma'am.

CHIEF ANNA HOLT

I like that. I'm sure you agree that this case is a dragon. Big, noisy and everybody gets burnt. Yet you suck up to a Senator by announcing "suspicious circumstances" around his son's obvious suicide.

GRAVELY

Backstrom's call, Chief.

They both see Backstrom walking towards them, eating a donut, clad in his poncho. Backstrom must pick his way between uniformed cops who do not budge -

CHIEF ANNA HOLT

Backstrom and I were partnered up in Homicide for three years. Handled correctly, he's a freakily good investigator. But one day I missed work because I had the flu and Backstrom told the Mayor that he had - and I quote, -- lying Slavic eyes..

(MORE)

Green (03/26/2013)

BACKSTROM

PILOT: "Dragon Slayer" 8A.

CHIEF ANNA HOLT (CONT'D)

Which is why you cannot miss a
single day of work. Everett
Backstrom is no diplomat.

GRAVELY

That's true, Chief. But he does
love a free breakfast.

Backstrom arrives. Holt grabs his donut and tosses it -

CHIEF ANNA HOLT

Backstrom, perhaps you can explain to me exactly why you suspect foul play in what is obviously a tragic suicide. It better not be free breakfast.

Oh, shit. Backstrom tries to think of a lie, then -

NIEDERMAYER (O.S.)

Det. Backstrom is correct, Chief.

Backstrom doesn't mask his delight as they all turn to see Niedermayer accompanying Toby's body as the M.E.'s attendants wheel it by -

NIEDERMAYER (CONT'D)

This is not a suicide. The boy died of a heroin overdose.

GRAVELY

Maybe he needed a little bump to calm down before--
(grabbing her throat)
-- ACK!

Niedermayer indicates the victim's nostrils. They are caked in a phlegmy-brownish goo. Same with his mouth. Pulling back eyelids reveals red eyeballs -

NIEDERMAYER

The heroin was jammed into the victim's face with enough force to scratch his corneas.

CHIEF ANNA HOLT

I'll be damned. What's your next move?

GRAVELY

Dorm room, start a canvas...

CHIEF ANNA HOLT

After Backstrom and I next-of-kin the parents.

GRAVELY

Oh, Chief, usually I do next-of-kin because--

CHIEF ANNA HOLT

This is a senator. It's gonna be
the Head of the Serious Crimes
Group who tells him the heir to the
throne is dead.

CHIEF ANNA HOLT (CONT'D)

(to Backstrom)

Lose the ugly-ass poncho and I'll
do the talking.

CUT TO:

6

OMITTED

6

*

6A

INT. MORGUE - DAY

6A

PAN ACROSS photos of Toby Percival as a boy and young man, arranged on a white sheet. Happy photos of a happy boy, athletic, proud, heartbreaking -

SENATOR TOBIAS PERCIVAL (O.S.)

Toby was born prematurely. The doctors told us his lungs were too weak and that he'd die within a few hours.

REVEAL SENATOR TOBIAS PERCIVAL

standing over the gurney upon which his son's draped body is laid out, a sheet pulled to his chin. The photos are on the boy's chest, as though the grieving father needs reassurance that this dead boy is his son. Backstrom and Niedermayer stand back respectfully -

SENATOR TOBIAS PERCIVAL (CONT'D)

But Toby proved the doctors wrong. He hollered his lungs into shape out of sheer willpower.

BACKSTROM

Doctors don't know anything.

NIEDERMAYER

Detective Backstrom and I extend our deepest condolences for the loss of your son, Senator.

SENATOR TOBIAS PERCIVAL

I'd appreciate it if there was no official confirmation of suicide until after a full autopsy. Also, you will bring in the State Police and FBI.

BACKSTROM

I'm a politician, the last thing I need is a suicide in the family.

NIEDERMAYER

In fact, sir, your son did not commit suicide.

SENATOR TOBIAS PERCIVAL

It sure has hell wasn't an accident.

NIEDERMAYER

No, sir. Homicide.

Percival looks at his dead son, heart-broken -

BACKSTROM

Your boy say anything to you about any kind of trouble?

SENATOR TOBIAS PERCIVAL

It'd be better if you asked my wife. Toby and I were not speaking.

BACKSTROM

Why?

NIEDERMAYER

Sir? Senator Percival has confirmed the victim's identity. Perhaps we could question him later?

SENATOR TOBIAS PERCIVAL

Sometimes fathers and sons stop speaking, you don't even know why.

BACKSTROM

You know why.

SENATOR TOBIAS PERCIVAL

My wife and I ... can we say I deeply disappointed my idealistic son.

BACKSTROM

You cheated.

SENATOR TOBIAS PERCIVAL

Nineteen years old, suddenly the boy is an expert on true love.

BACKSTROM

Because he fell in love, of course. Do you know with who?

SENATOR TOBIAS PERCIVAL

There was somebody. Toby refused to elaborate. Is that all?

NIEDERMAYER

Yes, sir. Again, very sorry for your loss.

Percival nods and turns back to his dead son as Backstrom and Niedermayer leave. *

*

7

EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / ULTRA-MODERN SOLARIUM - DAY

7

Backstrom exits to find Gravely waiting for him -

GRAVELY

How'd it go?

BACKSTROM

The kid recently fell in love, wouldn't give Mom a name so maybe Mexican or old or something.

GRAVELY

Sir, word of warning, this is our first dragon together and the media's gonna be all over us so--

BACKSTROM

Media's your thing.

GRAVELY

My thing is to keep this group running efficiently.

BACKSTROM

Under my direction. Now, I will direct you to search the victim's dorm room without me.

GRAVELY

First, I need you to get us permission.

BACKSTROM

From who now?

CUT TO:

8

INT. BEECH COLLEGE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

8

Backstrom and Gravely face President of the University LEYLAND EATON and General Counsel REBECCA FORRESTER -

PRESIDENT LEYLAND EATON
I am Leyland Eaton, President of
the College and this is our General
Counsel, Rebecca Forrester.

Backstrom is drawn toward a table of coffee and pastries -

GENERAL COUNSEL REBECCA FORRESTER
Regretfully, we cannot accede to
your request to search Tobias
Percival's dorm room. Campus
Security handles all cases of
student suicide.

PRESIDENT LEYLAND EATON
It's a matter of discretion. Of
course you are welcome to observe.

GRAVELY
Regretfully, Toby Percival was
murdered.

PRESIDENT LEYLAND EATON
Nonsense. Toby was Captain of the
rugby team. How many would it take
to hang him against his will?

Backstrom chooses a creamy killer pastry -

GRAVELY
Toby Percival died of a forced
heroin overdose.
(to Backstrom)
Sir? Maybe a muffin?

Reluctantly, Backstrom puts down the pastry and takes a
muffin -

BACKSTROM
My doctor Deb says sugar is a drug;
there should be a policy against it
like any other dangerous substance.

GENERAL COUNSEL REBECCA FORRESTER
If drugs were forced upon Percival
then technically the college's drug
policy is moot.

Gravely realizes that Backstrom has seemingly inadvertently
jammed his thumb into a sensitive area -

GRAVELY

Det. Backstrom didn't reference the college's drug policy. He referenced sugar.

(off their silence)

Has there been another drug incident involving heroin?

