

Untitled Allan Loeb Project

Based on the novel "The Rabbit Factory" by Marshall Karpf

by
Allan Loeb

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FADE IN

TEASER

INT. FAMILYLAND - MORNING

Think Disneyland sans mice and ducks. FAMILIES enjoy rides and attractions that are all based on Lamaar Studios' intellectual property. This is where synergy synergizes.

Meet EDDIE ELKINS as he happily walks down Fantasy Avenue. He has big floppy ears, a black nose and a bushy tail. He's a giant rabbit mascot dressed in blue and red overalls named Rambunctious Rabbit.

A little CHINESE KID runs up to him

CHINESE KID
Rambunctious Rabbit... can my mom
take a picture of us?

Rambunctious Rabbit enthusiastically shakes his head then puts his arm around the kid.

His MOTHER snaps the shot with her iPhone.

Rambunctious Rabbit pats the kid on the head then moves on by way of a hippety-hoppety dance.

And we follow Eddie, aka Rambunctious Rabbit, as he heads into a tunnel known as...

THE RABBIT HOLE

This is a vast underground world hidden beneath Familyland's 866 acres of electric cable, sewage lines, refrigeration pipes, employee locker-rooms and bathrooms.

Eddie removes Rambunctious Rabbit's head and we see him for the first time. He's in his 40s with what's left of his hair a sweaty mess swirling around his head. He passes a SECURITY GUARD.

SECURITY GUARD
(laughing)
Hey Eddie... kid piss on you today?

EDDIE
(rolling his eyes)
That happened once.

SECURITY GUARD
Lakers won last night.

As he quickly passes by...

EDDIE
But the bastards didn't cover...

Eddie winds his way through the maze of ductwork, looks over his shoulder then veers into a small corner out of sight.

He lays the rabbit head on the floor as he removes a Marlboro Red from its pack and leans against a water pipe.

As Eddie lights up the smoke and sucks in a deep drag... we see a rope lower from up above.

The rope cuts deep into Eddie's neck as his eyes open wide and he drops the cigarette.

And Eddie tries to scream, but nothing comes out.
And Eddie tries to breath, but nothing comes in.

And Eddie dies.

END OF TEASER

ACT 1

EXT. REDONDO CALIFORNIA - MORNING

A sleepy beach town that lies under the foothills of Palos Verdes.

Find a small house closer to town than the ocean. It's not an expensive home but a perfect starter-outer... which was the original intention.

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 ... I didn't want to let my
 bitterness consume me. People can
 do that when they're sick. They
 spend the rest of their lives
 angry.

INT. MIKE LOMAX'S HOUSE - MORNING

Dirty laundry scattered over old furniture... Los Angeles Laker Framed Posters on the wall.

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 So I guess I let this consume me.
 Writing to you...

The blinds are closed... this place is seriously in need of a cleaning. We pan across the coffee table to find an opened envelope next to a pile of unopened mail...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 This must be hard for you. Getting
 this letter... a year after you
 thought you'd never have to listen
 to me again.

And we land on MIKE LOMAX, mid 30s, a bit rugged, tired eyes, strong genes that are just beginning to lose their battle to a number of things... most notably the loss of the woman who wrote the letter he's currently reading.

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 Part of me thinks what I'm doing is
 selfish... keeping you from truly
 moving on so I have something to
 live for.

Mike brings down the letter, takes a deep breath then lifts it back up with shaky hands...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 But then I realized that this
 wasn't about me, it was about you.

A car horn HONKS from outside. Mike just keeps reading... unblinking.

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 Because you don't realize it's a
 holiday until you show up to work
 and see a tree in the building.
 And because you let the dry
 cleaning pile up in the corner of
 the living room until you have
 nothing left to wear.

Lomax looks over to the massive mound of dirty clothing piled
 up in the corner. Then right back to the letter...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 And basically, because... even
 though you're a genius when it
 comes to certain people's death,
 Detective Lomax... you're a total
 retard when it comes to your own
 life.

He laughs aloud... shakes his head...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 See, you need me... at least for a
 little while to help clean you up
 for the next.

He sharply looks away from the letter... he has trouble
 breathing. Emotions exploding inside.

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 I know... that one hurt me too.

But no tears... never tears for Mike Lomax. Now his cell
 phone rings...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 But there's going to be a next,
 Mike... there has to be.

And Mike Lomax... as he moves to a drawer, removes a picture
 from it and looks at it.

We can see her now... arms wrapped around him as they stand
 on a dock in Catalina ... wind blowing through her hair...
 she was beautiful.

He just stands there... in the middle of this dark, lifeless
 living room. In total shock.

Until Mike looks down at the letter one last time...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 I really am sorry I died on you...
 it was very bad form on my part.

The cell phone rings... the car horn honks...

JOANNIE (V.O.)
 I'll make it up to you... I
 promise.

And that's it. Silence.

INT. TERRY LEXUS ES 250 - MORNING

Lomax gets into the car. His partner DETECTIVE TERRY BIGGS, a mop of greasy black hair, funny and charming. Biggs is tall, dark and ugly... but good ugly.

The kind of ugly that gets laid more than many of the good-looking brands. But Terry doesn't focus on getting laid anymore... he's happily married now.

BIGGS
What the hell? I've been out here
nine minutes... I was honking and
calling you.

And Biggs turns to find himself staring down the barrel of a .22 caliber Glock pointed right at his head.

LOMAX
I'm going to ask you one question
and I need you to answer it with
the truth.

Eyes going wide...

BIGGS
Okay...

Slow and clear as can be...

LOMAX
Did you send it?

BIGGS
Send what?

LOMAX
The letter. The letter from
Joannie.

BIGGS
Joannie's dead.

LOMAX
I'm aware.

A beat. Then...

BIGGS
No.

And Lomax brings down the gun. He's a complete mess.

BIGGS
Go on.

In absolute shock... just piecing it together on the spot...

LOMAX
 Sometimes when I get home after a
 long day, I save the mail for
 tomorrow.

BIGGS
 Yesterday was definitely a long
 day.

LOMAX
 And now it's tomorrow.
 (and then)
 She was writing me letters all that
 time she was in the hospital...

Biggs calmly waits for his partner to collect himself...
 then...

BIGGS
 What did the letter say?

LOMAX
 That she was writing me a bunch of
 letters.

Lomax takes another moment to convey this... as if he's also
 telling this to himself for the first time.

LOMAX
 That someone -- she won't say who --
 is going to start sending them to
 me a year after she dies.
 (beat)
 That this mystery person is going
 to send a letter every week and
 make it so I receive the letter
 every Monday.

Biggs is awestruck. And then...

BIGGS
 You okay?

Vacantly staring straight ahead...

LOMAX
 No.

BIGGS
 You wanna take the day off?

LOMAX
 No.

As he finally puts the Lexus in drive...

BIGGS
 Then let's go try to make someone's
 day worse than ours...

EXT. FAMILYLAND - DAY

The park's open for business... it's as if their beloved rabbit mascot had never been murdered.

EXT. GRANGER GIRAFFE LANE - DAY

As Lomax and Biggs head through the park...

LOMAX
You ever been here?

BIGGS
Last summer Marilyn and I took the two youngest. Polly got sick all over me and Bethany complained the whole time.

