

CASTLE

“A Chill Goes Through Her Veins” Ep. 105

Written by
Charles Murray

Directed by
Bryan Spicer

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CAST

Blue Production Draft
December 10, 2008

RICHARD CASTLE
KATE BECKETT
MARTHA RODGERS
JAVIER ESPOSITO
LANIE PARISH
KEVIN RYAN
ALEXIS CASTLE
ROY MONTGOMERY

ROGER (**ALSO** "VOICE" AND "MAN" IN SCENE 9)
BEN DAVIDSON
JULIE DAVIDSON
SHERIFF CLAY SLOAN
ALBERT BOLLAND
CHARLES WYLER
KEVIN HENSON
ELIZABETH FORTE
DOORMAN
DELORIS MARSH

Non-Speaking

Blue Production Draft
December 10, 2008

SC. 4
CONTRUCTION WORKERS
~~CROWD~~

SC. 5
WORKERS
UNIFORMS
C.S.U. TECH

SC. 11
BELLA
SIMONE

SC. 12
BELLA
SIMONE

SC. 24
DELIVERY MEN

SC. 35
WORKER

Locations

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INTERIORS

BECKETT APARTMENT

BEDROOM (ACTS 1, 6)

CLOSET (ACTS 1, 6)

PRECINCT (ACTS 4, 6)

CONFERENCE ROOM (ACT 1)

BULLPEN (ACTS 1, 2, 4, 5)

HALLWAY (ACT 3)

INTERROGATION (ACTS 4, 5, 6)

RECORDS ROOM (ACT 6)

FORENSICS LAB (ACT 1)

APARTMENT BUILDING

HALLWAY (ACTS 1, 4, 5)

~~DOORMAN'S STATION (ACT 4)~~ **OMITTED**

DAVIDSON HOUSE (ACT 2)

COFFEE SHOP (ACT 2)

BECKETT'S UNMARKED (ACTS 2, 3, 4, 6)

STORAGE FACILITY (ACT 2)

HALLWAY (ACT 2)

CASTLE LOFT (ACT 4)

KITCHEN (ACT 3)

CASTLE'S OFFICE (ACT 4)

WYLER'S STORE

OFFICE (ACT 3)

DELIVERY AREA (ACT 3)

JAIL

INTERVIEW AREA (ACT 3)

ROGER'S APARTMENT

LIVING ROOM (ACT 4)

KITCHEN (ACT 4)

BATHROOM (ACT 4)

EXTERIORS

STREET (ACT 1)

CONSTRUCTION SITE (ACT 1)

DAVIDSON HOUSE (ACTS 2, 6)

STORAGE FACILITY (ACT 2)

WYLER'S STORE

DELIVERY AREA (ACT 3)

CITY (ACT 4)

MUELLER BROS. DELIVERY (ACT 4)

ACT ONE

1 FROM DARKNESS 1 *

We open on the shimmering moon, shining in a pool of black. *
Suddenly, it RIPPLES and we realize that we've staring at a *
reflection in a puddle, newly disturbed by a drop of water. *
As the water settles, CAMERA moves slightly to reveal another *
shape reflected in the water... Something floating above. *
Something ghostly and white. *

Before we can figure out what we're seeing, another drop *
hits, obscuring our view... and another... and another. *
Something's dripping. *

We follow the droplets up, up until the moon comes back into *
view, hanging low in the sky. We follow the water, past the *
moon to... *

A WHITE WINGED CREATURE hovering in the darkness, its WINGS *
flapping and fluttering. But as we draw closer, we can tell *
that this is no bird, but... *

AN ANGEL -- Her wings spread out beyond her fluttering gown. *
Her skin is ice white and shimmering. *

The dripping water takes us up to her peaceful, halcyon face, *
where we see an eerie sight. This angel's face is frozen in a *
layer of ice. Melting ice. Beads of water roll down her *
forehead and drip from her eye, as if she were crying. *

And just when we're about to ask what the hell this is... *

A BLAZE OF WORK LIGHTS IGNITE, blinding the darkness and *
showing our angel for what she truly is... *

The FROZEN BODY of a GOWNED WOMAN, tangled in the rebar and *
crossbars of construction, her wings nothing but the tattered *
remains of a garment bag that her body was wrapped in. As *
SOUNDS OF THE CONSTRUCTION SITE rise, we too rise from the *
body, now looking more mangled than serene. *

PRE-LAP A RINGING PHONE...

2 INT. BECKETT APARTMENT, BEDROOM - NIGHT BEFORE DAWN 2 *

We find BECKETT tangled up in her sheets. Still half-asleep, *
she finds the phone and answers. *

BECKETT

Beckett.

(pause)

Yeah. Okay. On my way.

She sits up and checks her clock. It's pretty early. She rises. Murder books and mysteries are stacked on her bed stand, including the works of Richard Castle.

3

INT. BECKETT APARTMENT, CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

3

As MUSIC PLAYS Beckett opens a drawer. Her holster and gun are neatly laid out inside. She takes out her piece, checks her clip, and straps it on. This is not a super-slick gearing up moment, but rather the banal routine of someone who does this everyday.

She reaches for a jewelry box and as she pulls it close, we reveal that its top is a framed photo of a man and a woman in their early forties. We should assume that these are her parents.

Inside the jewelry box is her BADGE, a MAN'S WATCH, and a SIMPLE SILVER NECKLACE with a RING on it.

Again, part of her morning ritual, she slides on the watch, then clips the badge onto her belt.

She takes out the silver necklace and closes the jewelry box. She glances at the photo and then slips the necklace over her neck, tucking it away under her shirt so it is completely unseen.

4

EXT. STREET - PRE-DUSK

4

*

Beckett steps out of her car... all cop. ESPOSITO approaches holding a cup of coffee. He hands it to Beckett.

ESPOSITO

Why can't they find bodies between
9 and 5?

Beckett takes the coffee.

BECKETT

Early bird gets the collar.

CASTLE emerges from the crowd. Esposito sees Beckett react.

ESPOSITO

Yeah. He was here before I was.

CASTLE

Ooh. Finally. You're gonna love
this.

Beckett sees CONSTRUCTION WORKERS gathered around some girders.

*

*

BECKETT

What?

CASTLE

Telling would ruin the surprise.

Beckett and Esposito follow Castle to the site.

BECKETT *
Don't you sleep? *

CASTLE *
I'm a writer. I have all day to *
sleep. *

5 EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - CONTINUOUS 5

They near the CRIME SCENE, moving through the small crowd of WORKERS who look on. Beckett nods to RYAN who stands nearby. *

BECKETT
Ryan.

Ryan turns to the crowd.

RYAN
C'mon. Show's over.

BECKETT
Okay. So what's so special?

They come upon LANIE, amidst the crossbars, examining a BODY - *
THE BODY of the woman we saw in the opening image. She's *
wearing a gown and above her, tangled in the rebar, is a *
ripped, tattered GARMENT BAG. *

CASTLE
Awesome, right? My first cold case.

Off Beckett's look.

CASTLE
C'mon. It was a little funny.

Lanie looks down from her perch... *

LANIE
Not so much funny as true. She's
frozen solid.

BECKETT
What was the temperature last
night?