PRESIDENT LEYLAND EATON

Absolutely not.

BACKSTROM

When people say "absolutely not" they're lying.

GRAVELY

Inform your client of the penalties for impeding a homicide investigation.

Leyland looks at Forrester. Forrester nods permission -

PRESIDENT LEYLAND EATON

Heroin overdose. Three months ago. But the student recovered.

GRAVELY

The student's name, please?

Eaton leans over and whispers into Leyland's ear, then -

PRESIDENT LEYLAND EATON

We respectfully decline to divulge such sensitive information without a warrant.

GENERAL COUNSEL REBECCA FORRESTER

But of course you are welcome to search Toby's room.

PRESIDENT LEYLAND EATON

To lose as fine and noble a human being as Tobias Percival IV is beyond plausible comprehension.

BACKSTROM

With all disrespect, you ivory tower types do not understand that people who get murdered always deserve it.

Backstrom pinches just a bit of pastry before they leave.

CUT TO:

9

INT. OLD DORM BLOCK / TOBY'S DORM ROOM - DAY

9

Backstrom and Gravely stand in the doorway of Toby's room.
It's a total mess -

BACKSTROM

I'm a typical rich kid who knows
someone else will clean up my mess.

GRAVELY

This room was tossed.

They move in to look around -

GRAVELY (CONT'D)

Did you mean what you said? About
all murder victims deserving what
they get?

BACKSTROM

I mean everything when I say it.

GRAVELY

What could a nineteen year old kid
do to deserve getting murdered?

BACKSTROM

When we know that, we'll know who
killed him.

GRAVELY

(indicating)
Laptop charger, no computer...

Backstrom is looking into the closet. Gravely dials her cell -

GRAVELY (CONT'D)

The room didn't get tossed for a
computer in plain view. What were
they looking for?

BACKSTROM

Wooden hangers! There's a sign you
got too much money.

But there is one wire hanger, pulled out of shape, elongated -

GRAVELY
 (into phone)
 Nadia, I got something for you.

INTERCUT WITH:

10 INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP / INCIDENT ROOM - DAY 10

NADIA PAQUET, SCG'S civilian support, world-wise, poetic, French immigrant, cell pinned to shoulder by chin, has started a time-line of Toby's murder which stretches along one entire wall. Time of death is marked at 6am, body discovery at 6:32 am, Backstrom's arrival 7:23am - [NOTE: This timeline grows and expands with every bit of information gleaned during the investigation] -

PAQUET
 Shoot it at me.

Gravelly watches Backstrom tap around the dorm room like a blind man with the elongated wire hanger -

GRAVELY
 Just "shoot", Nadia. The college won't cough up the name of a student who OD'ed and a warrant will take days.

PAQUET
 Time frame?

Backstrom opens the window and taps the hanger around the eaves and the gables outside -

GRAVELY
 Three months.

PAQUET
 You got it, Hobbit.

They both hang up. Backstrom hooks a zipped bag -

GRAVELY
 How'd you know the hanger trick?

BACKSTROM
 I was a boy. Boys hide things.

GRAVELY
 Pretty tough to hide things from your old man, I guess.
 (off Backstrom's look)
 (MORE)

GRAVELY (CONT'D)

Your Dad's a pretty famous old-school sheriff, sir. My Dad was police too. Bull sergeant.

(then)

What'd you have to hide?

BACKSTROM

I used to make my own kites. Dad hated them.

Backstrom pulls an envelope labelled "Cass" from the bag before handing the bag over to Gravelly. He looks in the envelope. It's full of cash -

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

I got about a thousand bucks.

Amazed, Gravelly shows that the bag holds fifteen bags of brown powder (about the size of racquet balls) -

GRAVELY

I got about a pound of heroin.

BACKSTROM

I get murdered, I deserve it. Always and every time.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

11 INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP / INCIDENT ROOM - NIGHT 11

Final meeting of the day, the entire team, Gravely presiding. Backstrom is more interested in the old pizza he has found in the refrigerator than the debriefing -

GRAVELY

Theory: the murder is tied to the heroin Det. Backstrom found hidden in Tobias Percival's dorm room.

NIEDERMAYER

The operatic gesture of hanging the boy from the bridge suggests either revenge or warning.

ALMOND

Revenge? Could be the unidentified overdose victim.

PAQUET

I am still cross-referencing students who canceled their student loans with E.R. Admittance maybe that's our junkie.

GRAVELY

Toby's mother said he fell in love.

BACKSTROM

With a girl named Cass who he was ashamed of. Fat maybe. Hare-lip. What's the verdict on pizza?

NIEDERMAYER

Only thing worse than sugar is dairy.

BACKSTROM

How about anthrax, Niedermayer?

Niedermayer LAUGHS. Backstrom scrapes congealed cheese off the pizza and looks in vain for a place to put the blob -

ALMOND

The man's a grown-up, let him eat what he wants. As directed by Det. Backstrom, I questioned the Campus Security Guard. Charles Turner, 28, no priors, exemplary work record, football scholarship to U of O--

MOTO

Go Ducks!

The timeline now features Charles Turner's activities -

ALMOND

-- in 2006, injured 2007, the coach
got him a job at Beech--

BACKSTROM

Next!

GRAVELY

Forensics?

NIEDERMAYER

The heroin found in the victim's
sinal passages matches--

BACKSTROM

NEXT!

Finding nowhere to discard the cheese, Backstrom shoves it in
his mouth, totally unconsciously -

GRAVELY

The victim's laptop is missing.
His house advisor says there's a
sticker on it like this...

Paquet raises her tablet to display a sketch of a stripper-
like silhouette in Cupid wings, firing an arrow at an
exploding heart -

GRAVELY (CONT'D)

Finances?

PAQUET

Four withdrawals over the last five
weeks, totalling fifty-two
thousand, eight hundred dollars
leaving a balance of nothing-doing.

ALMOND

That's about the going rate for a
brick of heroin.

BACKSTROM

Next!

ALMOND

Narcotics says that until last year, when a task force cleaned house, heroin came onto campus through the Cambodian kitchen staff. Currently there is no conduit.

BACKSTROM

No conduit! I'm a rich kid with a pound of heroin? Where'd I get it? Forget Narcotics, I'll ask my decorator.

MOTO

Your decorator is a drug informant?

NIEDERMAYER

You have a decorator?

GRAVELY

That's it for today. We hit it again hard in the morning.

As everyone files out, Niedermayer approaches Backstrom -

NIEDERMAYER

Sir, I left a hemp bag on your desk containing an array of African teas which will help you rid your body of toxins.

BACKSTROM

Then can I eat cheese?

Niedermayer LAUGHS at Backstrom and they are out.

Gravely is pulling together her notes as Almond approaches -

ALMOND

Can we please recognize that Backstrom forced me to question a black man so he could get a free breakfast?

NIEDERMAYER

I have an alternate explanation.

Niedermayer pulls crime scene photos onto his tablet showing gawkers, cops, reporters, etc. -

Green (03/26/2013)

BACKSTROM

PILOT: "Dragon Slayer" 20A.

NIEDERMAYER (CONT'D)

Notice how Turner positions himself
away from the city cops?

ALMOND

Now he can't stand where he wants?

GRAVELY

Security Guards always insert themselves among real police.