Lomax just looks at him.

BIGGS
What?

LOMAX
It's weird.
(beat)
Two years ago you were just another single frustrated chump trolling South Bay bars getting rejected by stewardesses.

BIGGS
I didn't get rejected all the time.

LOMAX
You get the point.

With a shrug...

BIGGS
I don't know. They're my kids now. That's how life works.

They approach an administration building where a woman waits for them outside. She is AMY CHEEVER, 35ish, brunette, Orange County pretty.

AMY CHEEVER
Detectives Lomax and Biggs?

Showing his credentials...

BIGGS
That's us. I'm Biggs.

AMY CHEEVER
I'm Amy Cheever. I'm Lamaar's vice president of corporate communications.

As Biggs writes that down on his notepad.

BIGGS
How do you spell that?

AMY CHEEVER
Corporate communications?

BIGGS
No, your name.

AMY CHEEVER
Like the writer.

He nods.

BIGGS
Um-hm...
(then)
... and how does he spell that?

She nods over to a GUARD in a golf cart who drives over.

AMY CHEEVER
C-H-E-E-V-E-R.

LOMAX
What exactly do you do for Lamaar?

As she jumps on the cart and motions them to join her...

AMY CHEEVER
I work out of Burbank, I handle all
public relations for Lamaar.

Lomax and Biggs get on the cart and they ride...

BIGGS
(looking at all the
families)
And you want to make sure this
stays out of the press?

AMY CHEEVER
Yes. Like all media conglomerates
these days, we're a public company.
Wall street shoots first and asks
questions later. I assume you want
to see the body?

LOMAX
No, we were hoping we could ride
the roller coaster.

She looks at him.

LOMAX
Sorry, weird day for me.

INT. RABBIT HOLE/CRIME SCENE - MORNING

The forensic TEAM is on the scene taking samples and the
chalk outline is of a massive rabbit.

We find JESSICA KEATING, 30s, curly blond hair, Midwestern friendly with a glorious smile.

As she greets them...

JESSICA
I had a Rambunctious Rabbit lunch
box growing up.
(shaking her head)
Now he's dead.

BIGGS
(to Jessica Re:Amy)
This is Miss Cheever... spells it
like the writer does. She works
for Lamaar. Doesn't want any
press.

JESSICA
Oh... well let me call my friends
at the Associated Press and call
off the breaking story.

AMY CHEEVER
I'd just like to get more
information before our brand is
tarnished.

Jessica turns to Lomax and Biggs.

JESSICA
Cause of death was strangulation.
He was stealing a smoke here...

Lomax points out the exact spot of the murder.

LOMAX
It's out of the site of the
security cameras. This was a daily
thing for him and the killer knew
that.

AMY CHEEVER
Are you saying the killer works for
Familyland?

LOMAX
I'm saying the killer knew his
routine and knew this area was
outside the arm of surveillance.
That's all I'm saying for now.

Biggs looks to Jessica...

BIGGS
Weapon?

And Jessica turns to Amy.

JESSICA
Miss Cheever, could you please
excuse us?

AMY CHEEVER
(offended)
Really?

JESSICA
Yes. Really.

Stepping forward with conviction...

AMY CHEEVER
Look, I'm representing Lamaar
Studios here. We are a 28 billion
dollar company that employs over
fifteen thousand southern
Californians. We pay hundreds of
millions of dollar in taxes and
have very close ties with the
Governor.
(beat)
So I'd appreciate it if I could be
kept in the loop in here.

The three detectives just stand there in silence for a beat,
until... Lomax turns to Biggs with...

LOMAX
I think she makes some excellent
points. I think she should be
allowed to stay.

BIGGS
That's a great idea. And then I
think it'd be fun if we called a
press conference and brought them
into the loop.

LOMAX
(in mock concern)
But will there be enough room in
the loop for them?

BIGGS
Oh yeah... the loop's real big.

AMY CHEEVER
Are you guys done?

JESSICA
They do this.

With a fuck you smile...

AMY CHEEVER
I'll be right over here.

And Amy moves on... giving them their privacy.

JESSICA
(right back to business)
Okay, here's the deal with the
murder weapon. It's the Wacky Pack
jump rope... they sell it here in
the gift shop.

As he jots down on his pad...

BIGGS
I'll have all the gift shop
surveillance footage sent to the
precinct and a list of names of
anyone who put that jump rope on
their credit card in the past
thirty days.

JESSICA
Then there's this. We found it in
the victims pocket.

She holds up a little book...

JESSICA
It's an old fashioned flip book.
You know, when you flip the pages,
the picture looks like it's moving.

As Lomax moves to a box of latex evidence gloves and places a
pair on...

LOMAX
Let me see.

And she hands it to Lomax who places his gloved-thumb on the
front edge and begins to flip. As the pages fly by, the
picture animates and the middle digit of the hand pops up...
giving us the finger.

Lomax shakes his head with a frustrated smile...

LOMAX
I hate when the killers get cute.

END OF ACT 1

ACT 2

EXT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/PRECINCT - DAY

A nondescript building in El Segundo near LAX. Planes can constantly be seen and heard taking off and landing here.

As the Lexus parks in the lot. As they get out of the car and head for the Precinct.

And they head into the...

PRECINCT

As they head past the desk with a UNIFORMED OFFICER behind it...

LOMAX
I need a joke.

BIGGS
Ahhh... dinner at Joannie's
father's tonight.

... and into the back...

HALLWAY

Nodding to various OFFICERS and DETECTIVES as they walk...

BIGGS
Okay... "what did the doctor say to
the midget?"

LOMAX
I don't know.

BIGGS
"You'll just have to be a little
patient."

BIGGS
Anna told it to me.

Shaking his head...

LOMAX
Do you have any jokes that don't
come from your new nine-year-old
daughter?

After Biggs thinks about that for a beat...

BIGGS
Not anymore.

INT. HOMICIDE OFFICES - DAY

A cross between a large bullpen of cubicles and a dorm room. It has much more personality than would be expected. Pea green vinyl furniture with a dark red velour couch thrown in.

The walls are adorned with a bunch strange framed paintings all from the same artist. Each painting is of a different ship... but each vessel is distorted as if it were in a fun house mirror.

Lomax and Biggs share this office with Jessica Keating and THELONIOUS MUELLER, late 20s, who is sitting at his computer... at all times.

Thelonious is the best computer investigator in the world and despite his name, he's as white bread as they come. He's from Oregon and his father was a huge jazz fan thus the name.

As they head in...

LOMAX
Thelonious, tell us everything we need to know about Eddie Elkins.

Reading off his monitor...

THELONIOUS
Gladly. Eddie Elkins was born in Milford Delaware January ninth, 1908...

Lomax and Biggs share a look...

THELONIOUS
... he was best known for leading the Eddie Elkins' Orchestra which was one of the ground breaking dance bands of the early 1920s.

And Thelonious looks up.

THELONIOUS
Oh... you wanted to know about the Eddie Elkins who was killed this morning?

BIGGS
Mike does. I'd like you to keep going on about band leader Eddie.

THELONIOUS
Okay. This is what I got. He moved here eight years ago from Sacramento.

LOMAX
Why?

THELONIOUS
Because it was Sacramento.

Lomax nods... good point.

THELONIOUS
Judging by some of the websites he
had subscriptions to... he was a
gambler.

Biggs raises an eye brow... that could be something.

THELONIOUS
He was also recently married.
Lucky lady's name is Kim-Ly Phan.

LOMAX
Vietnamese.

THELONIOUS
Yup. Just got her citizenship
here.

As Biggs checks out one of the paintings on the wall...

BIGGS
So what? Did he meet her in
Vietnam or something?

THELONIOUS
Not sure. But she's sixteen years
younger than him.

Lomax smiles as he's already onto something...

LOMAX
Can you find out who her
immigration lawyer was?

Typing on his keyboard...

THELONIOUS
I can try.

BIGGS
(re painting)
This a new one?

Still typing... not looking away from his monitor...

THELONIOUS
Yup. That's the USS Eaton... sunk
off the Florida coast in 1949.

LOMAX
Did you ever think to ask your wife
why she only paints deformed images
of vessels from famous shipwrecks?

THELONIOUS
Isn't it obvious?
(beat)
She's out of her mind.

And he finally looks up...

THELONIOUS
Lawyer on her citizenship
application was listed as--

Before he can say it...

LOMAX
John Scalarto.

Surprised, Thelonious looks up from his monitor to Lomax.

THELONIOUS
How'd you know?

LOMAX
Scalarto runs an immigration scam.
He sells husbands and wives to
immigrants seeking citizenship.

And Lomax notices a young UNIFORMED OFFICER sitting at a desk.

LOMAX
Who are you?

The officer opens his mouth to speak, but...

BIGGS
Oh, this is great, Mike. He's a
rookie who stopped a pursuit by
conducting a point perfect bump-and-
corner.

LOMAX
Impressive.

BIGGS
Accept only...

Breaking into laughter...

BIGGS
... he bumped and cornered the
wrong car.

Lomax laughs...

BIGGS
True story. Scared the hell out
some Priest.

UNIFORMED OFFICER
He wasn't a priest, he was a
seminary student.

BIGGS
Hey, Bump and Corner, nobody asked
you.
(to Lomax)
(MORE)

BIGGS (cont'd)
 I call him Bump and Corner, don't
 even want to know his real name.
 He's our slave for the whole month.

LOMAX
 Good to have you, Bump and Corner.

And Lomax stands... paces...

LOMAX
 So Elkins was in debt. Heard he
 could make a few grand marrying
 some Vietnamese broad and took the
 deal. Maybe he didn't treat her
 well. Maybe she killed him.

BIGGS
 Or whoever the dude was that paid
 Elkin's to marry her. Maybe he was
 an illegal but had the cash to
 bring her over and get her
 citizenship.

Heading for his desk...

BIGGS
 Bump and Corner, have a black and
 white bring her in.

Bump and Corner nods.

LOMAX
 No. We'll bring Scalarto in.
 We'll threaten him with a thousand
 immigration violations and get the
 name of whoever paid for Kim-Ly's
 citizenship.

BUMP AND CORNER
 Got it.

And Lomax sits at his desk which is attached to Biggs' so
 they face each other.

LOMAX
 I'm sorry I put a gun to your head
 this morning.

With a shrug...

BIGGS
 Not the first time it's happened.
 (beat)
 Go home, Mike. Take a shower.

EXT. LOS FELIZ - NIGHT

As Lomax's 2002 Ford Ranger parks in front of this 1930s
 rambling California Hacienda that has expanded without any
 architectural rhyme and reason.

Holding a bottle of middle-of-the-road Cabernet, Lomax emerges from his truck, stares down the house and sucks in a deep breath.

INT. CASA BIG JIM/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lomax heads in and they're already at the dinning room table.

BIG JIM
Detective Lomax has arrived...

AND BIG JIM

50s, a Teddy Bear of a man and Mike's father-in-law, doesn't look up from his food...

Jim's new wife ANGEL, 40s, always looks like a Latin movie star ready for her close up, smiles warmly at Lomax.

As SKUNKIE, a shaggy haired mutt, lays at Big Jim's feet.

Handing Angel the wine...

LOMAX
Sorry, I'm late. New case broke.

BIG JIM
You see that game last night?

As he sits... shaking his head...

LOMAX
Bynum really should've kicked it out to--

And Lomax stops short because he notices that there's someone at the table he has never met... DIANA TRANTANELLA, late 30s, a high school cheerleader making a graceful transition toward 40 with dirty California blond hair that's not store bought and a kick-ass body that has some weight to it in all the right places.

BIG JIM
Mike, this is Diana, she's a nurse and a friendly lady. Don't bore her.

Diana smiles at Lomax.

DIANA
You can bore me, it's fine.

Lomax looks to Big Jim who has his best poker face on, then to Angel who can't help but smile as if this exact moment is going to be featured in a wedding toast in two years.

LOMAX
(to Diana)
How do you know Big Jim and Angel, Diana?

DIANA
Well, my mother and Angel know each other...

ANGEL
Nancy and I chat at the farmer's market.

Turning to Angel...

LOMAX
I see. So you're not particularly close with Diana?

BIG JIM
That's why we invited her here tonight, dummy... to get to know her better.

LOMAX
Yes, I could see how important it would be for you two to get to know a strange--

Immediately turning to Diana...

LOMAX
Strange as in unfamiliar not weird.

DIANA
(with a smile)
Get it.

And right back to Big Jim...

LOMAX
-- woman from the neighborhood who's mother shares the same interest in fresh vegetables as Angel.

Passing the platter of stew to Lomax...

BIG JIM
Stop being a Detective and eat...

INT. DINNER - LATER

As Jim opens up a second bottle of wine and Angel serves dessert...

LOMAX
Jim, did you ever drive for any Lamaar movies?

BIG JIM
Definitely. For years. Why?

LOMAX
This new case. I shouldn't really talk about but...

Looking over to Diana...

LOMAX
I'm amongst friends.

She confirms with a smile.

LOMAX
One of the mascots was killed at
the park this morning.

DIANA
I grew up on Lamaar movies.

Big Jim pours himself some more wine...

BIG JIM
It was a different world when I was
driving there.
(beat)
See it wasn't Viacom and Time
Warner and Newscorp... it was Mr.
Warner and Mr. Disney and of
course... Mr. Lamaar.

LOMAX
Did you know him?

BIG JIM
Not personally. I was just another
fat teamster on the lot.
(beat)
But he wasn't well liked. He came
from one of those Bible Belt
states. He was racist and sexist
and all the other ists. Not a good
guy.

LOMAX
Is he still alive?

BIG JIM
Naw, died four years ago... right
after he sold the studio to some
Japanese Conglomerate.

And suddenly... Diana breaks into kiddie's song.

DIANA
"Wild-and-woolly and running away.
Bushy tail shaking and running
away. Rambo, Rambunctious and
running away. Don't run away.
Don't run away. My favorite rabbit
is running away."

They're all looking at her now...

DIANA
I loved that song.

LOMAX
Yeah... it was Rambunctious Rabbit
who was killed.

DIANA
Now who would want to kill a giant
rabbit?

LOMAX
They tell me it's my job to find
out.

And the table quiets down... Lomax looks over to Diana.

LOMAX
What did the doctor say to the
dwarf?

DIANA
Um... not sure.

LOMAX
You're going to be my little
patient.

She just looks at him.

LOMAX
I said it wrong. It's supposed to
be "you're... going to be...
little" wait, it was a midget not
a dwarf.

Now the whole table is just looking at him.

LOMAX
Know what? Forget it.

And he stands...

LOMAX
I'm going to the bathroom.

INT. BIG JIM'S HOUSE/BACK HALLWAY - NIGHT

Lomax heads for the bathroom and passes by Big Jim and
Angel's bedroom. And he stops walking.

BEDROOM

And we find Mike Lomax as he quickly moves into the bedroom
and immediately begins going through all the drawers.

A detective doing a detailed search with thorough precision.

And into the closet... working in record time. Until...

BIG JIM (O.S.)
Mike... do you want coffee?

Big Jim stands in the doorway and pretends it's not weird that his son-in-law is riffling through his closet.

And Mike Lomax... caught red handed... stepping out from the closet...

LOMAX
Are you sending them?

BIG JIM
Sending what?

LOMAX
The letters.

As it washes over him...

BIG JIM
That's right -- it's been a year.

LOMAX
Are you sending them?

BIG JIM
No.

LOMAX
Who is?

BIG JIM
I honestly don't know.

Stepping forward... looking Big Jim right in the eyes...

LOMAX
How many are there?

BIG JIM
A lot. She couldn't write them
when you were visiting the hospital
so she did it when we were.
(beat)
I didn't like it at first... didn't
think it was healthy.

As the big man sucks back some emotion...

BIG JIM
Then I realized it was all she had
to look forward to.

And Lomax holds his father-in-law's look for a definitive moment... until he simply says...

LOMAX
Decaf.

INT. DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Lomax returns and has a seat. It's only Diana and him now. A bit uncomfortable.

LOMAX
 So you don't think it's weird that
 he's trying to fix you up with his
 dead daughter's husband?

DIANA
 No. I think it's adorable.

LOMAX
 I see.

DIANA
 And he explained to me that she
 asked him to do this.

This new information stuns Lomax.

DIANA
 I guess she figured you'd have
 trouble doing this yourself.
 (beat)
 I can see why.

Lomax takes that in for a moment, then looks her straight
 on...

LOMAX
 Look, I know it might be difficult
 to find a good man out there.
 (beat)
 And I get it, the thirty-five-year-
 old plus never-been-marrieds can be
 sketchy and the divorcees can be
 risky which leaves you the
 widowers. We're real clean with a
 bit of wounded bird thrown in. And
 let's not forget the fact that
 you're a nurse.

A bit stunned...

DIANA
 Wow.

As he stands...

LOMAX
 And you're hot. I'm not going to
 lie... you do it for me.
 (beat)
 But I'm not back out there...

As he motions to the room around him... notably the childhood
 pictures of Joannie on the mantle...

LOMAX
 ... especially not in here.

And with that, Lomax goes.

EXT. SANTA MONICA HOMELESS SHELTER - NIGHT

A small shelter a few blocks off the ocean. The line of HOMELESS snakes out the door.

INT. SANTA MONICA HOMELESS SHELTER - NIGHT

A cafeteria line is set up with VOLUNTEERS dishing out food to HOMELESS. Find one of the volunteers who is dishing out potatoes. He is...

RONNY LUCAS
 (greeting a homeless
 woman)
 Beatrice, you look different today,
 did you change your hair?

Ronny's a very good looking guy in his late 20s. He has movie star looks... that's because he is a movie star.

BEATRICE
 Nope. It's these...

And she pulls out her new teeth...

RONNY LUCAS
 Wow. They make a world of
 difference.

She winks at him and goes. And a new homeless guy steps up that Ronny doesn't recognize.

RONNY LUCAS
 Hi I'm Ronny, welcome to the
 shelter. This is your first time,
 yes?

The man, tall, fortyish, road-weary and wearing an old dirty rain coat, just nods.

RONNY LUCAS
 What's your name?

MARK
 Mark.

RONNY LUCAS
 Where you from?

MARK
 Indiana.

As he drops the potatoes on the Mark's plate...

RONNY LUCAS
 What part? I'm from Indiana.

MARK
 Munster.

Ronny brightens up...

RONNY LUCAS
No way! That's where I'm from.

MARK
Yeah, I know. I've seen some of
your movies.

And Mark moves on.

EXT. SANTA MONICA HOMELESS SHELTER/PARKING LOT - NIGHT

As Ronny heads for his Prius...

VOICE (O.S.)
Hey. Mr. Lucas.

Ronny turns to see Mark standing there.

RONNY LUCAS
Mark.

Mark just stands there for a moment, then...

MARK
I got my kid with me. I don't
think... I can, you know, handle
her anymore. She's six.

Ronny's suddenly concerned.

RONNY LUCAS
You have your child with you now?

Mark leads Ronny to an alley...

MARK
We're sleeping in the alley but I
don't think I can take care of her
anymore.

RONNY LUCAS
That's perfectly understandable.
You're doing the righ--

Before Ronny Lucas can finish his sentence. Mark quickly produces a baseball bat from his raincoat, lifts it high in the air and swings for the fences... slamming it down right onto Ronny Lucas's head.

END OF ACT 2

ACT 3

INT. LOMAX'S REDONDO BEACH HOME - EARLY MORNING

Lomax awakes to urgent knocking on the door. He throws on the robe, heads over to the door and peers out of the window to see Big Jim standing there.

Lomax sighs and opens the door.

LOMAX
Jesus Jim, it's five thirty in the morning.

BIG JIM
Nice French exit last night.

Lomax nods, turns around and heads for the kitchen...

LOMAX
I didn't appreciate the ambush.

Big Jim walks in, sits on the couch and looks around the place...

BIG JIM
A man needs a maid.

LOMAX (O.S.)
Neil Young.

BIG JIM
You were rude to Diana.

As Lomax heads in with two cups of coffee...

LOMAX
I'm not ready to date anybody.

BIG JIM
Presumptuous. You think she was so hot to meet you? You think a woman that looks like that doesn't have choices?

LOMAX
Then why was she there?

BIG JIM
She's got a kid in her ward who's obsessed with homicide detectives... wants to be you. She had Lamar Odom come visit the ward and the kid could care less.

And Big Jim looks right at Lomax...

BIG JIM
She came because she wanted to convince you to visit this kid before he dies.

Mike swallows that back... embarrassed...

LOMAX
Jesus...

BIG JIM
Yeah... I guess you mentioned something about her being desperate to heal wounded birds or something.

LOMAX
How was I supposed to know there was a dying kid involved?

BIG JIM
You're a detective. Aren't you supposed to get all the information before you act?

Lomax cringes confirmation of that as Big Jim places down a piece of paper on the table and stands.

BIG JIM
That's her number. Make good with this.

LOMAX
You could've called, you know?

As Big Jim heads for the door...

BIG JIM
I'm retired, Mike... I've got nothing better to do.

... and goes.

INT. TERRY BIGGS'S KITCHEN - MORNING

Lomax sits across from Biggs who is currently laughing his ass off.

BIGGS
Well now you gotta see the dying kid.

One of Terry's adopted daughters, ANNA, nine-years-old, sits at the table inhaling her cereal.

LOMAX
Really?

BIGGS
Yes. And you need to apologize to her.