RYAN
Mid-40s.

LANIE
It wasn't exposure.

ESPOSITO

Site's active. The boys tell me no
way she was here last night.

Beckett examines the body.

BECKETT

So where did she come from?

She notices the dripping.

*

BECKETT

She's melting.

CASTLE

Maybe we should be looking for a pair of ruby slippers.

BECKETT

While you're at it see if you can find one of those flying monkeys. Maybe they left her here.

(to Lanie)

So what can you tell me?

LANIE

There are pieces of plastic on her skin from the garment bag.

BECKETT

So she was inside it.

LANIE

Mmm-hmmm. Other than that, it's gonna take a while for her to thaw. But I can tell you, she hasn't been here long. Maybe a couple of hours.

*
*

BECKETT

What about security?

ESPOSITO

Chain link. Bolt cutters took care of that.

RYAN

Looks like our guy was hoping she'd disappear in the concrete pour.

*
*
*

ESPOSITO

A few more feet to the left and she would've.

*
*
*

CASTLE

Kind of odd to go to the trouble of freezing someone, then dumping them.

*

BECKETT

Since when did killing become normal?

CASTLE

It's like there's two different personalities at work here.

(MORE)

CASTLE (cont'd)

A killer who stores a body is a
keeper. He wants souvenirs. But a
guy who dumps a body --

BECKETT

Doesn't want to be reminded of
their crime. Maybe the flying
monkey's a schizophrenic.

(to Lanie)

Let's get the usual. DNA. Prints.

LANIE

Won't be able to get anything until
she thaws.

Beckett sees a C.S.U TECH approaching, camera in hand.

BECKETT

Give me some close ups. I want to
run her through missing persons.

The C.S.U tech nods.

CASTLE

Oh cool. Like on the Discovery
Channel, when they plug the photo
into one of those facial
recognition databases.

BECKETT

Yeah. Just like that.

CUT TO:

6

INT. PRECINCT, CONFERENCE ROOM - DAY

6

A STACK of FILES drops in front of Castle.

BECKETT

Welcome to the Department's facial
recognition database.

Ryan and Esposito chuckle.

CASTLE

By hand? That's like life before
Tivo.

ESPOSITO

Maybe you can download an "app" on
that phone of yours.

Castle looks through the folders.

CASTLE

There's a lot of missing people.

BECKETT

One way or another, we eventually find them. Some turn up dead, some turn up in a double-wide with a stripper named Trixie outside Atlantic City.

ESPOSITO

And some just don't turn up.

Esposito tosses Castle a file.

CASTLE

Dana Sullivan?

ESPOSITO

She and her boyfriend leave a club. He's a few steps behind her 'cause his cell phone rings. She turns a corner just a few seconds before him. And when he comes around, she's gone. Street's totally empty. No traffic. Nothing.

CASTLE

Yeah. If you believe the boyfriend.

ESPOSITO

Except we pulled security footage. A bank camera showed him following her around a corner. As they come around, they should've come into view of another camera. He shows up. She never does. In the space of three feet, she literally just disappeared.

CASTLE

People don't just disappear off the face of the earth.

RYAN

Sure they do. Quantum physics, alien abductions, Schrodinger's cat. One minute, you're getting a hot dog in the park, the next you're fighting Sleestaks on the far side of a dimensional rift.

CASTLE

I don't buy it. There's gotta be an explanation. A story that makes it all makes sense.

Beckett nods to the picture of the FROZEN WOMAN.

BECKETT

Okay, Castle. What's her story?

CASTLE

I don't know how it starts, but I know how it ends. Frozen at a construction site. So flying monkeys aside, the first question is - how did she get there? *

RYAN

Considering she was frozen solid, she had to have been kept pretty close. *

CASTLE

Not necessarily. *

(off their look) *

Look, it's like figuring out a plot. Sometimes you have a great idea for an ending and have to work backwards to figure out how to get there. *

Castle gets up and moves to a city map. Points where the construction site would be.

CASTLE

Here's the site. But her body may not have been kept as close as you think. It takes a long time for a body to thaw.

RYAN

What? You freeze a body once for one of your books?

CASTLE

No. But I cooked a turkey for Thanksgiving. Twenty-eight pounder. Took all night to unfreeze. And she's at least what, 110 pounds?

BECKETT

She's a person. Not a turkey.

CASTLE

Just making a point.

Just then Beckett's CELL PHONE RINGS. She answers.

BECKETT

Beckett.
(listens)
Okay, I'll be right there.

Beckett ends the call.

BECKETT

Lanie's got an ID.

CUT TO:

7

INT. FORENSICS LAB - DAY

7

The WOMAN's body is prostrate on the table, as Lanie gives the vitals. Beckett and Castle stand by, gowned, outfitted.

LANIE

Melanie Kavanaugh, thirty-four at the time of death. Turns out C.O.D. was a blunt force trauma to her head.

She points at X-Rays. Castle comes and takes a good look. *

BECKETT

How'd you get her ID?

LANIE

Hair drier.
(off Beckett's look)
Used it to thaw her hands. Her fingerprints were in the system.

BECKETT

For?

LANIE

Misdemeanor drug possession.

CASTLE

She doesn't look like a junkie.

LANIE

No. She's in pretty good shape, considering. Judging from the lack of frost and tissue degeneration, I'd say wherever she was stored the temperature rarely varied.

CASTLE

Like a freezer.

LANIE

Freezer'd do the job. If she'd been stored with dry ice, she would've been more brittle on the side the ice was on.

BECKETT

Any signs of rape or assault?

LANIE

No damage other than to her skull.

BECKETT

How long has she been dead?

LANIE

Now that's a two-fold question.

BECKETT

How so?

LANIE

Considering how long she's been like this, factoring decomposition, I'd say she was probably frozen within twenty-four hours of being killed.

BECKETT

What do you mean, "how long she's been like this?"

LANIE

According to the records I pulled, this woman's been missing for over five years.

CUT TO:

CASTLE TITLE CARD

8

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY

8

Beckett reads from Melanie's file, which is splayed out over her desk. Castle returns from the breakroom with coffee.

BECKETT

She had a troubled childhood, drug problems in her teens and twenties.

CASTLE

I know.

BECKETT

How do you know?

CASTLE

I already read the file. She kicked the habit. Met and married Samuel Kavanaugh. She worked in a restaurant. He's a bank manager. They have two kids.

BECKETT

When did you read the file?

CASTLE

When you were in the little girls' room.

BECKETT

I was gone for like a minute.

CASTLE

Speed reader. Picked it up from my years stranded in the New York Public Library.

She starts to read again.

CASTLE

You want the Cliff Notes or, in this case, Castle notes?

BECKETT

How do you know you didn't miss something important?

CASTLE

Like after Melanie disappeared, her husband waited a day to call the cops?

BECKETT

A day? That makes no sense.

CASTLE

It does when you get to the third paragraph. Before they were married, Melanie was what is now known as "a runaway bride."

Beckett skims the report.

BECKETT

Does it say why she ran away?

CASTLE

No. But all it really takes is your best friend saying, "it's never too late to change your mind."

Beckett peruses the page.

BECKETT

According to the husband, Melanie vanished a whole two weeks before their wedding.

CASTLE

Only she came back. Three years of happily ever after, she runs away again. Comes back. Rinse-lather-repeat three more times. And no indication where she went.

BECKETT

She must have had a reason.

CASTLE

Oh, I'm not judging her. Some people love the institution, but hate the day-to-day.

BECKETT

You one of those people?

Castle shoots a look at Beckett.

CASTLE

Guess I just haven't met the right girl.

Their eyes meet and rapidly dart apart.

CASTLE

But that's why the husband didn't call the police. Because she'd done it before.

Beckett begins reading the next page.

CASTLE

Which seemed reasonable to the detective at the time.

BECKETT

No evidence of foul play, so he closed the case.

Beckett picks up the picture of Melanie, frozen, dead.

BECKETT

For five years, her husband thought she just ran away.

CASTLE

Guess we should tell him his runaway bride's finally come home.

CUT TO:

9

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - DAY

9

KNOCK. KNOCK. KNOCK. Beckett and Castle are outside of apartment 917. The last known address of Melanie's family. From inside you can hear a man moving toward the door.

VOICE (O.S.)

Who is it?

BECKETT

New York City Police Department.

The door opens revealing a MAN, late 40s.

MAN

Can I help you?

Beckett badges him, cuts to the chase.

BECKETT

Detective Beckett. Are you Samuel Kavanaugh?

MAN

Who?

BECKETT

Samuel Kavanaugh.

(off his blank look)

Our records indicate he lives here.

MAN

I think you have the wrong
apartment.

BECKETT

917?

MAN

Yeah, but I live here. My name's
Roger, not Sam.

BECKETT

And you don't know any Sam
Kavanaugh?

ROGER

No. What's this about?

CASTLE

How long have you lived here?

ROGER

About eight months.

CASTLE

It has been five years. He probably
moved.

ROGER

Whoa, hey. Hate to break it to you,
but if you're looking for the guy
who lived here before me, he didn't
move.

(beat)

He was murdered.

Off Beckett and Castle,

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

10

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - DAY

10

Castle sits with Beckett and Ryan, while Esposito runs background on Samuel Kavanaugh.

ESPOSITO

Samuel Kavanaugh. Shot outside a grocery store about a year ago. Small caliber. Double tap to the chest. Wallet and cash were missing.

RYAN

Poor schlub's wife disappears. Four years later, he gets shot in a mugging? What are the odds?

Beckett picks up a picture of SAMUEL, examines it. He's tight-lipped, pent-up.

CASTLE

Pretty long, unless they were connected.

ESPOSITO

Four years between murders? One's a popsicle, the other's a pop and drop? How could they possibly be connected?

Castle breaks it like a story.

CASTLE

What if him and his wife got themselves into something they couldn't get out of? Maybe something to do with her drug habit.

RYAN

And some skell waits four years to finish the job?

CASTLE

Maybe he found out what really happened to his wife and was about to go to the police with it.

RYAN

I don't believe it.

CASTLE

Give me 250 pages and I bet I could make you.

BECKETT

We're solving a murder, Castle, not writing a book.

CASTLE

I could call it, "A Chill Goes Through Her Veins."

ESPOSITO

I like it.

CASTLE

And BAM, said the lady, I got another best-seller.

Beckett shakes her head, moving on.

BECKETT

What happened to their kids?

ESPOSITO

Living with Melanie's folks. They're up in White Plains.

BECKETT

I guess I'm going to White Plains.

She grabs her jacket.

BECKETT

Canvass the construction site. Someone must've seen something.

ESPOSITO

The foreman said they have a homeless problem at night. I figured we wait 'til later and find them at the site, instead of chasing 'em through the city.

Castle looks from Beckett to Esposito.

CASTLE

Hmmm. White Plains or homeless?

ESPOSITO

Yeah. They're both pretty creepy.

CUT TO:

BEN

What happened to her?

BECKETT

We still don't know. What do you remember about the days leading up to her disappearance?

BEN

We talked to her a couple of days before. My wife did, I mean.

JULIE

Everything seemed fine.

BECKETT

She didn't mention anything about leaving?

JULIE

No.

CASTLE

We're aware your daughter had some issues.

BEN

They had nothing to do with what happened.

CASTLE

How do you know?

BEN

Now you sound like the cop who first had the case. Convinced she ran away, convinced she was back on drugs...

BECKETT

But you didn't think that.

Ben looks over at the grandkids.

BEN

Melanie wasn't the greatest mom, but she loved her kids. She never would have left them. Not like that.

BECKETT

What about her husband, Sam?

JULIE

He thought it was the drugs, too.

BEN

Did you know he waited over a day before he reported her missing?

CASTLE

She had run off before...

BEN

I'm not gonna stand here and deny that. But if Sam thought our daughter was in trouble, why the hell didn't he call for help right away? Even if she'd gotten locked up, she'd have been better off than - ah, what the hell's the use now. The time to ask these questions was five years ago and the cop who had the case didn't wanna ask them.

Beckett doesn't know what to say. Then,

BECKETT

How are the girls handling it, not having their parents?

JULIE

They ask about them, y'know. Why their parents died. But we don't have any answers. Not for Melanie and not for Sam.

BEN

That's all we want. Answers.

CUT TO:

13

EXT. DAVIDSON HOUSE - LATER

13

Beckett and Castle walk back to the car.

CASTLE

Sounds like they were pretty unhappy with the original investigation.

BECKETT

From where I stand, they had reason to be.

CASTLE

The guy whose case it was, you know him?

BECKETT

Detective Sloan was before my time.

CASTLE

He still around?

BECKETT

If you count being a Sheriff in Jersey, then yeah, he's still around.

14

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

14

A slow night for a late night breakfast joint. Beckett and Castle sit across from SHERIFF CLAY SLOAN. He's clean cut, silver-haired, focused on himself.

SHERIFF SLOAN

Melanie Kavanaugh. So she was finally found after all these years.

Sloan shakes his head, perplexed at the turn of events.

BECKETT

She wasn't found. Her body was.

SHERIFF SLOAN

Sorry to hear that. From the moment I took the case, I figured it might end bad...

BECKETT

Really? Her parents led us to believe you were pretty sure she'd run off.

SHERIFF SLOAN

Well, her being found dead and her running off aren't exactly incompatible. Not with her history.

CASTLE

Her parents believe your investigation never made it past her history.

SHERIFF SLOAN

The Davidsons were hurting. But facts were facts.

BECKETT

Seems like facts weren't facts
after all.

He eyes them both, realizing he's been in the hot seat all
along.

SHERIFF SLOAN

Don't you dare play Monday morning
quarterback with me. I was on a
missing persons, not a murder. You
have a dead body. All I had was a
woman with a drug habit and a
history of disappearing before and
during her marriage.

BECKETT

And a husband who didn't report her
missing for over a day.

SHERIFF SLOAN

For good reason. He cooperated. He
voluntarily allowed C.S.U into
their apartment. Anything I asked,
he did.

CASTLE

Did you know he was murdered too?

Sloan's look tells them he didn't.

SHERIFF SLOAN

What?

BECKETT

He was gunned down in the street
about a year ago. Do you still
think facts are facts, Detective?