NIEDERMAYER

Backstrom lives intensely in the moment, a higher plane of existence from which he is able to hear the universe speak. Living in the moment is also why Backstrom is unable to resist temptation or delay gratification. We have to help him with that.

ALMOND

(to Gravelly)

The last six weeks I'm told Backstrom's the boss but you're the one holding this unit together. How long are you gonna be good with that?

GRAVELY

As long as Chief Holt wants me to be good with it.

(off Almond's doubt)

Holt counts on my loyalty. I hope I can count on yours.

Almond leaves. Gravelly turns to Niedermayer -

GRAVELY (CONT'D)

You really believe in higher plane Backstrom?

NIEDERMAYER

Definitely. But I also believe that time and space are illusions so grain a'salt.

Niedermayer grins and leaves Gravelly alone.

CUT TO:

12 INT. BACKSTROM'S PLACE - NIGHT

12

Backstrom, sits in a crazy Sergio Rodrigues designer chair, chewing disconsolately on broccoli, watching GREGORY VALENTINE (late teens/early 20's, gay, whip-smart, fence/entrepreneurial crook) swap out a small sculpture on Backstrom's mantle for a vase. Backstrom's place is strangely FANTASTIC because Valentine uses it as a holding area for stolen art, counterfeit antiques, objets d'art, and acts as Backstrom's de facto decorator -

VALENTINE

Why are you eating that? It's as unnatural as a fish eating spaghetti.

BACKSTROM

Deb says I'm gonna die because I'm so big-hearted.

VALENTINE

That is hard to believe. Who's Deb?

BACKSTROM

My doctor.

VALENTINE

She's right.

BACKSTROM

She's a he.

VALENTINE

Look at you having a drag queen for a doctor! *Tres* progressive.

BACKSTROM

Why do queers make everything gay?

Backstrom indicates a rather large box of bottles -

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

Deb says no drinking or he'll fail my physical so you want my liquor?

VALENTINE

Hundred bucks?

Backstrom holds out his hand for the money -

VALENTINE (CONT'D)

Does Deb know about the gambling and prostitutes and cigars?

BACKSTROM

If it weren't for hookers, I'd never've met your Mom.

VALENTINE

I said "prostitute" not hooker.

BACKSTROM

What's the difference? Your mother was a hooker and so were you!

VALENTINE

I was a scintillating companion to older gentlemen. Whole other league.

BACKSTROM
(gloating, off 100 bucks)
You could'a had it for free.

VALENTINE
Tell Deb I'm your friend.

Backstrom takes a beer from a cooler near his chair -

BACKSTROM
A queer decorator/fence/man-companion? No thanks. Besides, you can't be my friend and my underworld connection and could we get to the main point of this visit?

VALENTINE
I asked around - a junkie tranny who was useless and a closeted DEA agent who is the exact opposite of useless in oh so many ways--

BACKSTROM
I ordered a bowl of soup, Valentine, I don't want to know how it's made.

VALENTINE
Fine! City cops forced out the Cambodians last year and a downtown meth-and-weed guy named Visser stepped into the void.

BACKSTROM
Visser. What's his system?

VALENTINE
Heroin is dead-dropped on campus, pre-cut. Visser's guy picks it up and distributes.

BACKSTROM
Who's Visser's guy?

VALENTINE
What am I, Google? Money exchanges hands off campus, the buyer is given a code word which is repeated to Visser's guy and the buyer gets his fix. That info will cost you a hundred bucks.

Green (03/26/2013)

BACKSTROM

PILOT: "Dragon Slayer" 23A.

Valentine snatches the money back from Backstrom, kisses him on the forehead, picks up his newly acquired box of liquor, and makes to leave -

VALENTINE (CONT'D)

If you go after Visser take someone who knows how to shoot a gun.

BACKSTROM

I'll take the Angel of Death.

VALENTINE

The lady cop from that liquor store
shoot-out massacre?

BACKSTROM

Three robbers call her a dyke, she
shoots 'em dead and now she's
totally at my command.

VALENTINE

You'll need her. Visser's a psycho

Valentine shuts the door. Backstrom stares at the broccoli
hatefully, crunches into it, then spits it across the room -

CUT TO:

13

INT. BACKSTROM'S PLACE - DAY

13

Backstrom sleeps exactly where Valentine left him, wearing
the same clothes. The broccoli is gone but there's a lot of
beer cans on the floor beside him and an ashtray with cigar
butts in it. His tv displays the morning news -

TV NEWS ANCHOR

*...newly installed Police Chief
Anna Holt, generally regarded as a
stop-gap appointment, faces her
first high profile homicide with
the murder of the popular son of
Senator Tobias Percival.*

Backstrom's CELL RINGS. Finally, Backstrom rouses himself
and finds the cell amongst the discarded beer cans -

BACKSTROM

What?

Backstrom cycles through the beer cans, draining off the
dregs of what he didn't get last night -

GRAVELY (OVER CELL)

It's noon.

Backstrom fails to light the sodden stump of a cigar -

BACKSTROM

'Bout time you called! I need
Narcotics to cough up background on
a drugger last name Visser.

(MORE)

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

Then ask Niedermayer if Toby's
heroin has any forensics crap on it
that gives us a dead-drop location
on campus. Then send a car to pick
me up.

GRAVELY (OVER CELL)

Why does your voice sound like
gravel?

BACKSTROM

I stayed up all night working the
case. It's called a work ethic.

He hangs up and drains the last of the beer dregs.

CUT TO:

14A INT. DINER - DAY

14A

At the counter, Backstrom hunches over what is advertised on amongst the specials as "The Full Backstrom Breakfast". NOT healthy. Niedermayer enters to sit beside Backstrom -

NIEDERMAYER

Autopsy confirms cause of death as heroin overdose. Also Toby engaged in sexual intercourse with a woman approximately an hour before he died.

BACKSTROM

How did you find me?

NIEDERMAYER

I pinged the GPS on your mobile.

BACKSTROM

Future reference, no body-fluid, forensic crap while I'm eating.

NIEDERMAYER

(off list of specials)

The unhealthiest special is named after you.

BACKSTROM

The Full Backstrom Breakfast is named after my Dad, not me.

NIEDERMAYER

Ah. So eating badly is the only way you can connect with your father.

BACKSTROM

What?

NIEDERMAYER

Old Sheriff Backstrom is a legend. Profound conflict with a saintly father would explain your addictive, self-destructive, and rebellious personality.

Backstrom leans toward Niedermayer and separates some hair on his scalp to reveal a jagged scar -

BACKSTROM

Does a saint pistol whip a ten year old kid?

NIEDERMAYER *
Sheriff Backstrom did that? *

BACKSTROM *
Dad hates me, Niedermayer. Always *
has. *

NIEDERMAYER *
Hate and love are totally the same *
energy, sir. It's how we choose to *
absorb that energy that counts. *

BACKSTROM *
You really don't mind sticking your *
nose in, do you, Niedermayer? *

NIEDERMAYER *
Bahá'u'lláh tells us, "*Do not be* *
content with showing friendship in *
words alone." *

Moto enters in a big hurry and approaches - *

BACKSTROM *
Tell Honolulu we aren't friends and *
I hate you. *

NIEDERMAYER *
Thank you, sir. *

BACKSTROM *
Don't do that. *

MOTO *
Good news, Det. Backstrom -- What's *
up, Niedermayer -- Det. Almond got *
the name of Toby Percival's ex- *
girlfriend. *

BACKSTROM *
And her name is Cass! *

MOTO *
Alyson Cox. *

BACKSTROM *
(to Moto) *
Niedermayer told you where to find *
me, right? *

MOTO *
I'd rather not say, sir. *

BACKSTROM
(to Waitress)
The Full Backstrom Breakfast is on
my friend here.