LOMAX
No, I don't.

BIGGS
You do and you know you do.

Lomax doesn't say anything but they both know Terry's right.
Biggs laughs some more while shaking his head...

BIGGS
God, I wish I was there.

LOMAX
Yeah, I really was a jerk-off to her.

BIGGS
(re Anna)
Hey hey! Language.

Anna just looks up from her cereal with milk all over his face...

ANNA
I know what a jerk-off is.

BIGGS
No you don't.

ANNA
Yes I do. If someone uses the move "the jerk" in a dance off then it becomes a "jerk-off" and nobody can use that move again... because there are no backsies allowed.

BIGGS
So you did know what it was. Now get your books, the bus is going to be here in a minute.

As she runs off... Lomax laughs.

LOMAX
I still can't get over how just two years ago--

Interrupting...

BIGGS
The stewardess did not reject me, Mike.
(and then)
Okay, so I grilled Scarlato last night and he gave up the name of the man who paid Elkins to marry the young Vietnamese girl. They should have him to us today.

Lomax nods.

LOMAX
Big Jim says Dean Lamaar was not a well liked guy.

Biggs nods.

BIGGS
Don't really remember him.

LOMAX
That's because you're from the East Coast. He was on every billboard out here when I was growing up.

Biggs phone rings and he picks it up. As Terry takes the call, Lomax looks at all the pictures on the fridge of Terry's instant family. His new wife and her four daughters... Terry's sudden thrust into the role of husband and father.

Again Lomax shakes his head in disbelief and Terry brings down the phone.

BIGGS
Ronny Lucas was just found beaten to death in Santa Monica.

LOMAX
The actor?

BIGGS
Yup.

Biggs is already heading for door...

LOMAX
So?

BIGGS
So Lucas's last four movies were for Lamaar.

As they head through the house...

BIGGS
Lucas did a movie a few years ago about a little leaguer that was in a slump.

And out to the...

DRIVEWAY

Moving quickly...

BIGGS
Lucas played the coach who gave the kid a magic baseball bat. That bat with the movie's logo sells at the Lamaar gift shop and--

Bee lining for Biggs's Lexus...

LOMAX
And that bat was used to beat Lucas to death.

BIGGS
Exactly.

EXT. SANTA MONICA HOMELESS SHELTER - MORNING

As Lomax and Biggs get out of the Lexus and head for the shelter which is a MADHOUSE of news vans and people...

BIGGS
So much for keeping this from the press.

Fighting their way through the maze of COPS, NEWS CREWS and RUBBERNECKS...

Somebody immediately finds their side.

LIEUTENANT Brendan KILCULLEN. He's an Irishman with sixty extra pounds and six kids.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
I'm tired. I had to notify the wife earlier than I've been on the phone with The Mayor and The Governor for the rest of the morning. I don't have any energy left.

As they pass through the crime scene barricade of yellow tape...

BIGGS
Want us to do it?

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
Do what?

BIGGS
Shout at us. Light a fire under our asses.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
Would you please?

Biggs nods and turns to Lomax.

BIGGS
(imitating Kilcullen)
Catch this goddamn rabbit killer and catch him fast. I've got people in places higher up than me ready to throw me to the wolves.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
Just say the words... don't do me.

Biggs nods... stops with the imitation but keeps going.

BIGGS
I don't want either of you to go home or get laid or even sit on a toilet until this goes away. Do you understand me?

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
Very good job.

And they all reach Jessica Keating who was obviously called out of bed for this.

JESSICA
This one's got me. I know I'm not supposed to get emotional about dead people but this one really sucks. He was a good actor and a good guy.

They all nod and leave Jessica to her job.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
His wife said they got a flipbook in the mail last week. But this time instead of the finger it gives the peace sign.

LOMAX
(pointing out)
What if the swear finger Eddie got was actually a number one and the peace sign here was actually the number two?

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
What do you mean?

LOMAX
Elkins was killed with a Lamaar jump rope and Lucas was killed with a Lamaar bat.

As that registers on Kilcullen...

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
Please don't say what you're about to say next.

LOMAX
I won't.

And then Lomax turns to Biggs.

LOMAX
You say it.

BIGGS
We have a serial killer on our hands that's targeting people associated with Lamaar Studios.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
 (to Lomax and Biggs)
 I hate you both.

LOMAX
 Truth hurts boss.

Kilcullen sighs and throws a cigar in his mouth.

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
 Okay. I need you guys to go tell
 that to Ike Rose.

BIGGS
 Who's Ike Rose?

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
 CEO of Lamaar. One of the most
 powerful people in Hollywood and on
 Wall street.

Lighting the cigar...

LIEUTENANT KILCULLEN
 He's going to have to make the call
 on how to protect his studio
 without telling any of them they're
 in danger.

EXT. HOMELESS SHELTER - MORNING

As they head for the car...

BIGGS
 I've never met a powerful Hollywood
 mogul before.

LOMAX
 Really? Most of my best friends
 run studios.

BIGGS
 How come I've never met them?

As they get into...

TERRY'S LEXUS

Biggs driver's seat, Lomax shot-gun.

LOMAX
 We like to do our own thing. You
 know? Fly to Cabo in our private
 jets, partake in the latest
 synthetic drugs, sleep with
 actresses.

Biggs laughs as he drives the car out of the lot...

BIGGS
Just as long as you make it tonight
to Dakota's birthday party, we
rented out all of Damon Busters.

LOMAX
Wait, Dakota's the oldest, right?

Gunning the accelerator...

BIGGS
Hell if I know.

EXT. IKE ROSE'S ESTATE/BEL AIR - DAY

As Terry's Lexus heads through the gates of this enormous mansion.

INT. IKE ROSE'S ESTATE/LIBRARY - DAY

An enormous room that looks like a hunting lodge... deep mahogany wood, bookcases everywhere, a fire blazing in the bg.

Lomax and Biggs are lead in by an old ASIAN HOUSEMAN to find...

IKE ROSE

40s, not an inch taller than 5'4, shaved head by way of the "bald better than balding" than camp.

IKE ROSE
You must be Detectives Lomax and
Biggs, Ike Rose.

They shake Ike's hand.

IKE ROSE
Have a seat.

They do...

IKE ROSE
This is my assistant Richard. I've
asked him to take notes.

Lomax looks RICHARD up and down. It's more than just a casual glance... he's reading the man.

It's something he does very well.

LOMAX
No it's not. He's wearing a Patek
Philippe watch that costs more than
I make in a year. He's your
lawyer, isn't he?

IKE ROSE
Very good, Detective.

LOMAX
Well, this isn't my first rodeo.

IKE ROSE
I didn't want Richard's presence here tonight to censor anything you were working on so we thought it was best if we just called him my assistant. Should he go?

Biggs cannot hide how impressed he is. He's looking around the room wide-eyed... like a child.

LOMAX
No, he can stay.

IKE ROSE
Your Lieutenant said on the phone that you believe this might be the work of a serial killer directed at Lamaar Studios.

LOMAX
That's right.

Lomax glares at Biggs. "Get your head in the game" Biggs just shrugs... he's never seen a house like this.

IKE ROSE
And as you know, we've been able to keep this matter from the press so far.

LOMAX
But if I'm right, you're going to have to tell your employees they may be at risk and then the press will find out and the stock will get hammered.

IKE ROSE
And you don't care about the press finding out or the stock price.

LOMAX
No, I don't.

IKE ROSE
Well you should. We all should. It effects thousands of people.

LOMAX
Um-hm, Mr. Rose, who can you think of that might want to harm the company?

Ike stands, moves to wet bar and makes himself a drink.

IKE ROSE
We've been getting some resistance from ultra right-wing groups about our deal with Camelot Casinos.

BIGGS
What kind of deal?

IKE ROSE
We've leased Lamaar intellectual property rights of our characters to Camelot for many uses. One of which is for the themes of their slot machines.
(beat)
Some of the groups believe that's cheapening our brand.

LOMAX
Also, Camelot isn't known for being the cleanest company.

IKE ROSE
What is that supposed to mean?

LOMAX
They're mafia... everybody knows that.

Rose laughs...

IKE ROSE
Detective Lomax, this is a new age. Everything's gone corporate. It's not Bugsy Siegal's -- or even Marty Scorsese's -- Las Vegas anymore.

LOMAX
I think you might be being a little idealistic and it makes me ask... how is the deal with Camelot going?

IKE ROSE
Great. I'm very close with senior management and it couldn't be going better for both sides.

Ike then offers Lomax a...

IKE ROSE
Drink?

LOMAX
No thanks.

But then Biggs steps forward with...

BIGGS
What kind of whiskey do you have?

Lomax smiles at the men...

LOMAX
Excuse us.

And Lomax takes Biggs aside. They have this whole conversation under their breath...

LOMAX
What are you doing?

BIGGS
I grew up in a two bedroom apartment in the Bronx. There were five of us. I've never seen anything like this and I bet he has like a thousand dollar bottle of whiskey and I want to try it.

LOMAX
We don't drink on the job.

BIGGS
We don't drink on the job. You say that like we're married. "We don't like..."

Pointing across the room to a Paper Machee sculpture of a ballerina...

BIGGS
How much do you think that sculpture's worth?

LOMAX
I don't know. Listen, this guy could be either very helpful to us or very hurtful. We need to--

BIGGS
More or less than fifty thousand dollars?

LOMAX
We need to earn his trust and not back down-- way less.

BIGGS
I don't think so. I think it's worth more.

From across the room... patiently waiting...

IKE ROSE
Are you guys okay? Is there anything we can help with?

LOMAX
We're fine, Mr. Rose. We'll be with you in a minute.

And right back at Biggs...

LOMAX
It's like two feet tall.

BIGGS
Rich people don't care how tall it
is. It's probably a Monet.

LOMAX
Monet didn't do statues. He was a
painter.

BIGGS
I'll bet you a hundred bucks.
Over/under's fifty grand and I'll
take the over.

LOMAX
How will we know?

BIGGS
I'll take a picture of it with my
iPhone and email it to Thelonious.

LOMAX
Fine, you're on.

And Lomax heads back over to Ike Rose and his lawyer, Richard
while Biggs pretends to take in the place while removing his
iPhone from his pocket.

LOMAX
Mr. Rose, I understand your
situation but I believe you need to
alert your employees and customers
that they may be in danger.

Inside of a cringe...

IKE
Customers.

Biggs lines up the picture and takes it. Richard eyeing him
all the while.

LOMAX
It's your call. I can't make you.
But I'm quite sure there's someone
out there with a grudge against
Lamaar who's already killed one of
your mascots and one of your stars.

Ike slowly nods.

IKE ROSE
Okay, Detective Lomax, I hear you.

Biggs joins them with a wink to Mike... he got the picture.

IKE ROSE
You have no idea what this is going
to do to our brand and our stock
price... but I'll shut down all
Lamaar operations.

(MORE)

IKE ROSE (cont'd)
 It'll take at least five hours to orchestrate something like this without causing a panic. I'll schedule a press conference tomorrow.

LOMAX
 It's the right thing to do.

Biggs gets a call on his phone. He checks the caller id and...

BIGGS
 Excuse me.

... he steps aside to take the call. Ike continues...

IKE ROSE
 I want you to know that I am willing to give you everything and anything at my disposal. My plane, Lamaar's private security force, our information and research computer teams.

Lomax nods as Biggs joins him.

BIGGS
 We need to go, Mike.

And head for the door, but...

IKE ROSE
 And guys...

As Lomax and Biggs turn back to face Rose.

IKE ROSE
 That statue is the work of Hannah Elizabeth Rose... my eight year old daughter.
 (beat)
 I would guess it to be worth considerably less than fifty thousand dollars.

EXT. IKE ROSE'S ESTATE/BEL AIR - DAY

They head for their car...

LOMAX
 I'm going to have Thelonious do a check on Ike Rose.

As Biggs nods and makes sure they're far away from the house...

BIGGS
 That was Lieutenant, someone who works for Lamaar just received a flip book in the mail.

LOMAX
 Hey... I'll deal with it. You got
 Dakota's birthday party.

BIGGS
 No, this is more important.

LOMAX
 Yes. To someone who has no kids.
 And looking his partner dead on...

LOMAX
 Terry, I got it.
 After Biggs capitulates with a nod.

LOMAX
 So who was the lucky winner of free
 Lamaar merchandise?

INT. LAMAAR STUDIOS/AMY CHEEVER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

As Lomax looks at the flip book featuring Rambunctious Rabbit
 holding up two thumbs and wearing a t shirt with a big thumb
 on it... to make the number of thumbs total 3.

He's sitting across from...

AMY CHEEVER
 I don't want to stop doing my job.

LOMAX
 Miss Cheever, you're going to stop
 doing everything. We're putting
 you in Federal Protection.

And we pull back to see they're in the company of two
 UNIFORMED OFFICERS.

END OF ACT 3

ACT 4

INT. AMY CHEEVER'S OFFICE - DAY

As a nervous Amy Cheever looks out the window.

AMY CHEEVER
It's just someone trying to scare
us. It's just... a bully.

He can tell she's very upset... but trying to maintain her composure.

LOMAX
We're going to get them, Miss
Cheever.

And she leans forward...

AMY CHEEVER
How can I help?

Lomax just looks at her for a long moment, then...

LOMAX
Tell me about Dean Lamaar.

AMY CHEEVER
I never met him. I came here after
he died.

Black and white pictures of Lamaar Studios grace the walls... most taken in the 50's and 60's.

LOMAX
But you know all about him.

Amy nods.

AMY CHEEVER
Dean Lamaar had a lot of enemies.
But many of those people are dead
now.

LOMAX
Are there any that come to mind
that could hold a grudge against
not only Dean but Lamaar Studios as
well?

Without hesitating...

AMY CHEEVER
Yes.

LOMAX
And who would that be?

AMY CHEEVER
Someone who's dead.

LOMAX

Indulge me. I like stories and your schedule just opened up.

Amy capitulates then points to the wall above Lomax's head. To a picture of two men standing together at the gates of Lammaar Studios circa 1953.

AMY CHEEVER

(pointing out)

That's Dean Lammaar and that's Lars Egg. Lars was a friend of Dean's from the war. They were both cartoonists and ended up together in a unit that made military training films. And after the war, they came out to Los Angeles together and worked in a nickel-dime animation house.

Lomax takes out his pad and pen and begins to take notes.

AMY CHEEVER

Now, Lars Egg was a much more talented cartoonist than Dean but Dean was more of a risk-taker. So when it came time to strike out on his own... Dean could do it.

LOMAX

While Lars stayed put in the nickel-dime animation house.

Amy nods.

AMY CHEEVER

So after Lammaar Studios was up and running, Dean hired his old friend away and Lars was happy to come. It was Lars who created Rambunctious Rabbit and gave him all sorts of children because, well... he was a rabbit.

LOMAX

It was Lars? I thought it was Dean who invented--

AMY CHEEVER

Everybody does. That's what we want you to believe.

(beat)

But it was Lars who created the one character who built this whole place.

LOMAX

And let me guess... it was Dean who made all the money.

AMY CHEEVER
Yes. When Lars wanted just a small
piece of the pie, Dean fired him.

LOMAX
So much for loyalty.

Nodding. Lomax finishes jotting his notes, then looks up to
her with...

LOMAX
I want to see him.

AMY CHEEVER
Lars Egg?

LOMAX
No. Dean Lamaar.

INT. LAMAAR ARCHIVAL DEPARTMENT/PRIVATE SCREENING ROOM - DAY
As they sit in the dark room.

SHERRY
This was played as people stood in
line for the Cosmic Cat's Space
Plunge when the ride first opened.

Meet SHERRY WASHINGTON, 60s, runs the video archives at
Lamaar as she pops a VCR into a player.

And they watch old footage of DEAN LAMAAR, circa 1990, he's a
white-haired patriarch sitting behind a desk.

He looks more like everybody's favorite uncle than a
Hollywood mogul.

DEAN (FOOTAGE)
Welcome to the Cosmic Cat Space
Plunge. We all know our friendly
feline because he's always chasing
our favorite rabbit... but what
happens when our favorite cat
accidently gets sent up to space?

Cheever leans into Lomax...

AMY CHEEVER
What's the purpose of this?

LOMAX
I want to get a feel for the guy.

And she doesn't lean back. Lomax notices... they're sitting
very close. As Dean drones on...

LOMAX
What else do you have?

SHERRY
I have Dean's Farewell.

LOMAX
Dean's Farewell?

SHERRY
The last thing he recorded. His
farewell to the company. He died
two weeks later. They found it on
his desk after the funeral.

She places a new DVD into the player.

And we now see Dean sitting at the same desk holding a pen
and signing some papers. He looks up and acts surprised as
if he didn't know the camera was there. He still holds the
pen while he speaks.

DEAN (FOOTAGE)
Oh... hello.

There's a time stamp on it... May 5th 2004.

DEAN (FOOTAGE)
I'm Dean Lamaar. As you know, a
few years ago, Lamaar Studios was
purchased by Abunai World Wide.
(beat)
Now that I've stayed around to help
our Japanese friends with their
transition it's time to say goodbye
to the studio I built and called
home for the last fifty-four--

Suddenly on the footage, everything shakes violently. Dean
reacts.

DEAN (FOOTAGE)
What the hell is going on?

And there's a man's voice off camera...

VOICE (O.S.)
Earthquake, Deanie! Get under the
desk.

Sherry stands up...

SHERRY
Oh, this is the raw footage. I'll
get you the finished--

LOMAX
No. This one's better.

Suddenly the picture goes out.

LOMAX
Who was talking in the footage?

SHERRY
Teddy.

LOMAX
Teddy?

SHERRY
Teddy Barth. He was Lamaar's right hand man. A bit dim but very loyal. Dean bought him a little house right next to his estate and they were inseparable.

LOMAX
Is he still alive?

Sherry just shrugs.

LOMAX
Can I keep this tape?

SHERRY
Be my guest.

And Lomax takes the discs as Amy Cheever walks him to the door...

LOMAX
You're gonna go with them and they're going to take you somewhere where you will be very safe.

She nods. Still a little shaky.

AMY CHEEVER
Why send that book before killing someone? What are they trying to prove?

LOMAX
I don't think they're trying to prove anything, Miss Cheever, I think they're trying to scare us.

Stopping at the door...

AMY CHEEVER
Why?

LOMAX
Because somehow they directly benefit from the fear... because they're crazy... because they're very angry for some reason... take your pick.

And she looks into his eyes...

AMY CHEEVER
You're not giving me much confidence, Detective Lomax.

LOMAX
 I know this isn't going to make any sense to you, but... with this case, I already know what I don't know and trust me, that's a good thing.

And off that, Lomax goes...

INT. TEDDY BARTH'S HOME/DINNING ROOM - MORNING

Lomax and Biggs sit across from TEDDY Barth, 70s. ANDREW, 30s, his caretaker, is close by in the kitchen by making tea.

TEDDY
 I used to know a bunch of you guys. We did a few cop pictures in the 60s and used you guys as consultants. Herbie... Herbie... I forget now. He was real joker. He loved to mess with the actors. Ever see "Blue Holiday?"

LOMAX
 No.

TEDDY
 That was a good one. Eddie Ford and Natalie Wood.

Lomax nods. But Teddy just shakes his head.

TEDDY
 No. That's all wrong. That picture never got made. We wanted to make it with Eddie Ford and Natalie Wood but turns out she was under contract at Warner Brothers and we couldn't get her.

LOMAX
 Mr. Brand, we'd like to talk to you about Lars Egg...

Getting frustrated...

TEDDY
 No... that's not right. She wasn't under contract. Deanie didn't like her for the part.

BIGGS
 Mr. Brand... ?

As Andrew hands a cup of tea to Biggs...

ANDREW
 I'm sorry... he gets frustrated. Sometimes he's a sharp as a tack, but most of the time it's like this.

And Teddy slams his fist down on the table...

TEDDY
Gryzbowski! Herbie Gryzbowski,
that's his name. He's Polish. You
know him?

LOMAX
We don't.

Andrew grabs Teddy's arm and looks into his eyes.

ANDREW
Teddy, Lars Egg. You remember
Lars?

TEDDY
Lars Egg. Wasn't a good name to
bring up around Deanie I'll tell
you that.

LOMAX
Deanie didn't like Lars?

TEDDY
Nope. Not after his son tried to
kill Deanie.

Jotting this down...

BIGGS
Lars' son?

TEDDY
Danny.

Biggs jots down the name as Lomax looks around the room. His face focuses on a desktop computer on a table across the way.

TEDDY
Tried to run Dean over after Dean
and Lars parted ways.

BIGGS
What happened?

And as Teddy talks, Lomax stands and looks around the room. He looks over pictures of Teddy from a long time ago... many with Dean Lamaar.

Pictures taken on sets... on the lot... some with celebrities.

TEDDY (O.S.)
Dean couldn't be killed. He was a
tough son of a bitch.

Lomax focuses in on a picture of Teddy taken on a golf course... Teddy setting to drive the ball.

TEDDY (O.S.)
And they took care of Danny good.

As Lomax heads back over to the table and looks at Andrew...

 LOMAX
Are you two the only people who
live here?

 ANDREW
He lives here alone. I only come
three days a week.

 LOMAX
Well, we took up enough of your
time. Thank you.

Biggs flashes Lomax a look... why is he cutting it short?

EXT. TEDDY BARTH'S HOME - MORNING

As Andrew walks them out...

 ANDREW
Sometimes he makes it up, you need
to know that. It's hard to
separate truth from fiction... like
all those movies they made.

Lomax looks across the lawn at a huge estate. It's a weird
sight... a huge estate with this little home almost on its
front lawn.

 LOMAX
 (re estate)
That was The Lamaar Estate.

 ANDREW
Yes. Dean wanted Teddy close.
 (beat)
Nice family lives there now... he's
a plastic surgeon.

Lomax takes one last look at the estate, nods over to Biggs
and they head for their cars...

After Andrew goes back inside.

 BIGGS
Okay, give it up. I know that
look.

 LOMAX
Something didn't feel right.
 (beat)
First of all, the computer in there
had the mouse on the left side.

 BIGGS
So?

LOMAX
So... Teddy's right handed.

BIGGS
How do you know?

As he breaks for his truck...

LOMAX
The way he drives a golf ball.

And Biggs stops walking, facing his partner with...

BIGGS
Mike.

LOMAX
Yeah... ?

BIGGS
You need to go to the hospital.

LOMAX
But I'm not sick.

And Biggs continues walking... leaving Lomax to figure out what he meant.

EXT. SUNSET BLVD - MORNING

As Lomax drives... mind at thought. He stops at a light and looks up to see a billboard with Ronny Lucas on it under the caption... "Thanks For The Memories... We Will Miss you!"

And Lomax turns away. The light turns and Lomax comes to a conclusion as he rips the truck into a u-turn and heads the other way.

EXT. WOODLAND HILLS HOSPITAL - MORNING

As Lomax's truck parks in the hospital lot.

INT. LOMAX'S TRUCK - NIGHT

As Mike Lomax eyes down the red brick building and sucks in a heavy breath.

INT. PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY UNIT - MORNING

Lomax heads through the hallway whose walls are covered with artwork created by the child patients. Artwork full of raw honesty and powerful optimism.

And Diana waits for him at the desk.

DIANA
Detective.

LOMAX
Nurse.

After regarding her for a long beat...

LOMAX
I owe you an apology. I guess I--

DIANA
(interrupting him)
Stop talking.

As she rounds the desk and starts down to the hall...

DIANA
Showing up here is your apology and
I accept.

A nervous as hell Lomax now in tow.

DIANA
Hugo's parents went home about
twenty minutes ago. He wanted to
see you alone. He's in the day
room.

They arrive at the door to the day room and Lomax can barely
breathe. She regards him...

DIANA
(re Lomax's nervousness)
He's a fourteen year old boy not a
bad guy with a gun.

LOMAX
At the moment -- I'd prefer the bad
guy with a gun.

INT. DAY ROOM - MORNING

Lomax heads in and sees HUGO, 14 but looks 11, sitting in a
wheelchair and wearing a hat that says "Bad Hair Day" on it.

LOMAX
You must be Hugo.

Shaking hands...

HUGO
And you must be Detective Lomax.

As he takes a seat next to the kid...

LOMAX
I am. I... um... got you this.

And Lomax hands Hugo a Navy Blue LAPD baseball hat. Hugo
smiles wide... revealing a mouth full of braces.

As he takes off Bad Hair Day, lays it on the table and puts
on the LAPD hat.

HUGO
How's it look?

LOMAX
Bitchin'.

Lomax shakes his head in embarrassment of using the word bitchin'.

HUGO
Okay Detective, I'm gonna put you
to work. Look at me and tell me
what doesn't fit.

Lomax immediately throws on Bad Hair Day and regards Hugo.

LOMAX
Not sure.

HUGO
Yes, you are. You just don't want
to say it.
(beat)
It's okay. You can say it.

LOMAX
You have new braces.

Hugo smiles again.

HUGO
You're good.

Lomax softly nods.

HUGO
My parents think they can trick
God.
(looking away)
Who knows? Maybe they can.

And they sit in silence for a moment, until...

HUGO
Why'd you want to become a
detective?

Without missing a beat...

LOMAX
To make the world a little more
fair.

HUGO
Bitchin'.

Another silence. Until...

LOMAX
This is nice.

HUGO
Yeah...

LOMAX
Been a crap week.

HUGO
Tell me about it.

Diana walks by and looks in on them before moving on...
trying not to be obvious.

HUGO
You single?

LOMAX
No, I'm married.

HUGO
To a dead woman.

Lomax looks at him...

HUGO
(re Diana)
She tells me everything.
(beat)
Take her somewhere nice, she works
hard.

Lomax nods... taking the order in stride. And then...

LOMAX
Hey Hugo...

Hugo looks at him.

LOMAX
What did the doctor say to the
midget?

HUGO
I don't know.

LOMAX
You're just going to have to be a
little patient.

HUGO
That's really stupid.

LOMAX
I know.
(and then)
Do you mind if I come visit you
again?

Biting back a smile...

HUGO
If I'm available.

END OF ACT 4

ACT 5

INT. LA COUNTY SHERRIF'S DEPARTMENT PRECINCT - DAY

Lomax and Biggs head in... Thelonious looks up from his computer.

LOMAX

Who shall we start with?

BIGGS

Ike Rose.

Lomax writes "Ike Rose" in large letters on the big white marker-board.

Thelonious points to an article he's pulled up.

THELONIOUS

This is a copy of Ike Rose's contract. By SEC rule, it's available to all shareholders of Lamaar.

(pointing)

This little paragraph states in legalese that if Lamaar's stock trades under \$15 a share voiding a split at any time during the tenure of Ike's contract, Lamaar can fire him.

BIGGS

So it's kind of like a slaughter rule in baseball?

THELONIOUS

Exactly... considering the stock was at \$67 bucks a share when he signed his contract.

(beat)

But here's the thing. It goes both ways. Meaning--

LOMAX

If it trades below \$15 a share, he can get out of his contract as well.

As he brings up a chart on his screen...

THELONIOUS

Bingo! This is Lamaar's stock over the last year. See this blip here... over the course of three days Lamaar's stock went down from \$83 to \$55 bucks a share.

BIGGS

But that's nowhere near \$15.

THELONIOUS
I know. But the reason for the
decline was a rumor.

Typing again...

THELONIOUS
Which I ended up identifying in the
chat rooms of day-trading sites.

Lomax turns to Biggs...

LOMAX
(re Thelonious)
How good is he?

BIGGS
He's the best. It's disturbing.
He's LeBron James.

Thelonious smiles... keeps going...

THELONIOUS
The rumor was that Ike Rose was
trying to get out of his contract
with Lamaar in order to run Camelot
Casinos Inc. He was frustrated
with always answering to the
micromanaging Japanese board
members and Camelot's a huge
company with billion dollar
properties in Las Vegas,
Connecticut and Macau.

LOMAX
And mob ties.

BIGGS
But Lamaar wouldn't let Rose out of
his contract.

THELONIOUS
Correct.

Lomax turns to Biggs...

LOMAX
Remember how close Ike said he was
to Camelot Senior management?

BIGGS
Yup. And now news of Lamaar
Studios being under attack is
everywhere.

As Thelonious pulls up a headline on his computer... CNBC.com
which reads...

**"Fearing For Safety of Employees -- Lamaar Indefinitely
Closing All Operations. