

THE MENTALIST

"Red-Handed"

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Episode #107

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37, 47, 47A, 48, 48A, 49

TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. HIGH DESERT ROAD - DAY (D/1)

1

A long stretch of desert road abruptly cluttered with a mass of California and Nevada Highway Patrolmen milling about a CRIME SCENE. We see LISBON talking with a Captain as he inputs data into a handheld GPS.

JANE, RIGSBY, VAN PELT and CHO stand slightly apart, watching Lisbon.

CHO

That damn GPS is going to put it in California. I know it.

RIGSBY

Think positive. It's Nevada. Definitely Nevada.

ANGLE ON: A SEVERED RIGHT HAND lying on the asphalt, palm up.

The number "43" is written small in ink -- very faded now -- on the palm of the hand.

Starting from the hand, two uniform HIGHWAY PATROLMEN (one Californian, one Nevadan) unroll big tape measures toward two signs: One that says "California Border" and the other "Nevada Border."

CHO

You're dreaming. We'll catch it. A stone cold mystery.

VAN PELT

Forensics are already running the prints. Maybe we'll get a quick match.

RIGSBY

We'd never get that lucky. We're going to be "talking to the hand" for a long while.

JANE

Why so glum? A case is a case.

(CONTINUED)

RIGSBY

Dismemberments are a pig. You can spend months just assembling the victim. And there's always a piece missing.

JANE

There's already plenty to work with right here.

VAN PELT

It's a right hand with a number on it.

RIGSBY

A male hand, or a not very femme female. What else can you get right here without any forensic analysis?

JANE

Let's see. Probably a white man in his fifties. He wrote on his right hand, so he's a lefty.

CHO

Maybe the killer wrote it. Some kind of message.

JANE

Too faded. And a killer would write it bigger.

Jane gets on his hands and knees to sniff the hand. Several troopers notice this. And LISBON who sees him sniff while waiting by a patrol car with the Captain, who gives her a quizzical look.

LISBON

Consultant.

ON JANE...

JANE

Smells of almond oil moisturizer, musky cologne, and tobacco. His palms are supple, his nails are professionally maintained.

Jane stands up.

JANE (CONT'D)

So, a rich man. There's a faint tan line on his little finger from a missing pinkie ring. Suggesting an extrovert in a job where extroverts thrive.

VAN PELT

So...

JANE

He's upper management in the hotel or gaming business.

CHO

Total guess.

JANE

What d'you bet I'm right?

Cho checks his pockets.

CHO

Thirty-five cents.

JANE

Thirty-five cents? I find that hard to believe considering the huge crayon bank you've probably got hiding behind your bedroom door that's filled with all the spare change you've acquired since you were 15.

Cho is alternately mortified and amazed that Jane even guessed something like that about him so accurately. Rigsby stifles a giggle.

CHO

(annoyed)

Thirty-five cents. Take it or leave it.

JANE

You have a bet.

VAN PELT

I don't think it's right to gamble on such things. That's a human being that died right there.

RIGSBY

It's okay. We're in Nevada.

Rigsby takes a few steps to the other side of the hand...

(CONTINUED)

RIGSBY (CONT'D)

Here, in California, it would be wrong.

(steps back)

But here, gambling on body parts is okay.

Lisbon comes over.

LISBON

The hand is three feet into California, so he's our baby.

RIGSBY

(damn)

Hooray.

LISBON

(agreeing)

Yeah. Hooray. Get our friend bagged and tagged and let's get going.

VAN PELT

Do we have an ID at least?

LISBON

Prints say he's James Quincy Meier. Runs the Calida Resort Casino.

Cho sighs good-naturedly and tosses Jane the thirty-five cents.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 EXT. UPSCALE HOME IN A WOODED ENCLAVE (ESTABLISHING) 2

3 INT. MEIER FAMILY LIVING ROOM - DAY (D/1 CONT'D) 3

The living room has a "lodge" feel to it replete with an enormous hearth. Jane wanders the room as he likes to do, while Lisbon and Van Pelt attempt not to sink into the large overstuffed couch as they speak with ANN MEIER, late 40's, James Meier's widow. She's a savvy ex-pageant queen and spokesmodel, who made a smooth, well-planned transition to trophy wife. She exudes discreetly cougarish sexuality.

Next to her is her daughter, JESSICA MEIER-CARDEIRA, 20's, who is a quiet, pretty, Junior League type girl, the capable but somewhat introverted child of flamboyant parents. Her eyes are reddened from crying.

She holds hands with husband, DANIEL CARDEIRA -- late 20's, a pallid paunchy but attractive schlub in designer athletic wear and discreet bling -- the archetypal poker pro. He's supportive and solemn.

The only sign that this is a casino family is the BIG TV on one wall showing a SPORTS BOOK LIVE FEED of college football, with the SOUND OFF. Throughout the interview, Daniel steals discreet glances at the TV to keep up with the results.
(SEE APPENDIX A)

ANN

You're certain he isn't still out there... alive?

LISBON

Yes. The forensic evidence supports his hand being severed post mortem. After he was dead.

DANIEL

And the rest of his body?

LISBON

We're looking.

ANN

It doesn't seem real. Jim was, he was invincible.

LISBON

Ma'am, when did you last see your husband?

(CONTINUED)

ANN

Yesterday. Tuesday morning. Jim would often stay overnight at the resort if he needed to be there late to resolve an issue but he would call to let me know he was staying so I wouldn't worry.

Van Pelt looks to Lisbon for an okay to jump in. Lisbon nods.

VAN PELT

We understand Mr. Meier didn't have a cellphone.

ANN

Didn't believe in them.

VAN PELT

So was it him that called this house from a casino phone, at um...
(checks notes)
Eight oh five Tuesday night?

ANN

Yes. He was just checking in.

Jane looks at Ann. He knows she just lied.

DANIEL

Casinos run 24 hours a day. So Jim did the same. I think I saw Jim more than they did.

VAN PELT

Do you work for the Casino as well?

JESSICA

Dan is a VIP Guest Services executive.

DANIEL

I'm a glorified house player.

JESSICA

It's more than just that, Daniel.

VAN PELT

What's a house player?

Jane wanders off.

3

DANIEL

Jim pays me to herd the whales, the big money gamblers. I play with casino money, to break the ice, get the heavy action going. It's a nice steady gig. Keeps me out of trouble.

LISBON

When did you last see Jim?

DANIEL

Same as Ann, yesterday. On the casino floor.

As Lisbon and Van Pelt continue the questioning, Jane wanders off to:

4

INT. JIM MEIER'S HOME OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

4

ON JANE: The voluminous amount of clutter that covers the room. Jane focuses on a PLAQUE congratulating Jim on 25 years of devoted service and a wall of PHOTOS that show Jim shaking hands with people like Frank Sinatra and Gerald Ford.