*
*
*
*

And Backstrom exits, followed by Moto, leaving Niedermayer to
pay for the Full Backstrom Breakfast

*
*

15

INT. ALYSON COX'S LIBRARY CARREL - DAY

15

Moto holds a quiet conversation with the beautiful,
pathologically cynical 20-yr-old ALYSON COX. Bored,
Backstrom clocks the environment -

ALYSON COX
Toby and I were together for less
than four months, so...

BACKSTROM
Toby dumped you for someone new
named Cass. What's her last name?

Alyson Cox bursts into tears -

MOTO
Oh, ma'am I'm sorry!

Backstrom sees a computer sporting a Cupid/Stripper sticker
firing an arrow into a broken heart -

BACKSTROM
She's faking - trying to distract
us from this.

Backstrom hands the computer to Moto, who opens it. Alyson stops crying, unembarrassed by getting caught -

ALYSON COX
Hey, you need a warrant.

MOTO
No, we don't. Stolen property.
Password please?

ALYSON COX
I have no idea. Toby must've
changed it after we broke up.

BACKSTROM
Type in "Cass". Why'd you steal
Toby's computer?

ALYSON COX
Private personal material.

MOTO
Yowza! I'll say.

Moto shows the laptop screen to Backstrom -

MOTO (CONT'D)
This individual in a sexual
situation with a boy who is not
Toby Percival.

BACKSTROM
That's a girl, Moto. You can tell
because she doesn't have a penis.

MOTO
I thought that much forest there
had to be a tree.
(*Eureka!* to Alyson)
Toby took these photos and was
blackmailing you for lesbianism.

ALYSON COX
Toby Percival blackmail? Please!
The shame Toby felt for his father
stunted his psycho-sexual
development at the adolescent
"white knight" phase.

MOTO
What's that?

Backstrom pushes Alyson's "Psych 101" textbook toward Moto -

MOTO (CONT'D)

Oh, psychology.

BACKSTROM

I'm you...

ALYSON COX

What do you mean you're me?

QUICK POP: Alyson Cox, naked, is setting up a camera for a timed photo, obscuring someone in her bed. PUSH INTO ALYSON'S POV -- turning to make out with the girl in her bed. FLASH!

BACKSTROM

Toby dumps me. To prove I'm better off without him, I send photos of me snorkeling a girl.

Backstrom is obviously correct -

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

What time did you steal Toby's computer?

ALYSON COX

I saw Toby was dead on Twitter, ran over ... say 7:30.

BACKSTROM

How did it look?

ALYSON COX

His room? Clean as ever. Like I said, White Knight. Boring Boy Scout.

MOTO

If he's such a boy scout how come he got murdered?

BACKSTROM

Everybody hates boy scouts.

CUT TO:

16 INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP - DAY

16

Moto and Backstrom enter. Moto carries the computer -

MOTO

If I was Toby and a girl sent me photos like that, I'd figure it was an invite to a threesome.

BACKSTROM

Had a lot of threesomes, Moto?

MOTO

The regular amount.

BACKSTROM

The regular amount is none.

MOTO

I was a Mixed Martial Arts fighter. We attract groupies. But I've put that behind me now, sir, to concentrate on my career in law enforcement.

BACKSTROM

You're over thirty and still in uniform. I'm you I go back to fighting and threesomes.

Moto splits; Backstrom approaches Niedermayer and Gravely who regard a projection of a satellite photo of the campus -

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

What's this?

NIEDERMAYER

Bushtits, sir. Bushtits and bushtit feces.

GRAVELY

It's a bird. The heroin showed traces of poop and feathers.

NIEDERMAYER

(off the photo))

Behold! Every bushtit feeding station on campus.

(off a heroin pen test)

Testing each station for the presence of heroin should enable us to unearth the dead drop.

BACKSTROM

Everything you say sounds like a toast to the queen.

Niedermayer finds that hilarious -

GRAVELY

Narcotics clocked Visser. First name Eugene, owns a bar in Hawthorne, dedicated scumbag.

BACKSTROM

Let's go ask Eugene if he got Toby killed.

GRAVELY

What's your plan, sir? It's not like we have any leverage.

BACKSTROM

If Visser helps us with the murder,
we'll turn a blind eye to his dope
dealing.

GRAVELY

He knows we can't do that, sir, so
not really a plan or leverage.

CUT TO:

17 INT. RIVERSIDE BAR - DAY

17

Backstrom and Gravelly with GENE VISSER, (30'S, big, biker-
tough, a career criminal.) Visser cracks a raw egg into a
boilermaker -

VISSER

The protein in the albumin bonds
with the alcohol transforming this
from a noxious libation into a
healthful concoction.

GRAVELY

Where were you yesterday morning?

VISSER

Why would I tell you?

Gravelly holds up a photo of Toby Percival. When Visser takes
it from her, Backstrom slams back Visser's boilermaker -

GRAVELY

Yesterday morning this boy got
murdered at Beech College.

VISSER

And, what? You want to eliminate
me as a suspect?

Visser sees his drink is gone -

VISSER (CONT'D)

That'll be eight bucks.

Backstrom digs through his pockets coming up with bits and
pieces of fluff and coins -

BACKSTROM

Our dilemma is, do we work you for
this murder or the drug dealing
Chinamen you replaced?

Visser digs a card out of his pocket and hands it to Gravely

GRAVELY

Cambodians. Drug-dealing
Cambodians.

GRAVELY (CONT'D)

(off card to Backstrom)

Look, Eugene has one of those slimy
drug lawyers on retainer.

Backstrom drinks Visser's second boiler maker then BELCHES -

BACKSTROM

(to Gravely)

He's right about the concoction. I
feel energized.

Annoyed, Visser pokes Backstrom in the chest -

VISSER

I'm gonna have to insist you pay
for-

Gravely reaches over and deftly dislocates Visser's finger.
It takes Visser only a moment to regain his composure. He
snatches back the lawyer's card with his good hand -

VISSER (CONT'D)

You won't be needing this. My
lawyer will find you.

Visser, wrenches his finger back into place.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

18

INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP / BACKSTROM'S OFFICE - DAY

18

Backstrom is reading a "Wellness Blog" on his computer when Gravely enters. Backstrom is indignant -

BACKSTROM

Visser lied about the egg.

GRAVELY

He lodged a police brutality complaint against me.

BACKSTROM

Visser attacked me. You responded appropriately. Punch me in the chest, leave a bruise, we'll take a photo for evidence.

GRAVELY

Thank you, sir. I appreciate you stepping forward like that.

BACKSTROM

I'll also testify that he called you a dyke and is lucky you didn't shoot him in the eye.

GRAVELY

You want the truth about that?

BACKSTROM

You didn't shoot a guy in the eye?

GRAVELY

Do your thing, sir. You're me. You go into a liquor store. There's three guys with guns! At what point between saying, "Freeze!" and all the shooting, was there time for name-calling?

BACKSTROM

That story never made sense to me because who ever heard of an angry lesbian?

Gravely smiles for the first time in weeks. Paquet enters with a print-out -

PAQUET

You should die for what you did.

GRAVELY
Me or Backstrom?

Paquet hands the print out to Gravelly -

PAQUET
E-mail from three weeks ago I found
on the victim's computer.

BACKSTROM
Signed "Cass"!

GRAVELY
Signed "Archie".

PAQUET
Archibald Danforth. A rugby boy
who dropped out of college.

GRAVELY
Dropped out. Wants Toby dead.
Could be our overdose victim.

PAQUET
He works at *Wholly Ground*.

BACKSTROM
Cemetery on Fremont.

GRAVELY
Fancy coffee shop on Lovejoy.

BACKSTROM
I'll take Almond. Rugby's a sport
and black guys got an inside edge.

Gravelly punches Backstrom in the chest. He gapes at her -

GRAVELY
Taking you up on your offer, sir.
Photo evidence against Visser.

CUT TO:

19 INT. WHOLLY GROUND COFFEE SHOP - DAY

19

Backstrom, rubbing his chest, and Almond have waylaid
uniformed barista ARCHIE DANFORTH with the printed out email -

ARCHIE DANFORTH
Yeah, I sent Toby that email.

Almond takes the boy's arm and indicates that they should head outside -

ALMOND

You got your wish. Toby's dead.

BACKSTROM

Cream and sugar?

ARCHIE DANFORTH

You don't want cream and sugar.

CUT TO:

19A

EXT. WHOLLY GROUND COFFEE SHOP - CONTINUOUS

19A

They move outside and into the adjacent alley -

ALMOND

Did Toby provide you with heroin?

ARCHIE DANFORTH

What? The drug heroin? No sir!

BACKSTROM

I do so want cream and sugar.

ARCHIE DANFORTH

Cream and sugar obscure the sensory profile of the blend.

ALMOND

You're not supposed to have sugar anyway. Or dairy. Or caffeine. Did you drop out of school because of Toby Percival?

ARCHIE DANFORTH

Yessir. Toby diminished me as man.

ALMOND

Diminished you how, exactly?

ARCHIE DANFORTH

Rugby team hazing.

ALMOND

Rugby's a team sport? I thought it was like handball.

BACKSTROM

English people call it soccer.

ARCHIE DANFORTH

Rugby is not soccer. I lodged an official complaint but the Percival family has way tons of influence and that was that.

ALMOND

The Percivals got you expelled?

ARCHIE DANFORTH

I expelled myself. Post-traumatic stress. It's a real thing.

ALMOND

For soldiers in Afghanistan, son. Not soccer players in Oregon.

BACKSTROM

What'd Toby do? Hot dog butt stuff? Super glue your boy bits together and play tug-of-war?

ALMOND

Put sugar in your coffee?

Backstrom LAUGHS. Who knew Almond had a sense of humor?

ARCHIE DANFORTH

They held me down and Toby smeared black shoe polish on my testicles.

ALMOND

(to Backstrom)

This coffee kid didn't kill nobody.

QUICK POP: Archie dressed at his locker, the team coming out of the showers, led by Toby, PUSH INTO ARCHIE'S POV - LAUGHING Toby SNAPS Archie in the face with his towel.

BACKSTROM

I'm kind of a weinie, working in a weinie coffee shop, I'm thinking how much everybody loved Toby, nobody likes me.

Almond sees how that hits home with Archie -

ALMOND

You ever see anybody besides you who didn't love Toby?

ARCHIE DANFORTH

He got slapped pretty good once.

BACKSTROM

By someone named "Cass"?

ARCHIE DANFORTH

A stripper named Cassandra. How'd you know?

ALMOND

Tobias Percival IV and a stripper?

ARCHIE DANFORTH

Private off-campus team party. There was a financial misunderstanding and the stripper slapped Toby and said her brother would break his legs.

Backstrom pulls out his phone and speed-dials, heading for the car. Almond makes to follow, then turns back to Archie -

ALMOND

Son, I been a coach, real football, not botchey-ball soccer, and I'm telling you, go back to school, get back on that team and prove to those boys, and more important prove to yourself, you aren't in any way diminished as a man. And I got black balls, son. Not any kind of handicap.

Archie blinks, the lesson landing. He sticks out his hand and shakes with Almond.

CUT TO:

20

EXT. CHINATOWN STREET CAFE - DAY

20

Moto is bringing everyone their order on a tray: Almond gets duck, Gravely, chow mein; Paquet, seafood soup; Moto, shrimp; and, finally Backstrom gets steamed vegetables -

GRAVELY

Our mysterious Cass is a stripper, name of Cassandra.

MOTO

I personally know three strippers named Cassandra. We use them as ring girls for our Mixed Martial Arts bouts.

Moto digs for his wallet and pulls out cards -

ALMOND

There's more strippers per capita in Portland than Bangkok. Half of them gotta be named Cassandra.

BACKSTROM

I ordered deep fried chicken balls.

GRAVELY

My bad, sir. Almond, you talk to Vice. I'll take the Sex Workers Union. Paquet, search on-line ads and escort services.

Backstrom snatches Moto's cards -

BACKSTROM

(to Moto)

All that fighting, how many times did you get kicked in the head?

MOTO

A few times. Why?

Backstrom holds up one of Moto's cards. It is for a stripper named "Cassandra LaStrange" and the graphic on it matches the sticker on Tobias Percival's computer -

BACKSTROM

This is why you being a uniform the rest of your life isn't beyond plausible comprehension.

MOTO

Wait. What?

ALMOND

That pretty much matches the sticker on our victim's computer.

GRAVELY

Cassandra LaStrange. *Veni, Vidi, Vagina* Strip Club. Classy.

Moto finally gets it. Almond pats him on the back -

PAQUET

Don't worry, Moto. You are a good man in a fight.

Backstrom snags one of Almond's duck legs.

CUT TO:

21 INT. VENI VIDI VAGINA STRIP CLUB / GYNECOLOGY ROW - NIGHT 21

Backstrom and Gravely watch CASSANDRA LASTRANGE (21, African-American, beautiful, vulnerable, melancholy) as she finishes up her Cupid-themed routine -

GRAVELY

Poor thing looks miserable.

BACKSTROM

I don't buy that whole "victimized stripper" theme. Lotsa girls got bad fathers; they don't end up flashing their vajayjays for a living. You know why strippers strip? Because they hate men and get off on controlling them.

Cassandra fires a suction-cup arrow into a projected heart, which splits in half.

CUT TO:

22 INT. VENI VIDI VAGINA STRIP CLUB / DRESSING ROOM - NIGHT 22

Cassandra regards a photo of Toby. She is unconvincingly putting on a hard face. Backstrom pokes around the room -

CASSANDRA

I don't know him.

Backstrom finds a photo booth series of Cassandra and Toby kissing and holds it up for Cassandra and Gravely -

BACKSTROM

He told his mommy he loves you.

Cassandra's face crumples, her heart obviously broken -

CASSANDRA

When Toby asked me out, I said "no". Like a hundred times. College boys, all they want is bragging rights, bagging a stripper.

GRAVELY

We interviewed all his friends, teammates, family ... nobody knows about you.

BACKSTROM

Toby was scared of Senator Dad.

GRAVELY

I disagree. I think Toby kept your relationship a secret so he didn't have to answer stupid questions.

BACKSTROM

Toby left you a thousand bucks. What for? Fake boobs? Abortion?

CASSANDRA

Junior college tuition.

BACKSTROM

I'm a stripper but I what I really want is to be a beautician!

CASSANDRA

Social worker. But I got debts and I didn't want Toby's money.

BACKSTROM

Unless he tucked it in your G-string.

GRAVELY

We found a pound of heroin hidden in Toby's dorm room.

BACKSTROM

Do you use? Check between her toes for puncture marks.

CASSANDRA

I don't use. And there's no way Toby had anything to do with heroin. You got that 100% wrong.

GRAVELY

Can you think of anyone who'd want to kill Toby?

CASSANDRA

No. Toby was beautiful.
(then)

Do you think the Percivals will let me come to Toby's funeral? If I got the right clothes?

BACKSTROM

I'm a senator burying my son the dope dealer. Why wouldn't I want the black stripper he was banging showing up for the tv cameras?

Cassandra shakes her head, crying again, heartbroken.

CUT TO:

23

INT. GRAVELY'S VEHICLE (TRAVELING) - NIGHT

23

Gravely drives, Backstrom snoozes in the passenger seat without a seat belt. Gravely jabs at the brakes jerking Backstrom forward into the dash -

GRAVELY

What you do is see the worst in yourself and apply it to everyone else. That's not any higher plane of existence. It's the gutter.

BACKSTROM

Did you do that on purpose?

Gravely's CELL RINGS. She answers it hands-free -

GRAVELY

Gravely.

PAQUET (OVER SPEAKER)

Cassandra LaStrange's real name is Cassandra Turner. Sister to Campus Security Officer Charles Turner.

GRAVELY

The Security Guard?

BACKSTROM

I don't see the worst in everyone.
I see the everyone in everyone.

CUT TO:

24

INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP / INCIDENT ROOM - NIGHT

24

Backstrom, Gravely, Almond, and Niedermayer watch as Paquet indicates her time-line, featuring Niedermayer's marked up satellite photo of the campus -

PAQUET

Charles Turner's patrol route took him through Toby's dorm building after the threesome girl stole the computer but before Backstrom and Gravely got there.

Niedermayer indicates his marked up campus map -

NIEDERMAYER

This bushtit feeding station tested positive for heroin. It's on Turner's patrol route. The bridge is not on his patrol route so why was he the one to find Toby's body?

BACKSTROM

Get Turner in the box. I'm a genius in the box.

GRAVELY

Get him on what charge?

ALMOND

Lying to a police officer. Turner denied knowing a "Cass".

GRAVELY

When?

NIEDERMAYER

Su Shi tells us "*Clear conscience never fears midnight knocking.*"

Backstrom is up and heading out the door -

BACKSTROM

Order sushi midnight tonight.
(to Paquet)
I need the name of the student who overdosed.

Backstrom is gone -

ALMOND

Backstrom tosses an epileptic fit and you all pretend it's dancing.

NIEDERMAYER

Backstrom embodies a very highly evolved Buddhist koan: *Chaos reveals what Order obscures.*

GRAVELY

Nadia, find our overdose victim before midnight.

CUT TO:

25

INT. BACKSTROM'S PLACE - NIGHT

25

Backstrom sits in his chair, watching the news, sipping one of Niedermayer's teas. At first he doesn't notice Paquet entering like she owns the place, a bottle of brandy in the crook of her arm -

TV NEWS ANCHOR

...In the wake of the murder of his son, Senator Percival has declined to confirm or deny that he will run for Governor, stating that he is loath to exploit personal tragedy for political capital.

PAQUET

I maybe found your Overdose Boy but I cannot confirm because he's locked up in a mountain rehab. I brought brandy, do you play chess?

BACKSTROM

Deb said I can't drink alcohol. Did you even knock?

PAQUET

Who is Deb?

BACKSTROM

My doctor.

PAQUET

I did knock, you didn't hear and if you mix cognac with Niedermayer's tea, it becomes medicinal.

Which is all the loophole Backstrom needed.

CUT AHEAD TO:

BACKSTROM & PAQUET

play chess. Paquet drinks from a snifter, Backstrom out of his teapot. They are both happily inebriated -

BACKSTROM

I'm the Head of Serious Crimes but Chief Holt had Gravely pick the team. What's with that?

PAQUET

Chief Holt knows that Gravely is brilliant with people while the idea of you building a team is totally ridiculous.

BACKSTROM

Some team! A killer dyke, a bible-thumper, a moron, a Yoga-master, and -- what are you, the Pink Panther?

PAQUET

Gravely is the Heart; Almond is the Soul; I'm the Brain--

BACKSTROM

I'm the Brain!

Paquet makes her next chess move confidently -

PAQUET

I am the Brain. Moto is the Muscle. Niedermayer is the Third Eye.

BACKSTROM

What am I? The rectum? Checkmate.

PAQUET

You play like a child. You strike out alone, leaving all support behind, ignoring your own defense. This chess set is worth twenty thousand dollars. Some of these other pieces are worth a fortune. Are you wealthy, Det. Backstrom, or are you very, very naughty?

BACKSTROM

I can't have sex with you.

PAQUET

Because your poor health gives you plumbing problems?

BACKSTROM

No!

PAQUET

You know I am a civilian employee so there are no police rules about fraternization, right?

Green (03/26/2013)

BACKSTROM

PILOT: "Dragon Slayer" 43A.

Backstrom shows Paquet his "prescription" while drinking directly from his tea pot -

PAQUET (CONT'D)

Dr. Deb prescribed you a friend?
What kind of doctor says stop
drinking but make friends? This is
a mixed message.

BACKSTROM

Friends can't have sex. Everybody
knows that.

PAQUET

Oh, you require me for a medicinal
friend? I accept the challenge!

They drink again -

BACKSTROM

But you would have gone for the
full Backstrom package?

PAQUET

Sadly, the moment has passed and we
will never know.

Backstrom's CELL BEEPS. He has to concentrate to read it,
then shows it to Paquet -

BACKSTROM

Gravely and Almond arrested Turner
and I'm drunk-ass drunk.

PAQUET

With your permission, I will
administer a Corsican folk remedy.

BACKSTROM

OK. Thank you.

Paquet SLAPS Backstrom across the face as hard as she can,
knocking him right out of his chair.

CUT TO:

26

INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP / INTERROGATION ROOM - NIGHT

26

The wee hours. Backstrom sits across from Turner, eye
swollen, hair wet from a cold shower and guzzling his fourth
cup of scalding coffee, as promised, mostly sober -

BACKSTROM

I'm on a jury. I hear about the
murder of a senator's son.

(MORE)

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

A white boy who's bumping fuzzies
with a black drug dealer's stripper
sister. Now who do you think I'm
going to convict of that homicide?
The Senator?

CHARLES TURNER

I'm not a drug dealer.

Backstrom flips over a photo of a long-haired 18yr old boy
and pushes it across the table to Turner -

BACKSTROM

Recognize this kid?

CHARLES TURNER

Absolutely not!

INTERCUT WITH:

27

INT. SERIOUS CRIMES GROUP - CONTINUOUS

27

Almond and Gravely watch on a monitor, exchange looks -

ALMOND

C'mon, the "absolutely not" rule
can't be true every time.

BACKSTROM

He says you provided him with
heroin.

Backstrom produces a photo of a bush-tit feeding station -

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

I'm also going to charge you with
endangering bush-tits ... we got
witnesses that you tossed Toby's
dorm room ... we know everything.

GRAVELY

Backstrom does not shirk from lying
to suspects.

Turner feels more and more pushed into a corner -

BACKSTROM

The question you're asking yourself
right now -- the answer is lethal
injection.

CHARLES TURNER

I didn't kill Toby. That's the truth.

BACKSTROM

I don't care about the truth; I care about getting convictions.

CHARLES TURNER

That boy loved my sister. He gave her all his money so she could pay her debts so she could quit stripping.

BACKSTROM

What debts? Glitter? Suction cup arrows?

CHARLES TURNER

She owed Visser for getting her dancing career going.

GRAVELY

Visser owns the whole damn family.

CHARLES TURNER

Visser sees the Golden Goose, bleeds Toby dry. Once his money is gone, Cass expects Toby to quit on her but somehow Toby figures out what I do for Visser, hijacks the stash from the bird nest, tells me, "Set up a meet with Visser."

BACKSTROM

I'm you, wondering if Toby's gonna save my sister...

QUICK POP: Visser and Toby approach each other on the bridge, Turner holding back, watching, PUSH INTO TURNER'S POV Toby and Visser approach each other.

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

I watch to see how it plays out.

CHARLES TURNER

No, Visser told me to go find the rest of his heroin.

BACKSTROM

I'm Toby, I bring a bag of heroin to show Visser I'm serious.

QUICK POP: Toby and Visser. PUSH INTO TOBY'S POV: He holds up the heroin, Visser grabs the heroin

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)
I'm Visser facing a boy. I could break a few bones, make the boy give me my heroin -- but I kill him instead. But why?

QUICK POP: Toby, holding up the heroin, and Visser grabs it. PUSH INTO VISEER'S POV: Toby, scared, is holding a gun

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)
The stupid kid brought a gun.

Turner is amazed that Backstrom figured that out -

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)
If you don't tell me what you saw, I'll charge you with the murder.

QUICK POP: Turner watches as Visser LAUGHS and attacks Toby, jamming the heroin into his face. In seconds Toby is dead, the gun falling from his hands, his body limp. It's over.

CHARLES TURNER
Like you said. Toby pulls this revolver. Visser laughs, jams the junk in the boy's face and ... Toby kicks but once.
(then)
I didn't stay for the hanging.

UP MUSIC: "TAKE 5" by The Portland Cello Project.

ALMOND
A raisin in popcorn, Backstrom called Turner. A raisin in popcorn.

Almond is disgusted with the world.

CUT TO:

Music continues over

Moto is on point with a shotgun. Gravely, with an assault weapon is next followed by Almond. Backstrom heads around back.

CUT TO:

29 INT. RIVERSIDE BAR - CONTINUOUS

29

Music continues over...

Visser is taking money from Bad Guy #1 as Moto comes through the door. There are a couple of early drinkers who pose a threat to no one but the Bartender is one of Visser's tough guys and snatches up a shotgun.

Moto shoots at the Bartender, who dives for cover.

Visser has a handgun. Gravely raises her weapon but cannot bring herself to fire. Bad Guy #1 shoots Gravely in the body armor and she goes down. Almond pulls Gravely to cover. Moto, frustrated because the Bartender could spray them all with his shotgun, hollers at Almond to keep the Bartender down. Moto slides along the bar shoots Bad Guy #1, killing him.

Visser heads toward the back door. Bad Guy #2 fires at Almond.

The Bartender stands up with his shotgun and Moto kicks him in the head.

A moment of silence before Bad Guy #2 fires at Moto, who responds by advancing on him firing his weapon. Bad Guy #2 gets the point and tosses out his gun, surrendering. Moto will hold him prisoner.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. RIVERSIDE BAR - CONTINUOUS

30

Music continues over ...

Backstrom at the back door. Visser bursts out. The two men collide. Both guns go flying. Both men struggle to get their guns. Visser is faster but the finger that Gravely dislocated slows him down because he has to switch hands.

Backstrom FIRES just before Visser does, striking Visser in the throat.

Backstrom realizes what he's done -

BACKSTROM

I'm sorry. Oh, God, I'm so sorry.

Backstrom reaches out for Visser but Visser falls into the river, sinking slowly out of sight, swept away. Backstrom looks to see that he's been shot in the arm.

He sits down on the edge of the bank regarding his bloody hand holding the gun. He drops the gun, horrified. The river rolls on by, leaving Backstrom alone as SIRENS SOUND. He puts his head in his hands.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

31 INT. BACKSTROM'S PLACE - NIGHT

31

Backstrom sits in his chair, brooding. He hasn't slept. He gets up and leaves.

CUT TO:

32 EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / THE WOODEN BRIDGE - DAY 32

Another cold wet morning. Backstrom, unlit stogie in his mouth, stares at the crime scene, then down at a print-out of Niedermayer's map of the college -

CUT TO:

33 EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / THE POND - DAY 33

Backstrom stands on the edge of the pond. He seems to be alone, brooding, until -

GRAVELY

Backstrom? By any measure Toby Percival was a great kid. Do you still think he deserved to die?

BACKSTROM

Rich boy pulls a gun on a career criminal but doesn't shoot? He got exactly what he deserved.

Gravelly stares at him for a moment -

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

What?

GRAVELY

(mimicking Backstrom)

I'm you ... a selfish, lazy man. My case is closed, the bad guy's dead, they're giving me a medal, but I keep digging, why?

BACKSTROM

Toby had a revolver, Gravelly. Where is it? Where's your professional cop pride?

GRAVELY

(still mocking Backstrom)

Is it my professional cop pride? Is it because I have a driving need to seek out the truth? No! It's because I can't stand the thought of someone outsmarting me.

For once, Backstrom is taken aback and silenced and Gravelly knows she has hit upon a version of the truth.

A diver rises from the pond. In his hand he holds a .38 revolver. He removes his mask. It's Niedermayer -

Salmon (04/05/2013)

BACKSTROM

PILOT: "Dragon Slayer" 51A.

NIEDERMAYER

*For him I am not lost; And he is
not lost for me.*

BACKSTROM

I hate Niedermayer.

GRAVELY

Niedermayer says love and hate are the same energy; it's how you receive it that matters. The more hate you throw at Niedermayer, the more love he feels.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. BEECH COLLEGE / ATOP THE WOODEN BRIDGE - DAY 34

Standing at the back of Niedermayer's vehicle, Niedermayer, still in a wet suit, presents his findings to Backstrom and Gravelly -

NIEDERMAYER

This gun is fully loaded. The trigger was pulled twice but misfired both times.

GRAVELY

Toby shot at Visser twice?

BACKSTROM

How do you know?

Niedermayer shows them two of the bullets -

NIEDERMAYER

The firing pin has been filed so that it barely dimples the cartridge. Called a soft strike.

GRAVELY

Visser laughed when Toby pulled the gun. He knew it wouldn't fire.

BACKSTROM

Visser killed the boy but someone else murdered him.

CUT TO:

35 INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS / JAIL VISITING - DAY 35

BACKSTROM'S POV - CASSANDRA & CHARLES TURNER

Cassandra talks to her brother. Charles Turner is obviously distraught. Cassandra is reassuring him, seemingly in vain.

BACKSTROM

watches as Charles and Cassandra Turner make their good-byes before Cassandra approaches Backstrom, upset and vulnerable, tears in her eyes -

CASSANDRA

The District Attorney has decided to go for the death penalty even though Charles didn't kill anyone.

BACKSTROM

When someone is killed in the commission of a felony, anyone involved in the felony can be charged with homicide.

CASSANDRA

But Charles cooperated.

BACKSTROM

Let's go somewhere we can talk.

CUT TO:

36

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS / ROOF - DAY

36

Backstrom and Cassandra stand in the shadow of Mt. Hood -

CASSANDRA

Can you help my brother?

BACKSTROM

I don't want to help him.

CASSANDRA

(shocked)
Why?

BACKSTROM

How many times did you and Visser make this play before? Rich college kid falls in love with stripper -- *oh, poor me trapped in a life I never chose!* -- other boys quit after you bled them dry. But not Toby.

INTERCUT WITH:

37

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS STAIRWELL - CONTINUOUS

37

Gravely and Almond watch a hidden camera on a laptop -

ALMOND

This gonna be admissible?

GRAVELY

There's no reasonable expectation of privacy at Police Headquarters, so yeah.

ALMOND

Your idea?

Gravely won't take the credit, but yes -

CASSANDRA

Why are you so mean?

BACKSTROM

I'm a soft boy pretending to be a hard man. I need a gun. Do I ask my Dad the anti-gun Senator? The guys on my rugby team who are afraid of shoe polish? No, I ask my lowlife stripper girlfriend. And where does she get a gun? From her boyfriend the lowlife drug dealer.

CASSANDRA

You're making that up.

BACKSTROM

You loaded the gun. We found your fingerprints on the bullets.

Cassandra considers, then drops into her Damsel-In-Distress mode, mocking Backstrom, tears springing to her eyes -

CASSANDRA

Yeah, I bought Toby the gun. But only because I was afraid for his life! I didn't know it was broken.

BACKSTROM

How do you know now?

ALMOND

I'll be damned.

Gravely heads off, pulling her handcuffs -

CASSANDRA

You're a racist pig who hates women. I lost the boy I love. Who do you think people will believe?

BACKSTROM

I'm a stripper who sends the boy
who loves her to his death. Why do
I hate him so much? Because there
was this moment when he made me
believe in him. True Love! White
Knights!

**QUICK POP: Toby and Cassandra in the stripper dressing room.
Cassandra is handing him a gun. He takes it. PUSH INTO
CASSANDRA'S POV as she embraces Toby. She catches a glimpse
of her own teary face in the mirror, then shuts her eyes.**

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

But someone as rotten as me can't
have that kind of faith in another
person.

Cassandra gapes at Backstrom for a moment because she cannot
understand how he could possibly know such a secret truth -

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

I stood on the cusp of an
extraordinary life and I chose the
wrong path.

**QUICK POP: Toby and Cassandra pull apart. He kisses her.
PUSH INTO CASSANDRA'S POV. Toby moves away jauntily, looking
over his shoulder and smiling before disappearing into the
dark hallway. Cassandra sees her own hard, cruel face in
another mirror.**

Backstrom utters the profound sadness of his own life -

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)

Like everybody always does.

Cassandra slips her mask to reveal the reptile within -

CASSANDRA

Men comes in two flavors. Nice and
stupid, like my brother and Toby;
smart and awful, like you and
Visser.

Gravely approaches Cassandra, handcuffs at the ready -

GRAVELY

Cassandra Turner, you are under
arrest for the homicide of Tobias
Percival.

CASSANDRA
I didn't kill Toby.

Gravely handcuffs Cassandra -

GRAVELY
You bought a gun for Tobias
Percival so that he could blackmail
Eugene Visser. Blackmail's a
felony.

BACKSTROM
Even when a White Knight blackmails
a drug dealing murderer.

GRAVELY
You have the right to remain
silent. Anything you say can and
will be held against you...

CUT TO:

38 INT. POLICE ASSOCIATION HEALTH BUILDING / OFFICE - DAY 38

Backstrom, clad again in his boxers, is having his wound
bandage re-applied by Dr. Deb Chaman -

DR. DEB CHAMAN
Your liver tells me you have not
quit drinking.

BACKSTROM
Drinking saved my life.
(off Chaman's confusion)
My partner dislocated the bad guy's
trigger finger because he assaulted
me after I drank his boilermaker.
Slowed him down enough to save my
life. Plus, in my defense it had an
egg in it!

Backstrom starts pulling on his clothes again -

BACKSTROM (CONT'D)
Look, Deb, I'm drinking African tea
and eating vegetables...

DR. DEB CHAMAN
And you filled my prescription.

Backstrom has no idea what Deb is talking about so Deb shows Backstrom a very official signed affidavit by Nadia Paquet accompanied by a photo of Paquet -

DR. DEB CHAMAN (CONT'D)
*I, Dr. Nadia Paquet, swear that
Everett Backstrom and I play chess
and drink herbal tea together. We
are true friends.*

BACKSTROM
We don't sleep together. She's
some kind of genius.

DR. DEB CHAMAN
The first statement proves the
second.

A peremptory KNOCK, the door opens and Valentine enters -

VALENTINE
What's taking so long? I started
to worry you died in here.

DR. DEB CHAMAN
Who are you?

Valentine extends his business card to Deb -

VALENTINE
Gregory Valentine, antiques,
collectables, objets d'art--

BACKSTROM
Look at this place, Valentine. Deb
is not one of your rich doctors,
leave him alone.

VALENTINE
You done? I have a schedule.

BACKSTROM
Go! I told you, I want to walk
anyways.

VALENTINE
Right. Walk. For exercise.

Valentine starts to leave, then -

VALENTINE (CONT'D)

Hey, Dr. Deb, you fail Backstrom in his job, he has no reason to get healthy, he's dead in a year. Something to cogitate upon:

And Valentine leaves -

DR. DEB CHAMAN

This young man ... I see a resemblance. Are you related?

BACKSTROM

No. You gonna pass me or not?

DR. DEB CHAMAN

We'll talk next week.

BACKSTROM

What, I gotta see you every week?

DR. DEB CHAMAN

Yes. I am giving you only a provisional reprieve.

BACKSTROM

I'm a Hindu. I believe we die and come back to live again. So why am I a doctor? What's with my obsession with keeping people alive. It's because I know that reincarnation is crap; we have one life and it's meaningless. I'm terrified of dying.

DR. DEB CHAMAN

And you aren't?

BACKSTROM

Absolutely not!

And Backstrom leaves.

CUT TO:

39

EXT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - DAY

39

Backstrom exits in his poncho into the crowds of cops. He doesn't notice but we do -- this time the cops move out of the way. Backstrom lights a stogie and moves off into the rain.

END OF STORY