

THE G.O.A.T  
Season 1, Episode 8  
"Twi-Night Double Header"

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TITLE: TWI-NIGHT DOUBLE HEADER

FADE IN.

INT. HAROLD GRAY'S OFFICE - DAY

Harold Gray sits behind his desk. The two chairs are taken by Alvin Huebner and Vernon Howell. Towering before them is Cam Kendrick.

GRAY

We're gonna have to pull you from the pitching rotation.

Kendricks isn't happy.

KENDRICKS

Why?

GRAY

You seen the numbers on your last three outings?

Kendricks shakes his head.

GRAY (CONT'D)

Brutal. Like minor league brutal.

KENDRICKS

I was a little under the weather, I'm better now.

GRAY

You can work out with Howell and when he says you're ready, you can pitch again.

Howell nods.

KENDRICKS

If I can't pitch, then I don't hit.

Huebner turns and looks at him.

GRAY

Sorry you feel that way. Huebner, start Pulsipher at first.

Nobody responds.

GRAY (CONT'D)

Dismissed.

Kendricks stares at him for a moment, then leaves. Huebner shakes his head, but bites his tongue.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - DAY

SUPER: Game 1, First Inning

The Statesmen host the Philadelphia Porters, but the game hasn't started yet. Reporter Sharon Alligood stands on the field interviewing pitcher Melvin Rodgers.

ALLIGOOD

Hi, Melvin, this must be an exciting time for you: Rejoining a team that has won 95 games and JUST missed another 20-win month by going 19-8. Now you're starting the first half of a twi-night double header. That's got to be a swirl of emotions. Tell us what you're feeling...

RODGERS

Man, I can't even begin to tell you how excited I am. This team has been doing amazing things and it's amazing to be a part...

In the stands, two of the B\*stards of Section B, Mitch and Rhett, watch Alligood on the NBS pre-game festivities.

MITCH

What the hell's a twi-night double header?

RHETT

This is.

MITCH

What is?

RHETT

A double header, right?

Mitch nods.

RHETT (CONT'D)

First game starts in the light, second game starts in the night.

MITCH

You think it's gonna rain today?

RHETT  
Looks like it might.

RICHARD  
Probably not. Those clouds are  
moving away.

If you squint, you can see it.

CUT TO:

Rodgers stands on the mound. Pulsipher got the start at first base. The first batter is CHOMSKY and Rodgers has a 1-2 count. He pitches, the bottom drops out, Chomsky swings away. One out.

CUT TO:

The second batter is WYETH. He has a 2-2 count. Rodgers throws a fastball and Wyeth chops it to second. Derrick Speck easily fields it and throws to Pulsipher for the second out.

CUT TO:

BACON stands at the plate. Rodgers throws another fast ball. Bacon pops it up to first and Pulsipher easily gets the third out.

Rodgers pumps a fist as he runs off the field.

OPENING CREDITS.

INT. RECORDING STUDIO

SUPER: DC Statesmen/"Get That Ring"/RevEx Records

The whole DC Statesmen team, except for Conan Jones and Albert Whaley, stands on stage. They're in uniform, wearing sunglasses and dancing awkwardly in unison with an old school rap beat.

## WHOLE TEAM

We wear the red, white and blue/Get  
out of our way, we're coming  
through/We've got the others on the  
run/And we won't stop until we're  
done/Get that ring/Get that  
ring/Get that ring/We know we're  
good, some say we're great/So bring  
on the Smashers and the Ghosts/Los  
Angeles, Texas and the Blues/We'll  
beat them AND the other 22/Don't  
you make us mad Mr. McGee/We'll  
just go on a scoring spree

## LOMBARDI

I'm Stan Lombardi and I'm back  
again/I carry the lumber, I'm here  
to bust/I'm like justice and you  
can't touch us

## PITTS

They call me Ronnie Pitts and I got  
the hits/I can't sing and my  
dancing ain't pretty/But I'll do my  
best for the capitol city

## WHOLE TEAM

We wear the red, white and blue/Get  
out of our way, we're coming  
through/We've got the others on the  
run/And we won't stop until we're  
done/Get that ring/Get that  
ring/Get that ring

## SPECK

I'm Derrick Speck and I got lots to  
say/I back it up by the way I play

## BRITO

My name's Alfredo Brito, I'm the  
man/I'm the best in the biz with my  
backhand/You think you will, no you  
won't/Try to hit it up the middle,  
your ass is smoke

## PURVIS

I'm the man they call Chaka  
Purvis/I'm not XXX but I am real  
dirty

## WHEELER

My name is Wheeler and I wish you  
would/We're so bad, we know we're  
good

## DELAROSA

They call me Delarosa and I like to  
dance/You step up to the plate and  
you're gonna fan

## WHOLE TEAM

We wear the red, white and blue/Get  
out of our way, we're coming  
through/We've got the others on the  
run/And we won't stop until we're  
done/Get that ring/Get that  
ring/Get that ring

## YOUNGBLOOD

I like running real fast, I'm world  
class/My name is Clint and I've  
never been last/I'm the funky  
pitcher known as Youngblood/Never  
throw slow, never throw a dud

## BISHOP

What's up y'all, it's Savoy  
Bishop/I'm the big bad catcher  
that'll help you win

## PULSIPHER

My name's Winston, they call me the  
pulse/If they don't name me a  
starter/I'll get up early every  
day/And I'll try a whole lot harder

## KENDRICKS

I'm Cam Kendricks, you know my  
name/Rookie year, but it's still my  
game

## BENNETT

They say Kendricks, Kendricks, he's  
our man/If he can't do it, I sure  
can/My name is Gus, strong as a  
bus/You wanna win it.../Uh Oh,  
better get Bennett

## WHOLE TEAM

We wear the red, white and blue/Get  
out of our way, we're coming  
through/We've got the others on the  
run/And we won't stop until we're  
done/Get that ring/Get that  
ring/Get that ring

SUPER: DC Statesmen/"Get That Ring"/RevEx Records

INT. SPORTS CENTRAL STUDIO

Sports Central starts up with lots of whooshes and flags and sports images and bald eagles and such.

This leads us to the very futuristic and busy Sports Central set. Blue is the dominant color. At the desk are Inesta Morgan and Major Sumrell.

INESTA

Welcome back.

MAJOR

We thank you for watching Sports Central.

INESTA

It's fitting THAT video would debut on National Hot Dog Day.

MAJOR

It's a dog alright. Unlike my most recent date with my esteemed co-host.

Inesta smiles.

INESTA

"Get That Ring" is as bad as the lasagna at the Italian restaurant Major took me to last night. Despite the reputation Vito's Mama's Place has, I can't endorse it.

Major laughs.

MAJOR

"Get That Ring" is as bad a song as Inesta is good at dinner conversation.

INESTA

"Get That Ring" is as bad as if the "Super Bowl Shuffle" was performed by the trolls on my Instagram.

MAJOR

"Get That Ring" is as bad as that part of Twitter where Russian bots lead our conversations on race.

INESTA

"Get That Ring" is as bad...

The crawl at the bottom of the screen shows the following messages, on a loop:

CRAWL "Black Sheep Contingent headlines Lollapalooza"

CRAWL "All travel to Puerto Rico suspended"

CRAWL "President Winfrey makes appearance at Iowa State Fair on hottest day in state history"

CRAWL "Rogen takes PGA Championship in playoff"

CRAWL "Sturgis Motorcycle Rally declared superspreader event for 7th consecutive year"

CRAWL "VA Secretary Tim Whitman reported missing."

CRAWL "Japan tops U.S. Southeast team in Little League World Championship"

INT. NBS NEWS STUDIO

Jeffrey Brack sits in the NBS News Studio, which is a lot less busy and more professional than the Sports Central set. Blue is still the dominant color, although it's softer here.

BRACK

We come to you on a grim night in American history. Puerto Rico is, today, the site of a coup, with pro-independence forces claiming the capitol in a relatively bloodless takeover. Joining us now is the White House Senior Strategist David Lynch. Thank you for joining us tonight...

DAVID LYNCH is a man in his 70s with odd white hair and a suit with no tie, but the shirt still buttoned at the neck.

LYNCH

Thank you for having me, Jeffrey...

INT. PDDC BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Captain Alex Levin leads the briefing. Only PDDC officers are in the room and the doors are locked.



LEVIN

At this point, I can't caution you enough that our most important tool right now is command of information. Any leaks related to ANY of the cases we discuss in this or any other closed briefings will not only result in termination, but prosecution. Are we clear?

Grumbles of assent.

LEVIN (CONT'D)

I am DEAD fucking serious. Are we clear?

ALL

Yes, ma'am!

LEVIN

That's better.

Cody and Eversmith exchange a look of concern.

LEVIN (CONT'D)

First off, we have a full lockdown at the most recent murder scene.

EVERSMITH

Except for the civilians and press who got there first.

LEVIN

A full lockdown SINCE then. And, anyway, we collected ALL devices from the few people who made it there before we did. No photographic evidence escaped the scene and those who WERE present were told that what was being filmed was a movie directed by Roy Hobbs. And if they sign release forms, they'll all be credited and paid once the film is released. In a few months, we'll follow up with apology letters that Hobbs pulled out and the film is canceled. So we've got a handle on the evidence. Is that clear?

Eversmith nods.

LEVIN (CONT'D)

The public is unaware of this latest, and largest, crime scene. The media is unaware of our failed attempt to apprehend Clifford Byars, as well. He remains at large and is considered armed and a danger to anyone he comes into contact with.

Tucker chuckles. Cody notices and stares at him. Tucker sees her. He winks.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - DAY

SUPER: Game 1, Third Inning

Savoy Bishop stands at the plate, facing the Philadelphia pitcher, BOYLE. Boyle throws and the pitch is outside. The count is now 3-1.

Bishop takes a few practice swings and steps back into the box. Boyle pitches and the ball is low and inside. Bishop tosses his bat and walks to first.

Huebner walks away from the other coaches and sits near bench coach Craig Glover. He speaks in a low voice, so others can't hear.

HUEBNER

What's going on?

GLOVER

Not much. Watching the game.

HUEBNER

No, I mean in the bigger picture. What's going on around here?

Glover shrugs.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)

This stuff all seem normal to you?

GLOVER

It's strange. I've seen stranger.

HUEBNER

So have I. Doesn't mean it's okay.

GLOVER

What you saying?

HUEBNER

Maybe somebody should do something about it?

Beat.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)

Maybe WE should do something about it?

GLOVER

Action IS good.

HUEBNER

You ready to take action?

Glover shrugs.

GLOVER

Let's just say I'm paying attention.

Huebner is a bit frustrated.

HUEBNER

But, what I'm trying to say--

Glover points towards the action on the field. Huebner is miffed at first, but turns and watches.

Boyle has an 0-2 count on Winston Pulsipher. He throws a fastball, but Pulsipher is ready and he drives it into the gap. Phil Lombardi scores. Ronnie Pitts scores. Bishop scores. The Statesmen are up 3-0.

In the dugout, Gray walks over to Langwieler.

GRAY

What's Pulsipher hitting this month?

LANGWIELER

Give me a second.

He scratches out some numbers in his notes.

LANGWIELER (CONT'D)

.423.

Gray spits. He walks over to Huebner.

GRAY

Whaley even call you today? Send you an e-mail?

Langwieler shakes his head.

Gray spits.

INT. THE PINCH - DAY

Shirley Muldoon sits alone at a table, working on her laptop. Annie tends bar. Dan brings Shirley a bowl of Quack and Mac.

DAN

Can I get you anything else?

SHIRLEY

Not now. Thanks.

Shirley sits so that no one else can see her laptop screen. She has an empty blog post open, it's for a blog called "From the Potomac." She starts typing.

SHIRLEY (V.O.)

This is a blog post I wish I didn't have to write. But the truth is too important to leave buried.

Shirley thinks for a second, then types some more.

SHIRLEY (V.O.)

During the hottest summer in the history of the nation's capitol, we are plagued with vandalism, violence and grisly murder, all perpetrated by a Satanic cult.

In big bold red type, Shirley types "The Order of the Crimson Ram."

SHIRLEY (V.O.)

Far from some urban legend, the Order of the Crimson Ram is a real organization, founded by Holmes Mudgett in 1896, the Order started out as a fraternal organization not unlike the Freemasons or Elks.

Shirley inserts a picture of the Crimson Ram logo.

SHIRLEY (V.O.)

But around the time of the second World War, the organization radicalized, rejected mainstream society and embraced anarchy, something they say the existence of world wars proves is the dominant force in society.

Shirley inserts a link to a "U.S. Today" article about the murders.

SHIRLEY (V.O.)

And while information about the cult is scarce in the years since, we do know that they have been active recently on the East Coast. At this point, evidence shows that the Order of the Crimson Ram is connected to more than 30 deaths or disappearances in the D.C. area and two more in Florida.

Shirley inserts a link to a "Florida Times" article about the deaths of Nellie and Ben Pitezal.

SHIRLEY (V.O.)

The scary thing is that it is likely this is just the tip of the iceberg and it could be the beginning of a sustained campaign against the people of the United States. It's long past time that law enforcement and the media do their jobs and make public safety priority number one. Our lives depend on it.

INT. CHAD'S HOUSE - LATER

Shirley walks into Chad's room and takes a seat.

SHIRLEY

Did you see it?

CHAD

The blog? Yeah. Nice writing.

SHIRLEY

Thanks. You find anything?

She gestures to the pile of printed documents, which are spread across his desk in various piles.

CHAD  
I sure did.

Chad hands her several documents, all police reports on different incidents.

SHIRLEY  
What are these?

CHAD  
Police reports. From crime scenes.

SHIRLEY  
All submitted by the same officer.  
Bill Tucker.

CHAD  
I cross-referenced those three cases with public accounts and social media posts.

Shirley nods as she continues reading.

CHAD (CONT'D)  
In each case, Tucker was accused of excessive force or questionable tactics used to obtain evidence.

SHIRLEY  
Standard PDDC.

CHAD  
All the accusers are Black.

Shirley flips through the files.

SHIRLEY  
Is it only these three?

Chad shrugs.

CHAD  
I've only started going through them. There's likely more.

SHIRLEY  
Hand me that stack. I'll help.

Chad hands her a stack of documents.

CHAD  
That's not all.

Shirley looks up at him.

CHAD (CONT'D)

These documents have been expanded  
on once a week for the past three  
months.

SHIRLEY

Meaning?

CHAD

Meaning there are probably going to  
be more added. In exactly...

He looks down at a notepad filled with scribbled words and  
numbers. Ideas.

CHAD (CONT'D)

...one week.

INT. JAMELLE LEWIS' OFFICE - DAY

Ashley Hernandez sits across from Jamelle Lewis. Lewis is  
stone-faced. Hernandez interlaces her fingers awkwardly over  
a crossed knee.

LEWIS

So what's the deal with the  
ThunderBrew commercial?

HERNANDEZ

I had Legal check the contracts. I  
checked them myself. There were no  
exclusivity clauses.

LEWIS

So what happened, then?

HERNANDEZ

I don't know WHAT I could've  
missed. I was thorough.

Lewis crosses her arms and stares at Hernandez.

LEWIS

Then why are we here?

HERNANDEZ

I don't know. I don't understand.  
There was no way I could've known  
that Kendricks couldn't do those  
ads.

LEWIS

That's all there is to it?

Hernandez isn't sure.

HERNANDEZ  
I... I think so.

LEWIS  
You THINK so?

HERNANDEZ  
Yeah... yes. But I'll double check.  
Again. Can I get ALL the contracts?

LEWIS  
Sure, get them from Ms. Richardson.

HERNANDEZ  
I'll do that today. Right away.

LEWIS  
I don't care about whatever you're  
trying to prove, just kill those  
ads. You get me?

Hernandez nods.

LEWIS (CONT'D)  
Kill 'em dead.

INT. MARY BILLUPS' OFFICE - DAY

Alton Nix sits across from Mary Billups. Billups holds a notepad and is checking off a list of questions as Nix answers them.

BILLUPS  
You've done ALL due diligence with  
Kendricks?

Nix nods.

NIX  
Yes. I know as much as is possible  
to know about him.

BILLUPS  
You know where he's from?

NIX  
Akron.

BILLUPS  
He was born there?



Nix shrugs.

NIX  
No birth certificate. But all  
records lead to Akron.

BILLUPS  
Family?

Nix shakes his head.

BILLUPS (CONT'D)  
Friends? Co-workers?

NIX  
Not really. A few former opponents.

BILLUPS  
Opponents?

NIX  
He used to be a boxer. Pretty good  
amateur. 10-0. He had a promising  
future, but quit.

BILLUPS  
Why?

NIX  
Not sure. I presume it was family  
problems.

BILLUPS  
You ask Kendricks?

NIX  
That isn't even his real name.

BILLUPS  
What?

NIX  
Apparently, he was born Dan Cooper.  
Changed his name right after he  
turned 18.

BILLUPS  
And that didn't turn up anything  
else strange?

Nix pauses, then clears his throat.

NIX

Look, you can continue to grill me like this, but Kendricks is on the up and up. I've believed it from the start...

Billups raises an eyebrow.

NIX (CONT'D)

...and all the evidence backs that up.

BILLUPS

Except his performance on the field. Which continues to be unprecedented.

NIX

He's passed every test.

Beat.

BILLUPS

Don't care. I want more tests. LOTS more.

Nix frowns.

INT. MAYA MARIN'S HOUSE - DAY

MAYA MARIN, a Mexican-American woman in her late 20s, sits on her couch. She watches Entertainment News Network, with Reporter Rachel Brosh.

BROSH

My sources suggest this POWER couple is going to be one for the ages. Be prepared to hear more about Cam and Tina for years to come...

Marin scoffs.

MARIN

What the hell are you talking about? This is some bullshit.

She picks up the phone and dials Tina Warren.

MARIN (CONT'D)

Hey. I'm watching this ENN bullshit...

Beat.

MARIN (CONT'D)  
 Exactly. Don't worry. I got this.  
 Let me make some calls.

In the background, ENN continues.

BROSH  
 Our next story is about a mother's  
 love. And the evils of cults and  
 similar organizations. Let's talk  
 to Monica Rassi, the mother of a  
 member of the newest cult you need  
 to know about, the Order of the  
 Crimson Ram. Ms. Rassi, thank you  
 for joining us.

MONICA  
 Thank you for having me. If I  
 could, I'd like to talk directly to  
 my daughter, Leila...

Marin ignores the TV as she searches for a phone number on  
 the Internet. She finds it and dials.

MARIN  
 This is the Gazette, right?

Beat.

MARIN (CONT'D)  
 Good. Who do I talk to about a  
 gossip story?

Beat.

MARIN (CONT'D)  
 It involves a baseball player. Cam  
 Kendricks.

Marin starts writing: Shirley Muldoon. She writes a phone  
 number below the name. She hangs up and dials Shirley.

MONICA  
 Please come home, Leila. I know who  
 those people are and I know they  
 don't really care about you. Not  
 like your momma does. Please  
 listen...

MARIN  
 Hi, this message is for a  
 reporter... Shirley Muldoon...

(MORE)

MARIN (CONT'D)

I know this is your... anyway, I have some information for you. It's about Cam Kendricks and Tina Warren. The REAL story. Call me at...

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - DAY

SUPER: Game 1, Seventh Inning

Rodgers stands on the mound, confident. He still has a 3-0 lead, but the bases are loaded with no outs. Howell walks away from the mound, Rodgers wants to stay in.

Rodgers gets set. He throws a breaking ball that the batter, BACON, grounds to second. Speck fields it, steps on second and rockets the ball to first for the double play. Two outs, but the score is now 3-1.

Next at the plate is GREEN. Rodgers throws him a high fastball and immediately regrets it. Green hits a towering shot to deep right field, but Lombardi easily grabs it for the third out. Rodgers pumps a fist as he runs off the field.

INT. DWAYNE MCDARIS' HOUSE - DAY

Dwayne McDaris sits at his computer, recording a video for the web.

MCDARIS

Folks, as you know, I've been critical of both the D.C. Statesman and their hapless manager, Harold Gray. Frequently. But my biggest ire has been reserved for the fraud that is Cam Kendricks.

He holds up a Kendricks baseball card.

MCDARIS (CONT'D)

And now I have the proof.

He rips the baseball card in half and tosses it aside. He picks up the envelope of documents from Whaley.

MCDARIS (CONT'D)

These files are the tip of the iceberg. In my forthcoming series of videos, I'll take a deep dive into these files and expose Kendricks as a sham.

McDaris throws the documents on the desk before him.

MCDARIS (CONT'D)

I expect I'll have further evidence given to me by my exclusive source, none other than Cam Kendricks' teammate, Albert Whaley.

McDaris picks up the two halves of the torn baseball card and waves them at the camera.

MCDARIS (CONT'D)

I'll be digging further into this story, you can bet. Smash that like button and don't forget to subscribe...

INT. ALBERT WHALEY'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

Whaley sits on his couch, watching McDaris' video on his laptop, drinking a beer.

MCDARIS

...my exclusive source, none other than Cam Kendricks' teammate, Albert Whaley...

Whaley spits out the beer he was sipping.

WHALEY

I didn't say to use my fucking name.

Whaley walks into his bedroom and opens the closet door. He pulls out a suitcase and starts packing.

INT. HAROLD GRAY'S OFFICE - DAY

Whaley walks into Harold Gray's office to find the entire coaching staff waiting for him. Nobody says anything.

WHALEY

Should I have a seat?

There aren't any empty seats.

GRAY

No.

Security guard Marky Frost holds up a tablet and presses play on video from a security camera. It is very high quality.

The video shows Whaley sneaking into Human Resources and stealing Kendricks' file.

Frost stops that video and starts a second one. This one shows Whaley stealing Kendricks' underwear. Some of the coaches make sounds of disgust.

Frost stops the video and everyone turns to look at Whaley.

GRAY (CONT'D)  
Son, pack your shit and get the  
hell out of my stadium.

Gray nods and Frost escorts him out.

WHALEY  
But I--

Frost pushes him towards the doorway.

FROST  
Beat it.

INT. LEAH OWENS' OFFICE - DAY

Leah Owens sits across from Lekebra Benjamin. Owens pours Benjamin a glass of whiskey and tops off her own.

OWENS  
You're definitely going to want  
this.

Benjamin takes the glass with a bemused look.

OWENS (CONT'D)  
You ever heard of Carmesi Molto?

Benjamin frowns.

BENJAMIN  
No. What is it? Some kind of cult  
or something?

Owens chuckles.

OWENS  
A corporation. A hostile  
corporation.

BENJAMIN  
What do we need to know about them?

OWENS

They've made an offer to buy the team.

Benjamin sits up straight in her chair.

OWENS (CONT'D)

Yeah?

They both take a sip of whiskey.

BENJAMIN

They offer a good price?

OWENS

She literally said I could name my price.

BENJAMIN

She?

OWENS

Some ancient white woman with all the money. Manda Starr.

BENJAMIN

How much did you ask for?

Owens takes a sip of whiskey.

BENJAMIN (CONT'D)

You didn't ask did you?

OWENS

I don't know.

BENJAMIN

What's happening? A few months ago you had one foot out the door.

OWENS

A few months ago, we had the second worst team in the league.

BENJAMIN

Now we're at the top. Buy low, sell high.

OWENS

And yet...

They both take a sip of whiskey.

BENJAMIN  
Have you been watching the games?

OWENS  
I have.

BENJAMIN  
And?

OWENS  
I'm starting to enjoy them.

Benjamin smiles.

BENJAMIN  
Good. Because if you sell the team,  
I'm out of here.

OWENS  
Really?

Owens takes another sip of whiskey. She hides her smile from Benjamin.

EXT. TINA WARREN'S MANSION - NIGHT

Cam Kendricks stands at the front door of Tina Warren's mansion and rings the doorbell. Tina opens the door.

TINA  
What do you want?

KENDRICKS  
Can I come in?

Maya walks by in the background.

MAYA  
Don't let him in!

Tina shakes her head.

KENDRICKS  
Really?

She crosses her arms and glares at him.

TINA  
What do you want?

Kendricks takes a deep breath.



KENDRICKS  
I want to apologize.

Tina scoffs. In the background, Maya laughs.

KENDRICKS (CONT'D)  
Why is SHE here?

TINA  
She's my friend. Why are you here?

He gets exasperated.

KENDRICKS  
To apologize.

TINA  
You aren't doing a very good job of  
it.

KENDRICKS  
I didn't think I was doing it for  
an audience.

Tina ignores him. He stares at her. For a while.

TINA  
Well?

KENDRICKS  
Well, what?

TINA  
Never mind.

She turns to go inside. He grabs for her arm, but she's able to pull it away.

KENDRICKS  
Wait.

She stops.

KENDRICKS (CONT'D)  
I guess I'm sorry.

TINA  
You guess?

Beat.

KENDRICKS  
Yeah.

TINA

Whatever.

She goes inside and shuts the door.

CUT TO:

Kendricks sits in his car, a few blocks from the entrance to Tina's house. He waits and watches the gate to her property.

After a few minutes, he sees Maya drive her VW Beetle out the gate and down the street. He waits to make sure she's gone.

KENDRICKS

I've had about enough of these games.

He hops out of his car and sneaks in through the gate before it closes.

KENDRICKS (CONT'D)

Time for some action.

INT. DWAYNE MCDARIS' HOUSE - NIGHT

McDaris sits in a mostly dark room, working on his laptop. He gets to the bottom of a page of search results. He clicks on the last link, but it takes him to a "Page Not Found" error message.

He clicks back. The bottom of the page says "No Further Results."

McDaris closes the browser and looks at his notes. They say: "Dan Cooper/Akron/30/Last match 7 years ago/Spike Johnson's gym" and a phone number for Johnson.

McDaris picks up his phone and dials the number.

SPIKE (O.S.)

Spike Johnson.

MCDARIS

Mr... uh... Johnson?

SPIKE (O.S.)

That is what I said.

MCDARIS

My name is Dwayne McDaris, I'm a reporter in D.C.

SPIKE (O.S.)  
 You that guy that's always on the  
 Sunday Chat Show?

McDaris grins.

MCDARIS  
 I am.

SPIKE (O.S.)  
 What can I do for you?

MCDARIS  
 You know who Cam Kendricks is?

Beat.

MCDARIS (CONT'D)  
 Or Dan Cooper?

SPIKE (O.S.)  
 Yeah, I knew Dan Cooper.

MCDARIS  
 When was the last time you saw him?

SPIKE (O.S.)  
 Hmmmmmm... can't say as I've seen  
 him since his last fight. What was  
 that seven or eight years ago?

MCDARIS  
 Not even a phone call?

SPIKE (O.S.)  
 Nothing.

MCDARIS  
 You know much about him? His  
 family? His background? School?  
 Church? Whatever?

SPIKE (O.S.)  
 Nah, he was a pretty quiet guy. We  
 really only talked about boxing.

McDaris scratches his head.

SPIKE (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
 He did leave a box of stuff here  
 when he left. It's somewhere in the  
 basement.

McDaris gets excited.

MCDARIS  
What's in the box?

SPIKE (O.S.)  
No idea. Never looked in it. Just  
threw it downstairs when he left.

MCDARIS  
Do you think you could dig it out?

SPIKE (O.S.)  
No way. But you can.

McDaris scribbles in his note pad.

MCDARIS  
I can come there and check it out?

SPIKE (O.S.)  
Yep. If you can find it.

MCDARIS  
What's your address...

McDaris writes down the address, then hangs up. He dials Meaco Ali's number. It rings and rings, but no answer. He hangs up with a frown.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - DAY

SUPER: Game 1, Ninth Inning

Rodgers stands on the mound, worn but still worthy. The Statesmen are still up 3-1, bases loaded, one out.

POE stands in the batter's box. Rodgers throws a sinker that Poe chops towards third. Gus Bennett easily fields the ball, turns and makes the double play.

Rodgers cheers on the mound. Complete game victory.

In the dugout, Glover smiles while watching Rodgers. Scout Ferd Langwieler scribbles in his notes.

LANGWIELER  
One short.

GLOVER  
Who?

LANGWIELER  
Kendricks.

Huebner joins them.

HUEBNER  
What about Kendricks?

LANGWIELER  
Game's over. He didn't play. Snaps  
his streak of reaching base in 83  
consecutive games.

HUEBNER  
Pretty good?

Langwieler laughs.

LANGWIELER  
Pretty good? One more would've tied  
a the all-time record.

HUEBNER  
Really?

Langwieler nods. Huebner is encouraged. He looks to Glover.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)  
Hey, Ferd...

Where Langwieler can't see, Glover frantically waves his arms  
and shakes his head. Langwieler looks up at Huebner.

LANGWIELER  
Yeah?

HUEBNER  
I... uh...

Glover mouths the word "NO."

HUEBNER (CONT'D)  
Never mind.

Glover relaxes. Huebner walks away. Langwieler goes back to  
pouring over his notes.

INT. HAROLD GRAY'S OFFICE - LATER

Ajax Cloud sits across from Gray.

GRAY  
We're going to have to send you to  
Roswell.

Cloud frowns.

GRAY (CONT'D)

Don't expect to be down there too long. We're just in a roster flux right now.

CLOUD

Seems like everything is in flux around here.

Cloud stands and walks out the door.

CUT TO:

Now Kendrick sits across from Gray.

GRAY

What can I do for you, son? We don't have a lot of time before game 2.

Kendrick clears his throat.

KENDRICKS

I had a LOT of time to think about it.

Gray spits into a cup.

KENDRICKS (CONT'D)

And I realize I was wrong.

Gray nods.

KENDRICKS (CONT'D)

I shouldn't have given you an ultimatum.

Gray spits.

KENDRICKS (CONT'D)

And I'm sorry.

Gray waits to see if that's all. It is.

GRAY

Thank you, son. That's mighty magnanimous of you.

Beat.

KENDRICKS

And I'm willing to work with Howell so I can get better and get back to pitching.

Gray nods.

GRAY

Good to hear. I'm gonna keep you on the bench for this game.

Kendricks frowns, but nods.

GRAY (CONT'D)

But if I need a pinch hitter....

INT. DARK ALLEY - DAY

Meaco Ali hops out of a cab at an empty downtown intersection. He watches the taxi drive off.

Once it's gone, he walks halfway down the block and goes into a dark alley.

Abraham stands at the end of the alley, wearing a black hoodie with the Crimson Ram logo on the back. Ali hesitates for a moment, then walks towards Abraham. Abraham stands motionless.

ABRAHAM

Mr. Meaco Ali?

ALI

Yeah?

ABRAHAM

You know who I am?

Ali straightens up.

ALI

You're the man with the money.

Abraham smiles.

ABRAHAM

Correct.

Abraham hands him an envelope.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

And you know what I want you to do?

ALI

Keep my mouth shut.

ABRAHAM

About?

ALI  
Cam Kendricks.

Abraham smiles again.

ABRAHAM  
Good.

Abraham stops talking and simply stares at Ali. After a few seconds, Ali flinches and walks away.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)  
Hey, it's probably a good idea for  
you to go away. And stay away.

Ali turns and looks Abraham in the eye.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)  
You know, for safety.

Abraham smiles. Ali doesn't. He hurries away.

INT. PDDC BASEMENT - DAY

Eversmith and Cody sit in the basement, staring at the latest crime scene with The Setup.

CODY  
I can't find it. It's not here.

EVERSMITH  
I'm not ready to give up.

They keep staring at The Setup in silence for a while.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)  
You see that Potomac blog post?

CODY  
Yeah. Pretty on point.

EVERSMITH  
You think it's somebody we know?

CODY  
With those details?

EVERSMITH  
You think it's Shirley or Chad?

CODY  
Both?



They laugh.

EVERSMITH  
I just thought of something.

Cody sits up and pays attention.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)  
It never left my mind, but the  
victims at the skate park were  
different than any of the others.

Cody raises an eyebrow.

CODY  
How?

EVERSMITH  
The wounds were ragged. Quickly  
done. There was blood present.

CODY  
Yeah?

EVERSMITH  
NONE of the other crime scenes had  
any blood. The bodies were NOT  
killed where we found them. There's  
not even a trace of blood.

CODY  
Okay.

EVERSMITH  
And the other body parts... the  
cuts... they were surgical...  
precise.

CODY  
But not at the skate park?

EVERSMITH  
Clearly, those murders were rushed.  
Why?

Cody leans back in her chair and puts her hands behind her head. She thinks as hard as she can.

Officer Jeremy Spencer walks into the room. He takes a look at The Setup and chuckles.

SPENCER  
I thought this thing was shut down?

They just stare at him.

SPENCER (CONT'D)  
You guys sure waste a lot of time  
for officers of the law.

They ignore him.

SPENCER (CONT'D)  
Whatever. Supposed to tell you that  
they found another head.

Cody and Eversmith exchange a look.

SPENCER (CONT'D)  
Previous crime scene. The one with  
the young couple? We originally  
found one head? They found another.  
It was hidden in a shed out back.

Cody does whatever she can to NOT look at Spencer. She stares  
at The Setup.

SPENCER (CONT'D)  
Whatever. You guys should go back  
to playing video games or whatever.

He laughs as he walks away.

EVERSMITH  
Tool.

Cody squints and stares at The Setup.

CODY  
What's that?

Cody and Eversmith both stand up and make their way to The  
Setup. They look closely at a tree near the edge of the  
forest.

EVERSMITH  
Sure looks like it.

CODY  
I agree. That's it.

The CAMERA closes in and the Crimson Ram logo is clearly  
carved into the tree.

INT. ALTON NIX'S OFFICE - DAY

Alton Nix stares out the window of his office, looking at the Washington Monument. He's on his phone.

NIX  
All of them? Even the ones you  
NEVER test for?

Beat.

NIX (CONT'D)  
How many times?

Beat.

NIX (CONT'D)  
Triple checked? Got it.

He hangs up.

CUT TO:

Nix is on the phone. He leans back in his chair, relaxed and confident.

NIX (CONT'D)  
Mary?

BILLUPS (O.S.)  
What is it, Alton? I'm busy.

He smiles.

NIX  
What is it? What is it? You see the  
latest Kendricks' results?

Beat.

NIX (CONT'D)  
Of course you did. You know he  
passed. Steroids. HGH. PCP. GHB.  
Cocaine. LSD. MDMA. Oxy. Heroin.  
Morphine. Hell, they tested for  
Ivermectin. He's clean. He's the  
cleanest player in history of  
professional drug testing.

Beat.

BILLUPS (O.S.)  
That does seem to be the case.

Nix laughs.

BILLUPS (O.S.) (CONT'D)  
What do you want?

NIX  
You know what I want. Leave  
Kendricks alone. Leave my players  
alone. Leave the game alone.

BILLUPS (O.S.)  
Or?

NIX  
We could start with a slander suit?

Beat.

NIX (CONT'D)  
Or we could discuss a work  
stoppage?

Beat.

BILLUPS (O.S.)  
You win.

Nix hangs up, beaming with pride.

INT. UFCW HQ - DAY

Janice Taylor sits across from Monika Aro. Monika stares at  
Janice, mouth agape.

MONIKA  
Albert Whaley, you said?

Janice nods her head aggressively.

Monika picks up her phone and dials. She holds her hand over  
the receiver and speaks softly.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
Calling HR.

Janice nods.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
Daniel?

Beat.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
Monika Aro. Over at UFCW.

Beat.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
I'm good. Listen... I have a serious question. One of my members who works at the stadium has some pretty serious accusations to make against a player.

Beat.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
Albert Whaley..

Beat.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
Really?

Monika raises an eyebrow.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
Wow. Since when?

She sits up further in her seat.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
That's... uh... good to now.

Beat.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
Yes, if I have any more questions, I'll call. Thanks.

She hangs up.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
Coincidentally enough, Mr. Whaley has been released by the team. He currently is without a job.

Janice frowns. It takes a second, but Monika figures out Janice's trepidation.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
You have somewhere you can stay tonight?

Janice nods, but she doesn't look certain.

Monika frowns.

MONIKA (CONT'D)  
Let me make a call.

She dials her phone.

INT. SUNDAY SPORTS CHAT SHOW STUDIO

The lights shine down on host Michael Weisman and his guests. Behind him is a giant sign that says: The Sunday Sports Chat Show.

WEISMAN  
Hello everyone and welcome to this week's Sunday Sports Chat Show. With me today are four of our regular panelists: David Tessell from the Chicago Dispatch-Times...

TESSELL  
Glad to be here.

WEISMAN  
Sharon Alligood of NBS...

ALLIGOOD  
Thanks for having me back.

WEISMAN  
Jonnie Travis of Denver Tribune...

TRAVIS  
Back again, one more time!

WEISMAN  
...and my favorite and yours, Edith Merman of ABS.

MERMAN  
You flatter me.

Weisman turns and looks into the camera.

WEISMAN  
Okay, first question. Is Cam Kendricks the MVP?

TESSELL  
Now that he's got Gus Bennett, he is.

TRAVIS

I'm still not convinced he's not on PEDs.

ALLIGOOD

He's passed so many tests the league owes him a bachelor's degree.

MERMAN

He's already broken more records in one season than any other player in history and he's got room to move. If he's not the MVP, the term doesn't have any meaning.

WEISMAN

Now that he DOES have Gus Bennett to back him up, does that mean that the Statesmen are unbeatable?

MERMAN

While Bennett is both an offensive and a defensive upgrade at third, the Statesmen still have some pretty serious questions on defense. Bennett isn't winning any Golden Gloves any time soon.

TRAVIS

It doesn't matter. They're gonna score so many runs it doesn't matter how many errors they have or how many pitchers get hurt.

TESSELL

Man, there must be something in the water over there. I've never seen so many pitching injuries.

ALLIGOOD

That definitely has to come back to haunt them at some point. The question is whether or not it'll catch up to them before the playoffs or after.

WEISMAN

Speaking of the playoffs, if the Statesmen DO go all the way, is Harold Gray manager of the year?

ALLIGOOD

He definitely deserves it.

TESSELL

I think he might've been crazy to take Kendricks, but if it pays off....

TRAVIS

If he can find enough Band-aids to hold that pitching staff together while also pulling off that Gus Bennett trade....

MERMAN

I've always hated that we determine award winners so early in the season. If the goal of every team in the league is to "Get That Ring," which team actually got the ring should be a primary factor in Manager of the Year.

INT. DWAYNE MCDARIS' HOUSE - DAY

McDaris sits in his house, recording another video for the web.

MCDARIS

The plot thickens, my Minions. As I may or may not have previously told you, Albert Whaley wasn't my only source as to what's going on with Cam Kendricks.

He waves his arms wildly back and forth.

MCDARIS (CONT'D)

No, no, no. I had a witness who GREW UP with Cam Kendricks. This guy, Meaco Ali, knew Kendricks before he was old enough to buy alcohol. And I've already conducted an exclusive interview with this key witness.

McDaris takes a deep breath.

MCDARIS (CONT'D)

And then, suddenly, Meaco Ali is gone. I've tried getting in contact with him for more than a week and nothing. He was there. He was talking to me. He was going to reveal the truth. And now he's gone.



McDaris holds up a grainy photograph of Ali. His face is barely visible.

MCDARIS (CONT'D)

Sorry about the quality of the photo, it came from a security camera. There aren't any other photos available of Ali. Not that I can find. Not that THEY will let me have. Something is going on around here and it's not good. But don't worry, I guarantee I'll keep checking in on it as long as I'm alive and free.

INT. ALEX LEVIN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Eversmith and Cody sit across from Levin, who is already bubbling with anger.

EVERSMITH

Clearly, the presence of the logo of the Order of the Crimson Ram appearing at ALL of the crime scenes means--

LEVIN

Stop talking.

CODY

But we have--

Levin slams her hand down on the desk, quieting the room.

LEVIN

The union already told me I can't fire you outright, but I have submitted the formal paperwork to start the process.

Cody and Eversmith exchange a look of concern.

LEVIN (CONT'D)

I assume you read "From the Potomac"?

She tosses a printed-out copy of Shirley's blog post onto her desk.

LEVIN (CONT'D)

Or, more to the point, I should ask if you WROTE "From the Potomac."

EVERSMITH  
Of course not--

CODY  
No. We wouldn't--

Levin holds up a hand to silence them.

LEVIN  
You two are dumb, but you aren't THAT dumb. But there are details in that article that ONLY us and the fucking killers know. I think it's safe to say we aren't dealing with the Zodiac killer sending letters to the press. That means there's a leak. If it isn't you two, then I'm a monkey's uncle.

Eversmith and Cody stay frozen.

LEVIN (CONT'D)  
And I'm neither a monkey nor an uncle.

Beat.

LEVIN (CONT'D)  
The SECOND I find out either of you had anything to do with any of this...

She gestures towards the blog post.

LEVIN (CONT'D)  
You'll be fired so fast a cheetah couldn't catch you.

INT. WASHINGTON GAZETTE BULLPEN - DAY

Shirley sits at her desk, typing. Her office phone rings. She picks up.

MAYA  
Is this Shirley Muldoon?

In her home, Maya sits in her bed, under the covers.

SHIRLEY  
It is.

MAYA  
Yeah... I called because I need to  
report... something.

SHIRLEY  
This isn't the tip line.

MAYA  
It's about Cam Kendricks.

Shirley sits up straight.

SHIRLEY  
I'm listening. What's your name?

Maya hesitates.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)  
Maya... If you have any concerns,  
we can talk off the record for now  
and you can change that LATER if  
you choose to.

Beat.

MAYA  
Yeah. Okay. Off the record. I have  
to say that to make it official,  
right?

SHIRLEY  
It's official.

MAYA  
Okay.

Beat.

MAYA (CONT'D)  
So I keep seeing on the news about  
how Tina Warren, one of my best  
friends in the world, is dating and  
is heavily in love with a baseball  
player. Cam Kendricks.

SHIRLEY  
Yeah. I watch the news, too.

MAYA  
It's crap. They aren't together.

SHIRLEY  
What? Are you serious?

MAYA  
Yeah. Tina and I are close.

SHIRLEY  
But it's all over the news.

MAYA  
Wouldn't be the first time your  
profession got it wrong.

Shirley shrugs, she can't disagree.

MAYA (CONT'D)  
They went on a few dates. But he's  
an asshole. She figured that out  
pretty quickly.

SHIRLEY  
Can I quote you on this?

Silence.

SHIRLEY (CONT'D)  
Maya?

MAYA  
Please don't use my name.

SHIRLEY  
Why not?

MAYA  
There's... uh... more.

Shirley sits back in her chair. Maya doesn't speak for a bit.

SHIRLEY  
Maya.

MAYA  
I can't say. I can't talk.

Maya hangs up. Shirley stares at her phone.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: Game 2, Fourth Inning

The Nationals host the Philadelphia Porters. Luis Narvaez  
pitches to Jason Doster with a 2-0 lead. There are two outs.

Narvaez gets Doster to pop up to second and he barely runs  
out the play.

In the dugout, Huebner turns to Langwieler.

HUEBNER  
What's that for the day?

LANGWIELER  
Both games?

HUEBNER  
Yeah.

Langwieler checks his notes.

LANGWIELER  
He's 0-6.

Doster walks in off the field.

HUEBNER  
Jason?

DOSTER  
Yeah?

HUEBNER  
Hit the showers.

Doster relaxes. He turns and walks towards the locker room. Huebner turns towards the end of the bench.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)  
Mario?

Mario Gay stands up.

GAY  
Coach?

You're in for Doster. Gay grins and starts looking for his hat.

In the locker room, Doster strips off his dirty uniform and walks into the showers.

A few seconds later, third base coach Terrence Kimbell walks into the locker room. He looks around, but doesn't see anyone. He hears the water running and walks into the shower room.

KIMBELL  
Hey.

Doster looks back at him and smiles.

DOSTER  
I was wondering if you got the  
signal.

Kimbell rips off his shirt and walks towards Doster.

DOSTER (CONT'D)  
You did.

They kiss.

Howell walks into the locker room and quickly goes into his office. A second later, he comes back out with an apple in his hand. He hears sounds in the shower room and heads that direction.

HOWELL  
Jason, that you?

Stay with Howell as he sees Kimbell and Doster having sex. He stops and watches for a second.

HOWELL (CONT'D)  
So that's what that looks like.

He takes a bite of the apple and walks out of the room.

EXT. ALBERT WHALEY'S APARTMENT - DAY

Officers Bill Tucker and Mitchell O'Reilly stand outside Albert Whaley's apartment. Tucker knocks. No answer.

Tucker knocks again. O'Reilly shines a light through the window, but it's empty.

O'REILLY  
Nobody's home.

TUCKER  
Let's find out.

They go around to the back of the house and creep silently onto the back porch. O'Reilly tries the door.

O'REILLY  
(whispers)  
It's open.

They go in.

CUT TO:

Tucker flicks on the kitchen light switch and opens the fridge. O'Reilly joins him.

TUCKER  
He isn't here.

Tucker pulls out a couple of beers. Hands one to O'Reilly.

O'REILLY  
Maybe he skipped town?

TUCKER  
Maybe he'd better have skipped town.

They laugh and drink their beers.

EXT. CONAN JONES MANSION - NIGHT

Jones and Bishop sit outside near the pool. The grill dies down as Bishop fixes his last burger. Bishop's phone sits on the table softly playing Prince's "Sign o' the Times" album.

BISHOP  
Great burgers, man.

He takes another huge bite.

Jones holds the cold beer bottle against his elbow and winces.

BISHOP (CONT'D)  
Your arm okay?

JONES  
It's been better.

BISHOP  
You should see the doctor.

Jones chuckles.

JONES  
I am. I will.

Bishop takes a sip of beer. His pocket starts buzzing. He pulls the phone out, sees that it's Betty, and puts it away.

Bishop takes another sip of beer. His phone starts buzzing again. He takes it out and puts it on the table. It vibrates loudly against the table and Bishop is clearly uncomfortable. He takes the phone and tosses it into the lush grass near the pool.

JONES (CONT'D)  
What's that all about?

Bishop doesn't answer. He spends a LOT of time on his beer instead.

JONES (CONT'D)  
Sensitive subject?

BISHOP  
Naw, man. I don't know. It's Betty.

Jones furrows his brow.

JONES  
The chick from the party?

Bishop nods.

JONES (CONT'D)  
If I remember correctly, she was pretty cool.

BISHOP  
She's awesome.

JONES  
So what's the problem?

Bishop finishes off his beer and gets up to get another.

BISHOP  
There's no problem with HER. But I went to that music festival on the fourth?

JONES  
And?

BISHOP  
Hung out with the Reliever Party Patrol.

JONES  
Oh. How bad did it get?

Bishop hands Jones another beer and sits down with his own.

BISHOP  
I hooked up with some chick.

JONES  
Are you and Betty dating?



BISHOP  
No. Not really.

Jones laughs.

JONES  
Are you married?

Bishop shakes his head.

JONES (CONT'D)  
Then get over yourself.

Bishop takes a sip of his beer.

JONES (CONT'D)  
Just go see her.

BISHOP  
Yeah. You're right.

He takes another swig of beer.

BISHOP (CONT'D)  
Maybe.

EXT. DARK ALLEY - NIGHT

Cody parks on the side of an empty downtown street. She and Eversmith get out of the patrol car and draw their Glocks. They approach a dark alley.

Cody stops and peeks into the alley and pulls back out quickly. Then she rounds the corner and goes into the alley.

Cody pushes the button on her walkie talkie, still leading with her gun.

CODY  
We're entering the alley now.

DISPATCH  
Roger that.

CODY  
(to Eversmith)  
It's quiet. Let's go.

The move down the alley carefully.

CODY (CONT'D)  
Thanks for coming with me. After that last time...

EVERSMITH

Of course. It's clear except THAT.

Eversmith nods towards a dumpster. They move silently down the alley until they get close. Eversmith leads and checks on the far side of the dumpster. No one. Cody looks at the space beneath the dumpster. It's also clear.

Cody gestures towards the dumpster. They silently move to either side of the dumpster. Eversmith puts her gun away and carefully grabs the lid. Cody readies her Glock.

Eversmith opens the dumpster and Cody points her gun inside. She looks around.

CODY

Someone's in there. Freeze!

Eversmith draws her gun and they both aim at the frozen form at the back of the dumpster. Nothing.

It doesn't move.

CODY (CONT'D)

Come out. PDDC.

Nothing.

EVERSMITH

Last warning. Come out or we're coming in.

Nothing.

CODY

Cover me.

Cody moves closer to the side of the dumpster, moving as quietly as possible. The form in the dumpster is definitely a human being. Cody reaches out and touches the body. Nothing.

EVERSMITH

Careful...

Eversmith holds her Glock ready. Cody reaches into the dumpster and touches the body again. Nothing.

She tries again and shakes it harder. The body rolls over. It's Applegate. He's covered with blood and very dead. Cody recoils.

EVERSMITH (CONT'D)

You know him?

CODY  
Vaguely. P.I. Always into  
something.

EVERSMITH  
Clearly.

CODY  
Anonymous call reported it.

EVERSMITH  
That's--

ABRAHAM (O.S.)  
Hey!

Eversmith and Cody turn towards the voice. They see Abraham and a half dozen cult members. They have guns.

CODY  
(quietly)  
Shit.

Cody backs away from the dumpster.

CODY (CONT'D)  
We're police officers!

Guns are cocked and pointed at them.

EVERSMITH  
(quietly)  
Run.

Cody and Eversmith turn and run. Abraham fires a few shots, but the others hold back. The cult members don't follow. Instead, they converge on the dumpster. And Applegate's body.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: Game 2, Fifth Inning

Conan Jones stands on the mound. He's rubbing his elbow. He groans a bit. He stretches, but doesn't seem to feel better.

He looks up and there are runners at first and third with one out. Jones takes his hat off and puts it in his glove. He runs his fingers through his hair. At the base of his hairline on the back of his neck is a little dab of Vaseline. Jones puts his cap back on and subtly runs his fingers through the Vaseline.

The batter, HART, stands confidently at the plate, but he's no match for the miracles of modern science and he hits a weak grounder back to Jones. He fields it, turns and starts the double play. The score stays 2-0.

INT. MARY BILLUPS' OFFICE - DAY

In the conference room at Mary Billups' office, Billups is joined by Nix for a press conference. Billups looks grim. Nix barely controls his excitement.

NIX

Thank you all for joining us here today. It's good to see that so many are interested in getting to the truth. Let's just say it clearly, we are here today to clear the name of Cam Kendricks. He's been falsely smeared by many of YOU in the media and some here in the league. It's shameful.

Billups awkwardly picks up a bottled water and drinks from it.

NIX (CONT'D)

At the union, we demand that the offending parties apologize to Kendricks and that his persecution end.

Nix takes a seat. Billups frowns. She clears her throat and speaks:

BILLUPS

This is NOT an apology and we have not engaged in harassment against Cam Kendricks or any other player. It is our duty to investigate anything that attacks the integrity of the game and we will continue to maintain that high standard.

Nix isn't happy, but he doesn't say anything.

INT. ASHLEY HERNANDEZ' OFFICE - DAY

Hernandez sits at her desk, pouring over the documents related to the contract with Hater-Ade. She gets a notification of a new e-mail and opens it.

The e-mail address is simply user@user.com and there is no subject line.

Hernandez opens the e-mail to find nothing but a link inside.

HERNANDEZ

Well, shit.

She hesitates. Then she clicks on the link. A private YouTube video launches.

The video is security footage from the foyer of an expensive mansion, but it has no audio. At first, no one is in the shot and there's no way to tell whose house it is.

Tina Warren walks into the shot. Even on the bad footage, she is easily recognizable. She opens the front door. She throws her hands up as if in exasperation. At first, the video doesn't show who she's talking to.

They exchange words and Tina is clearly aggravated. After a few moments, she slams the door. A man's foot stops it from shutting, though, and Cam Kendricks pushes the door open against Tina's will. Once inside, he clearly looks into the camera so there is no mistake it's him.

They exchange harsh words. Back and forth for several seconds. Kendricks is clearly getting agitated. Tina yells at him.

Kendricks grabs her arm.

She slaps his face.

He lets go.

He slaps her across the face.

She stumbles back and has to catch herself on the wall.

Kendricks appears to show remorse.

Tina runs from the room.

Kendricks follows.

They remain out of the video for a few seconds.

Kendricks backs his way into the foyer.

Tina comes in holding a shotgun.

Kendricks opens the door and leaves, slamming the door behind him.

Tina rushes forward and locks the door.

She rushes back out of the video.

The video ends. Hernandez's hand covers her mouth in shock as she leaps up from her desk and rushes out of the foyer.

INT. LEKEBRA BENJAMIN'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

Benjamin sits at her computer, watching the video of Kendricks hitting Tina Warren. Benjamin is shocked.

HERNANDEZ

You can see why I brought this to you?

Benjamin nods.

HERNANDEZ (CONT'D)

So what's next? What do we do.

Benjamin calmly closes the video.

BENJAMIN

I'll take it from here.

HERNANDEZ

But I--

BENJAMIN

I said I'll take care of it.

Hernandez gets the hint, gets up and leaves.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: Game 2, Seventh Inning

Jones stands on the mound looking tired. Around him are Bishop, Howell and Gray. Jones hands to ball to Gray and walks towards the dugout. From the bullpen, Shawn Derby runs on to the field.

Derby finishes his warm up throws. The game is now tied 2-2. Bacon stands on second and Green stands at the plate.

Derby throws a fastball and Bacon lines it off the left-field fence. The Porters now lead 3-2.

In the dugout, Huebner walks over and sits next to Howell.

HUEBNER  
I'm getting pretty tired of this  
shit.

Howell nods.

HUEBNER (CONT'D)  
Remember that night when we talked  
at the Pinch?

HOWELL  
Yeah.

HUEBNER  
I've continued to think about that  
conversation. I fall asleep at  
night thinking about it sometimes.

HOWELL  
Me, too.

Beat.

HUEBNER  
So then why don't we do something  
about it?

Howell grabs Huebner's arm and pulls him aside.

HOWELL  
What the hell's wrong with you?  
You'd better be careful who you  
talk to around here. You don't have  
as many friends as you think you  
do.

Howell turns and walks away. Huebner stands wounded.

EXT. PDDC PARKING LOT - NIGHT

Cody walks to her car, an older Toyota Camry, but Anne Snell  
blocks her driver's side door. Cody glares at Snell with  
barely-contained rage.

SNELL  
You got a few moments?

CODY  
For you?

Cody tries to walk past Snell and get in her car. Snell moves  
and continues blocking Cody.

SNELL

Just wait a second. I'm here to help you.

Cody laughs.

CODY

You're going to help me?

SNELL

I know what it's like. Being one of the only women in the department.

CODY

What are you talking about?

SNELL

I'm just saying...

CODY

Saying what?

SNELL

You're an aggressive one, aren't you?

Cody pushes the button on her key fob and the alarm on her car beeps twice.

CODY

I've gotta go.

SNELL

Okay. I'm just here to warn you.

Cody turns and looks at her. She laces her fingers around her keys, making them into a weapon.

SNELL (CONT'D)

For your own good. You need to back off.

CODY

Back off what?

SNELL

All of it.

Cody stews with rage.

CODY

Message received.

Beat.



CODY (CONT'D)  
You gonna get away from my car? Or  
am I gonna have to move you?

Beat.

Snell steps aside.

SNELL  
Don't say I didn't warn you.

Cody opens her car.

CODY  
What did I do?

SNELL  
What?

CODY  
To give you the impression that I  
talk about you. With other people.

SNELL  
What?

CODY  
I'm going to get in my car and I'm  
going to forget that you exist,  
which will be the best part of my  
week. Right up until tomorrow, when  
I get to forget about you all over  
again.

SNELL  
What?

Cody laughs.

SNELL (CONT'D)  
Fuck you!

Snell turns and scurries away.

EXT. RED SHEEP RANCH - NIGHT

On a small, but remote farm somewhere in central Virginia sits the Red Sheep Ranch. No neighbors can be seen and most of the ranch is surrounded by forest, beyond the lush, rolling grasses.

Next to the old ranch house and barn is the RED SHEEP RANCH WELLNESS AND FULFILLMENT CENTER. At the front desk are large plants and branded stress balls and pens and brochures.

The CAMERA moves through the door behind the desk and down into the basement to:

SUPER: The Temple of the Ram

In this large room, every surface is blood red. Dozens of figures dressed in black robes with the Crimson Ram logo on the back stand around an altar. Standing at the back of the room reading from a scroll is Abraham.

Clearly, some kind of ceremony or event is about to begin. A group of cult members stands near the altar, quietly conversing as the room fills up. Notably, the vast majority of the cult members are white men. There are women of every race, but the men are ONLY white. A few trans women are present.

Ishmael is having some trouble getting his robes to fit correctly.

ISHMAEL

I still don't understand why we can't wear the hoodies. It's the same look, but I can get it to work.

Esau fixes the robe.

ESAU

You know Jacob?

He points to Jacob, who nods.

ISHMAEL

Ishmael.

JACOB

Jacob.

ESAU

Esau. Now we all know each other.

ISHMAEL

Oh, I know you two. You two are the ones who forgot the Vessel.

Esau looks down in shame. Jacob blushes.

ESAU  
I told them I wasn't ready to be  
training rookies.

JACOB  
BARELY a rookie.

Esau shoots him a look. Jacob looks at the ground.

ESAU  
At least we got the body back.

ISHMAEL  
The Vessel.

Esau rolls his eyes.

ESAU  
The Vessel.

JACOB  
I'm just glad we aren't in trouble.

ABRAHAM (O.S.)  
Who says you aren't in trouble?

Abraham was eavesdropping. Now he's part of the conversation.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)  
Take your places.

He brushes past them towards the altar.

ISHMAEL  
You idiots go grab the Vessel.

Esau and Jacob rush out of the room. Ishmael and the others  
take their places around the altar.

ABRAHAM  
Why do we gather today?

ISHMAEL  
To complete the Arc of the Angel.

ABRAHAM  
And where is the Vessel?

Esau and Jacob carry Applegate's body into the room on a  
stretcher. He's been rinsed off and stripped nude. They set  
the stretcher on the altar.

ABRAHAM (CONT'D)

And who among you has risen to the sixth circle of the sixth level on the six virtues?

ISHMAEL

I have.

ABRAHAM

And what are the six virtues? Show them to me.

ISHMAEL

Purity...

Everyone bows toward Abraham. He nods in return. Esau and Jacob carry in the body of Julie Croteau and place her next to Applegate.

ISHMAEL (CONT'D)

Hedonism...

Jacob walks across the room and stands before Rebecca. He pulls her head into a kiss. She resists at first, but then returns the kiss.

ISHMAEL (CONT'D)

Masculinity...

Jacob walks over to Esau and punches him in the face. Esau's nose starts to bleed. Esau punches Jacob back, but he's much weaker and doesn't leave a mark.

ISHMAEL (CONT'D)

Money...

A curtain behind Abraham is pulled back to show an insanely expensive culinary feast.

ISHMAEL (CONT'D)

Freedom...

Everyone removes their robes and tosses them aside.

ISHMAEL (CONT'D)

And anarchy...

The group breaks into a violent slam dance that lasts for about a moment. Much blood is drawn. The dance ends and they return to the altar.

ABRAHAM

It begins.

Abraham pulls out a laser scalpel and starts to sever Applegate's head. The CAMERA moves away to focus on Rebecca and her friend, ISAAC, a white man in his 30s.

ISAAC  
(under his breath)  
Things sure are going to hell  
around here.

REBECCA  
(quietly)  
Back in my day, we did all our  
cutting naturally, by hand.

ESAU  
Like we've been over this. A dagger  
is a tool, just like the laser  
sacrifice machine is. Both were  
made by man and consecrated by the  
Dark One. As long as they're KILLED  
with the dagger...

Blood splashes across the three of them.

ESAU (CONT'D)  
Jesus.

Esau walks away, trying to get closer to Abraham to get a better look.

Hidden among the cult members is Cam Kendricks, but this should be almost impossible to see.

EXT. NATIONAL STADIUM FIELD - NIGHT

SUPER: Game 2, Ninth Inning

The bases are loaded for the Statesmen with one out. Kendricks stands at bat, with Gus Bennett on deck. Narvaez stares down Kendricks, who is behind 0-2.

Narvaez takes a deep breath, throws a curve and strikes Kendricks out.

CUT TO:

The Porters' MANAGER stands on the mound and takes the ball from Narvaez. The pitcher doffs his cap to the crowd, who give him a respectful ovation. In comes a new pitcher, HEMSLEY.

CUT TO:

The crowd rises to their feet, cheering, ready for a new hero to join the fold. Gus Bennett steps to the plate.

Hemsley throws a brushback pitch and Bennett falls backwards to avoid it. He lands on the ground as the fans boo. He stands up dusts himself off and drives Hemsley's next pitch over third baseman CHOMSKY's head and into the corner. The bases are cleared as Bennett pulls into second with a game-winning double and a 5-3 score.

CUT TO:

Narvaez walks up to Jones, his hand extended in congratulations.

NARVAEZ

Great game, man.

Jones reluctantly shakes Narvaez's hand with his left, his right elbow is wrapped in ice.

NARVAEZ (CONT'D)

One of these days, I'm going to get you.

JONES

Not if I get you first.

Mild laughter. Narvaez looks down at his hand, which is now greasy for some reason. He wipes it off on his pants. Jones tracks the whole thing with horror.

NARVAEZ

I missed you at the All-Star Game. You were always at the game when I watched it back home. It wasn't the same without you there.

The CAMERA focuses on the Vaseline on the back of Jones' neck.

JONES

It's been a tough year.

Narvaez looks up at the scoreboard.

NARVAEZ

I've seen tougher.

Narvaez laughs merrily. Jones forces a fake laugh, but Narvaez is too awestruck to notice.

INT. LEAH OWENS' OFFICE - NIGHT

Owens sits in her office, talking on the phone.

OWENS  
Missing? Really?

Beat.

OWENS (CONT'D)  
Okay. Keep me updated.

She hangs up and turns to Benjamin.

OWENS (CONT'D)  
Not only is Applegate dead... it  
appears somebody stole his body.

BENJAMIN  
You've got to be kidding?

Owens takes a sip of her whiskey.

OWENS  
I truly wish I was.

BENJAMIN  
What are you going to do now?

OWENS  
I'll have to find other ways to  
find out what she's up to.

Owens stares off in the distance and takes another sip of whiskey.

INT. AIRPLANE IN FLIGHT - DAY

A fancy spy plane jets across the sky. The ThunderBrew logo adorns the tail. James Bond-esque music plays.

The door opens and inside the plane, Cam Kendricks faces off against several green-clad NINJAS. They surround him with swords and nunchaku and sais. Kendricks holds nothing but a can of ThunderBrew.

Two of the ninjas attack, but Kendricks dodges their moves and punches one with the ThunderBrew. That one falls to the ground, unconscious.

KENDRICKS  
You guys give up? Or are you  
thirsty for more?

Kendricks opens the can, the refreshing sound turned up ASMR-style for the audience. The sound enrages the ninjas. One attacks with his sword. The blade comes close enough that Kendricks backs up, moving towards the open door.

The plane tilts to turn southwards and Kendricks falls through the doorway. He doesn't have a parachute.

As he's falling, he pours the ThunderBrew into his mouth. The CGI here is bad, which is part of the joke.

Kendricks gulps down the ThunderBrew. His muscles bulge. He smiles. He crashes into the ground in a cloud of smoke.

The smoke clears and Kendricks lifts his head up off the ground. He's missing at least one tooth and is bruised and battered. But he's smiling as he holds up a can of ThunderBrew.

KENDRICKS (CONT'D)  
ThunderBrew won't give you wings,  
but it sure kicks ass!

He starts pouring the ThunderBrew, mostly into his mouth, but all over his face, basically.

INT. MANDA STARR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Manda Starr sits in her opulent office, despite the late hour. She watches a video of the new ThunderBrew commercial on her laptop. She frowns and closes the computer.

She picks up her phone.

STARR  
Get me Leah Owens.

INT. STATESMEN LOCKER ROOM - DAY

Jones sits on the examining table while BOTH Dr. Green and Dr. Carter stand looking at his x-ray, deep in thought.

Gray walks in, followed by Howell.

GRAY  
What's going on here? What are you  
butchers doing to my star?

He claps Jones on the shoulder. Jones winces.

GRAY (CONT'D)  
How you doin', old man?



Jones shrugs. It hurts.

JONES

Feel like this is the best I'm ever going to feel again.

CARTER

Certainly the best you're going to feel for the next two weeks.

GRAY

What am I hearing here?

GREEN

The Barbarian is going on injured reserve.

CARTER

For AT LEAST two weeks.

Jones grimaces. Gray spits. On the locker room floor.

FADE OUT.