4A

FROM LIVING ROOM

4A

Jessica spies Jane walking around the office and enters.

JANE

Your dad knew Sinatra.

JESSICA

Sure.

(touches her brow)

Sinatra kissed me right here at my first birthday party. That's what Dad always said anyhow.

JANE

But you didn't believe him.

JESSICA

I figure there'd be a photo.

JANE

He wasn't around much when you were growing up, was he?

JESSICA

What makes you say that?

JANE

I figure there'd be a photo.

(CONTINUED)

4A

JESSICA

(piqued)

He wasn't around a whole lot.
But he meant well. He did love me.
I know he did. He just didn't have
a lot of time.

Jessica walks away, back to the group.

5

INT. MEIER FAMILY LIVING ROOM - DAY

5

Lisbon continues questioning Ann Meier.

LISBON

The number 43 was written on Mr.
Meier's hand. Any idea what that
was in reference to?

Ann shakes her head, "no," as she looks to Jessica who is
also clueless.

ANN

No idea.

Daniel reacts to the TV.

DANIEL

Damn!

They all turn to look at him. He points to the game on TV as
if that explains everything.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Stupid sonofabitch went for the two
point conversion. Excuse me.

He takes out his phone, punches in a number as he exits the
room.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

(to Jessica, over his
shoulder)

Make me a scotch, would you, hon?

Jessica obediently goes to the bar cart and makes a drink.

LISBON

Can you think of anyone who would
want to cause harm to your husband?

ANN

Jim was a well-liked man. But he
stuck by his principles, and that's
a dangerous thing to do in his
business.

(CONTINUED)

LISBON

Is there some specific instance
you're thinking of?

ANN

No. No. Just a feeling.

JESSICA

Mom, it's a hotel casino, not a
crack house. The mafia doesn't run
things anymore.

Ann shrugs, as to say she knows better.

ANN

So you say.

VAN PELT

Robbery might have been a motive.
Did he carry a lot of cash on him?
Did he wear expensive jewelry?

ANN

No. He didn't need cash. Jim's
word was money. He wore a ring on
his pinky finger and a lucky
hundred thousand dollar chip on a
string around his neck. That's it.

LISBON

The chip, was it legal tender?

ANN

In the casino, yes. But only in
the casino.

LISBON

Can you give us an exact
description? We'll make sure the
casino cashiers are alerted.

ANN

Yes. We have a photo of it. For
the insurance company.

Ann reaches for an overstuffed accordion file folder and
rifles through it.

ANN (CONT'D)

I was just going through all the
insurance papers. Here it is.

Ann hands Lisbon the PHOTO.

LISBON

Does that match up with any similar cases in the past?

RIGSBY

This is where it gets interesting. There are several cases like this where a hand was purposely left to be found. They were all Reno and Las Vegas based and involved organized crime. None are more recent than ten years ago. They do it to people who get their hands caught in the till.

LISBON

Mafia. Great. Thanks.

8A

INT. CALIDA CASINO GAMING FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

8A

The Calida is small, but welcoming and well-appointed. The flashing LIGHTS, the SOUND of RINGING BELLS and CASCADING COINS... it's not hard to get sucked in. As Lisbon, Van Pelt and Jane enter, they meet with MATT ETIENNE, African-American, early 50's, well put together, sharp-eyed, tough, smoothly courteous and immensely capable, like a front of house security chief has to be.

MATT

Agent Lisbon? I'm Matt Etienne, head of security.

LISBON

Mr. Etienne, this is Agent Van Pelt and Mr. Jane from our team.

Matt shakes their hands.

JANE

Hi.

MATT

We're still pretty shell-shocked around here. They don't make 'em like Jim anymore.

LISBON

How long have you known him?

MATT

We were friends since the Corps... Thirty years...

(CONTINUED)

LISBON

We're sorry for your loss.

MATT

(nodding)

If you'll follow me.

Matt leads them through the casino. BELLS go off and LIGHTS FLASH on machines as PATRONS play on machines and tables.

MATT (CONT'D)

The casino's on the Nevada side of the resort and offers full service gaming. We recently spent 10 million upgrading the facilities to improve the consumer experience.

JANE

They use the same techniques in state-of-the-art animal husbandry to make the cows and sheep feel comfortable.

MATT

(not offended)

Oh really?

JANE

Dim lights, soft music, a maze of passages that lead you back to the pens, or the slots, depending.

MATT

(laughing)

Please, don't hold back. Speak your mind.

JANE

There's no windows or clocks anywhere so there's no passage of time. Low priced alcohol is poured down you by attractive young women.

LISBON

This is not the cows and sheeps now, I assume.

JANE

Oxygen is pumped in to keep you awake, and the constant bells and sirens make it seem like someone's winning all the time.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

People are winning all the time.
The machines and the games are all
carefully designed to give the
gambler an occasional taste of
victory. Just enough sugar to keep
them pumping their money into the
machine and onto the table. What's
your point?

JANE

No point. I love it.

JANE'S POV -- a big tough well-dressed man -- CAL TRASK --
flanked by bimbos, is whooping it up somewhat crudely at a
poker table.

JANE (CONT'D)

(to Matt)

Who's that?

MATT

Cal Trask. A very serious gambler
and an honored guest.

JANE

A whale?

MATT

Exactly. A whale.

JANE

(to Lisbon and Van Pelt)

You guys will be going over a bunch
of boring files and stuff now, I
expect. I'll work in here, play a
little, get a lay of the land.
Give me a hundred bucks, would you?

LISBON

I'm not sure that's a good idea.

JANE

Sure it is. Come on. I'll give it
back double.

MATT

Please, let me comp you some chips
to get you started.

JANE

Oh thanks. Nice of you.

(CONTINUED)

LISBON

He'll take a pass on that.

JANE

Right. Silly of me. I'm the law.
No freebies.

(to Lisbon)

So, you have a hundred on you? How
about you Van Pelt?

VAN PELT

I don't really approve of gambling.

JANE

Really? Fifty then.

Lisbon hands him some bills.

LISBON

Here's a hundred. You'll give it
back double, right?

Jane exits with a promise...

JANE

Triple.

Jane sits down at a twenty dollar blackjack table. TWO
GAMBLERS are already seated. The DEALER is a plump clean-cut
jolly White guy.

JANE (CONT'D)

Hi, I'm Patrick.

JOLLY DEALER

(big fake smile)

Hi, Patrick.

One wall of a big dark room is given over to a grid of hi-def
SCREENS SHOWING DIFFERENT ANGLES on the CASINO GAMING FLOOR.

Three blazered SECURITY PEOPLE in earpieces monitor the
screens. Matt oversees them.

On the other side of the room, Van Pelt debriefs Lisbon.

VAN PELT

I accessed Meier's calendar. The
day he disappeared, he listed an
8:30 PM meeting with the notation
43. Last meeting of the day.

LISBON

There we go with the 43 again. See if you are able to cross reference the number with anything else.

Van Pelt nods and goes back to her laptop. Lisbon walks over to Matt. He offers her a seat nearby where they chat.

LISBON (CONT'D)

Matt, from what we hear, leaving a hand to be discovered like that is an old school mafia signature.

MATT

Yes. I've heard that too.

LISBON

It means that the individual got his hand caught in the till.

MATT

(almost amused)

And you seriously think that's what happened to Jim? Don Corleone had him whacked?

LISBON

Who owns this casino?

MATT

Our owners are a million or so good American men and women who are shareholders in our parent company. You've been watching too many old movies. Wise guys lost control of gambling in Nevada a long time ago.

LISBON

So you don't mind if we go through your files.

MATT

Not at all. If you have the correct paperwork.

Lisbon takes out and offers Matt a COURT DOCUMENT.

Jane at the blackjack table, makes a calculation, taps the table...

JANE

Hit me.

10

CONTINUED:

10

The dealer deals him a card..

JOLLY DEALER

Twenty-one. Blackjack.

He pushes Jane a stack of chips that only add a little more to the substantial castle of chips he has already accumulated.

JANE

Thank you. Would you change this up for thousand dollar chips please?

11

SAME SCENE - A MOMENT LATER

11

Jane -- carrying about fifty thousand dollar chips, sits down at the thousand dollar minimum table.

JANE

Hi, my name's Patrick.

Dealer #2 is a petite Asian lady, (20's) her name's ALEXANDRA.

ALEXANDRA

Hi Patrick.

There's a GERMAN TOURIST and a big PACIFIC ISLAND GUY at the table already.

12

INT. CALIDA CASINO SECURITY ROOM - CONTINUOUS

12

Off the grid of SCREENS, we find Van Pelt at a computer and Lisbon looking through reams of financial data. In BG, Matt receives a message from the CASINO FLOOR SPEAKER.

PIT BOSS (V.O.)

Mr. Etienne, we have a possible Code 9 at table 43.

Lisbon and Van Pelt turn to look at the screens.

LISBON

What's a code nine?

MATT

Cheating.

ON SCREEN 43 -- a high angle view of Jane et al at the thousand dollar minimum blackjack table.

13

INT. CALIDA CASINO GAMING FLOOR

13

Jane at the thousand dollar table...

(CONTINUED)

JANE

Hit me.

Alexandra gives him a card.

ALEXANDRA

Twenty one.

She pushes a stack of chips at him. Jane now has about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars in front of him. Alexandra looks puzzled. Pacific Island Guy is miffed.

Cal Trask is passing through -- he stops at Jane's table...

CAL

Gimme five, partner.

Jane exchanges a high-five.

CAL (CONT'D)

Keep squeezing 'em baby. Make 'em squeal.

Cal exits as from the other direction, Matt Etienne enters the casino floor with the Security Officer, followed by Lisbon and Van Pelt. Onlookers get out of the way as they approach Jane. His area is now piled with chips.

MATT

May I have a word with you Mr. Jane?

JANE

Maybe later.

LISBON

Jane...

JANE

I'm on a streak.

MATT

Yes you are. We're wondering what your secret is.

JANE

No secret. I'm memorizing the cards.

MATT

Uh yeah. We don't like people to do that.

(CONTINUED)

13

JANE
It's not illegal to have a good
memory.

MATT
No it's not. We can only
congratulate you on your good luck,
and bar you from playing at our
establishment in the future.

JANE
Oh, okay. It was fun while it lasted.

Jane starts gathering up his chips.

JANE (CONT'D)
By the way, I hate to be a tell
tale, but Alexandra is robbing you
blind.

MATT
Excuse me?

JANE
She's cheating.

FLASHBACK

14

INT. CALIDA CASINO - DAY

14

*JANE'S POV: In slow motion the dealer flashes her hidden card
to huge guy and then deal cards just beneath the top card.*

JANE (V.O.)
...She's flashing her hidden card to
the big guy on the end. And when
that didn't work, she started dealing
the rest of the table cards from just
underneath the top of the deck,
holding back top cards for him.

END FLASHBACK

15

INT. CALIDA CASINO GAMING FLOOR - CONTINUOUS

15

Lisbon has cuffed Alexandra and the Big Guy grimaces while
Van Pelt puts on his cuffs. Jane approaches a crestfallen
Alexandra and just as they make full eye contact we...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM. CBI HQ - DAY (D/2) 16

Cho questions Alexandra, the dealer busted from the casino floor. She's a lot of attitude in a small package.

Lisbon watches from the OBSERVATION ROOM.

CHO

Did you meet with Jim Meier the night before last?

ALEXANDRA

Yes I did.

CHO

About what?

ALEXANDRA

About my employee of the month award.

17 INT. BULLPEN. CBI HQ - DAY 17

Jane enters with a couple of big shopping bags. Rigsby and Van Pelt sit at their desks.

RIGSBY

The hustler returns. Lisbon says you won a whole bunch of money.

JANE

Uh, oh yes? Didn't do too badly.

RIGSBY

How much you win?

JANE

About two hundred and fifty thousand.

VAN PELT

You won two hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

JANE

Yes. Are they talking to the dealer lady?

VAN PELT

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

Jane goes to have a look.

RIGSBY
He's joking.

18 INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY 18

Jane enters.

JANE
Hi.

LISBON
Hey.

19 INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS 19

Cho with Alexandra...

CHO
Very impressive scheme you set up
with your cousin, Mose. 60% cut on
anything under five grand and 50/50
on anything above. You must be
living pretty large.

ALEXANDRA
If by large you mean saving up to
buy my mom a new liver before she
dies, then sure. I'm living real
large. That big twerp told you all
of that?

CHO
Started singing like Menudo the
minute he sat down.

ALEXANDRA
Good help is so hard to find.

CHO
Meier was onto you. That's what
the meeting was for. He probably
fired you on the spot, didn't he?

Alexandra uneasily shifts like Cho hit the spot.

CHO (CONT'D)
Pretty ballsy to come back into
work after something like that.
Only someone who knew he had been
killed would do that.

19

ALEXANDRA
I didn't kill him.

CHO
Then how did you know before
everyone else here that he was
dead, Alexandra?

ALEXANDRA
I didn't. I came back to beg for
my job. When I heard what
happened, I realized that no one
knew about our meeting so I went
back to work. I need this job.

CHO
Losing your job, going to jail.
Who's going to look after your mom?
That's a prospect that would make
anyone upset. If you had a moment
of insanity, I can understand that.
Anyone can understand that.

ALEXANDRA
I didn't kill him.

20

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

20

JANE
I wonder why Meier didn't talk to
Matt Etienne about her. As head of
security, she's his ultimate
responsibility.

LISBON
(beat)
He might have suspected Etienne was
in this with her.

JANE
Yes.

21

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

21

CHO
Where did you go after your talk
with Meier?

ALEXANDRA
I spent the rest of the night at
the hospital with my mother.

Jane enters.

(CONTINUED)

JANE

Sorry to interrupt. Quick question. When Meier asked you if Matt Etienne was involved in your scam, what did you tell him?

ALEXANDRA

I told him that Mr. Etienne didn't have anything to do with it.

JANE

But he does, doesn't he?

ALEXANDRA

(lying)

No.

JANE

Thanks. You can go.

CHO

She can?

Lisbon following Jane as he goes to his corner and lays down...

JANE

Sorry, I should have checked with you first. We have to go back out there.

LISBON

The Nevada Gaming Control Board will want to charge her with gaming violations. Why let her go?

JANE

Because why get so hung up on every little law someone broke?

LISBON

Because we're officers of the law?

JANE

Also because Matt Etienne is lying. Now you can call and tell him that Alexandra Yee has cooperated with us and based on what she had to say, we'd like to speak to him first thing in the morning.

LISBON

Okay, but if he is in cahoots with Alexandra, he'll call her right away and ask her what she said.

JANE

And she'll swear blind that she said nothing. Which will only make Etienne more suspicious. Why'd we let her go if she gave us nothing? She must have told us the truth.

LISBON

Which is?

JANE

Details, details.

He rummages in a shopping bag and comes up with a box, which he gives to Lisbon.

LISBON

What is it?

JANE

Open it. It's not a joke turd or anything like that. Hey Van Pelt.

He tosses Van Pelt a similar box. Lisbon opens her box, and finds an exquisite diamond and emerald necklace/ear-ring set, perfect for her coloring.

LISBON

What is this?

JANE

Carbon placed under great pressure.

Van Pelt takes out a similarly well chosen necklace of precious stones from her box.

VAN PELT

Wow. Wow.

LISBON

We can't take this stuff.

VAN PELT

We can't?

LISBON

It's against regulations.

JANE

No it's not. Why would it be?
I won that money fair and square.
Now I spent it fair and square.
Where do the regulations come in?

Lisbon tries to think...

JANE (CONT'D)

But that's so typical of you, to
assume it must be somehow illegal.

Cho and Rigsby look on with wide eyes.

CHO

So where's our stuff?

JANE

Your stuff?

CHO

You didn't just get stuff for the
ladies. That would be creepy.

Jane tosses Rigsby and Cho watch boxes which they open to
reveal well made but vulgar diamond encrusted diver's
watches.

RIGSBY

Whoa. Thanks man.

CHO

Thanks. It must be worth a lot of
money because this is the ugliest
watch I've ever seen.

JANE

Isn't it horrible? I asked for the
most expensive watches they had.

RIGSBY

Whoa. Thanks man.

JANE

Let's go. I've booked a table at
the best restaurant in town. They
tell you the name of the cow your
steak comes from.

VAN PELT

That's horrible.

They start moving off.

22

LISBON

Forget the steaks. We're on a case. We can't be seen living it up at fancy restaurants.

JANE

You make a good point. I know a great place on the way back to Calida.

23

INT. DIVE DINER - NIGHT (N/2)

23

The team is dressed in their casual "off work" attire. Jane, Cho, and Rigsby are wearing big watches, Lisbon and Van Pelt in their new jewelry. They eat greasy-spoon food with beer. They've already been eating and drinking for an hour or so, so they're nicely relaxed.

Jane, Cho and Rigsby are playing a casual game of poker using corn chips as, well, chips. Jane deals.

VAN PELT

You really won all this by memorizing the cards? You didn't have cards up your sleeves or anything.

JANE

No, that would be cheating. Just memory.

VAN PELT

But how? It's impossible.

JANE

Not at all. Anyone can do it. Raise three.

Cho and Rigsby check their hands and follow along.

VAN PELT

How?

Jane takes the remaining stack of cards in hand and does a fancy shuffle. He is able to cut the cards every time to show the card he is talking about in his memory palace.

JANE

In my mind, I've made every card in the deck into a vivid character. The two of clubs is a ballet dancer with devil's horns.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JANE (CONT'D)

The six of diamonds is a duck smoking a cigar. Like that.

RIGSBY

Why a duck?

JANE

Doesn't matter. Every card is a living thing, and every position in the deck has a location in my memory palace.

Jane has an annoying habit of not volunteering information, and waiting to be asked.

RIGSBY

Okay. What's a memory palace?

JANE

It's a place that's so clear in your mind you can walk all around it in your head. Everybody's palace is different. Your home town maybe. Your school. Has to be big and detailed and vivid. My palace is the Midwest carnival circuit I used to travel with my father.

LISBON

Your people were carny folk? It's all starting to make sense.

JANE

Not exactly. Long story. My point, if the tenth card in the deck is the two of clubs, I see a devil horned dancer at the Joplin Missouri Fairgrounds.

Nobody looks very convinced. He hands the stack of cards to Van Pelt and she shuffles the cards several times before giving the deck back to Jane.

CHO

I raise four.

Rigsby follows.

VAN PELT

I can't see how that would work.

JANE

Rigsby has two pairs, sixes and nines. Cho is hoping to get a fifth spade to make his flush. And he will.

Jane deals the last cards of the hand face up, and Cho gets his spade. They all laugh at Jane's accuracy. Lisbon exits to the bathroom.

JANE (CONT'D)

Too hot for me.

Jane tosses his cards. Rigsby does the same. Cho rakes in the corn chips.

CHO

One more hand?

RIGSBY

Eh. Kind of takes the fun out of it, playing with the Swami.

24 INT. DIVE DINER BATHROOM - MOMENTS LATER

24

Lisbon washes her hands in the sink. When she is done, she appraises her bejeweled self in the mirror. Not bad. She piles her hair up on top of her head and vamps like a model. After a moment of silliness, she suddenly becomes conscious of her surroundings and stops. She returns to the table.

25 INT. DIVE DINER - CONTINUOUS

25

Everyone is still being regaled by Jane's card tricks when Lisbon approaches bringing with her the sense that it's time for bed and the party's about to be over.

LISBON

It's been fun playing "dress up," but playtime's over.

CHO

Sorry boss, what's your point?

LISBON

This...

(the jewelry)

This is all kind of a waste. Isn't it?

JANE

I would have bought world peace if I could, but I was in a casino gift store. There's a limited range of items on sale.

LISBON

You know what I mean.

JANE

I know those emeralds look lovely with your eyes.

Lisbon gives him her best sad deadpan.

