

TWISTED BUT TRUE BOOK III
Pilot Episode

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ScreenwritersForHire.Com

Based on the book *Twisted But True: Book III- Plugging The Holes*

by Darren Butch

FADE IN:

INT. CITY HALL - NIGHT

The hall is jampacked with POLICE OFFICERS garbed in their well-ironed uniforms and other GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

Detective DARREN BUTCH is the center of attraction, shaking hands of different people while clutching his award with the other. The inscription on the glass plaque reads "Detective of the Year". The MAYOR walks up to Darren and pats him on the back.

MAYOR

The man of the hour, how are you enjoying your party?

DARREN

Mayor, I am so grateful for the city and state's recognition. This- this is- just great.

MAYOR

Nonsense. You deserve this and more. The Angel Miguel Lopez case was fast becoming a major worry for all of us and you made sure you caught the bastard. In my book, that's more than just a fine detective work. Congratulations once again Detective Butch.

DARREN

(shakes the Mayor)
Thank you, Mayor.

The Mayor walks away and COLEEN, Darren's wife, walks up to him, dressed in a flowing black gown and light make up. She is holding another plaque.

COLEEN

(blushing)
Honey, you have to tell me what this thing weighs. My hands have tired out.

DARREN

Bring it. Let me help you with that.

COLEEN

(holds on to the plaque)
Hey, I didn't say I wanted to give
it to you. You keep that one and
I'll keep this. Don't you think
that's fair?

DARREN

(smiles)
Thank you. I couldn't have done
this without you.

COLEEN

I am very proud of you, husband.

Coleen stands on her toes and kisses Darren lightly on the
lips.

INT. POLICE PRECINCT - DAY

Darren walks into the police station in his dark brown
leather jacket to meet the OFFICERS on their feet and
clapping for him. He is dumbfounded and stands back in shock,
smiling.

DARREN

Come on, guys. Thank you. This was
a collective effort and you all
have a part of it. Thank you.

The officers go back to their desks while Darren walks to his
cubicle. He drops his lunch bag on his desk and sees the
blinking light on his desk phone. He sits down and plays the
message.

SGT. SMALLMAN (V.O.)

(on the phone)
Hey Butch. Good job on the Lopez
case. I know that you must have
been getting calls here and there,
but I have a possible opening for
you in homicide. I'll talk to Jim
and arrange for you to be assigned
to my squad temporarily. Let me
hear from you very soon.

The message ends and the phone clicks off. Darren blows out
hot air and smiles. He rolls around in his chair, happy.

SGT. JIM MARKEY walks into Darren's cubicle.

SGT. MARKEY

Butch, I take it you've heard from
Sgt. Smallman.

DARREN

Yes, Sergeant.

SGT. MARKEY

Very good. You'll be assigned to
homicide for a month. You start on
Monday.

DARREN

(smiling)

Really?

SGT. MARKEY

Of course. I heard they have a
possible opening, and you know this
would give you a better chance for
that job when the time comes. And
that's in exactly one month.

DARREN

This is great news, sergeant.

SGT. MARKEY

I know you will do me proud, Butch.
Now, go get me one or two bad guys
before you close shop here.

DARREN

I aim to do my job to the best of
my ability, Sir.

He laughs as Sgt. Markey walks away. He spins in his chair
again and pumps the air.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Whoooooo!

EXT/INT. DARREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Darren parks his car in the driveway and is soon out of it.

He rolls his key on his finger as he approaches the front
door.

Inside the house, Coleen packs the dinner plate and ROBYN,
Darren's young daughter, goes to sit in the living room. The
front door opens and Darren walks in. Robyn jumps down from
the chair and rushes to Darren.

ROBYN

Daddy!

Darren picks her up and swings her around while she laughs and giggles.

DARREN

How's my baby girl doing?

COLEEN (O.S.)

Which of your baby girls?

DARREN

Oh! I'm talking about the one right here in my arms.

ROBYN

Daddy, we just ate now. Momma made meatballs.

DARREN

Now, did she?

Darren drops Robyn back to the floor and holds her as he walks to the kitchen where Coleen is sorting the plates.

Darren hugs her from behind and kisses her on the neck.

COLEEN

Let me fix you a plate. And please, tuck in your baby girl soon, will you?

ROBYN

But tomorrow is Saturday. There's no school.

DARREN

Then you can play with daddy all day tomorrow, pumpkin. We should do as mummy says.

ROBYN

(pouts)
Okay, daddy.

INT. BEDROOM - NIGHT

Darren is already in bed when Coleen enters from the bathroom. She jumps into bed and sighs.

DARREN

Long day, huh?

COLEEN
Not really. Just tired.

DARREN
So I got to the precinct today to
the biggest surprise.

COLEEN
(turns to face Darren)
Another surprise, what is it this
time?

DARREN
(smiling)
Let's just say you're currently
talking to a homicide detective.

COLEEN
(shocked)
Are you serious?

DARREN
Yes. Although it is still
temporary. I'll do one month with
them and then a permanent position
for the job will open and I'd have
to apply for it.

COLEEN
This is great news, Darren. We are
going shopping tomorrow to
celebrate this. You need new work
clothes anyway.

DARREN
Who am I to say no? I don't think
I've changed my wardrobe for the
last five years.

COLEEN
My husband will look the part of a
homicide detective.

DARREN
(kisses her)
Thank you.

INT. J.C. PENNEY STORE - DAY

Coleen and Darren are in the store, moving through the racks
quickly. Darren stops in front of a long queue of mannequins
wearing suits, shirts, and pants, all matching each other.

COLEEN
(anxious)
What are you about to do, Darren?

DARREN
(shrugs)
This looks like a good place to do
all the shopping we need to do.

COLEEN
Maybe we should search a little bit
more, honey. They have so many
others racked and ready to sell.

DARREN
Let's just stay here.

Coleen sighs. Darren walks from one mannequin to the next, checking collars and pockets of each pair. Soon, he has picked seven different suits and their matching shirts and pants.

DARREN (CONT'D)
(looking around the store)
I think that's all for now. I have
something for the week.

COLEEN
I saw a nice oxford shoe toward the
back earlier, let's pick that too.

Darren follows Coleen as she leads him to the back of the store where they have the shoe section. She grabs a pair of brown, fancy, oxford dress shoes.

DARREN
Yeah. Those look really good.

COLEEN
Great!

They turn around and start walking toward the counter when Darren sees a London Fog trench coat.

DARREN
Why didn't I think I need this? It
completes everything.

Darren grabs the trench coat and adds to his basket. Coleen is behind him and only shakes her head.

INT. THE HIDDEN HOUSE BAR - NIGHT

BRIAN DANN sits at the bar, slowly sipping his drink and swirling it when he isn't drinking.

His position at the side of the bar helps him see other patrons in the bar, drinking and laughing. He stands up and goes to an empty chair where he continues drinking. One of the owners of the bar, RICK, approaches Brian's table.

RICK

Brian. Buddy, what's up? You good?

BRIAN

(shakes his head)

Yeah, Ricky. Just tired is all.

RICK

I get that. You can go home to rest. Need any help?

BRIAN

Nah. I'm good.

RICK

Okay.

Rick starts to walk away.

BRIAN

Uhm, Ricky.

RICK

(turns around)

Yeah, Brian?

BRIAN

Can I borrow your phone? I've not been able to reach Shelly all day. Just want to make sure she's fine.

RICK

You guys had a fight?

BRIAN

Nah. She went to Andrew's, but I don't know maybe my phone is just messed up.

Rick takes out his phone and gives it to Brian.

RICK

You know where to find me when you're done.

BRIAN

Of course. Thank you, man.

Rick walks away and Brian dials a number on the phone. He waits a while but there is no answer and he dials the number again. Same thing. He drops the phone and buries his face in his palms.

LINDA, Rick's wife and co-owner of the bar, walks up to Brian carrying a large empty tray.

LINDA

Brian. What's up, buddy?

BRIAN

(raises his head)

I'm fine.

LINDA

You look troubled. Are you sure you're fine?

BRIAN

Yeah. I'll just go home soon. Been trying to reach Shelly but she's either not picking up or the number doesn't go through.

LINDA

I'm sure she is fine. Probably just enjoying the holiday.

BRIAN

I think so too. She sent Becca to her parents and then she went to Andrew's.

LINDA

You see. She'll be home tomorrow. I'm sure.

BRIAN

(gives Linda Rick's phone)

Give this to Rick for me. He gave me to use it to call Shelly. Thank him for me.

LINDA

Sure.

BRIAN

It looks very busy in here. You must have your hands full.

LINDA
 (sighs)
 You cannot begin to imagine.

BRIAN
 Then let me let you get back to work. I'll hang around for a few more hours before going home.

LINDA
 Take care of yourself, Brian.

Linda also walks away and Brian sits back on his chair, sighs and rubs his face clear.

SAME SCENE - LATER

The bar's front door opens and Brian walks in. His mood has changed and he looks pissed as he sees GEORGE sitting at a table. He nods at George and George nods back.

Brian heads to a table in the corner of the bar and George follows him. They take their seat and are quiet for a long time before Brian finally erupts.

BRIAN
 (angry)
 Can you imagine that woman!

GEORGE
 Brian, what happened?

BRIAN
 I went to see her at Andrew's place. Our relationship isn't what it used to be and I'm just done with her. I was at the door and I knocked. There was no answer. I knocked again and announced my name and said I only wanted to talk to Shelly. They still didn't answer me. I knew they were inside so I kept knocking until Andrew came and opened the door. I saw Shelly sitting on the chair and Andrew just yelled at me to leave then he slammed the door in my face. How could he do that? Who the hell does he think he is? Anyway, I knocked again. How can they ignore me like that? Andrew opened the door again and he had a gun in his hand.

GEORGE

What? Are you okay, Brian?

BRIAN

Yeah, I'm okay. I stepped back when I saw the gun and I told him I must speak to Shelly. He doesn't have a right to keep her from me. But that man is crazy. He pointed the gun at me and shot three times over my head. I ran out of there before he could kill me.

GEORGE

Come on man. Why are you doing this?

BRIAN

(angry)

Who does he think he is?

EXT/INT. ANDREW'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

A HOODED MAN approaches the front door. He kicks down the door with immense force and it breaks open immediately. He sees the MAN on the lounge chair starting to wake up and he immediately shoots him in the head.

To his side, a WOMAN wakes up, startled by the gunshot. The hooded man quickly shoots her in the head as well. There's a noise toward the kitchen. The hooded man follows the sound and sees ANOTHER MAN trying to scurry toward the kitchen. He shoots him on the back twice and the man stops moving. Then he shoots him in the head.

The hooded man quickly rushes to an adjoining room and grabs the tape out of a VHS recorder before running out of the front door.

INT. DARREN'S HOUSE - DAY

It is the early hours of the morning and the entire house is still sleeping. The sound of the phone ringing from the bedroom causes sudden movements in their bed. Darren reaches for the phone on the bedside table and answers it.

DARREN

(groggy voice)

Hello.

SGT. SMALLMAN (V.O.)

Detective Butch. Good morning.

Darren sits up in bed when he hears the sergeant's voice.

DARREN

Sergeant Smallman. Good morning,
sir.

SGT. SMALLMAN

I know it is still quite early
detective, but we need you on a
case. You were placed on stand-by
for the week, but I didn't want to
wake you too early. We were called
out to the scene of a triple murder
a few hours ago. We could use the
extra set of eyes and hands now.

DARREN

I'll be right there, Sergeant.

The call ends and Darren drops the phone back on the bedside
table. He sighs and rubs his face. Coleen is awake and she
turns to face him.

COLEEN

What is it?

DARREN

It looks like I start work today.
My sergeant just called me that I
am needed at a crime scene.

COLEEN

(nods)
That sucks.

SAME SCENE - LATER

Darren quickly finishes a cup of hot coffee in the kitchen
while Coleen starts breakfast.

COLEEN

People don't stop committing
crimes, not even on the holidays.

DARREN

(kisses Coleen)
Opposite is the case. We get more
calls during the holidays, but
usually domestic.

COLEEN

Is that what you think this is?

DARREN

(heading to the door)

A triple murder on Easter Sunday?
It's very likely it is domestic
violence related. I see them a lot.
The typical ex-boyfriend feeling
wronged and forces his way into the
ex's home to get the sex he
believes he is owed. Sadly, it
happens a lot.

COLEEN

(confused)

Hmm... Oh, really?

DARREN

(stepping out)

I will see you later, baby.

INT. DARREN'S CAR - DAY

Darren starts his car, looks at the address he's scribbled on a piece of paper and starts backing out from his driveway.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

SGT. SMALLMAN is standing on a grassy lawn in front of the building, talking with DET. RAY ROE. The front walkway of the apartment complex is sealed off with the yellow crime scene tape so that no one can go toward the front door of the apartment where the crime happened.

SGT. SMALLMAN

(to Ray Roe)

They told me you left the bar early
last night, are you okay?

RAY ROE

I'm okay. I think my stomach wasn't
ready for more drinking last night.
And the wife wanted me to come home
earlier as well.

SGT. SMALLMAN

(laughing)

You should stick to root beer for
now, maybe...

Sgt. Smallman looks up and notices Darren's car park on the side of the apartment and Darren comes out of it.

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)
Our new detective is here.

RAY ROE
(turning around)
Really?

They both watch as Darren walks the distance to them on the lawn and they shake each other's hands.

SGT. SMALLMAN
It's great to have you here, Butch.

DARREN
I'm ready to get right to work.

SGT. SMALLMAN
We have a man inside doing a walk through. Once he returns, we can know more about what happened in there.
(gestures to Ray Roe)
Detective Butch, this is Det. Ray Roe. He is the case agent for this case. He used to work undercover for the drug unit but he's now with us.

Ray and Darren shake each other.

RAY ROE
Welcome to homicide, Det. Butch.

DARREN
Just Butch is fine, and I am still here on a temporary basis.

RAY ROE
Let's hope that becomes permanent.

SGT. SMALLMAN
From what I have heard, the owner of the apartment is a known drug dealer. So it is possible this is drug related and the two other people in the house were only there by chance.

RAY ROE
I bet they work for him.

SGT. SMALLMAN
Even drug dealers have family they spend their time with.

RAY ROE

Tom is coming.

DET. TOM D'AGUANNO comes out of the apartment complex, garbed in the white CSI one-piece suit. He removes his gloves as he walks toward Smallman, Ray, and Darren.

He soon gets to to them as he takes off the last glove, sweating. Tom looks over at Darren, looks at Sgt. Smallman, and then back at Darren, doing a double take. Darren keeps his composure.

SGT. SMALLMAN

Lizard, what happened in there. Go ahead and brief us.

Tom nods and then looks at Darren, quizzical about his presence.

TOM

(shrugs)

It's a one-bedroom apartment and as we already know, it's a triple murder; two men and one woman. They are all in the main room and all three appear to have died from a gunshot wound to the head. The medical examiner's report shouldn't report anything too far from this.

He steals a glance at Darren again before he continues.

TOM (CONT'D)

Anyway, as soon as I entered, I saw a 30-ish-year-old heavy set male sporting a ponytail, lifeless on the lounge chair. He looked like he had some preexisting medical issues. He was wearing shorts and his right leg was disfigured. He was carrying bags of marijuana on his laps and some smoking pipes as well. He had a shotgun partially concealed next to him. A few feet from him was a woman of about the same age. She was lying on a cushion chair and her eyes were open. She was either resting or that was a make-shift bed she slept in. The last person in the room is a man lying face down on the floor close to the kitchen where it leads to the back bedroom.

TOM (CONT'D)

He wasn't from a couch next to the kitchen so I think he woke up from the gunshots on the two other people and tried to run away to the back bedroom. He was wearing a blue nursing-style scrub shirt and pants. Maybe he's some health care worker of some kind. He was also shot in the head and then he had other gunshot wounds to his body

Tom looks at Darren, who has been quiet and listening like the other two officers.

TOM (CONT'D)

Preliminarily, I'll say the scene is consistent with the killer pushing the rickety door open and he let himself in while the three occupants were sleeping. He shot the first male on the lounge chair, and then the woman next to him before he focused on the care worker who was trying to get away.

SGT. SMALLMAN

That's good work, Tom. I'll talk to the front desk and see what I can find out.

As Smallman walks away, he pulls out his radio and talks into it. Tom looks at Darren and then focuses on Ray.

RAY ROE

I heard you talked to the guy who found the bodies.

TOM

Yeah. I talked to him. His name is Brain Dann. He said he's the boyfriend to the woman. Her name's Shelly Parks. He lived with her but when he woke up this morning and saw that she never came home last night after visiting her brother, he became worried. According to him, Andrew, Shelly's brother, lived on a mile away. He called the apartment but there was no answer. Then he drove here, rang up the door but still no response.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

He saw the door was damaged and he entered to find his girlfriend and her brother dead.

TOM (CONT'D)

He ran out of the apartment and went straight to the manager's apartment before they called 911.

RAY ROE

And his story checks out so far?

TOM

There's nothing we've found that doesn't support his version of the happened.

RAY ROE

Okay. That's good, I guess.

TOM

And he looked quite broken down about his girlfriend's death.

RAY ROE

Where did he say he lived?

TOM

He said he frequents a bar close to this place and his house isn't very far either. He drove up here in minutes before he found his body.

RAY ROE

And he knocked the door?

TOM

He said he rang the bell. When no response came, he went to the door and found that it was broken, so he opened it and went in.

RAY ROE

Did he call 911?

TOM

No. The manager did. He was too shaken up to do anything. When I talked to him, he was still quite shaken up.

RAY ROE

Brian Dann, huh?

TOM

Yeah.

Tom looks over at Darren who has been quiet throughout that time, learning whatever he can from the conversations.

Tom's gaze is that of skepticism, but he still holds his tongue and says nothing to Darren. Sgt. Smallman returns from his visit to the front desk.

SGT. SMALLMAN

So our third victim is Eddie Payan, a certified healthcare worker hired by Andrew's parents to care for his medical challenges. I also found out that Shelly has a ten year old daughter who spent the night with her grandparents and they only just got notified of the death of two of their kids.

RAY ROE

The poor child is now without a mother, and now her grandparents bear the burden of telling her while they are yet to fully understand it. This sucks.

SGT. SMALLMAN

(shrugs)

It is fucked. Apparently, it was done in less than a minute. A few people heard the gunshots.

Darren's face clearly betrays the sadness he is feeling but it all washes away when Tom looks at him strangely again.

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)

Butch, you see those cameras there?

Sgt. Smallman points at Andrew's roof just above the front door.

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)

I am pretty sure there was a recording somewhere in that house. I want you to get it and we just might be lucky enough to catch a full or partial image of the person who did this. Maybe they dumped it in a trash somewhere close by.

Tom looks at Darren with the oddest gaze as he hears what Sgt. Smallman said.

DARREN

Of course, Sergeant.

SGT. SMALLMAN

I'll call the burglary and drug detective so they can do their thing.

RAY ROE

But isn't it funny that the person didn't take anything? Not any of those bikes or drugs or money. It was like they just wanted to rid these people of their lives.

TOM

So you think it might not be drug related.

RAY ROE

I'm not sure I can say for now, but it is doubtful.

TOM

But it is still a feasible explanation; a drug rip-off. We don't know how much drugs is in the house and if they took anything. The recording tape is gone so we don't know for sure. Currently, there's no other situation we know that could have led to this.

RAY ROE

So the Shelly and the care worker are just victims by association and place.

SGT. SMALLMAN

It would look like that. Or why would Shelly who has a ten year-old involve herself in the drug business? And as for Eddie, I can't be sure about him. He has access to drugs and probably knows a few junkies. Maybe he got compromised and pushes drugs for Andrew?

DARREN

All of these is still speculation, though. I understand the premise we are working on to say it could be a drug rip-off, but we can't say for sure that anything was taken.

(MORE)

DARREN (CONT'D)

And even if they did, why is there still so many things left in the house?

DARREN (CONT'D)

There's still a lot of drugs in that house. The bikes are still there, nothing seems to be touched. Why not clean the entire house of all the drugs if it truly is a drug rip-off?

Ray exchanges glances with Tom.

RAY ROE

I can see what you are saying, Butch.

SGT. SMALLMAN

Okay, Butch. Why don't you do the search then? Check all the alleys, trash cans and dumpsters for any discarded item. It may be the missing video tape or any other thing that can help us with the investigation.

Tom continues to gaze at Darren, wondering who he is.

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)

And after you're done with that, you should go door-to-door and talk to the neighbors to have a solid statement of whatever they saw or heard that night around the time of the murders.

Tom is even further confused and is totally dismayed by Darren's assignment.

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)

But before you do all of that, I want you to join Tom so that you can process the crime scene.

(to Tom)

Butch here will go into the apartment with you and help you take measurements while the CSI photographer does his thing.

Tom stares at the sergeant but says nothing other than turning around and walking to his car.