SHERIFF SLOAN

It's Sheriff now.

BECKETT

Right.

SHERIFF SLOAN

And people get killed all the time.
Look, what do you want from me? She
had a pattern, I had reports of her
in Philly with a meth head ex-
boyfriend. It was what it was.

BECKETT

But you never went down there to check it out?

SHERIFF SLOAN

I didn't need to. I had reports.

BECKETT

The husband's best friend.
(looking at the case file)
Charles Wyler?

SHERIFF SLOAN

Yeah. So?

CASTLE

So he's not exactly an impartial observer.

SHERIFF SLOAN

The guy owned his own business; he had a family and he was a war veteran. I saw no reason to doubt his word.

CASTLE

Plus, Philly's a pretty long drive.

SHERIFF SLOAN

She was only missing back then.

BECKETT

No, she was already dead. You just didn't know it.

Off Sloan,

15

INT. BECKETT'S UNMARKED - NIGHT

15

Beckett speeds through the streets. Castle reads the file.

CASTLE

If I ever disappear, make sure he's not on my case.

Beckett's not listening. Her mind still with Sloan.

BECKETT

I hate cops like him.

CASTLE

Good thing he's a Sheriff now.

She never takes her eyes off the road.

BECKETT

Guy's like him, things only make sense if they fit into a box. So they make them fit. And murderers go free.

CASTLE

Is that what happened with your Dad?

BECKETT

My Dad?

CASTLE

I noticed your watch.

Beckett looks at her wrist. Her watch is oversized. Clearly a man's wristwatch.

CASTLE

It's your Dad's, right? That's why you wear it?

Her phone rings. She uses it as an out.

BECKETT

(answering)
Beckett.

She listens. Her expression tells us it's serious.

CUT TO:

16

EXT. STORAGE FACILITY - NIGHT

16

The storage facility is an old printing warehouse along the Westside Highway near the river. Esposito and Ryan approach as Beckett and Castle exit her car.

BECKETT

You found a witness?

ESPOSITO

A homeless guy.

RYAN

Says he saw a dented yellow truck pull up to the site. Heavy-set guy pulls a large bag out of the truck bed. When he comes back out, he doesn't have the bag anymore.

*

BECKETT
(re: storage facility)
How'd you find this place?

ESPOSITO
Guy also remembered seeing the word
"storage" on the side of the truck.

CASTLE
And they say the dollar isn't worth
what it used to be.

RYAN
We searched the storage places on
the Westside, found out this one
uses yellow trucks. *

He points to several yellow trucks in a row of parking
places. *

BECKETT
So, who owns the trucks?

RYAN
(checks his notes)
According to DMV, Albert Bolland.

BECKETT *
OK. Impound the trucks. Get CSU on *
the dented one. *

17 INT. STORAGE FACILITY - LATER

17

ALBERT BOLLAND, 40s, heavy set, and knows he's in trouble.

ALBERT *
What body? I don't know what you're *
talking about.

BECKETT *
A witness saw someone driving one *
of your yellow trucks and dumping
the body.

ALBERT
You're lying. No one saw.

Beckett looks at Ryan and Esposito.

CASTLE
Wow. Uh, you probably shoulda tried
to deny it first...

Albert bites his bottom lip, knows he's been caught.

BECKETT

Let me help you. Melanie Kavanaugh,
mother of two. Wife of Sam
Kavanaugh.

ALBERT

Okay, look. I dumped her. But I
didn't know who she was. And I
swear...

BECKETT

You didn't kill her, right?

ALBERT

That's right. I found her...

BECKETT

Uh huh.

ALBERT

I didn't even know she was here.

CASTLE

What do you mean, here? *

ALBERT

Fourth floor. Renter was in
arrears. We give them three months,
then cut the lock and sell the
belongings, only all I find is a
freezer plugged into a light outlet
-- which by the way, is totally
illegal.

BECKETT

And you thought storing a dead body
in a freezer wasn't?

ALBERT

You think I knew? When I opened it
up, I nearly had a heart attack.

BECKETT

You could've called the cops. *

ALBERT

What? So I could make the front
page of the Ledger? Yeah, that's
good for business. And hell man,
I'm thinking what if it had been a
mob hit? I mean, I got a family...

BECKETT

So did she.

CASTLE

And finding her, you figured the next logical step would be to dump it at a construction site.

ALBERT

I know this guy, works over there. We're having a beer a few weeks back and he's bitching that his tools were stolen. Says the real crime is there're no cameras at the site, so there's no way to know who did it. So when I find the body I figure that's the place for it, right?

BECKETT

Show us where you found her.

18

INT. STORAGE FACILITY, HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

18

They follow Albert down a dark hallway, carrying flashlights. Castle holds a light under his face.

CASTLE

Spooky place. Near the river, open late. There's no telling what other secrets could be here.

Albert stops at an old wooden door with a padlock, which Albert has cut off.

BECKETT

Open it.

Albert opens the door. They all stare at the TOP-LOADING FREEZER sitting inside. There's nothing else in the unit.

ALBERT

That's where I found her.

Beckett enters the room, stares at the freezer.

BECKETT

Five years in there. Nobody deserves that.

(then)

How was the unit paid for? Credit card? Check?

ALBERT

Cash, every six months. But, like I said, they were overdue three months.

BECKETT

(to Castle)

That puts the last payment about two months after her husband was killed.

CASTLE

Hard to make a cash payment when you're dead.

Beckett opens the freezer. It's still cold inside. She sees pieces of the garment bag stuck in the frost from when Albert ripped it out.

BECKETT

The camera in the office - you have footage of the guy who made payments.

ALBERT

We ain't the White House. That was nine month ago. We keep maybe two weeks at a time.

BECKETT

Looks like Sloan was right. Sam Kavanaugh wasn't involved.

CASTLE

If it wasn't her husband, then who?

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

19 INT. CASTLE LOFT, KITCHEN - DAY

19

Castle stands in front of the fridge, the freezer door open.
Alexis enters. Goes for orange juice.

ALEXIS

You know we have air conditioning?

He kisses her on the head, turns back to the freezer.

CASTLE

I'm just wondering why a person
would put a dead body in the
freezer.

ALEXIS

Is this a Nikki Heat or a Detective
Beckett question?

CASTLE

Beckett.

ALEXIS

Right. The Nikki Heat thing was
about incinerating the body in a
self-cleaning oven.

Castle pulls out some leftovers in a plastic container.

CASTLE

You put things in the freezer to
keep them for later, but once
they're there, you rarely go back.
It's just too easy to forget about
them.

Alexis moves next to him, stares in the freezer.

ALEXIS

If I put a body in a freezer it'd
be because I was trying to hide it.

CASTLE

At least until you stopped paying
the rent on a storage space.

ALEXIS

Did I stop or did something stop
me?

He hugs her, warms her arms.

CASTLE

You know, it's family moments like these that I'll never forget.

ALEXIS

(teasing her Dad)

With a good therapist, maybe I will.

CUT TO:

20

INT. WYLER'S STORE, OFFICE - DAY

20

Beckett with Castle inside a BOUTIQUE STORE that specializes in ANTIQUES. CHARLES WYLER, late 40s, is with them. We join them just after Beckett's broken the news.