LISBON

It's beautiful, but I can't keep this...

She unclasps the necklace and hands it back to Jane along with the earrings. Lisbon exits to the car. Beat of silence. Van Pelt sighs.

VAN PELT

She's right.

She takes off her jewelry and hands it to Jane. She too exits.

Beat of silence.

CHO

I'm not giving mine back.

RIGSBY

No way.

JANE

That's my boys. Live a little.

They clink bottles and drink.

EXT. CALIDA - NIGHT

The moon on the lake.

INT. MOTEL HALLWAY - NIGHT

The hum of the ice machine.

28 INT. JANE'S MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT 28

QUICK MONTAGE of Jane in his bed. He is having a hard time getting to sleep so he tries lying on his back, then his side, a sleeping mask, reads a book, drinks a glass of water... nada. Resigned that there will be no sleep, he gets up, grabs a fresh set of clothes, and heads to the bathroom.

29 INT. JANE'S MOTEL ROOM - EARLY MORNING (D/3) 29

Jane's still awake as the first crack of dawn lightens his room. He gets up off the bed, picks up all the remaining stacks of cash and the discarded jewelry, save a modest stack of cash he puts in his pocket, and exits the room.

30 - 32 OMITTED 30 - 32

32A EXT. CALIDA - DAY 32A

Jane walks the deserted streets with his booty. While walking, he spies a PLANET AID DONATION BOX in a parking lot. He takes a look around to make sure no one is watching, and then deposits the money and the jewels in the box. As he's walking away, his PHONE RINGS. He answers it. It's Lisbon.

JANE

Hey, Lisbon.

LISBON (V.O.)

Where are you?

JANE

Just taking a walk.

LISBON (V.O.)

Ann wants to come clean.

JANE

I knew it. She had that air about her.

LISBON (V.O.)

If you knew it, why didn't you tell us?

JANE

Okay, 'know' is an exaggeration. I had a strong hunch. I can't be telling you every hunch. You'd get very irritated.

33

INT. MEIER FAMILY LIVING ROOM - DAY

33

Seated on a sofa, Ann holds her daughter Jessica's hand. Daniel the son-in-law paces anxiously (now and again stealing glances at the sports book TV showing college football). Jane and Lisbon seated also.

ANN

Matt Etienne tells me that ah, one of his employees may have shared rumors, about him, and me.

LISBON

I see...

ANN

I wanted to be the first to clarify the matter for you. And I wanted Jessica and Daniel to be here so that you understand there was no subterfuge here.

LISBON

Okay.

ANN

Yes, I was having an affair with Matt Etienne. But I didn't murder Jim.

JANE

(to Jessica)

You knew about the affair?

JESSICA

Yes. I knew. I didn't like it. But, I understood. My father wasn't there for Mom. Or me. She deserves better than that.

JANE

So, no subterfuge. Except for Jim.

ANN

I'm not proud of it.

JESSICA

Matt was there for Mom when Dad wasn't.

LISBON

How long had the affair been going on?

(CONTINUED)

ANN

Two years.

LISBON

I'm not saying he did, just asking,
is it possible that Matt did this
thing to get a clear field with
you?

She and Jane are watching all three for their reactions.

ANN

No. No.

Jane winds them up a little tighter...

JANE

Maybe he got the idea that's what
you wanted him to do...

Jessica's outraged, a little hysterical.

JESSICA

You've got no right to say such
things! My mother is not...

Daniel is firm with his wife, restraining her.

DANIEL

Hush.

ANN

(with dignity)

I betrayed my husband. I lied to
him. But I loved him, and did not
wish him dead. Ask Matt and he'll
tell you the same thing.

LISBON

Yes. We'll ask him.

(rising)

Thank you.

Jane motions to Daniel for a quiet word, and they step aside
for a moment.

JANE

I don't want Agent Lisbon to hear.
She disapproves of my gambling.

DANIEL

(puzzled)

Oh?

JANE

I was hoping you could set me up
with a good high stakes poker game.
Someone like Cal Trask? A whale.

DANIEL

I heard about your hot hands on the
casino floor.

JANE

I'm feeling lucky.

DANIEL

I can set you up. Sure.

JANE

I appreciate it. Thanks.

Lisbon is waiting to leave.

JANE (CONT'D)

Mum's the word.

Jane goes to Lisbon and they exit.

EXT. MATT ETIENNE'S HOME - NIGHT (N/3)

Matt Etienne is exiting his car when Lisbon, Jane and several
Uniform Cops show up.

MATT

I'm guessing you weren't just in
the neighborhood.

LISBON

Mr. Etienne, we have a warrant to
search your property.

Matt's resigned, depressed. As the group approaches his
property, they look down and notice a large amount of dried
mud surrounding the place. They cautiously watch their step,
including Jane, who sees something in the mud that takes his
attention.

ON JANE: looking at large, deep footprints. The same prints
going both ways.

LISBON (CONT'D)

You let that dealer, Alexandra Yee,
run her scam because she knew about
you and Mrs. Meier, isn't that so?
And she threatened to tell Mr.
Meier if you fired her.

MATT

That's about the size of it.

LISBON

Why didn't you tell us from the start you were involved with Ann Meier? We were bound to find out.

MATT

Because it's not pertinent. Jim knew Ann had checked out of their relationship a long time ago. They came to an understanding. He was married to the job. What me and Ann have together is nobody's business but our own.

JANE

Look at this.

Jane points at the footprints in the mud, leading around the side of the house and back again.

JANE (CONT'D)

Have you been doing any work on the place?

MATT

No.

JANE

See how these footprints are deeper going in than they are going out?

INSERT -- on TWO FOOTPRINTS that illustrate this clearly.

MATT

Yes?

JANE

Means someone carried something heavy round to your garage, but didn't bring it out again. Left it there.

Jane and Lisbon and a couple of Uniformed Cops look in the cluttered garage. In one corner is an ancient DEEP FREEZE.

Jane points to the freezer.

Lisbon gestures to the Cops -- take a look...

CONTINUED:

The Cops open the freezer door to reveal the rest of Jim Meier jammed inside...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

36 INT. INTERROGATION ROOM. CBI HQ - NIGHT (N/3 CONT'D) 36

Cho and Lisbon enter. Cho sits down opposite Matt Etienne.
Lisbon stands in back.

CHO

Let's start at 8 PM the night Jim
Meier was murdered and stuffed in
your fridge.

MATT

I called Ann from the casino around
8 PM when I saw that Jim's car was
still parked at the resort. That
normally meant he was staying the
night so we agreed to meet at 12:30
that night.

CHO

But you left work at 11 PM. What
did you do with the 90 minutes?

MATT

I went home, changed clothes and
relaxed a while.

CHO

Calida's a small town. There was
plenty of time for you and Ann to
bash his head in, dump the hand and
hide the body before going to your
hideaway.

MATT

I never meet Ann at my house.

CHO

That's very delicate of you.

MATT

We always met at the Piney Branch
motel. On route six. That's where
we were.

LISBON

M.E. says Jim was killed sometime
between 10 PM and 1 AM... right in
that sweet spot of your free time.

(CONTINUED)

MATT

I didn't kill him.

CHO

Was she giving you half of his estate if you made him disappear?

MATT

I have my own money. I don't need any of Jim's.

CHO

But you needed his wife.

MATT

It's not like that.

LISBON

It's exactly like that. You wanted Jim's life and you took it out from under him.

MATT

The last time I saw Jim, he was watching his whale tapes. You know what they are? He has security spy on the high rollers. He gets all the surveillance footage on DVDs, and he watches them night and day, to learn what makes each of `em tick. Keep `em on the hook. He was obsessed with his casino. That was his love. Not Ann. He didn't care what she did.

LISBON

You might want to get comfy. You're going to be here a while.

Lisbon exits and walks into...

INT. HALLWAY. CBI HQ - CONTINUOUS

She's met by Van Pelt. They walk together to the bullpen.

VAN PELT

We got the autopsy report back on Meier. Died of blunt force trauma to the head. He was hit several times with a heavy cylindrical object like a pipe or a bat. There were also abrasions around his neck like something was ripped off.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37

CONTINUED:

37

VAN PELT (CONT'D)

His hundred thousand dollar poker chip, I guess.

LISBON

Okay. Check with the Piney Branch Motel. See if Ann Meier and Matt Etienne were there when he said they were.

Van Pelt nods, goes to her desk and gets to work.

38

INT. BULLPEN. CBI HQ - CONTINUOUS

38

Lisbon walks over to Rigsby's desk.

LISBON

Jim Meier was spying on his guests. Had the footage on DVDs. Maybe he saw something he shouldn't have. Go to his office see if you can locate those DVDs.

RIGSBY

Yes, boss.

LISBON

And check in on Jane.

39

INT. PRIVATE SUITE. CALIDA RESORT - CONTINUOUS

39

It is a well appointed suite fit for a high roller.

SIX GUYS, including Cal Trask, sit around a poker table, playing cards, using Calida Resort chips. FREDDY, a fierce old macher, is eating a sandwich from the hospitality spread. He looks Jane up and down. NANCY, their private dealer, hands Cal a deck, which he cuts, then she deals out the hand.

*

*

DANIEL

Gentlemen, this is my friend Patrick Jane, come to play some cards with us tonight if everyone's agreeable.

Men look up from their cards.

CAL

Good to see ya. You want a sandwich? Freddy, bring over some sandwiches, will ya?

FREDDY

Kiss my ass.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Chortles from some at the table, scowls from others more serious about their poker.

CAL
Sit down. Sit down. You gonna
play too, Danny boy?

DANIEL
(beat)
Thought I might.

Jane notes the discreet eye-fucking going on between Cal and Daniel. They sit down. Freddy looks at Jane with menace.

FREDDY
How you feeling Goldilocks?
Feeling lucky?

Jane gives him a chilly look right back.

JANE
Are we here to share our feelings
or play cards?

CAL
Boom. Watch out, Freddy.

Jane takes out a wad of cash, slides it to Nancy.

INT. JIM MEIER'S CASINO OFFICE - NIGHT

A proper fake gentlemen's study. Half of one wall is filled with books on shelves. Cho and Rigsby search the place.

CHO
Anything over there?

RIGSBY
I got nada. We're going to have to
go through these books.

Cho gets on the phone.

RIGSBY (CONT'D)
Who are you calling?

CHO
Hello, Jane?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. PRIVATE SUITE - NIGHT

Jane sitting at the poker table. All eyes are on him as he answers his phone.

(CONTINUED)

JANE
Kind of a bad time.
(to the guys)
Sorry... New girlfriend.

They nod.

JANE (CONT'D)
Deal me out of this one.

Jane gets up from the table.

CHO
Not cool. What are you doing?

JANE
Harpooning a whale. Talk fast.

CHO
We're in Meier's work office.
He was watching a surveillance DVD the
night he died. We figure it's in a book.
Only there's about five hundred books.

JANE
Are they in any kind of order?

CHO
(looks at wall of books)
A lot of military history, gaming
theory... reference section.

JANE
Which section is closest to the TV?

CHO
Reference section.

The group is still waiting on Jane. He gives them the "my wife's yapping" hand gesture and then holds up one finger letting them know he'll be done in a moment.

JANE
Try the Bible or the Robert's Rules
of Order.
(puts phone away, returns
to table)
Women.

Cho takes the Bible off the shelf. Checks inside. Nothing. He then finds Robert's Rules of Order, and when he opens it, out falls the disk, marked "WEEK 37."

RIGSBY

I don't care what he says.
That man is psychic.

Cho puts the disk in the player and turns it on. They huddle around the SCREEN. The first thing that PLAYS is an image of a door to a suite. Cal Trask comes down the hallway, unlocks the door and enters the room.

RIGSBY (CONT'D)

Cal Trask.

Cho zips forward through the DVD. Room service comes and goes. Then a woman appears at the door.

RIGSBY (CONT'D)

Whoa.

CHO

I see her.

They stop, run back and PLAY AT NORMAL SPEED. Dressed like a high-class call girl, Jessica Meier-Cardeira sashays up to Trask's room and KNOCKS. They don't recognize her at first.

RIGSBY

Working girl.

CHO

Looks familiar though.

She turns a little to camera and they get a full face view.

RIGSBY

Hey. That's Jessica Meier, isn't it? The victim's daughter.

CHO

Dressed for a party.

Cal comes to the door, grins lasciviously, and ushers her inside. The door closes.

CHO (CONT'D)

But there's no cake or balloons.

They run the DVD back. FREEZE IT on Jessica.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

43 INT. LISBON'S OFFICE. CBI HQ - LATER (N/3 CONT'D) 43

On a LAPTOP, Lisbon runs the DVD for Jessica.

ONSCREEN -- The footage we already saw...

LISBON

Here's you arriving at Trask's
suite at 1:30 in the morning.She zips through to LATER FOOTAGE of Jessica leaving,
obviously very upset and tearful. Her clothes in disarray.

LISBON (CONT'D)

And here's you leaving, forty-five
minutes later.

Lisbon closes the laptop.

LISBON (CONT'D)

Care to comment on that?

Jessica's mortified.

JESSICA

No. Where did you get this?

LISBON

From how you're dressed, I'd have
to guess some kind of sexual
transaction took place.

JESSICA

No! No.

LISBON

There you go. I was guessing.
What did take place?

JESSICA

Nothing.

LISBON

We took a look at your financial
situation. It's bad. You and your
husband are swimming in credit card
debt. You've refinanced your house
three times in the last two years.
You've even had a car repossessed.

(CONTINUED)

JESSICA
We hit a rough patch.

LISBON
Why? Where'd the money go?

JESSICA
Daniel is a professional gambler.
There's ups and downs. As in any
business.

LISBON
Jessica, your father was watching
this tape on the night he died.

Jessica flinches and collapses a little as this sinks in.

JESSICA
Oh my God.

LISBON
What does that make you think?

JESSICA
I don't know.

LISBON
Makes me think this tape had
something to do with his death.

ON JESSICA, horrified.

44 INT. PRIVATE SUITE - MORNING (D/4)

44

The game has gone on all night and it's down to Daniel, Cal, and Jane. Daniel and Cal look like crap in the morning light. Jane looks like he always does. Both Daniel and Jane have a sizable amount of chips left while Cal has only a few. Freddy naps in a corner. NANCY, the Dealer, is still stoically present.

Daniel and Jane are waiting on Cal to bet. Cal pushes all he has into the center of the table.

CAL
All in.

DANIEL
Call.

JANE
Call.

Cal stands up and puts down his cards face up. Five hearts. A flush.

(CONTINUED)

JANE (CONT'D)

Damn.

Jane shows his hand. Three nines. Cal grins and looks to Daniel. Daniel shows his hand -- a full house, aces over eights -- he wins.

DANIEL

(insincere)

Sorry, Cal.

Daniel rakes in the pot. Cal pretends to point a gun at him.

CAL

Ya got me kid.

DANIEL

(not meeting his eye)

I guess so.

CAL

That's one win each. You and me will have to play a decider.

DANIEL

Sure thing.

Cal nods to Jane and exits. Jane blows air and grins, like -- "Phew we got away with it." Daniel can't help but grin also.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Man, we took him for a lot of money.

JANE

Yes we did.

(beat)

I took most of it, but you didn't do too bad.

DANIEL

(giddy with success)

Horsepucky dude. It was me skinned him.

JANE

Sure kid. Whatever you say.

Jane looks at the Dealer and rolls his eyes. Daniel sees this and is irked.

DANIEL

Let's go man. Heads up.

(CONTINUED)

44

JANE

Rain check.

DANIEL

What's the matter my friend?
Scared?

Jane smiles at Daniel.

JANE

Nancy, open a new deck, would you?

The silent Dealer opens a new pack of cards. Daniel claps his hands and smacks his lips as if about to feast on Jane's winnings.

45

INT. CALIDA RESORT HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

45

Cal Trask exits the ESCALATORS.

Seeing their target, Rigsby falls in step next to him and Cho appears on Cal's other side.

RIGSBY

Cal Trask? We're CBI Agents.

CAL

Good for you.

CHO

We're investigating the murder of James Meier. We'd like to ask you a few questions.

Cal sighs. Just what he needs.

CAL

Ask 'em quick. I've been awake for forty-eight hours and I just lost about a hundred and eighty thousand dollars. I need to brush my teeth and go to bed.

Cho stays deadpan, but Rigsby grins, then tries to cover it.

RIGSBY

Yes sir. Quick as we can.

46

INT. JIM MEIER'S CASINO OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

46

Cal, Cho and Rigsby, seated. Watching the Surveillance DVD of Jessica arriving.

(CONTINUED)

CAL
(upset, surprised)
Jim was spying on me?

RIGSBY
On all his VIP guests. 24/7. But
this is what he was watching the
night he died.

CAL
Sonofabitch.

RIGSBY
Explain for us the nature of your
relationship with Jessica Meier-
Cardeira.

CAL
(evasive)
That's a large question. Hard to
say.

CHO
Okay. More specifically, why did
she come to your room in the middle
of the night dressed like a hooker?

CAL
I'll hold my peace on that. If she
wants to tell you about her
situation, she will, I guess.

RIGSBY
We're thinking maybe Jim was
peevied. Maybe he came to have a
word with you, about screwing his
only daughter. Maybe things
escalated. Maybe you had a fight.
Accidents happen.

CAL
(a hint of alarm)
Your thinking is wrong.

CHO
You can see how it looks though.

Cal raises his hands in mock surrender.

CAL
Okay. Stop the train. I'll get
off here.

He indicates the surveillance IMAGE of JESSICA FROZEN
ONSCREEN.

CAL (CONT'D)

The night before this happened?
I was playing a table stakes game
with her husband, Daniel. The
man's a degenerate gambler.
Degenerate. I cleaned him out.
But he wouldn't quit. Wanted to
keep playing. Only he's got no
collateral and I don't trust him
for an IOU. So he says he'll put
up his wife against fifty grand.
The sexual favors of his wife.

RIGSBY

As collateral on a poker game.

CAL

Yup. I said sure. Action is
action. And Jessica Meier's a nice
piece of pie.

CHO

She's very attractive.

CAL

Me and Daniel played again, and
naturally I beat him again. He
backed his word, I'll give him
that. He said he'd send his wife
over to my room the next night.
And he did. Man's a second rate
card player, but he knows how to
control his womenfolk.

RIGSBY

She came to your room. Then what?

CAL

I took what was owed me.

RIGSBY

You had sexual intercourse with
her?

CAL

Yes.

CHO

How did she feel about that?

(CONTINUED)

46

CAL
Eh. Not super enthusiastic.
Willing, one hundred percent
willing. But not happy.
(beat)
Hey, a bet's a bet, right?

47

INT. LISBON'S OFFICE. CBI HQ - MOMENTS LATER

47

Lisbon and Van Pelt looking at Jessica Meier with raised
eyebrows...

JESSICA
You have to understand. I know my
husband loves and respects me.

LISBON
You're sure about that?

VAN PELT
(indignant)
He bet your, your honor, on a card
game. That's despicable.

JESSICA
He's a gambler. I committed to
share that life with him.
Everything he has is collateral.
He'd wager his own life in a second
if he thought the odds were right.

VAN PELT
But why did you agree to do it?

JESSICA
Have you ever been in love?

VAN PELT
Sure.

JESSICA
So then you know why I did it.

48

INT. PRIVATE SUITE - SAME

48

It's just Jane and Daniel playing at the table. Everyone's
gone but Nancy the Dealer. She's silently efficient as ever. *

Jane's at the bar making himself a cup of coffee. While at
the bar, he places a coffee-filled glass on top of a small
ice cube just before he returns to the table with his drink. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Upon his return to the table, we see that Jane has nearly all the chips. Daniel -- looking exhausted and glum -- is down to a very small pile of hundred dollar chips. *

ON GLASS AT THE BAR *

With the benefit of time-lapsed photography, we see the ice cube melting and the glass on top begins to lean to one side. *

After shuffling, Nancy passes the deck to Jane so that he can cut it. *

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

I guess I got to win this hand to
stay in uh?

JANE

I guess.

The cube melts enough to make the glass lean even further and
then fall to the ground making a large cracking sound as it
breaks on the floor. Nancy and Daniel turn to the sound just
as Jane cuts the deck. At least that's all it looks like
he's done. Nancy deals out the cards from the cut deck. *

Daniel picks up his cards.

INSERT -- He has three kings. *

Jane goes for a drink coaster next to him and when he reaches
for it, tips his hand just enough in Daniel's direction for
Daniel to see that Jane is holding three sevens. When he re-
situates himself, Jane tosses in two cards. *

JANE (CONT'D) *

Two cards please. *

Nancy deals him two new cards. Daniel tosses in a card. *

DANIEL *

I'll take one. *

Nancy deals Daniel one new card. *

INSERT -- Daniel picks up his fourth king. *

Daniel allows himself a tiny secret smile. *

JANE *

That good, eh?

Daniel looks at him blankly.

JANE (CONT'D)

Wow. That good?

Daniel goes with it.

DANIEL

That good. I can't lose.

JANE

Shame you only got chicken feed to
bet with.

Jane looks at his own cards. *

JANE (CONT'D)

Yes, a real shame. I'm going to
crush you and there's not a thing
you can do but relax and enjoy it.

He grins at Daniel, sits back.

JANE (CONT'D)

What's the bet, kid?

Daniel takes a beat. Then affects to remember something...
He rummages in his pockets and comes up with one more chip...

(CONTINUED)

DANIEL

I forgot.

A HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLAR CHIP, which he shows triumphantly to Jane, and then places at the bottom of his small stack, and pushes the stack carefully into the middle of the table.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

The bet, my friend, is a hundred thousand six hundred dollars.

Jane's smile vanishes and he looks deep into Daniel's eyes.

JANE

I see you.

Jane pushes in a hundred thousand six in chips to match the bet. Daniel savors the moment.

DANIEL

You should trust me when I tell you things. I told you I couldn't lose...

He turns over his cards.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Four kings. Booyah!

*

JANE

Nice.
(beat)
But...

Jane turns over his cards.

JANE (CONT'D)

Not nice enough. Straight flush.

*

INSERT -- That's what Jane has alright. In hearts.
(6,7,8,9,10)

*

*

Daniel looks like a unicorn just ran up and bit his arm off.

DANIEL

No. That's impossible.

Instinctively, he reaches out to take back the hundred thousand dollar chip. Nancy whips out a hand and grabs Daniel's wrist in an iron grip. Points to Jane with her free hand.

NANCY

His pot.

(CONTINUED)

Jane rakes in the pot. Picks out the hundred thousand dollar chip and holds it up. The chip has a hole bored through it, so that Jim Meier could wear it round his neck. Jane looks through the hole at Daniel.

JANE

I see you.

Daniel knows how to act cool when beat. He rises nonchalantly.

DANIEL

Whatever man. Later.

Jane lets him go.

JANE

Not much later.

Daniel opens the door to find Rigsby and Cho waiting for him in the hallway.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM. CBI HQ - DAY

Jane and Lisbon sit with Daniel. He's defeated already, here to talk not defend himself.

LISBON

Tell us how you ended up with Jim Meier's lucky poker chip.

DANIEL

That night, as I was leaving, Jim followed me out to the parking lot.

FLASHBACK

EXT. CALIDA CASINO RESORT PARKING LOT - NIGHT (MOS) (N/O) 50

Jim Meier approaches Daniel just as Daniel is about to leave. He gets in Daniel's face and starts shoving him.

DANIEL (V.O.)

He'd seen this tape with Jessica and Cal and he knew that I must have something to do it. I said sure I did. Screw him. Like he was such a great husband and father, you know? He called me a degenerate lowlife pimp, fired me then and there, and told me he would do everything in his power to get me out of Jessica's life.

As Jim walks away, Daniel grabs for a bat in his truck and hits Jim hard. Jim goes down. Daniel wails on him.

DANIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I couldn't let that happen.

Daniel tosses the bat back in his truck, takes all the money off of Jim, finally yanking the poker chip from around his neck. He drags the body into his truck.

DANIEL (V.O.) (CONT'D)

I remembered the stories they told in the room about mafia hitmen leaving a hand behind as a message. I did it to make them think it was mob related.

END FLASHBACK

DANIEL

I dumped the body at Matt's because I knew his affair with Ann would come to light.

LISBON

Did your wife know any of this?

DANIEL

(emphatic)

No. No. She had nothing to do with this. And the idiot never suspected it was me. How's that for denial?

JANE

She loves you.

LISBON

Yeah, you might want to get an update on that.

(gestures for Daniel to stand)

Let's get you booked in.

DANIEL

(to Jane)

How did you know it was me?

JANE

When we first met, you were more concerned about the college football scores than your father-in-law's murder.

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DANIEL

So?

JANE

If you're searching for a killer,
the degenerate gambler in the room
is always a good person to look at.

DANIEL

I'm not degenerate. I'm a
professional. I'm just having a
streak of bad luck.

LISBON

Yes you are. Let's go, Daniel.

Daniel gets up.

DANIEL

That last hand, how did you do
that?

JANE

Oh, I cheated.

DANIEL

But how?

JANE

Next time we play, I'll show you.

Lisbon leads Daniel away.

52

INT. OBSERVATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

52

Jessica and Ann Meier watch as Daniel is led away. They hug
tearfully.

ANN

It's okay, baby. It's going to be
okay.

Jane enters. The women separate. Jane offers Jim's lucky
chip to Ann.

JANE

Yours, I believe.

ANN

Thank you.

Ann takes it and passes it to her daughter.

(CONTINUED)

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CONTINUED:

52

JANE

Always remember, your father died protecting you. In the end, he was there for you. Don't let him down now. Be good to yourself.

Jessica nods. Hugs him. Jane exits.

53

INT. BULLPEN. CBI HQ - DAY

53

Jane makes his way across the busy bullpen to his sofa, and lies down. After a while, he notices Rigsby and Cho hovering.

RIGSBY

We were wondering how much money you won in that game.

JANE

I don't know. Three hundred thousand, something like that.

RIGSBY

Wow.

CHO

Where is it? The money.

JANE

I spent it.

CHO

On what?

JANE

You know, stuff.

Rigsby and Cho look disappointed.

54

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

54

Alexandra Yee sits next to her little tiny oxygen masked MOTHER in her hospital bed. A NURSE comes in and hands her a big briefcase.

NURSE

A really cute blonde guy left this for you at the front desk.

Alexandra opens the case and looks inside. As happy surprise rises on her face...

FADE OUT.

THE END