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Episode 312

“Do You Take Dexter Morgan?”

Written by  
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Final Collated  
10/23/08

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Cast

“Do You Take Dexter Morgan?”

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Final Collated – 10/23/08

DEXTER.....Michael C. Hall  
DEBRA.....Jennifer Carpenter  
RITA.....Julie Benz  
LAGUERTA.....Lauren Velez  
BATISTA.....David Zayas  
MASUKA.....C.S. Lee  
HARRY.....James Remar

Guest Cast

Quinn

Miguel

Astor

Cody

Anton

Syl

Gianna

Ramon

George King

Francis

Tammy

Karen

Tailor

Sara

Pratt

Sgt. Whitaker

Deputy #1

Uniform #1



**Sets**

**“Do You Take Dexter Morgan?”**

**312**

**Final Collated – 10/23/08**

**INTERIORS:**

Police Station  
Briefing Room (Day)  
Bullpen (Day/Night)  
Corridor (Day)  
Dexter's Inner Lab (Day)  
LaGuerta's Office (Day)  
Masuka's Lab (Day)  
Records Office (Day)  
  
Dexter's Apartment (Day)  
Bedroom (Day)  
  
Dexter's Car (Day)  
  
Rita's House  
Living Room (Day)  
  
Anton's Apartment (Day)  
  
Bride's Room (Day)  
  
Groom's Room (Day)  
  
Jail Interview Room (Day)  
  
Old Cigar Factory  
Second Floor (Day)  
  
Restaurant (Night)  
  
Tailor Shop (Night)

**EXTERIORS:**

Dexter's Apartment  
Balcony (Day)  
  
Police Station  
Taco Truck (Day)  
  
Beautiful Old Florida Seaside Venue (Day)  
  
Old Cigar Factory (Day)  
  
Park (Dawn)  
  
Ramon's House (Night)  
  
School Entrance (Day)  
  
Sheriff's Car – Street (Day)  
  
Tailor Shop (Night)

**DEXTER**

"Do You Take Dexter Morgan?"

FADE IN:

CLOSE ON MIGUEL PRADO'S handsome face; eyes looking into LENS. Unblinking.

BEGIN LONG CORKSCREW RISE TO REVEAL the ligature marks on his neck. CONTINUE RISE and we realize we're CRANING UP AND UP and that we're --

1

EXT. PARK - DAWN - DAY 1

1

CAMERA CONTINUES TO CRANE UP and now we see Miguel's entire body (pants and a tank top) on a spread of beautiful green meadow. It would be almost pastoral, almost serene, if we didn't know that we're looking at the body of a dead man.

DEXTER (V.O.)

There are few milestones in life that evoke a stronger response than our final act...

THE CRANE SHOT REACHES ITS APEX.

DEXTER (V.O.)

... death.

TIME LAPSE DISSOLVE as...

A JOGGER stops at Miguel's body. Leans over to look, then runs off...

A PATROL CAR arrives. Then several others...

DEXTER (V.O.)

What was once moving, speaking, killing, and threatening... becomes nothing but an empty vessel...

UNIFORMS spool out yellow perimeter tape. PLAIN WRAP POLICE CARS pull up. A FIRE ENGINE...

TIME LAPSE CONTINUES as our Homicide Squad appears. BATISTA, QUINN, DEBRA. MASUKA gloves up and squats next to Miguel's body. He's joined by the forensics tech KAREN. They're all disturbed, upset.

DEXTER (V.O.)

Which is not so different from how I've always felt.

FIND DEXTER, snapping photos. Utterly devoid of emotion.

1 CONTINUED:

1

NEWS VANS arrive. Their satellites telescoping upward.

A CORONER'S VAN pulls up some distance away.

END TIME LAPSE AND MOVE IN FOR COVERAGE.

MASUKA

Several small patches of skin removed  
from the shoulder area...

KAREN

Ligature marks on the neck.

DEXTER (V.O.)

We all react in different ways to  
death.

Dexter looks off and notes RAMON sitting on the hood of his  
car, looking lost and desolate. He locks eyes with Dexter,  
giving him a long, hard stare.

DEXTER (V.O.)

Some choose anger.

Dexter looks away, busies himself with taking photos.

ON DEBRA AND QUINN

DEBRA

Why the fuck would the Skinner kill  
Miguel Prado?

QUINN

Miguel was after Freebo. George King  
had to figure he knew something.

Dexter turns to see LAGUERTA step out of her car and  
approach Miguel. She gets halfway there and freezes. Then  
she makes the sign of the cross.

DEXTER (V.O.)

Others cling to ritual.

LaGuerta finds the strength to join her team.

Dexter leans in to take a photo. Batista sidles up to him,  
speaks in a hushed tone.

BATISTA

Dex, I know he was your friend. If  
you want to take a pass on this --

DEXTER

(somber)  
It's okay. I got it.

DEXTER (V.O.)

Me: I'll play the grieving friend who buries himself in his work.

Masuka motions to the EMTs that he's done. They slide Miguel's body onto a stretcher and gently lift him up.

Batista, and all the nearby Unis respectfully remove their hats. Others put their hands over their hearts.

Batista nods toward several of the Unis, and an impromptu honor line forms, stretching all the way back to the Coroner's van. All work stops, everyone is silent.

The EMTs carry Miguel's body down the line. It's a somber, ceremonial procession. Dexter starts for the Coroner's van.

DEXTER (V.O.)

You can tell a lot about a person by the friends he keeps.

Dexter meets Miguel's body at the van, and solemnly looks down at it.

DEXTER (V.O.)

This is my best friend... Goodbye, Miguel.

Dexter starts to reach for Miguel, to close his eyes, but a hand suddenly grabs his forearm in a vise-like grip. It's Ramon, glaring at him with pure hatred.

RAMON

Don't you fucking touch my brother.

DEXTER

Let go of my arm... Now.

Ramon shoulders Dexter around to the side of the van, out of view of the others. He gets right in Dexter's face --

RAMON

I'm going to find out why this happened.

Dexter meets his accusing glare.

DEXTER

We all want the same thing, Ramon.

Ramon gives him a contemptuous glare, turns and storms away. Off Dexter, this isn't over.

2 INT. RITA'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - A FEW DAYS LATER - DAY 2 2

START CLOSE on the floral, cheery invitation to Rita and Dexter's wedding, lying on the counter. Then a FUNERAL CARD is set next to it, which reads "Miguel Luis Prado."

PULL BACK TO INCLUDE RITA who just laid it down. And Dexter who pulls off his suit jacket. They're both in black, having just arrived home from a funeral.

DEXTER

Well, that was awkward. I've never been asked to leave a funeral before.

RITA

Ramon didn't *ask*; he pushed you out the door.

DEXTER

He was drunk.

RITA

Yeah, I could smell the fumes. He's just so *angry*.

DEXTER

He's lost two brothers. Doesn't know who to blame.

RITA

Well, certainly not you.

DEXTER (V.O.)

No, certainly not me.

Rita turns to Dexter.

RITA

How are you handling all this?

DEXTER

You know, a lot of different... emotions.

Rita gives him a comforting squeeze.

RITA

Even if Miguel wasn't exactly the man you thought he was, you still lost a friend. You don't have to be so strong.

DEXTER

Can't help it.

RITA

Poor Syl. She's got a lot to deal with.

DEXTER

I can only imagine.

RITA

She insists we go ahead with the wedding. Still wants to come to the rehearsal dinner tomorrow.

DEXTER

Life goes on.

She smiles, moves into the kitchen as Dexter notices a small stack of mail, on top of which is an envelope.

INSERT - ENVELOPE

It's addressed to "Dexter Morgan and Rita Bennet." The return address reads, "Gail Brandon, 321 Elmview Lane, Ashley, Michigan, 48806."

DEXTER

From your mother?

RITA

She can't make it down. She's teaching again and can't miss class. My loving mother.

Dexter opens the envelope, pulls out the card.

DEXTER

(not really)  
Too bad.

Dexter reads the card.

DEXTER

"Let's hope the third one's the charm." What's that mean?

Rita hesitates, then tries to cover.

RITA

Oh.

She indicates her stomach.

RITA

The third kid. The third one will be the charm.



DEXTER  
Astor and Cody are charms, too.

RITA  
Like I said: my loving mother.

Rita turns her back to Dexter, pretending to look for something in the refrigerator.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Did Rita just lie to me?

Rita returns to him, changing the subject.

RITA  
Have you written your vows yet?

DEXTER  
Not completely. What should I say?

RITA  
You can talk about togetherness.  
Loyalty. Attraction. Honesty.

DEXTER  
(falters)  
Honesty. Right.  
(off her look)  
I'm going to go home and keep working  
on them.

He gives Rita a kiss. She hands him Miguel's funeral card.

RITA  
You should have this.

Dexter takes the card. Looks at Miguel's picture.

DEXTER  
Yeah. He gave me so much.

A3 INT. DEXTER'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY 2

A3

Dexter composes vows in his head.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Darling Rita, once, you were a dream  
and a prayer. Now our future is as  
bright as the sun glinting off the  
morning dew, and I vow that I will --

He sighs, frustrated.

DEXTER  
It sounds like I'm marrying a unicorn.

A3 CONTINUED:

A3

His CELL PHONE rings. He checks the caller ID, which only makes him more curious.

B3 EXT. DEXTER'S APARTMENT - BALCONY - DAY 2

B3

Dexter urgently makes his way toward his apartment. His expression pained. Arriving at his door, Dexter sees that it's been kicked in. FOLLOW him inside --

3 INT. DEXTER'S APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS - DAY 2

3

Dexter can't believe what he sees -- his home has been trashed. Furniture overturned. Glass broken. Personal belongings destroyed.

Gloved UNIFORMS filter in and out of rooms. A TECH dusts Dexter's overturned desk. Another TECH dusts the air conditioner. Before Dexter can protest, a plainclothes detective, PRATT, approaches.

PRATT

You the occupant?

DEXTER

Yes.

PRATT

Property manager called us. Found your door kicked in.

Dexter picks up a smashed picture frame from the floor.

DEXTER

I know. He called me too.

PRATT

We're going to need you to take a good look around. See what's missing.

Dexter picks up a picture of himself and Debra.

DEXTER

It's hard to tell.

PRATT

Your neighbor...

(checks his notes)

... Mrs. Levin said she saw someone hanging around the mailboxes. Latin. Kinda burly. Shaved head. Ring any bells?

ON DEXTER. His jaw tightening.

DEXTER (V.O.)

Ramon Prado.

DEXTER  
Nope. No idea.

PRATT  
Well, if nothing's stolen, it looks  
like someone has it in for you.

Dexter plays the hapless guy who has no enemies.

DEXTER  
Honestly, I think whoever did this got  
the wrong apartment.

PRATT  
Sucks for you.

DEXTER  
Yeah.

4-5 OMITTED

4-5

6 INT. DEXTER'S APARTMENT - LATER - DAY 2

6

Dexter ushers out the cops.

DEXTER  
Thanks. Please call if you find out  
anything.

Dexter manages to close the damaged door, then immediately  
goes to the air conditioner unit. He opens it, and is  
relieved to see his box of blood slides is intact.

HARRY  
*Well, that's a relief.*

*Dexter turns to see HARRY next to him.*

HARRY  
*But wow, what a mess. Miguel warned  
you that his death wasn't the end of  
things.*

*Dexter lifts his desk, up-righting it.*

DEXTER  
*So what, his plan was to make me call  
in my housekeeper an extra day a week?*

HARRY  
*Dex, you better take this seriously.  
I mean, look around.*

*Harry follows Dexter into --*

7 OMITTED 7

A8 INT. DEXTER'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY 2 A8

*The mattress has been slashed, overturned. His wedding suit hangs in tatters.*

HARRY  
*Your suit for the wedding. That's personal.*

DEXTER  
*(minimizing)*  
*There's no point to any of this.*

*Dexter pulls his trunk out of his closet, unlocks it, finds his kill tools undisturbed.*

HARRY  
*Exactly. Ramon Prado's like a gut-shot animal. You know what you do with a wounded animal: you put it out of its misery.*

DEXTER  
*I can't kill him. He doesn't meet the Code.*

*Dexter finds Ellen Wolf's ring, in an evidence baggie, in his trunk.*

HARRY  
*Can't kill him. Can't ignore him.*

*Dexter picks up the ring, which is proof of Miguel's involvement in Wolf's murder.*

DEXTER  
*I have no intention of ignoring him.*

*Off Dexter, heading for his door.*

B8 OMITTED B8

C8 EXT. RAMON'S HOUSE - NIGHT 2 C8

*Dexter walks TOWARD CAMERA.*

DEXTER (V.O.)  
*I can use the ring to tie Miguel to Ellen Wolf's murder, threaten to destroy Ramon's sainted brother's reputation forever. That's enough to get Ramon to back down.*

We REVEAL that Dexter is outside Ramon's house. SARA is checking through the mail as he approaches. She's a wreck.

SARA  
Dexter.

Dexter notes how fragile she looks.

DEXTER  
Sara. Hi. How are you?

SARA  
Honestly, not so great.

DEXTER  
Sorry, I know. Is Ramon in?

Sara sadly shakes her head.

SARA  
No.

DEXTER  
Do you know when --

SARA  
He didn't come home with us from the funeral. Doesn't answer his cell. He's been on a bender, Dexter. I have no idea where he is.

DEXTER  
Oh.

SARA  
I'm worried about him.

DEXTER  
Well, me too. That's why I'm here.

SARA  
He's the only one left. It's too much.

Dexter nods.

DEXTER  
If you hear from him, will you let me know?

He starts to turn away.

SARA  
And if you see him first?

Dexter turns back.

SARA

Tell him his family's waiting for him.

Off Dexter, realizing this is more of a human issue than he'd like it to be.

D8 INT. POLICE STATION - RECORDS OFFICE - MORNING - DAY 3 D8

Debra, sipping coffee, her bag over her shoulder, approaches the counter, as FRANCIS sorts through some file boxes.

DEBRA

Yo, Francis... any progress on my dad's C.I. files?

FRANCIS

He knew a lot of folks. I'll give him that.

DEBRA

Anyone of interest?

FRANCIS

Who knows? The C in C.I. means confidential. I got case numbers and photos.

DEBRA

How many are female?

FRANCIS

Haven't culled through everything yet. Sure you want me to? Some things are better left in the box.

DEBRA

I just... want to put a face on her.

FRANCIS

Knowing all the details isn't going to change the fact he was messing around on the sly.

DEBRA

(resolute)

I know that.

FRANCIS

I'll send 'em up as soon as I can.

DEBRA

Thanks, Francis.

Debra heads out.

E8 INT. POLICE STATION - DEXTER'S INNER LAB - DAY 3

E8

CLOSE on a printer as it spits out an article. We see Ramon proudly standing with his old sheriff's partner next to a table piled with a bounty of guns and drugs. Better days.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Ramon's blood family doesn't know  
where he is.

Dexter pulls the article out of the printer, reads the name of Ramon's former partner: JESSIE WHITAKER.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Maybe his blue family does.

He hits the speakerphone button and dials.

SHERIFF'S DEPT. OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Miami-Dade Sheriff's Department.

DEXTER  
Can you put me through to Sergeant  
Jessie Whitaker?

SHERIFF'S DEPT. OPERATOR (O.S.)  
One moment please.

We hear tinny MUZAK coming over the phone. Dexter waits a beat, then reaches into his pocket and pulls out the envelope that Gail's card was in.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Speaking of partners...

As he navigates to another WEB SITE -- Michigan Department of Records -- the MUZAK stops. The operator pops back on.

SHERIFF'S DEPT. OPERATOR (O.S.)  
Sergeant Whitaker's in the field.  
Would you like to leave a message?

DEXTER  
This is sort of important. I'm  
calling from Miami Metro Homicide. Is  
there any way to track him down?

The Operator SIGHS, the Muzak comes back up and Dexter turns his attention back to the web page.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Before she left Michigan, Rita Bennet  
would have been Rita...  
(checks label)  
... Brandon.

E8 CONTINUED:

E8

Several options pop up: Dexter clicks on 'MARRIAGE LICENSES.'

The page loads. It reads RITA ANN BRANDON in the "wife" section, but in the "husband" section it reads JOHN ALAN ACKERMAN.

DEXTER

Ackerman?

Dexter absorbs this information.

DEXTER (V.O.)

Paul Bennet wasn't her first husband. She was married before him. At sixteen.

Dexter navigates to DIVORCES.

DEXTER (V.O.)

Ending in divorce six months later. An impetuous teen marriage. Which makes me her third husband.  
(beat)  
The charm....

While Dexter considers this, he sees Debra hurrying across the Bullpen towards the Briefing Room.

As the hold Muzak continues...

8 INT. POLICE STATION - BRIEFING ROOM - DAY 3

8

Debra slides into the back of the bustling room. Also present are Batista, Quinn, RAMOS, SODERQUIST, Masuka and several Unis.

BATISTA

-- the brass has given us a blank check as far as overtime's concerned until this man --

CLOSE ON A PROJECTED DRIVER'S LICENSE PHOTO OF GEORGE KING

BATISTA (O.S.)

-- is in custody. Jorge Orozco -- AKA George King. Affectionately known back home as *El Fierro*. The Blade.

QUINN

Nicaraguan embassy finally came through?

BATISTA

All it took was them extorting a decommissioned patrol car out of us...  
(MORE)



8 CONTINUED:

8

BATISTA (CONT'D)

Plus shipping. Turns out Orozco was a captain in the *Resistencia Nicaragüense*.

He clicks the remote and we SEE an enlarged photo of King in a military uniform, dating from fifteen years earlier.

BATISTA

The Contras. He headed an interrogation unit.

DEBRA

So he tortured people for a living.

Batista clicks to the next image, and a CORONER'S PHOTO of MIGUEL PRADO'S FACE appears. There's a quiet beat as they all react.

MASUKA

And killed them. My findings, combined with the Coroner's report, conclude that Miguel Prado was definitely killed by the same man as our other skinning victims.

DEBRA

Now that we have his name, we can get his tax and social security records.

BATISTA

Put together a list of his former employers. Divvy it up. And keep working the streets. Make sure his photo is everywhere.

(then)

This was already a big case. With Miguel Prado's murder, it's officially huge.

Off Debra's resolve...

A9 INT. POLICE STATION - DEXTER'S INNER LAB - DAY 3

A9

Dexter is still on hold when suddenly the Muzak stops.

SGT. WHITAKER (O.S.)

This is Whitaker.

Dexter picks up the phone as we --

INTERCUT WITH:

B9 EXT. SHERIFF'S CAR - STREET - DAY 3

B9

SGT. WHITAKER stands outside his car, talking on his cell.

DEXTER  
Hey Sergeant. My name is Dexter Morgan. I'm trying to track down your old partner, Ramon Prado.

SGT. WHITAKER  
Why?

DEXTER  
I'm a family friend. Sara told me he's been missing since his brother's funeral. With his problem and all --

SGT. WHITAKER  
Gotcha. Actually haven't seen him since he left. But I know a few places he used to hang out at; basically any bar within a ten mile radius. I can give you a few of his favorites --

DEXTER  
I'm sure Sara would appreciate it.

Dexter grabs a pencil and starts to jot down Whitaker's information as he sees cops exiting the Briefing Room.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
I'd love to help them with George King, but I've got a more pressing situation to deal with. Miguel's wounded messenger. I'll have to find time to hit a few bars this afternoon.

C9 INT. POLICE STATION - BRIEFING ROOM - DAY 3

C9

Batista calls out to Debra before she leaves the room.

BATISTA  
Morgan. A minute?

DEBRA  
Sure, Sarge.

He pulls her aside as the rest of the room empties.

BATISTA  
So it took a couple months, and a lot of wrangling, but my budget request finally came through. Homicide's going to have a little extra money.

DEBRA  
That's great. We should get a Crime-sight Imager. Have you seen them? The pictures are amazing --

BATISTA

Really? That's what you'd spend it on? I was thinking we'd spend it by adding another detective to the squad.

DEBRA

Oh.

BATISTA

Maybe someone who saved the life of a C.I., who ID'd our Skinner --

She sees Batista's smile, realizes he's talking about her.

DEBRA

Oh!

Then as the realization hits home that her long held dream is about to come true.

DEBRA

I... don't know what to say... I mean... Wow... Thanks...?

BATISTA

I've made my recommendation to Lieutenant LaGuerta. She's just got to sign the paperwork.

Debra beams.

BATISTA

We could use a little joy around here.

9 INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - DAY 3

9

Quinn is at his desk, making notes, as Masuka leans in.

MASUKA

So last night I finally got to see a little of Tammy's anger management problem.

QUINN

Putting together a list here, Vince.

MASUKA

We're at this bar and some guy hits on her even though I'm sitting right there. She practically tore him a new asshole. And afterwards, the sex? Hot. Volcano hot.

Quinn just looks at him.

MASUKA

You don't even know how jealous you are.

Debra moves past, headed toward Dexter's lab.

10 INT. POLICE STATION - DEXTER'S INNER LAB - DAY 3

10

Dexter is gathering his things, as Debra enters.

DEBRA

I got it! I got it!

DEXTER

I'm guessing "it" is something good?

DEBRA

My detective shield.

DEXTER

Oh, big news.

DEBRA

Big news? It's fucking gigantic news! Soon as LaGuerta signs the papers, I'm gold. Well, silver.

DEXTER

We should celebrate.

DEBRA

Yeah, c'mon.

DEXTER

Um... I meant later. I have to get the kids, go to the tailor --

DEBRA

Yeah, yeah.

Dexter sees that Debra's looking for something more.

DEXTER

You know Dad would be proud.

(off her look)

That still means something, no matter how flawed he was.

DEBRA

Yeah. Look at us. You're getting married, I'm making detective. The Morgans are gonna be okay.

She gives him a squeeze.

DEBRA  
I'll see you at the rehearsal dinner.

Debra exits. Dexter follows.

11 INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - CONTINUOUS - DAY 3 11

Dexter is intercepted by LaGuerta.

LAGUERTA  
Dexter, I need a word.

Dexter stifles his frustration, heads for --

A12 INT. POLICE STATION - LAGUERTA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 3 A12

Dexter enters. LaGuerta closes the door.

LAGUERTA  
The City Council has voted to name the freeway interchange near my house after Miguel Prado. I drive that way every single day.

DEXTER  
He was a hero... to some.

LAGUERTA  
He was a cold-blooded killer. He murdered my friend. And now he's got an interchange.

A quiet beat.

LAGUERTA  
I'm sorry. You're the only other person who knows the truth.  
(then)  
Maybe it's time to let others in on the secret.

DEXTER  
(careful)  
There's nothing to link Miguel to Ellen Wolf's murder except evidence that was obtained illegally, therefore inadmissible.

LAGUERTA  
I'll find something, tear his life apart if I have to.

DEXTER  
He doesn't have a life anymore. It would be his family you'd have to tear apart. The community.  
(MORE)

DEXTER (CONT'D)  
The *Cuban* community. And you still  
might not be able to prove anything.

She hears the truth, but can't accept it.

LAGUERTA  
So I just keep it a secret.

Dexter just looks at LaGuerta as she stews.

LAGUERTA  
I hate secrets.

DEXTER  
We all have them.

LaGuerta gives Dexter a look. What could he possibly have  
to hide.

LAGUERTA  
Then tell me, Dexter, how am I  
supposed to live with this?

DEXTER  
You just... do.

LaGuerta considers his advice.

DEXTER  
I gotta go pick up the kids...

LaGuerta nods, and Dexter exits.

12 EXT. POLICE STATION - TACO TRUCK - DAY 3

12

As Debra places her order, we SEE Dexter hurry past behind  
her, headed to his car.

DEBRA  
I'll have an everything burrito with  
a... side of...

Her voice trails off as she SEES -- ANTON heading toward his  
car. She moves toward him --

DEBRA  
Anton?

He turns to see her approaching; meets her half way.  
There's an awkward tension between them.

DEBRA  
Hey.

ANTON  
Hi.

DEBRA  
You're... here.

ANTON  
Just picking up my stuff from  
Evidence. Watch, wallet, chapstick.

DEBRA  
I coulda brought them to you.

ANTON  
I got it. So how you doing?

DEBRA  
(misses him)  
I'm... alright.  
(then)  
But hey, looks like I'm going to get  
my detective shield.

He smiles. Genuinely happy for her.

ANTON  
Congratulations. That's great.

He reaches to pat her shoulder, she thinks he's going for a hug, moves to receive it but realizes that wasn't his intention, and so sticks her hand out. He looks at it. Shakes it. They hold the shake a moment before releasing each other's hands. A beat.

DEBRA ANTON  
You want to grab a coffee? -- I should go --

DEBRA  
No, right. I'll... see you.

They share awkward smiles, then he continues on to his car. Off Debra, longing in her eyes as she watches him go...

13 EXT. SCHOOL ENTRANCE - DAY 3 13

PARENTS pick up their CHILDREN. Dexter holds open the door to his hybrid as ASTOR and CODY climb in.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
I stopped at four bars and got nothing  
but a new appreciation for how many  
alcoholics there are in Miami.

Dexter gets in, and as he drives away... a SEDAN pulls out behind them...

A14 INT. POLICE STATION - CORRIDOR - DAY 3 A14

Debra steps out of the elevator. Batista comes up.

BATISTA

Morgan.

DEBRA

What's up?

BATISTA

Just found out the A.D.A.'s Office requested the logs from Anton Briggs' surveillance detail. Didn't know why, till I read them. You slept with our key witness?

Debra suddenly feels cornered.

DEBRA

The A.D.A.'s looking into it?

BATISTA

Miguel Prado was. Don't know the status now, but it's a conflict and you should have given me a heads-up. Especially before I sent LaGuerta my recommendation for your shield.

Debra's face drops.

DEBRA

And now you're spiking it.

BATISTA

LaGuerta has the final say. But she deserves full disclosure --

DEBRA

Disclosure, Sarge? Really? Did you disclose you met Gianna 'cause you were out trolling for a hooker?

Batista's gut-punched. Making Debra quickly regret her knee-jerk reaction.

BATISTA

Where'd you hear that?

DEBRA

I... know someone in Vice. But no one else knows... I think, and it's not really that big a - fuck, I'm sorry.

But Batista's in his own thoughts now. Making a decision.

BATISTA

It's just my chickens coming home to roost.



Batista heads toward LaGuerta's office.

B14 INT. POLICE STATION - LAGUERTA'S OFFICE - DAY 3 B14

**(FORMERLY SCENE 19)**

LaGuerta looks over the Ellen Wolf file in front of her. She's torn. Batista walks in, a man on a mission.

BATISTA

I met Detective Gianna while I was seeking comfort from prostitutes.

LAGUERTA

... Excuse me?

BATISTA

I propositioned her, she revealed she was police and she had mercy on me. Let me off with a warning.

LAGUERTA

That was... pretty damn stupid, Angel.

BATISTA

It was a dark time for me.

(then)

I'd completely understand if you wanted to pursue a case against me.

LaGuerta looks down at her Ellen Wolf folder.

LAGUERTA

As cases go, laying you out for thinking with your dick is pretty low on my list of priorities.

BATISTA

Actually, I was looking for simple human connection -- no, right, you're right.

LAGUERTA

We all have secrets we'd prefer not to share. Skeletons. Feel free to keep yours in the closet. Deep in the closet, Angel.

BATISTA

Thanks, Maria.

LaGuerta turns her focus back to the Ellen Wolf file. But Batista's not leaving.

BATISTA

There's something else you should hear from me, instead of the grapevine.

LAGUERTA

Jesus, Angel, how dark a time was it?

BATISTA

It's regarding my recommendation of Debra Morgan for detective.

Off LaGuerta...

14 INT. DEXTER'S CAR - DRIVING - DAY 3

14

Dexter drives Astor and Cody home.

ASTOR

So, when you and Mom get married, what are we supposed to call you?

DEXTER

Well, I think Mr. Handsome would be a good name.

Cody and Astor laugh. Dexter then notices --

DEXTER'S POV - REAR VIEW MIRROR

A SEDAN following him -- it passes another car to pull in behind him.

DEXTER

Uhm, you can call me whatever you'd like.

Dexter speeds up just a little bit, makes a turn.

CODY

I think I'll call you Dexter.

Dexter notes the sedan has made the turn as well. He tries to see who's behind the wheel, but with the sun glinting off the windshield, he can't get a good look at the driver.

DEXTER

That would be great.

DEXTER (V.O.)

(re: sedan)

Is that you, Ramon? Following me with *kids* in my car? Now you're just pissing me off.

Dexter notes a GREEN LIGHT ahead. He slows, timing his speed accordingly... then he guns it and purposely runs a yellow light --

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Stop or get a ticket, asshole --

The SEDAN follows, running a red light --

First the TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CAMERAS FLASH twice --

Then BAM! Another car goes through the intersection and hits the sedan's bumper and tire, immobilizing the sedan.

Cody and Astor spin backward at the sound --

CODY  
Did you see that, Dexter?

DEXTER  
That's what happens when drivers do stupid things.

ASTOR  
Should we go help?

DEXTER  
Oh, maybe, just to make sure everyone's okay.

Dexter makes a U-Turn in the next intersection.

DEXTER'S POV - As they approach, we see the door of the stricken car is open, the driver long gone.

DEXTER  
Looks like he's okay enough to walk away.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
... Until I get a hold of him.

A15 INT. RESTAURANT - NIGHT 3

A15

**(FORMERLY SCENE A25)**

A small gathering of friends for cocktails before the rehearsal dinner. As *hors d'oeuvres* are passed around the room find Dexter, Rita, Masuka, TAMMY, SYL, and a couple of Rita's FRIENDS from her old job.

RITA  
It's going to be a nice dinner, Dexter. Thanks for doing this.

DEXTER  
Just doing what grooms are s'posed to do.

RITA  
How're you coming with your vows?

DEXTER  
Still working on 'em.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
I'm going to lob this in nice and easy.

DEXTER  
What kind of vows did you do the first time around?

RITA  
(hesitant beat)  
The *first* time? Paul and I just repeated what the pastor said.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Liar, liar, pants on fire.

Syl approaches Dexter and Rita from the dining room, her mood understandably subdued.

SYL  
The *maitre'd* says they'll start serving in fifteen minutes.

RITA  
Thanks, Syl. How're you holding up?

SYL  
Just putting one foot in front of the other. This is a happy distraction.

Just then, RAMON lurches into the restaurant. Everyone sees him and tenses. This can't be good.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Why is it I can never find him, but he always finds me?

Ramon goes to Syl.

RAMON  
Jesus, the day after you bury your husband and you're out partying.

SYL  
Ramon, you're drunk.

Dexter tries to move Ramon out the door.

DEXTER  
Why don't we go outside and talk about  
this?

Ramon pulls a gun from beneath his shirt. Everyone moves  
for cover.

RAMON  
Fuck you. You don't tell me what to  
do.

Dexter stays close to Ramon, speaking in a quiet tone.

DEXTER  
Look, these people have nothing to do  
with this. This is between you and  
me.

RAMON  
I should put a bullet in your head in  
front of everybody... So they can see  
what it's like to lose someone.

DEXTER  
You don't want to do that, Ramon.

He takes another step toward him. Ramon chambers a round.  
Rita calls out --

RITA  
Dexter...

RAMON  
Listen to her, *pendejo*. Back off.

DEXTER  
C'mon, Ramon.

In the background behind Ramon, Dexter spots Batista and  
Debra arriving late to the party. Dexter choreographs  
himself so as to keep Ramon's attention focused on him and  
away from Debra and Batista, who suddenly read the situation  
they are about to walk into.

DEXTER  
You need to put the gun down before  
someone gets hurt.

Batista and Debra rush Ramon. They knock him to the ground,  
and Debra wrests his gun away. Batista handcuffs him.

DEBRA  
Somebody call 911!

Dexter looks around the room at the startled guests.

THE SCREEN GOES WHITE. RESOLVE to a window, morning sun pouring in. RESOLVE FURTHER and we see metal bars on the window. We're -

B15 INT. JAIL INTERVIEW ROOM - MORNING - DAY 4 B15

**(FORMERLY SCENE B25)**

Dexter, his anger barely in check, paces in front of the window - adrenaline personified.

An O.S. door opens heavily. Dexter turns to SEE -

RAMON, in an orange jumpsuit, shambling in between two Sheriff's Deputies. His face is bruised from the takedown at the rehearsal dinner. His wrists and ankles are shackled.

The Deputies lead him to a table. He sits and they cuff his wrist-shackles to the arms of the steel chair. DEPUTY #1 looks to Dexter with contempt.

DEPUTY #1  
By the book, Mr. Morgan.  
(then, to Ramon)  
You need us, we're right outside,  
Lieutenant.

The Deputies exit, leaving Dexter and Ramon alone. Dexter regards Ramon from the other side of the room. Finally -

DEXTER  
How's it feel, Ramon?

RAMON  
How the fuck does what feel?

DEXTER  
To wake up sober for the first time in  
a week.

RAMON  
Like shit.

DEXTER  
That shit? It's called reality.

He closes in. The Deputy watches through the door's window.

DEXTER  
And it's gonna be life as you know it  
for a long time.

RAMON  
(a derisive snort)  
I'll be outta here in a couple of  
days.

News to Dexter.

DEXTER  
One last coupon from your famous  
brother's reputation?

Ramon shrugs. Dexter whips back the empty chair and sits.

DEXTER  
You don't have to bother with reality.  
Must be nice.

Ramon leans forward, his jaw bouncing.

RAMON  
Here's my fucking reality: Miguel  
takes me on as a bodyguard and I ask  
him why. You know what he says?  
(beat)  
To protect him from you.

DEXTER  
And did he tell you why?

RAMON  
No.

Dexter meets Ramon's eyes. Speaks clearly, evenly. It's a  
subtle and nuanced manipulation.

DEXTER  
(shaking his head)  
The only one Miguel needed protection  
from was himself.  
(feigns compassion)  
The man was paranoid.

RAMON  
That's --

DEXTER  
(cutting him off)  
*That's true.* And you know it as well  
as I do.  
(pressing)  
Look, I spent a lot of time with your  
brother. But it wasn't 24/7. I don't  
know what he was up to when I wasn't  
around. Neither does Syl... Neither  
do you.

Unseen by Ramon, Dexter reaches into his pocket and comes up with the evidence baggie containing Ellen Wolf's ring.

DEXTER

But what I do know is this: you've got a shit-ugly history of kidnapping, brutality, and abuse. Then you trash my apartment. Follow me. Next thing I know you put a gun in my face. In front of my friends. My pregnant fiancée.

(beat)

Why, Ramon? What's your end-game?

RAMON

To hurt you.

(beat)

Until you came into our lives, everything was fine.

Dexter clenches his fist, tight on Ellen Wolf's ring.

DEXTER

Fine like what? Fine like Oscar's drug habit. Fine like Miguel's... *darkness?*

RAMON

What do you know about that?

DEXTER

We were close, Miguel and I. He told me things. Like how he pushed your father down the stairs to protect you and Oscar. And that he enjoyed it.



Ramon shakes his head. Resentment building.

RAMON

It was *me* who did that to our father.  
Miguel took it from me and made it his  
story. Part of his goddamn legend.

Dexter sees he's touched something deep. He prods Ramon.

DEXTER

Miguel always had to be the star.

RAMON

Sure, he got the looks, the charm.  
Maybe even the brains. But I got the  
strength. I spent my whole life  
trying to hold it all together. And  
now it's all gone to shit.

DEXTER

It doesn't have to.

RAMON

Bullshit!

(beat)

Those cases you're talking about? The  
kidnapping, the brutality? That was  
*me* sweeping up after *Miguel's* fuck-  
ups. He wasn't making my problems go  
away. I was risking my ass to cover  
his.

His eyes well. Dexter has an opening. Goes for it.

DEXTER

I know the frustration, the  
disappointment, of wanting to help  
your brother and not being able to.

Ramon gives a half-nod. Dexter continues.

DEXTER

Thing is, you don't have to do that  
anymore. It's over. Miguel's gone.  
Maybe it's time you start taking care  
of the family you have left.

He slowly removes his hand from the table and slips Ellen's  
ring back into his pocket.

DEXTER

Where's your son right now?

RAMON

Soccer practice.

DEXTER  
And your daughter?

RAMON  
Pre-school.

DEXTER  
Where do they think their father is?

RAMON  
Sara told them something, I dunno.

DEXTER  
Someday your kids will be old enough  
to see the truth for themselves. Like  
you did with your father. I know.  
I've been there.

He rises, starts for the door.

DEXTER  
The sins of the father can go on  
forever. From kid to kid to kid.  
Unless someone... you... chooses to  
stop them.

Ramon sags. Weight of the world. Dexter regards him, then -

DEXTER  
(softly)  
Been there, too.

He pulls the door open.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
You don't always have to destroy a  
wounded animal. Sometimes you just  
remove the thorn.

He exits.

15 OMITTED 15

16 INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - DAY 4 16

Debra slams down her phone as Quinn enters, carrying a  
breakfast burrito to his desk.

DEBRA  
They all say the same thing: "King  
was a very polite gardener. I can't  
believe he's the Skinner."

QUINN  
I hate polite killers. So hey, I  
heard you took down Ramon Prado last  
night... again.

DEBRA  
Yeah, the Prados must really love me.

Masuka enters as her phone RINGS. Debra answers --

DEBRA  
(into phone)  
Morgan --

-- as Masuka beelines for Quinn's burrito.

MASUKA  
You gonna eat this?

QUINN  
Not anymore, thanks. Thought you were  
having breakfast with Tammy.

Masuka sits on his desk, eating as --

MASUKA  
She got pissed off at the waiter for  
his "poor attitude" and threw a  
pancake at him. They kicked us out.

QUINN  
(laughs)  
This girl is trouble.

MASUKA  
(trying to downplay it)  
Nothing I can't handle.

Debra hangs up, eagerly turns to her computer.

DEBRA  
That was Robbery. There was a hit and  
run fender-bender involving a stolen  
car. Traffic enforcement camera  
caught the driver's face -- guess who?

QUINN  
*El Fierro.*

DEBRA  
They're sending me the photo now.

Debra's email program PINGS, and she opens the email.

INSERT - COMPUTER IMAGE

It's a photo of George King in the sedan, running the red  
light.

Debra ZOOMS in on King's face.

DEBRA  
Definitely him. Robbery's bringing  
the car in now.

MASUKA  
I'll grab my kit.

Debra and Quinn start out. Masuka grabs Quinn's half-eaten portion of the burrito. Quinn catches him --

MASUKA  
What, I have low blood sugar.

Off them, mobilizing --

17 OMITTED 17

18 INT. POLICE STATION - MASUKA'S LAB/BULLPEN - DAY 4 18

CLOSE ON A MONITOR showing a microscopic view of a brown strip of... something.

MASUKA (O.S.)  
Those dark lines? Reticulated veins.

REVEAL Masuka as he peers into a microscope. Debra and Quinn hover nearby, watching the monitor.

DEBRA  
Holy shit, it *is* skin.

MASUKA  
No. More like... leaf.

QUINN  
You gotta be kidding me.

DEBRA  
Only evidence we got from the car the Skinner stole is a friggin' leaf?  
Great.

MASUKA  
Yup. Tobacco leaf.

DEBRA  
Tobacco -- wait, fuckin' A -- wait,  
there was --

QUINN  
A cigar company -- King's former  
employer -- what was the name --

Debra and Quinn head toward the Bullpen.

MASUKA  
Thank you, Vince. You're welcome.

Debra grabs a file off her desk, finds what she's looking for.

DEBRA  
El Royale Cigars. Listed on the first tax form George King ever filled out, 1992.

QUINN  
It's a longshot, but...

DEBRA  
Fuck longshot. Let's go.

They haul ass out of there.

AA19 INT. TAILOR SHOP - NIGHT 4

AA19

**(FORMERLY SCENE 25)**

In stocking feet and wearing a suit with an open shirt collar, Dexter stares at his reflection in a full-length mirror. WIDEN to reveal a TAILOR next to him.

TAILOR  
What do you think?

DEXTER  
Thanks for doing this so fast, Bruno.

TAILOR  
Happy to help.

He hands Dexter a tie.

TAILOR  
Now, you do that and I'll get your shoes.

As the Tailor crosses away, Dexter lifts his collar, wrapping the tie around his neck. Distracted, Dexter's first attempt tying his tie is a bust. As he tries again...

HARRY  
*Remember what I taught you?*

*In the mirror's reflection Dexter sees Harry, who's also in a suit.*

DEXTER  
*Hard to forget. It was Mom's funeral.*

HARRY  
*The rabbit hops over the log.*

*Dexter follows along, guided by Harry.*

HARRY  
Your mother would be so proud. Both  
of them.

*He helps Dexter with the tie.*

HARRY  
The rabbit crawls under the log.

DEXTER  
Then the rabbit runs around the log.

HARRY  
One more time, because he's trying to  
outsmart a fox.

DEXTER  
The rabbit dives through his rabbit  
hole...

*Dexter puts the end of the tie through the loop, pulling  
down while simultaneously tightening the knot.*

DEXTER  
... safe and sound.

*TIGHT on the reflection of father and son.*

HARRY  
Safe and sound.

A19-21 OMITTED

A19-21

22 INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - NIGHT 4

22

Debra enters with Quinn. They stop at Debra's desk where  
Quinn tosses a box of cigars down. Batista approaches.

BATISTA  
What's this?

QUINN  
All we got out of searching the cigar  
factory.

DEBRA  
Total waste of time.

BATISTA  
No sign of King?

QUINN  
Security guards there round the clock.  
No way King gets in or out.

Batista SEES GIANNA in the corridor. She gives him a wave.

BATISTA  
Keep working the list of previous  
employers.

Batista hurries out to Gianna.

DEBRA  
Did he seem mad at me?

IN THE CORRIDOR - Batista gives Gianna a kiss.

GIANNA  
So any blowback since your heart-to-  
heart with LaGuerta?

BATISTA  
Nah, I think we're good.

GIANNA  
Again, I'm sorry. I told my partner  
before I officially met you --

BATISTA  
Hey, you did me a favor. I feel...  
lighter.

He smiles at her, she at him. Off them --

23-25 OMITTED 23-25

26 EXT. TAILOR SHOP - NIGHT 4 26

With his suit in a garment bag, Dexter makes his way to his car. He pauses to breathe in the night air.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
The night before my wedding day. Some  
men would be excited. Others panicky.  
Me, I feel... okay.

Opening the back door of his car, Dexter hangs his suit on the coat hook, but when he turns back around - there's GEORGE KING. BAM! A mag-lite crashes into the side of Dexter's head. BLACKNESS.

27 INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - MORNING - DAY 5 27

ON THE ELEVATOR DOORS as they open, Debra steps out. She enters the Bullpen, empty but for Masuka, working in his lab. (LaGuerta's blinds are closed).

DEBRA  
What're you doing here on a Saturday?



MASUKA

Re-analyzing some of the evidence from  
King's stolen car.

(off her look)

And avoiding Tammy till the wedding.  
She's starting to scare me.

Debra goes to her desk --

DEBRA

Thought I'd get some work done too  
before the... wedding...

-- then she finds A PILE OF EIGHT FILES.

INSERT - THE PILE OF FILES -- A POST-IT is attached to the  
top file. It reads: Detective Harry Morgan - C.I.'s.

ON DEBRA - A little afraid of what she might find.

DEBRA

(to herself)

Francis came through.

She tentatively fans out the files (we don't see them) --

LAGUERTA (O.S.)

Morgan.

Debra and Masuka jump. SEE LaGuerta leaning out of her  
office.

LAGUERTA

Glad you're here. Wanted to talk to  
you.

LaGuerta nods Debra into her office, then goes inside.

MASUKA

(sotto)

Shit, I didn't know she was here. Did  
I say anything bad about her?

DEBRA

You're not the one she's gonna ream.

Debra takes a breath before entering --

28 INT. POLICE STATION - LAGUERTA'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS - DAY 5 28

-- Debra enters stiff, defensive. LaGuerta sits on top of  
her desk.

LAGUERTA

Sit.

DEBRA

That's okay.

LAGUERTA

It seems the A.D.A. noticed your personal and professional lives were colliding.

DEBRA

Alright, listen. Anton wasn't even an official C.I. when it happened.

LAGUERTA

So... it was a one time thing.

DEBRA

... no.

LAGUERTA

Still going on?

DEBRA

Not sure.

LAGUERTA

You want it to?

Debra's confused at this line of questioning.

DEBRA

Um... I don't... I... he could be a key witness in my case.

LAGUERTA

Doesn't have to be your case.

Debra looks at her, then throws up her hands.

DEBRA

You know what? Go ahead. Take away my case. Take away my shield. I don't care anymore. Because it wasn't a wrong decision. I wanted to be with Anton. I still want to be with him. There's no possible way that us being together is a mistake.

Beat. LaGuerta smiles.

LAGUERTA

Which means you're not sacrificing your personal life to work. Good for you.

Then LaGuerta reaches to her desk, picks up a detective's shield and loops it around Debra's neck.

LAGUERTA  
Congratulations, Detective Morgan.

DEBRA  
(stunned)  
I... what?

LAGUERTA  
You're one of the smartest, hardest  
working, most annoying pain in the ass  
cops in my department. You've earned  
that.

DEBRA  
What about the A.D.A. and his ethics  
probe?

LaGuerta walks around to her desk to pull open a drawer, but  
SEES -- ON TOP OF HER DESK - ELLEN WOLF'S CASE FILE.

LAGUERTA  
The A.D.A. is dead.

DEBRA  
May he rest in peace.

Beat, as LaGuerta closes Ellen's file and puts it in the  
drawer, her hand lingering on it, but ultimately deciding it  
will forever be her secret.

LAGUERTA  
Rest in peace.

At the same time, she pulls from the drawer -- A PASTRY BOX.  
She opens it for Debra. Cupcakes.

LAGUERTA  
Try that one. Ganache frosting.

Debra takes the ganache cupcake. Sits. LaGuerta takes a  
cupcake herself. Sits back in her chair.

LAGUERTA  
You hang on to that personal life.  
Reminds us what's important.

DEBRA  
Cupcakes?

LAGUERTA  
Absa-fucking-lutely.

Off their laughter, the two women, a bonding moment...

29 INT. OLD CIGAR FACTORY - SECOND FLOOR - DAY 5

29

CLOSE ON DEXTER'S FACE - eyes closed. Then... abruptly, he blinks awake. Beat.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Such a familiar situation...

INCLUDE him lying face-up on a table, his hands dangling off the sides, wrists securely tied with rope. The factory is long-abandoned. It's filled with the junk that squatters would leave behind: a few old bedrolls, a rickety table with a couple chairs, garbage from various meals. An elevated catwalk extends off into the distance. King's truck is parked below.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Such an unfamiliar perspective.

He pulls his right hand up, it yanks his left hand down. They're tied with the same rope that runs under the table.

Finally, he cranes around to SEE George King, across the room, standing by a window, watching Dexter. Just looking at him. No emotion.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
George King. So Ramon wasn't the only one following me. I underestimated Miguel after all.

King continues to stare.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Ah yes. This is the part where my fear is supposed to build. I know his M.O. by heart.

HARRY (O.S.)  
*But you're not afraid.*

*Dexter looks over to find Harry standing next to him, face filled with concern, grief.*

DEXTER  
No. I'm not.

HARRY  
*I am. I've been scared of it coming to this your whole life. A violent end. I tried to protect you.*

DEXTER  
*And you did. This is my fault for not trusting you. Instead I trust Miguel fucking Prado?*

HARRY

*You did the best you could.*

*Harry, emotional, moves closer to Dexter.*

HARRY

*And I need you to understand... so did I. The very best I could.*

DEXTER

*Dad, I... forgive you. I hope to be half as good a father to my son...*

HARRY

*Your son.*

*Dexter looks at him, sees tears in his eyes.*

DEXTER

*I've never seen you cry.*

HARRY

*They're not my tears, Dex. They're yours.*

DEXTER

*I know. But I don't know why. I've never... felt this.*

HARRY

*You've never had a son before. You want to see him come into the world...*

DEXTER

*(realizing)*

*... Yes. To raise him with Rita. Watch him grow up. Protect him...*

HARRY

*I know.*

DEXTER

*I didn't. Till now. When it's all going to be taken away. I want to be there for him. I've never wanted anything so much in my life.*

*Harry and Dexter share a meaningful look.*

*Then determination settles into Dexter's face. He looks over at George King who simply watches him with cold, emotionless eyes. Off Dexter, his mind working...*

30 INT. ANTON'S APARTMENT - DAY 5

30

WE HEAR A KNOCK, and Anton crosses to the door. He opens it to REVEAL Debra.

DEBRA

Hi. Thanks for letting me come over.

ANTON

Come in.

Debra steps in, Anton closing the door behind her.

DEBRA

Just wanted to say - you're completely different from me. Laid back, musician-y, unambitious. You're like Valium.

ANTON

You're like Red Bull.

Debra smiles. He always makes her laugh.

DEBRA

And you're the best thing that's happened to me.

He takes this in. But is still wary.

ANTON

I'm still a witness in your case.

DEBRA

Not my case anymore. I recused myself.

ANTON

You? Gave up a case? *This* case?

DEBRA

Don't worry. My department's all over it. They're gonna catch the bastard...

(then)

But I had a choice - either you or George King. Not even close to a tough decision... I choose you. Your turn.

ANTON

I've already chosen. Just waiting for your hyperactive little mouse brain to catch up.

She grins.

ANTON

So what now?

DEBRA

I kiss you...

(she kisses him)

... We rip each other's clothes off.  
Then you come to my brother's wedding  
with me. As my boyfriend.

ANTON

Excellent plan.

-- but Debra's cell phone RINGS. She looks at it --

DEBRA

So not part of the plan.

She whips her phone open --

DEBRA

*What?*

INTERCUT WITH --

31 INT. POLICE STATION - MASUKA'S LAB - DAY 5

31

MASUKA

Shouldn't you be more cheery on your  
brother's wedding day?

DEBRA

I'm busy, Masuka -- *what?!*

MASUKA

George King wasn't at that cigar  
factory.

DEBRA

Fucking duh. And it's not my case  
anymore.

(then)

Why?

As Anton kisses her neck.

MASUKA

I re-ran that tobacco we took off  
King's stolen car -- turns out it's at  
least a dozen years old. I called  
that cigar factory -- they only moved  
there three years ago.

31 CONTINUED:

31

DEBRA  
Again, not my case --  
(then)  
Where were they before?

Off Debra -- glancing at Anton. He shrugs, amused, knowing where this is going.

32 INT./EXT. OLD CIGAR FACTORY - SECOND FLOOR - DAY 5

32

Dexter pulls at the ropes on his wrists. The knots are too tight to slide his hand through. He looks over at George King again.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
I know that look. I've had that look.  
He likes control, needs it.  
(beat)  
So I'll take it away from him.

Then Dexter speaks to George King, matter-of-factly --

DEXTER  
I killed Freebo.  
(beat)  
Sorry 'bout that.

King blinks. That got his attention. King slowly rises, walks toward Dexter, studying this very different animal lying on his table as --

DEXTER  
I tied him up, not unlike this.  
Stabbed him in the left carotid  
artery. Used a sixteen inch carbon  
steel bone saw to separate his limbs --

GEORGE KING  
I don't believe you --

DEXTER  
Divided them equally amongst six  
biodegradeable trash bags. Which are  
now long gone, carried north on the  
Gulf Stream.

King leans on the table -- it rocks, its legs uneven.  
Dexter takes note.

GEORGE KING  
You're lying.

DEXTER  
Usually. But not now. No point.



GEORGE KING

Why would you have done such a thing?

DEXTER

I have excuses, justifications. But really? I just... need to. Like you do. I mean, you have your flimsy excuse -- to find Freebo, get back your money -- but you know he's dead. You know there's no money -- so you're really just a killer -- a monster -- the stuff of nightmares --

GEORGE KING

I could kill you now.

DEXTER

If you can convince yourself I'm lying. That you have to skin me to get information out of me --

He leans on the table again. It rocks again. Dexter notes it again.

GEORGE KING

You are lying -- you know where he is.

DEXTER

Miguel Prado tell you that?  
(off King's look)  
He wanted me dead. So he used you. Played on your obsession. Wasn't that hard. I mean, you are a little single-minded --

King pushes away from the table abruptly.

GEORGE KING

I hope you're this talkative once I get my tools.

King ascends to the catwalk and goes to his toolbox to pick out a knife. Dexter starts rocking the table from side to side.

DEXTER (V.O.)

A wolf would chew off its own paw.  
Its survival instinct is that fierce.

He positions his hand along the side of the table, and starts rocking it more dramatically.

DEXTER (V.O.)

So is mine.

King sees what Dexter is about to do, races back --

GEORGE KING

No...

And with one big thrust, the table TIPS ON ITS SIDE -- BAM!  
It CRUSHES Dexter's hand!

He strains in agony, and immediately starts pulling his  
limp, shattered hand through the knotted loop of rope,  
freeing it just as --

George King comes at him, knife in hand, lunges --

Dexter dodges, manages to KICK King away, long enough to use  
his good hand to pull the rest of the rope free.

A fierce fight ensues. King is fast and wiry, Dexter  
bigger, but injured --

Dexter finally manages to wrap the rope around King's neck.  
King begins to strangle, writhing and flailing with the  
knife --

He NICKS Dexter's injured arm, but Dexter holds on, fighting  
the searing pain in his hand --

As Dexter struggles with King, he spots three cars bursting  
into the far end of the cavernous warehouse. Two cop cars -  
light bars ablaze - and Debra's car just behind.

DEXTER

Shit. She finds you stabbed, too many  
questions --

He redoubles his efforts and overpowers King.

DEXTER

-- Alive, you have too many answers --

Wrapping his good arm around King's neck and coupling it  
with his injured arm, Dexter deftly snaps King's neck.  
Killing him.

THE CARS SCREAM CLOSER.

THINKING QUICKLY, DEXTER DRAGS KING'S BODY TOWARD THE  
CATWALK.

INSIDE DEBRA'S car as they hurtle forward. She picks up her  
walkie --

DEBRA

King's truck's at eleven o'clock.

INSIDE ONE OF THE PATROL CARS. The Cops speed through the  
building.

The Driver starts to reach for his walkie when something falls in front of his car -- GEORGE KING! The car SLAMS INTO him. Crushing him and dragging him twenty feet.

THE CARS ALL SKID to a stop. Debra and the cops leap out, weapons drawn.

QUICK CUTAWAY TO DEXTER lowering himself out of an unseen window. He takes one last look at the mess he's leaving behind.

DEXTER (V.O.)

Enough people have passed through this place to make it a forensics nightmare.

He disappears out the window. Safe at last.

BACK TO THE CARS. Debra and the cops approach King's body.

UNIFORM #1

That him?

DEBRA

Yeah.

UNIFORM #1

Jesus, Officer. Scraped his fucking skin off.

DEBRA

Goes around, comes around.

She holsters her gun.

DEBRA

And it's Detective.

33-34 OMITTED

33-34

35 INT. BRIDE'S ROOM - DAY 5

35

Astor helps Rita, who looks stunning, put together the final details of her wedding ensemble. Syl enters.

SYL

Dexter's here. Just drove up.

RITA

Finally.

SYL

Nothing to be concerned about, but he kinda had a little accident.

Rita's immediately concerned.

RITA

What happened?

SYL

He took a tumble down the stairs,  
broke his hand. A little bump on the  
head --

RITA

Oh my God!

SYL

He's fine, Rita. He can't wait to get  
married.

ASTOR

(affectionately)  
Dexter's such a dork.

RITA

But he's our dork, honey.

Just then, Dexter enters, looking disheveled, carrying his  
suit, his hand in a cast. The women are surprised,  
horrified.

RITA/SYL/ASTOR

Dexter!/What are you doing?/Your room  
is down the hall --

Syl goes to Dexter, tries to push him out of the room. But  
he's stopped dead in his tracks. Staring at Rita.

DEXTER

Wow. You look... wow.

Astor jumps in front of Rita, trying to hide her.

ASTOR

You can't see her before the  
wedding... It's bad luck!

Dexter holds up his cast arm.

DEXTER

Think I've got that covered, sweetie.

RITA

You poor baby. Are you okay?

DEXTER

More embarrassed than anything.  
(then, to Rita)  
Can I talk to you? Alone?

Rita nods to Syl and Astor. It's okay. Syl puts her arm around Astor, leading her out of the room...

SYL

C'mon, hon. We'll do your makeup.

Dexter waits until they're alone. Then --

DEXTER

I am so sorry.

RITA

Dexter, it's okay...

DEXTER

You're not... angry?

RITA

Why would I be? It's not like you broke your hand on purpose...

(off Dexter)

I'm just glad you're here. Safe.

DEXTER

(she has no idea)

Me too.

RITA

Besides. Something was bound to go wrong. Now that it has... I can relax. Enjoy the day. Can't get worse than a broken limb, right?

Dexter considers that for a short beat.

DEXTER

Nope, I guess not.

They gaze at each other for a beat.

DEXTER (V.O.)

I should feel bad, hiding the truth. Today, of all days. Then again... Rita's hiding something from me, too. White lies for a white wedding...

RITA

Now go. Get dressed.

DEXTER

Right. Be ready in a jiffy.

(leans in close)

You really do look beautiful.

She smiles. He heads out of the room --

DEXTER (V.O.)  
She wants to hold onto her secret...  
(deciding)  
And I'm going to respect that. It  
seems only fair given the secrets I  
keep from her.

He steals one last look at her --

DEXTER (V.O.)  
We all have secrets. In that way, I'm  
just like everyone else. Sorta.

And he closes the door...

36 INT. GROOM'S ROOM - DAY 5

36

Dexter looks in the mirror, trying, unsuccessfully, to tie  
his tie. A cast on his right hand pokes out from underneath  
his jacket sleeve.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
No one's watching me. No one's  
threatening me. All that's left is to  
get married.

Debra rushes in, frantically trying to zip up her dress.

DEBRA  
Jesus fuck. I heard about your little  
fall. You okay?

DEXTER  
I'm fine. I heard you nabbed George  
King.

DEBRA  
Yeah. Great big scary Contra boogey  
man gets surrounded and takes the  
chickenshit way out. Death by cop.

DEXTER  
I'm glad he was the only one who got  
hurt.

DEBRA  
Me, too.  
(then)  
Me in a dress? I feel like a  
transvestite.

Debra crosses to him, begins tying his tie for him. They  
notice their reflection in a nearby mirror, and smile at  
each other. Debra says to herself by rote...

DEBRA

Rabbit goes under the log, hops over the log, again, then through his hole...

DEXTER

... safe and sound.

She tightens the knot. Perfection.

DEXTER

Thanks. I was going to give it another eight tries before I gave up.

DEBRA

Just remember. Cody has the rings. And don't lock your knees when you're standing up there or you'll drop like a goddamn stone.

(then)

Wait, where are your vows?

Dexter taps his head.

DEXTER

In here.

She takes in her brother. Overcome with emotion, Debra pulls Dexter into a hug.

DEBRA

I am so happy for you. I just wish Dad could be here.

Through the open door, Dexter catches a glimpse in the courtyard. *There's Harry, a proud smile and a wave.*

DEXTER

I have a feeling he is.

DEBRA

Okay, enough of this sappy shit. Let's get you fucking hitched.

37 EXT. BEAUTIFUL OLD FLORIDA SEASIDE VENUE - LATE DAY 5 37

Simple, pretty decor. Nothing overly expensive or ornate, just... warm, reflecting the bride's personality. Dexter and Rita stand at the altar. Debra stands next to her brother. Astor and Cody next to Rita.

The gathered guests sit on white chairs: Batista and Gianna. LaGuerta. Quinn. Anton. Masuka and Tammy. Ramos. Soderquist. Others from the precinct. Syl. Rita's friends. A few kids.

Rita has already placed the ring on his finger and is finishing her vows.

RITA

I honor you. I love you... I marry you.

Dexter's turn. He takes a ring from Cody and slips it onto Rita's finger.

DEXTER

I promise...  
(a beat, thinking)  
... to be... the very best husband and father I can be. Always.

It's pure truth. And she can see that. She smiles. Tears in her eyes. And they kiss. Deep and sure and true.

DEXTER (V.O.)

A completely, utterly honest vow.

They turn to the assembled, who rise as one and applaud.

ON DEXTER AND RITA. Beaming.

He and Rita step down from the altar and are surrounded by their loved ones.

DISSOLVE TO:

38 EXT. BEAUTIFUL OLD FLORIDA SEASIDE VENUE - LATER - DAY 5 38

THE RECEPTION. Rita sits as Dexter removes her garter. He SLINGSHOTS it into the adoring crowd.

MASUKA reflexively catches it. He glances at Tammy. Beat. He tosses it to Batista.

Rita FLINGS her bouquet over her shoulder.

DEBRA snags it mid-air. Looks to Anton.

Debra crosses to the microphone.

DEBRA

Hey everyone. I am so fu..., uh so thrilled to introduce for their first dance as husband and wife... Mr. and Mrs. Dexter Morgan!

The band plays 'Tennessee Waltz' as Dexter leads Rita onto the dance floor. With his good hand, he takes her hand, gingerly wrapping his broken hand around her waist. They begin to dance. Slowly, magically, floating on the good will of their friends and family.



DEXTER (V.O.)  
A new life, a new family...

A SERIES OF DISSOLVES as:

Dexter separates from Rita and takes Debra into his arms.  
Rita goes to Astor and dances with her.

Debra then moves to Anton and Rita goes to Cody. Dexter  
bows and asks LaGuerta to dance. Smiling, she joins him.  
On her way to being whole again.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Not that I can re-boot my life. I'm  
still... who I am.

Other couples flow onto the dance floor.

Quinn passes out cigars from the box he had at the station.

Tammy argues with a waiter. Masuka tries to calm her.

Dexter hands LaGuerta off to Quinn and finds his new wife.  
Again putting his injured arm around her waist. She  
lovingly rests her head on his chest as they dance.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
But, today I'm... more, than I've ever  
dreamed. Maybe tomorrow, as well.

He spreads his good hand, the one with the wedding ring,  
across Rita's tummy. Rita, moved, kisses him.

The guests form a circle around Dexter and Rita.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Maybe I'm inching toward normal...  
filling in the blanks, though there  
are so many left...

39 INT. POLICE STATION - BULLPEN - SAME - DAY 5

39

PUSH IN on Debra's desk. FIND THE EIGHT FILES Debra was  
looking at earlier, partially fanned across her blotter.  
Each has a photograph stapled to the front. All taken years  
ago. All women.

CONTINUE PUSH IN to the fourth file from the top. And we  
SEE a picture of someone we recognize... LAURA MOSER!  
Stamped across her photo in RED INK is the word "DECEASED."

DEXTER (V.O.)  
But in this moment, I'm content.  
Maybe even happy.

40 EXT. BEAUTIFUL OLD FLORIDA SEASIDE VENUE - SAME - DAY 5 40

Dexter and Rita dance.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
Who knows? Maybe I *can* have it all.  
Because I have to say, right now...

TIGHT ON DEXTER'S CAST resting on Rita's back. A tiny drop of blood emerges from the edge of the cast.

DEXTER (V.O.)  
... life is good.

Unseen, the blood-drop lingers for a moment, then falls onto the back of Rita's pristine white dress. Nothing will ever be normal in Dexter's world.

Dexter turns Rita and there's a slight smile of satisfaction creasing his face as he looks into CAMERA.

SMASH TO BLACK.

THE END