DARREN
I'll get ready, Sergeant.

Darren also turns away and goes back to his car. Darren glances toward Tom and sees him wearing his gloves.

Darren opens his trunk and grabs his CSI suit, gloves, and boots. As he turns around, he sees Tom just a few feet away from him.

TOM
(cold stare)
Hi, I'm Tom.

DARREN
Hey, Tom. I'm Butch, Darren Butch. I'm quite glad to be working on this case with you and helping out however I can.

Tom nods repeatedly as Darren talks to him.

TOM
(curt)
I've gotta tell ya, I've never allowed a reporter to accompany me inside a murder scene before!

Darren looks at Tom and bursts into an explosive laughter.

DARREN
Oh! No. No. No, Tom. I'm not a reporter, man. I'm a sex crimes detective and I just got assigned to homicide to help out for a month.

Tom's face goes red with embarrassment and then he bursts into a very long laughter.

TOM
(still laughing)
Are you for real?

DARREN
Yeah. Today's my first day.

TOM
(laughing)
What the hell is with that trench coat, man? You are wearing a Columbo jacket?

Darren looks at his trench coat, dumbfounded.

TOM (CONT'D)

Come on, man. You really didn't think you've been killing it while wearing that.

TOM (CONT'D)

You're lucky it is only these few of us that have seen you on that.

DARREN

Hey, man. I guess I thought this was going to do it.

Darren starts to take off the trench coat and change into the CSI suit and boots.

TOM

Man, you've cracked me up so bad. I initially thought you was some reporter who doesn't know his place anymore and you just want to mess with our investigation. And of course, a reporter with a terrible dress sense. But I'm finding out you're one of us. We will be friends, my brother.

Tom pats Darren on the back as he finishes wearing his boot and starts wearing his gloves so that they can go to the apartment.

As the duo walk toward the apartment, CAROLYN IRWIN, a CSI Technician, stares at Darren all the way.

CAROLYN

(to Darren)

I saw you back there.

DARREN

(pretending)

Back where?

Tom laughs and walks on while Carolyn shakes her head and also laughs. They walk into the house.

INT. APARTMENT - DAY

The bodies are still in the same position as Ray described.

Darren helps Tom with measuring the distances of the various evidence in the room.

TOM
 Carolyn, I think this is ready for
 you.

Tom and Darren leave a blood splash on the floor not far from
 Andrew's body.

Carolyn comes to the blood and takes a picture of it. Tom and
 Darren walk over to some money bills on the floor to continue
 taking the measurements.

TOM (CONT'D)
 You think your Columbo Jacket would
 be on the rack of a set for a
 detective movie?

DARREN
 Come on, man. Cut me some slack.

TOM
 Never. Not with that thing.

CAROLYN
 I thought you said you didn't know
 what I was talking about?

DARREN
 I don't know. Do you see any jacket
 on me?

TOM
 You mean if I go to your trunk, I
 won't see a jacket that Carolyn
 will confirm she saw you wearing a
 few minutes ago?

DARREN
 (sighs)
 It is going to be a long day.

TOM
 You mean to say a long career.

DARREN
 (shocked)
 What? You're going to have this
 over my head forever?

TOM
 (nonchalant)
 I didn't say that, but who knows?

Darren sighs as he places the last numbered placards in front
 of an evidence.

DARREN
I have work to do.

Darren takes out his phone and dials a number.

DARREN (CONT'D)
(on the phone)
Yeah. I need a transport team to
pick up three bodies... Okay, see
you soon.

SAME SCENE - LATER

The bodies are gone and all that's left are the pieces of
tagged evidence. Carolyn is also gone.

Darren and Tom start bagging each of the evidence.

DARREN
Tom, I was thinking. Brian Dann.

TOM
(looks up)
Yeah. What about him?

DARREN
His clothes. I still think he's a
possible suspect. Do we have his
clothes from last night?

TOM
Maybe you should talk to Sgt.
Smallman about that. Ray has left
for the station but he would have
told Smallman about it.

DARREN
(looks around the crime
scene)
I think we are almost done bagging
the evidence.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DAY

Sgt. Smallman is outside the apartment manager's office
talking with the APARTMENT MANAGER.

APARTMENT MANAGER
He was the one who woke us up and
started yelling "Call 911".

SGT. SMALLMAN
(taking notes)
And it was at this time you called
911?

Darren approaches Sgt. Smallman.

APARTMENT MANAGER
Yes, I called-

DARREN
(cuts in)
Sergeant, can I have a word with
you?

SGT. SMALLMAN
(to the apartment manager)
Excuse me for a few minutes.

Sgt. Smallman walks to the side, out of earshot from the
apartment manager.

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)
You guys found something?

DARREN
Nothing really. I think Brian Dann
is a primary suspect in this case
and I know he was the first on the
scene after the crime. I was
wondering if his clothes might show
signs of an arterial spray.

SGT. SMALLMAN
You're correct. That could be the
case. However, we didn't think to
collect his clothes. That was an
oversight on our end.

DARREN
But why did you cut him so much
slack?

SGT. SMALLMAN
First, we didn't think he had any
motive to commit a murder, not to
mention three. Or at least any
motive we were aware of. He also
had an alibi. He mentioned that he
was at bar in the neighborhood. The
Hidden House bar. I spoke to the
bar owners and they confirmed it.
Brian was also cooperative.

(MORE)

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)
 He didn't appear deceptive and he just couldn't stop crying. Lastly, his father is a highly-respected superior court judge. It was easier to assume he couldn't be a suspect. And you know we are looking at the drug rip-off aspect of the case.

DARREN
 We gotta do something now.

SGT. SMALLMAN
 Of course. We must collect Brian Dann's clothing. Let me call Ray.

Sgt. Smallman looks back at the Apartment Manager and raises his index finger to apologize. Sgt. Smallman makes the call.

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)
 (on the phone)
 Ray, there's some issue we need to solve.

RAY ROE (V.O.)
 Boss, what is that?

SGT. SMALLMAN
 Brian Dann. We never collected his clothing.

RAY ROE (V.O.)
 Shit! How did we forget that? I'll get right on this sergeant.

SGT. SMALLMAN
 Good one, Ray. Let me know how it goes.

The call ends.

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)
 Darren, why don't you canvass the apartment complex, talk to some witnesses and see if you can pick up an evidence or two.

DARREN
 I'll talk to the neighbors first.

Sgt. Smallman nods and walks back to the Apartment Manager who's beginning to get restless.

Darren walks to the first door and knocks. The door opens and an older woman, LISA, walks out.

DARREN (CONT'D)
 (smiles)
 Good day, ma'am. How are you today?

LISA
 (smiles back and looks
 into the house)

LISA (CONT'D)
 Bob, the handsome officer is quite
 nice.

Darren smiles and the door opens wider. An older man, BOB,
 sits on a cane chair not too far from the door.

DARREN
 (smiles and waves)
 Bob, how do you do? Your wife has a
 great smile.

BOB
 (scoffs)
 She's not wife. She's my sister.

The older woman laughs and Darren blushes.

DARREN
 Ma'am, you got me there.

LISA
 My dear, what can I do for you?

DARREN
 I'm asking the neighbors if they
 heard or saw anything last night
 that can help us with what happened
 in that apartment.

LISA
 Oh! That Andrew guy? He's a bad
 influence, but me and Bobby here
 take pills to sleep. Whatever
 happened, we slept through it.

DARREN
 Alright. Thank you very much ma'am.

LISA
 You're welcome, honey. And you can
 call me Lisa. Do you want my
 number?

DARREN

(laughs)

I don't think the missus is going to like that very much.

LISA

What was I thinking. A fine young man like you has to be taken.

The older woman goes back into her house. Darren knocks on the next door.

It opens and a young woman, CHRISTINE, steps out. The next door also opens and another woman, MARTHA, steps out as well.

DARREN

(looks from one lady to the next)

Hello ladies. How are you this morning?

CHRISTINE

Detective, good morning. This is about those gunshots last night, yeah?

DARREN

(jotting)

So you heard gunshots.

CHRISTINE

Definitely.

MARTHA

I mean, it happened twice.

Darren looks at the woman at the other door.

DARREN

You mean there were two shots only?

CHRISTINE

No. At first, it was a bit late at night and there was like two or three shots.

MARTHA

It was three shots. I can remember.

CHRISTINE

Then at midnight, there was like five or ten gunshots.

MARTHA

It was around three a.m. I was still awake. My cat wouldn't let me sleep.

DARREN

And you can both confirm this?

MARTHA

I'll come down to the station and write a statement.

DARREN

(nods)

Thank you very much, ladies. You've been a lot of help. I'll talk to others and see what they know that can help our investigation.

CHRISTINE

Thank you, detective.

DARREN

Do you mind if I asked for your names?

MARTHA

I'm Martha.

CHRISTINE

And my name is Christine.

DARREN

I'll reach out to you ladies if we need anything else. Thank you.

The ladies return to their rooms while Darren crosses to the adjacent side of the building where the door to the next apartment is. Before he knocks, the door opens and a man, TOMMY, steps out.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Good morning, sir. I was hoping I could talk to you.

The man stretches his hand and Darren accepts his handshake.

TOMMY

You can call me Tommy. This is about what happened at Andrews I'm guessing.

DARREN

Tommy, yes. Is there anything you remember that you can tell me?

TOMMY

Oh. I remember plenty. I was just returning home last night and I noticed someone was standing in front of Andrew's door. That guy shot at whoever was at the door but I think he missed. Then everything was quiet.

TOMMY (CONT'D)

It was later at midnight I woke up to another gunshot and then so many gunshots after the first one. I checked the time and it was three sixteen. I know he does drugs, but can they just let us sleep! Some of us have to work for our living.

DARREN

(nods and jots)

Do you remember anything else, Tommy?

TOMMY

(thinks for a while)

No. I think that's all. It was difficult to go back to sleep after all that gunshot. I just knew something terrible must have happened.

DARREN

But why didn't you call 911 when you heard the shots?

TOMMY

There's always someone shooting in this area. That would be a waste of the state's resources for them to always come up here for nothing.

DARREN

(nods)

Thanks for your help, Tommy. Don't let me hold you up any longer.

TOMMY

(nods)

Thank you, detective.

Tommy locks his door and walks away. Darren moves toward the next door.

EXT. GENERAL AREA - DAY

Darren is done with his interviews of the neighbors. He walks across the street toward the first garbage can. He takes the glove from his armpit and wears it. He shakes his head as he opens the lid on the garbage can. He starts shifting different items around trying to find anything of interest.

LATER

Darren spots a large dumpster close to a shopping mall. He sighs and walks toward it. He opens it and it is almost empty except for a few wraps of food, used diaper, and polythene bags. Darren closes the dumpster and looks ahead. He sees the signboard that reads "Hidden House Bar".

He nods and walks toward it.

EXT. APARTMENT COMPLEX - DUSK

Darren returns to the apartment as Sgt. Smallman gives the Apartment Manager the key to Andrew's apartment. In a near distance, the medical examiner's van is driving away.

SGT. SMALLMAN

Thank you for your cooperation. I hope you'll welcome us if we have any other reason to return here.

APARTMENT MANAGER

You're always welcome, Sergeant. I'll hold on renting out the space for the next few weeks, just in case you need to look around again.

SGT. SMALLMAN

Thank you.

Sgt. Smallman walks toward Darren and Tom, where they are talking.

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)

Looks like we all got what we need from here.

TOM

Yup. Now it is time to go face those tons of evidence we packed.

(MORE)

TOM (CONT'D)

The drug investigators have also left with all they need.

DARREN

Sergeant, I'd like to see how a hunch pans out. I want to go back to the Hidden House Bar and see if anyone was really with Brian Dann as you were told.

SGT. SMALLMAN

Yeah, that would be great. You do that, Darren.

SGT. SMALLMAN (CONT'D)

It would save me the trip of picking up the bar's phone logging system. Make sure you get that for me.

DARREN

Of course, sergeant.

INT. THE HIDDEN HOUSE BAR - NIGHT

The door to the bar opens and Darren steps into a less-crowded space where the occupants are engrossed in whatever discussion they're having with each other. Nobody pays him any mind as he walks straight to the bar. He sits down and soon Linda comes to him from behind the bar.

LINDA

What would you like to drink, sir?

DARREN

(shows his badge)
I'm still on the job, but I won't mind a glass of water.

LINDA

(nods)
Water coming right up.

Linda looks toward her husband and nods at Darren. Rick also joins Linda behind the bar as she gives Darren the glass of water.

DARREN

Linda and Rick, yeah?

RICK

Yes, detective. We heard about what happened to Andrew and Shelly and the guy taking care of Andrew. It is very sad. We've known both of them for a long time and they are one of the regulars here.

DARREN

Really?

Linda attends to a new customer that just arrived in the bar.

RICK

Can we take this to my office, detective?

DARREN

That's okay.

INT. RICK'S OFFICE - NIGHT

RICK

Everybody here know them by name. Brian and Shelly even met here for the first time. I can't imagine how the poor guy must be feeling right now.

DARREN

So you're close to Brian as well?

RICK

Brian, Andrew, Shelly, every one here knows them so well. Brian was here last night worried about Shelly. He was trying to call Shelly and he even asked to use my cell.

DARREN

And he called her?

RICK

I don't think he was able to reach her, because I kept looking back at him, but he only had the phone to his ear for a few seconds. And that happened repeatedly.

DARREN

You said Brian and Shelly met here?

RICK

Oh yeah. It was around the first month we opened. We had just ended selling at an opening discount the previous week. Brian walked in, holding the flier advertising the discount. He ordered one of our most expensive drinks and when it was time to pay, he settled half of the bill. Linda wasn't happy with him and told him the discount had ended, but he claimed we didn't put an end date on the flier and if he wants, he would come in the next day for another discounted drink.

RICK (CONT'D)

He was correct that we didn't put an end date on the flier, but the drink he ordered was too expensive to give to him at a discount. He was going to make a scene when Andrew came and settled his bill. He joined him at his table where Shelly was already sitting, drinking away another heartbreak. The rest as they say, is history.

DARREN

Around what time was Darren here that you saw him?

RICK

I can't remember all the time but I know he had to use my phone many hours before midnight. Linda got back the phone for me and when I checked on him, he was gone, but I saw him again later that night. He stays very close so he comes and goes how he likes.

DARREN

So there's a period of time you don't know his whereabouts.

RICK

I would say about an hour, give or take. Not more than that.

DARREN

And when did he finally leave?

RICK

Early this morning. We had people who didn't want to go home. You know, there's no one to go home to. So they kind of had their own Easter party here before going home.

DARREN

Do you know what time Brian first walked in last night?

RICK

I cannot say. I came from out back and saw that he was already here. And I couldn't keep eyes on him for too long.

RICK (CONT'D)

It's a Saturday night, a lot of crowd. Linda was also very busy.

DARREN

What can you tell me about Brian's mood? Was he upset, happy or something in-between when he asked to use your phone?

RICK

Oh! He wasn't happy, but I am not sure he was furious or angry. I guess he was a little pissed off.

DARREN

And have you ever seen Brian get upset? What's that like?

Rick sighs and looks around and then stares at the bar table.

He shakes his head before he finally looks up at Darren.

RICK

Yep, I've seen him lose his shit a few times here. He does have a bad temper.

DARREN

(taps his notes)
You've been a lot of help, Rick.

RICK

(shrugs)
Anything to sort this tragedy.

DARREN

I would like to talk to some of your customers, you know, find out if any of them were here last night and they saw anything.

RICK

Go ahead. That's dandy. It's all anyone is talking about. Everybody really liked Andrew and Shelly. It's so tragic.

INT. BAR MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

Rick and Darren exit to the bar's main floor where Linda is attending to the few customers left in the bar.

Rick immediately goes behind the bar to join Linda. He whispers into her ear and they continue with their business.

Darren looks around at the people who are quietly enjoying their drinks. No one is talking. Darren sees all the eyes on him and walks toward the other side of the bar where he sees THREE GUYS next to each other on a row of barstools. Darren walk toward them and they stare at them.

DARREN

(flashes his badge)

What's up, guys? Do any of you know something or even heard something about the murders?

GUY #1

Nah. None of us were in last night.

GUY #2

But it is sad anyone would do that to Andrew and Shelly. They're such nice people.

GUY #3

We got here tonight and we are hearing they got clicked during the night. Ain't that something?

GUY #1

Not like Andrew wasn't moving with the wrong crowd. It could be coming from there.

GUY #2

Andrew doesn't encourage violence
though. He's a chill dude. He's
helped me-

Guy #2 stops talking as he looks at Darren and realizes a
detective is standing next to him. Darren shakes his head and
moves to another table. There's a COUPLE on the table, a MAN
and WOMAN.

MAN

You're the detective in charge of
the case?

DARREN

(nods)
One of the detectives assisting.

MAN

I can tell you that those two
siblings like each other so much.
They'd always be around each other.

WOMAN

You remember the other time they
came in and...

Darren zones as out as he looks around the bar and his eyes
fall on GEROGE, who sits by himself in a booth in a corner of
the bar. He continues to stare at his half-empty glass of
beer unlike everyone else who watches Darren's every move.

DARREN

(to the couple)
Excuse me.

Darren leaves the couple's table and ignores the stares from
others as he goes to George. Darren stands over him but
George continues to stare at his beer. At first, his
countenance shows sadness and then it slowly turns to fear.

Darren continues to stare at him in silence for a long time.

DARREN (CONT'D)

You need to talk, huh?

George nods, his head still hanging down. Darren takes the
seat opposite him and clasps his hands together.

DARREN (CONT'D)

Just start at the beginning.

GEORGE
(finally looks up at
Darren)
Okay.

George sips from his beer again.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
My name is George. Shelly had started to outgrow her love for Brian and had started spending less and less time with him. She was spending more time with her daughter and family. It was the same thing that happened yesterday. It was Easter eve and she went to be with her brother, Andrew. Brian was filled with disdain because Shelly wasn't with him for Easter eve. He was very angry. I was sitting in a different table last night when Brian walked in. I came to talk to him in this booth we are sitting.

GEORGE (CONT'D)
We sat for a long time saying nothing until Brian erupted and told me he had gone to see Shelly just before midnight at Andrew's apartment. Brian told me that their relationship has gone sour and he was done with her, but he badly wanted to speak to her and he went there. He knocked to talk to Shelly but she didn't answer.

(beat)
Finally, Andrew opened it and he saw Shelly sitting on a chair but not answering him. He said Andrew told him to leave that Shelly doesn't want to talk to him. Andrew slammed the door in his face and Brian got furious. He continued knocking on the door. Andrew came back to open the door, but this time with a pistol. Brian said he stepped back and refused to leave. He said Andrew then fired the gun just above his head. He had to run away from there, humiliated. He came here and was very pissed. He couldn't believe all of that was "over her" in his words.

(MORE)

GEORGE (CONT'D)

I told him to let it go but Brian wasn't having it. He said he would go back with his own gun. I think he tried calling the house with Rick's phone but no one answered the call. He came back here and showed me a revolver pistol. He said he was going to kill Andrew and he sounded like he meant it. I told him to just end things with Shelly since he said he doesn't want her anymore. Brian told me he borrowed the gun from his ex-wife. He was hellbent on getting his revenge but I managed to calm him down and we left the bar together. I guess he never listened to me.

DARREN

George, will you be willing to come to the station to give a detailed interview with all you just told me?

GEORGE

Yes, I'll come.

DARREN

Do you mind if I see your ID?

George takes out his wallet from his jacket pocket and gives Darren his ID. Darren takes a picture it.

INT. BRIAN'S EX-WIFE'S HOUSE - DAY

There is a loud repeated knock on the door when BRIAN'S EX-WIFE opens the door to a group of policemen. Ray Roe is leading the operation.

RAY ROE

Ma'am, we have a warrant to search your premises.

INT. COURT - DAY

Brian is alone in the defendant's chair. He is representing himself and he stands to hear the judge's sentence.

SUPERIMPOSE: "One Year Later"

INT. DARREN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Darren is in his house with his family having dinner. The TV is tuned to a new station and a news comes on.

NEWSCASTER

Brian Dann, the son of an honorable superior judge, has just been sentenced to death for a triple homicide he committed on Easter Sunday last year. Upon his arrest last year, the superior court judge had immediately retired from the bench. Details of...

COLEEN

(rubs Darren's hand)
You did a great job, honey.

DARREN

It was a team effort.

FADE TO BLACK.

TEXT OVERLAY:

"Years later, a law changed the way sentencing was to be handled in capital murder cases, and Darren had to testify again. The law mandated that a jury needed to determine the death penalty portion, and not the judge. Only this time, Darren also testified as the Crime Scene Agent. Tom D'Aguanno was on vacation in another country.

In the end, the new jury also sentenced Brian Dann to death, and justice was served. However, he was never executed. Brian Dann died from natural causes while incarcerated - cancer."

FADE OUT.