WYLER

It's hard to see your best friend suffer not knowing what happened to his wife. Where did you find her?

BECKETT

Her body was dumped at a construction site.

WYLER

God... First Sam, now Melanie.

CASTLE

Actually, we think it was the other way around.

WYLER

What do you mean?

BECKETT

Her body was frozen.

WYLER

Frozen?

CASTLE

We're pretty sure she was killed somewhere around her disappearance.

As Wyler processes the news, Beckett continues.

BECKETT

The detective investigating Melanie's disappearance said you told him that she was with an ex-boyfriend in Philadelphia.

WYLER

I only told him what Sam told me.

BECKETT

Sam told you?

WYLER

It's where she ran to before the wedding and a few times after.

BECKETT

But you didn't know for sure that's where she went.

WYLER

It's the only thing that made sense. Melanie was a good person, but she was troubled. Sometimes, when things got hard, she'd go out and score, y'know. She'd come home high and accuse Sam of ruining her life. She'd say her ex was the only one who ever really loved her. She just couldn't seem to let go of the past.

CASTLE

How did Sam deal with that?

WYLER

I think he did the best he could under the circumstances.

BECKETT

Must have been quite a guy to keep taking her back.

WYLER

What was he gonna do? I mean, he loved her and they had those two girls. Sam truly believed she was gonna change, that the next time'd be different. But it never was...

BECKETT

If he loved her, why didn't he report her missing right away?

WYLER

He was embarrassed. He'd given her everything, stood by her during the worst times. And then to find out she was back on the pipe with her old pals.

(MORE)

WYLER (cont'd)

When the cops wouldn't help, he went down to Philly himself to try to find the guy, but by then he was gone.

CASTLE

What was it like for him, thinking his wife was out there somewhere?

WYLER

Like I said, he loved her. He never stopped looking. He was even following up on leads the day he died.

Castle shoots Beckett a look.

BECKETT

You remember the boyfriend's name?

WYLER

Kevin something... Henson, I think. If something happened to Melanie, he's the one who'd know what.

CUT TO:

21

INT. PRECINCT, HALLWAY - DAY

21

Beckett with MONTGOMERY. She hands him a MUGSHOT of Kevin Henson, late 30s, lots of wear and tear.

BECKETT

Kevin Henson, Melanie's ex-boyfriend. Serving a year for meth in South Jersey. He went in just after the last payment was made on the storage unit.

CASTLE

He stops paying, the storage guy finds her body.

CAPT. MONTGOMERY

Quite a coincidence.

BECKETT

And he was on the outside when the husband gets whacked.

CAPT. MONTGOMERY

Sounds like he's worth a trip to South Jersey.

22

INT. JAIL, INTERVIEW AREA - DAY

22

KEVIN HENSON, tatted up, motorcycle chic, edgy. Castle and Beckett sit with him in an interview area. He's looking at a photograph of Melanie.

HENSON

Yeah. Melanie came to see me. A month before she disappeared.

BECKETT

Why?

HENSON

I've known Mel since we were fifteen. We had a lot of history.

BECKETT

Yeah. So we've heard.

HENSON

You ever been in love, Detective? I mean, deep hard love? Makes you do crazy things.

BECKETT

Like kill someone?

The accusation doesn't faze Henson.

HENSON

Like believe in things that can never be. Mel and I, when we were together, time just stopped. It was like... I don't know, magic. But from the very first day, her and me? I mean, we both knew it was never going to work. God knows her folks were never gonna let their little girl end up with a tatted-up addict.

(locks eyes with Beckett)

But sometimes, see... sometimes when we were alone? Together? Sometimes we almost believed.

CASTLE

She still loved you. That's why she ran away before the wedding.

HENSON

I wanted her to move on. I wanted her to have a life.

(MORE)

HENSON (cont'd)

I thought he'd give her everything
I couldn't. But it wasn't enough.

CASTLE

(realizing)

She was going to leave Sam. That's
why she came to see you.

HENSON

She'd found out he was having an
affair.

BECKETT

If she didn't love him, why did she
care?

HENSON

Because she thought he was gonna
leave her and get custody of the
kids, you know, 'cause of the
drugs. She wanted me to go with
her. Take the kids and just
disappear.

BECKETT

What did you do?

Shakes his head softly, hands the photograph back.

HENSON

I put her on a bus.

CASTLE

You sent her back?

HENSON

What she needed I couldn't give.
Next day I checked into rehab. I
thought maybe if I got clean...
That's where I was when she
disappeared. By the time I got out,
she was dead.

BECKETT

How could you possibly know she was
dead?

HENSON

She stopped calling. If she were
alive, she would've called.

(he looks down)

So I started using.

(MORE)

HENSON (cont'd)

And not a day goes by that I don't think maybe by putting Melanie on that bus I really did kill her after all.

23 INT. BECKETT'S UNMARKED - DAY

23

Beckett drives. Castle rides.

CASTLE

An affair certainly explains a lot. Sam kills Melanie or he and his lover kill her together.

BECKETT

So who kills Sam?

CASTLE

The lover. When Sam backs out after all she's done for him. It's not like she could go to the police if he broke his promise.

BECKETT

How do you come up with these things, Castle?

CASTLE

I didn't come up with this one. They did.

BECKETT

You speak "guy." If Sam had a lover, his best friend would know about it, right?

CASTLE

Yeah. Especially if she was hot.

24 INT./EXT. WYLER'S STORE, DELIVERY AREA - DAY

24

Beckett and Castle exit the back of the store into the storage area. They find Wyler supervising the unloading of some ornate desks by DELIVERY MEN. He notices them approach.

WYLER

Detective. Mr. Castle.

BECKETT

You lied to us, Mr. Wyler.

WYLER

Excuse me?

CASTLE

You didn't think that maybe it was relevant that your buddy Sam was having an affair at the time of Melanie disappearance?

WYLER

All that was a long time ago.

BECKETT

And Melanie was murdered a long time ago.

WYLER

So he had an affair. What's the point in dragging everyone through the mud? Haven't their kids been through enough? Don't they deserve some peace?

Beckett stares daggers at Wyler.

BECKETT

What they deserve is to know what happened to their mother.

Castle sees the anger in Beckett's eyes. He knows this is personal.

BECKETT

You have a nice business here, Mr. Wyler. But if you don't tell me what I want to know, I'll haul your ass to jail for withholding information and prosecute you as an accessory after the fact.

Faced with Beckett's threat, Wyler folds.

WYLER

Elizabeth Forte. Her name's Elizabeth Forte. She worked with Sam at his bank.

Off Beckett and Castle,

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

25 INT. PRECINCT - DAY

25

Castle and Beckett head toward interrogation.

CASTLE

Y'know, the more I think of it, a mistress is a more appropriate murderer. Woman frozen. Man gunned down in the street. It's all very noir-ish.

BECKETT

Not noir. Noir is retribution and money. This is Dostoevsky.

CASTLE

Dostoevsky?

BECKETT

Passion and longing.

CASTLE

Didn't peg you for the Russian literature type.

BECKETT

Don't judge a babe by her badge. Beside, the name of the book is *Crime and Punishment*. It's kind of required reading.

They enter...

26 INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION - DAY

26

... where ELIZABETH FORTE, 40, professional, waits.

BECKETT

Mrs. Forte? I'm Detective Beckett, this is Rick Castle.

ELIZABETH

Why am I here?

BECKETT

Does the name Samuel Kavanaugh ring a bell?

Elizabeth reacts, surprised.

ELIZABETH

What about him?

BECKETT

We found the body of his wife,
Melanie. From the looks of it, she
was killed around the time the two
of you were having an affair.

Elizabeth tenses up.

ELIZABETH

I'm afraid I don't know what you're
talking about.

BECKETT

Do you really want me to start
digging into your life, Ms. Forte?
Because that's just what I'll do.
I'll get your phone records, your
old credit card statements. I'll
even talk to your husband.

ELIZABETH

Please. Please don't do that. Gary
doesn't know anything about it.

CASTLE

Just take us through what you know.

ELIZABETH

I met Sam when I got transferred to
the branch downtown. He was in new
accounts. We were both pretty
unhappy at the time.

CASTLE

Lemme guess. You started flirting
in the breakroom. He asked you out
for coffee. You went dutch. One
thing led to another and pretty
soon you were paying for hotel
rooms in cash.

Elizabeth looks down. Yeah, it was that cliché.

BECKETT

How long was the affair?

ELIZABETH

Not long. Six months.

CASTLE

Why'd it end?

ELIZABETH

I realized that I loved my husband.

CASTLE

Oh please. No one ends an affair 'cause they realize they're still in love. They end it because they're scared. Scared of going to the next level, scared of being found out, scared of ruining their life. So, Elizabeth, what were you scared of?

Elizabeth looks at Castle. Then --

ELIZABETH

Him. I was scared of him.

BECKETT

How?

ELIZABETH

He started asking what I'd do if he wasn't with his wife, if she wasn't in the picture anymore.

BECKETT

When was this?

ELIZABETH

A few weeks before she disappeared. When I found out she was missing, I broke it off. He became angry. It got so bad, I had to transfer to another branch.

BECKETT

(incredulous)

You had to...

(locks eyes with her)

Five years. Five years and you never came forward.

ELIZABETH

I have children, Detective. I made a terrible mistake. All I wanted was a second chance.

BECKETT

So did Melanie Kavanaugh. Only she never got hers, did she?

ELIZABETH

What's it matter? He's dead. They're both dead. What's it matter anymore?

CASTLE

Mother. We are waging combat on the field of honor.

MARTHA

Honestly. How old are you?

CASTLE

Old enough to afford the top-of-the-line laser guns.

Alexis pops out from behind Martha and fires. Castle's gear BEEPS. He's been hit. Alexis grins.

CASTLE

Now look what you did. I'm dead. I'm dead because of you. Now Voltar will never rule the omniverse.

Just then the doorbell rings. They all look at the door.

CASTLE

Someone order food?

They all look at one another. Nope. Castle shrugs, crosses to the door. He opens it and is surprised to find BECKETT standing there. She takes in his laser tag outfit.

BECKETT

Hi.

CASTLE

Hi.

Alexis comes up behind Castle, in her outfit.

ALEXIS

Who is it?

CASTLE

Detective Beckett.

Martha comes up behind Castle, sporting her beauty facial mask.

MARTHA

Darling, are we entertaining?

*

So there's Beckett staring at Castle, Martha and Alexis, and the three are staring back.

ALEXIS

Dad! Manners.

CASTLE
Right! Please. Come in.

BECKETT
Thanks.

Beckett enters the loft. She looks around, taking it in.

BECKETT
Nice place.

CASTLE
Thanks. Can I get you a drink?

BECKETT
No. I just... Can we talk?

CUT TO:

30

INT. CASTLE LOFT, CASTLE'S OFFICE - NIGHT

30

Castle leads Beckett into his office. Beckett takes it in. Mysteries on the bookshelf. The details of his inner life.

BECKETT
I feel like Alfred, seeing the
Batcave for the first time.

CASTLE
Batman fan. It figures.

BECKETT
Why?

CASTLE
Similar origins. Death of a loved
one leads you to a life of fighting
crime.

BECKETT
You're the multi-millionaire crime
fighter.

She notices a SMARTBOARD (an electronic whiteboard) in the corner of the office on which he has scrawled out plot points and material for his Nikki Heat novel.

CASTLE
It's where I outline my books.

BECKETT
Funny. It's like our murder board.

CASTLE

Difference is mine's fake. Yours is real.

She looks around, but she's not really looking. She's in her head.

CASTLE

What's wrong?

BECKETT

I can't find it.

CASTLE

Find what?

BECKETT

The answer.

CASTLE

We have an answer. It was Sam.

(off Beckett)

Everything fits. It's a good ending.

BECKETT

But if we can't prove it, all it is is a theory. Her family, her kids. They need more than a theory. They need to know. I need to know.

He knows she's talking about more than the case.

BECKETT

But my subject's dead and without witnesses...

CASTLE

You have your ending. To get the rest, you just have to work backwards. You need to finish the story.

BECKETT

I can't just make stuff up, Castle.

CASTLE

Then extrapolate.

(off Beckett)

Ok. Yes. It's like making stuff up. But it's making stuff up based on facts. Remember what I said about figuring out a plot?

(MORE)

CASTLE (cont'd)

Sometimes you have your ending and have to work backwards. Well, we have our ending. And we have our killer. We just have to put it all together using the facts at hand.

BECKETT

The facts?

CASTLE

Fact - they had small children.

BECKETT

So?

CASTLE

So according to police statements, they didn't have a babysitter. With him at work, she would've had to have been at home with the kids the day she disappeared.

BECKETT

Ok. But Sam said she went out later that night.

CASTLE

Which the doorman was never able to corroborate.

BECKETT

If she was there and never went out...

CASTLE

Then she was killed in her apartment. Another fact - he lived in Manhattan.

BECKETT

And like most people in the city he didn't own a car.

CASTLE

Right, so what's a good husband in Manhattan to do with his wife's body? He couldn't leave her in the apartment. He couldn't carry her through the lobby. So the question is...

BECKETT

How did he get her body to the storage facility?

They think a beat. Nothing comes to mind. Then,

CASTLE

You know what helps? Sometimes if I'm trying to figure out how my character does something, I go walk the scene of the crime.

(he smiles)

This one time, I was trying to figure out how to throw someone off the Empire State Building. I must've spent fourteen hours up there until I figured it out.

BECKETT

I had no idea you were so dedicated to your craft.

CASTLE

Well, yeah, that and *Sleepless in Seattle* had just come out, so lonely women were approaching me all day thinking I was their Tom Hanks. Man, that movie got me laid.

BECKETT

(breaking his reverie)
Castle.

CASTLE

Point is, if you want to get inside a killer's head, you've got to go where the killer was, and see what problems he had to face.

CUT TO:

31 INT. ROGER'S APARTMENT, LIVING ROOM/KITCHEN/BATHROOM - DAY 31

Roger stands in the middle of his living room. Beckett and Castle are examining the apartment.

ROGER

They said he was shot in a mugging. You're telling me, he was killed here? In my apartment?

CASTLE

Not him. His wife.

ROGER

His wife? What kind of family was this? No wonder I got the place for eighteen hundred. Friggin' brokers.

Castle moves on to keep Roger from ranting.

CASTLE
Okay, so, you and I are married.

BECKETT
No, we're not.

CASTLE
Relax. It's just pretend.

BECKETT
I don't want to pretend.

CASTLE
Scared you'll like it?

BECKETT
If we're married, I want a divorce.

ROGER
You two like this all the time?

CASTLE/BECKETT
Yes.

They look at each other, then--

CASTLE
Ok. We're not married, but they are. Say the doorman's right. That means, Melanie usually got home by four.

BECKETT
She'd need to make dinner for her kids.

CASTLE
Which puts her in the kitchen.

They move to the kitchen. It's tight. Castle and Beckett are close. (Note: This scene should play like a dance)

CASTLE
Then Sam gets home.

BECKETT
Banker's hours. Usually around six.

CASTLE
Figure the kids have already eaten.

BECKETT
So, they're what? Watching TV in
the bedroom?

ROGER
In my bedroom?

CASTLE
Shh. We're on a roll.

BECKETT
They fight.

CASTLE
About the affair.

BECKETT
About Philadelphia.

Castle moves closer to Beckett.

CASTLE
Things get heated.

BECKETT
She turns her head and --

CASTLE
He whacks her with something.

Castle and Beckett look around, see cooking implements.

BECKETT
A pot or a pan?

CASTLE
Fractures her skull and it's over.

BECKETT
But the kids are in the bedroom.
He needs to get her out of here
before they see.

Castle reads the terrain. Then...

CASTLE
Hallway bathroom. No line of sight.
He can control things in there.

They move to the bathroom. Roger trails, becoming engrossed.

CASTLE
He needs to buy time.

BECKETT

He puts her in the tub, closes the door. Tells his kids that Mom went out to the store.

CASTLE

Which according to the case file, the doorman could never substantiate.

BECKETT

So, no car. How did he get her out of the apartment?

ROGER

Maybe he hailed a cab?

They both turn to look at him. Give him a "You idiot" look.

CASTLE

Yeah. He and a cabbie are gonna wrestle a body into his trunk.

BECKETT

Oh I know. Maybe the doorman helped. How much do you tip for a body?

Roger retreats. Castle turns to Beckett.

CASTLE

The doorman!

*
*

BECKETT

Castle, I was joking.

*
*

CASTLE

What if she was already in the freezer when he took her from the apartment?

*
*
*
*

ROGER

A freezer? He would've needed a truck.

*
*
*

CASTLE

In my building, if there's a delivery or a pick-up, someone has to sign it in.

*
*
*
*

ROGER

Yeah. Here too. Anyone with a delivery that big would need to sign the ledger.

*
*
*
*

33

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - DAY

33

On A THICK LEDGER, with names and dates. *

WOMAN'S VOICE *

Yes. That's my signature. *

DELORIS MARSH, 70, at her door, the chain still latched.
Beckett holds the ledger up for her to see. *

BECKETT

I know it was five years ago, Mrs. Marsh, but the only delivery that day was to this apartment. If you can remember anything about the delivery at all... *

DELORIS

Sure, I remember. I don't get many deliveries.

CASTLE

What do you remember?

DELORIS

That I had to go downstairs and straighten things out.

BECKETT

Straighten what things out?

DELORIS

I told the doorman I never ordered a freezer. I live alone, what do I want with a freezer? But the guy brings it up anyway. Loaded it on the freight elevator while I'm still talking to the front desk. *

Beckett and Castle exchange a look.

BECKETT

What happened when you went downstairs?

DELORIS

I told the doorman they had the wrong apartment again and when I got back upstairs the guy was gone. Does this have to do with that missing woman?

BECKETT

Yeah. It does.

DELORIS

Because I told that other cop all about it.

BECKETT

Detective Sloan?

DELORIS

Don't remember his name. But I told him just like I told you.

34 INT. BECKETT'S UNMARKED - DAY 34

Castle eyes a PHOTOCOPY of the delivery ledger. On it MUELLER BROS. DELIVERY. We look up to find ourselves outside...

35 EXT. MUELLER BROS. DELIVERY - DAY 35

Beckett and Castle arrive outside of a ten foot gate. A SIGN near the gate's entrance says MUELLER BROS. DELIVERY SERVICE. They exit the car, enter the site.

CASTLE

I don't get it. If Sloan had that woman's report, why didn't he follow up on it.

BECKETT

He wasn't looking for a story. He'd already written it.

Castle nods, then his eyes are drawn to something OFFSCREEN.

CASTLE

That's the same kind of truck we saw at Charles Wyler's store.

Beckett turns to see: a DELIVERY TRUCK.

BECKETT

He must have a contract with them.

A WORKER approaches the truck with supplies propped on a dolly. He opens the back as the driver lowers the truck's hydraulic lift. Castle smiles.

CASTLE

You need help with some heavy lifting, who would you call?

BECKETT

Your best friend.

END ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

36

INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION - NIGHT

36

Wyler sits at the table, deflated. Beckett sits across from him, while Castle leans on the far wall.

BECKETT

We can trace the rental of the delivery truck to you, Mr. Wyler. If I have to, I can bring the woman you delivered the freezer to in to identify you.

WYLER

Look, I had nothing to do with what happened to Melanie.

CASTLE

You've lied about everything else, why not that?

WYLER

I never had any reason to hurt her.

BECKETT

But Sam did. She kept running back to that ex-boyfriend. I mean, how much could the guy take?

WYLER

He called me that night. Said I needed to come over right away. When I got there, the kids were asleep and Melanie was in the tub in a garment bag. He said she came after him and he just snapped.

CASTLE

Here's an idea: instead of killing her, how about a divorce?

WYLER

You don't think I knew how wrong this was?

CASTLE

Why help him get rid of her body? Why take that risk?

WYLER

Because he made a very bad mistake. And what about the kids? Their mom was dead. If he went to prison...

BECKETT

So you arranged to get a truck.

WYLER

He said it couldn't ever be traced to him. That's why we sent the freezer to the old lady. That's why I rented the storage space. Because we knew the cops would look at Sam.

BECKETT

You made the payments?

WYLER

Sam couldn't take any chances. He'd give me the cash and I'd stop by twice a year.

CASTLE

For five years?

WYLER

Seemed a lot easier than moving her.

BECKETT

Why'd you stop paying?

WYLER

I'm truly sorry about what happened to Melanie. But what was I supposed to do? Keep paying for the rest of my life?

BECKETT

The DA and I will make sure of it.

37

INT. PRECINCT, BULLPEN - NIGHT

37

Beckett, Castle, in the bullpen with Captain Montgomery.
Castle's reading a file.

CAPT. MONTGOMERY

Her body gets dumped 'cause this guy Wyler didn't pay a bill? That's...

CASTLE

You can say it. Pretty cold. Ironic that such a selfish act ultimately revealed the truth.

BECKETT

There were people who knew the truth all along. They just chose not to come forward.

CAPT. MONTGOMERY

Still, karma came back to put a cap in her husband's ass, so all's right with the world.

He heads off. Beckett looks at the clock, sees that it's late. She turns to Castle, who's nose deep in a file.

BECKETT

I'm going to go talk to Melanie's parents. Let them know how this shook out. You coming?

CASTLE

The woman with the freezer delivery told us she talked to a cop.

BECKETT

Yeah. Sloan.

CASTLE

Only he didn't list her name in his report.

BECKETT

He probably didn't think it was important. After all, he didn't think he was looking at a murder.

CASTLE

Right. So if you're not investigating a murder, why are you talking to a neighbor about her freezer delivery?

Off Beckett mulling that over -

CUT TO:

38

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING, HALLWAY - NIGHT

38

Deloris, still only at the crack in the door, talks to Beckett and Castle.

DELORIS

This must be some freezer.

BECKETT

You mentioned that a police officer came to see you. I know it's been five years but do you think you'd be able to identify him?

DELORIS

Who said five years ago? I never said five years ago.

CASTLE

When did he come see you?

DELORIS

Sometime last year. I remember thinking, why's a cop coming to talk to me about a freezer I didn't order four years ago?

BECKETT

Can you tell us anything about the man who came to see you?

DELORIS

He was older. I mean, for a cop.

BECKETT

Uniform?

DELORIS

No. Plain clothes. Like you. He had grey hair, and walked with a limp.

Beckett turns to Castle.

CASTLE

Ben Davidson.

BECKETT

Melanie's father.

END ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

39 INT. BECKETT'S UNMARKED - NIGHT

39

Beckett and Castle sit in front of the Davidson house.
There's a pall inside their tiny space.

They're both looking through the large dining room window.

ANGLE ON BEN DAVIDSON

He is inside setting the dinner table for the family. The two
granddaughters are assisting him, bringing plates and
silverware.

BACK ON BECKETT AND CASTLE.

BECKETT

Why'd it have to be him?

CASTLE

You could just leave it like this.
(off her look)
Sam's dead. Your Captain's happy.
And those kids look pretty happy.

BECKETT

That's the difference between a
novel and the real world, Castle...

She opens the car door.

BECKETT

A cop doesn't get to decide how a
story ends.

She exits. Castle watches her walk to the door.

40 EXT. DAVIDSON HOUSE - NIGHT

40

She hesitates before finally KNOCKING. Ben opens the door.

BEN

Detective Beckett.

BECKETT

Mr. Davidson. Sir, I'm going to
need you to come with me down to
the station.

Nothing more needs to be said. Ben doesn't break her stare.
Seconds later, Julie appears.

JULIE

Ben, who's at the door?

Julie sees Beckett. Beckett sees the little girls off in the distance, knowing what they're wondering. Wondering what will become of them. Seeing herself in them.

JULIE

Ben, what is it?

The second Ben locks eyes with his wife, she knows the answer to her question. Off this tableau --

CUT TO:

41 INT. PRECINCT, INTERROGATION - NIGHT

41

Ben sits at the interrogation table. Beckett and Castle are with him.

BEN

I'm here because I questioned a woman about a freezer?

CASTLE

Not any freezer, Mr. Davidson. The freezer where your daughter's body was stored.

BEN

For the moment, let's assume what you say is true. What's the charge?

BECKETT

If Mrs. Marsh's answer led to Sam's death, the charge would be murder.

Ben smiles, wearily.

BEN

I kept going over everything Sam told us, everything he claimed happened that night, until I came to the same conclusion you both apparently did: that Melanie never left her apartment alive... Mrs. Marsh's answer merely confirmed what I already knew.

BECKETT

That your son-in-law was a killer.

Ben looks at her, says nothing.

CASTLE

If you'd figured out what Sam'd done, why not go to the police? He'd have gone to prison for the rest of his life.

BEN

If he'd been convicted. They didn't have a body at the time, remember? His lawyers would have put Melanie on trial, not him.

BECKETT

So you took matters into your own hands...

BEN

Well, you could certainly understand how any father might want to... How he might follow his daughter's murderer one dark night, when he'd be sure no other people were around; how he might confront him with a gun he'd brought back from the war; might promise forgiveness in exchange for the truth, and then hearing his admission be... overcome with rage.

(beat; shifts)

Every time he brought the girls to see us, I watched a little piece of my wife die... A visit from your grandkids should be life-affirming, not a reminder of how your only child was murdered.

BECKETT

Killing him wasn't the answer.

BEN

I never said I killed him. I only said that a father might be justified.

(shakes his head)

The police told me Sam was shot in a robbery. And without evidence, there would be little hope his killer would ever be brought to justice. I suppose we'll see if that's really true.

(beat)

(MORE)

BEN (cont'd)
And now I'd like to see a lawyer,
if I could.

CUT TO:

42 INT. PRECINCT - NIGHT

42

Beckett stares at the picture of Melanie. Castle rounds the corner, on the phone.

CASTLE
No, sweetie, I just wanted to make
sure I said good night.
(listens)
Sure thing. Strawberry happy face
pancakes on me. Mwah. See you in
the morning.

He hangs up. Sits next to Beckett.

CASTLE
Alexis missed me.

BECKETT
How did you know?

CASTLE
Spidey-sense.

She offers a half-smile. Ben Davidson suddenly appears, officers leading him down to holding.

CASTLE
Think he'll be convicted?

BECKETT
I don't know.
(beat)
But at least those kids'll know
what happened.

Beckett puts the photos back into the case file. Beat. She looks up at Castle.

BECKETT
By the way, it was my mother, not
my father.

Castle doesn't say a word. He leaves the door open for her to continue.

BECKETT
We were all going out to dinner -
her, me, my Dad.
(MORE)

BECKETT (cont'd)

She was supposed to meet us at the restaurant, but she never showed. Two hours later, we get home and this detective, Detective Raglin, is waiting. They'd found her. She'd been stabbed.

CASTLE

Robbery?

BECKETT

No. She still had her purse, money, jewelry. No sexual assault either. They said it was gang violence, a random wayward event.

(she shakes her head)

And just like with Melanie, they never looked outside the box. They made up their minds and moved on. And so her killer was never caught.

CASTLE

Why do you wear the watch?

BECKETT

My Dad took her death pretty hard. But he's sober now. Five years.

(re: watch)

So this is for the life I saved...

She reaches in her shirt and pulls out the necklace with the ring on it.

BECKETT (CONT'D)

And this is for the one I lost.

A beat as Castle takes it in. But Beckett doesn't dwell. She gathers up her coat and forces a smile.

BECKETT

So I guess Nikki Heat has a backstory now.

CASTLE

I don't know. I really liked the whole hooker-by-day cop-by-night angle, but the powerful emotional stuff could work too.

She smiles, his joke letting her off the emotional hook.

BECKETT

Well, don't bewilder your fans with substance on my account.

CASTLE

Thanks.

ESPOSITO

You tell her I did this, I'll make
you bleed.

CASTLE

Understood.

ESPOSITO

Good luck.

Castle takes a seat at a table and turns on the desk light as
Esposito leaves, dousing the overheads.

Lit by the light of the lamp, Castle looks down at the case
file. He takes a breath, and opens it.

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW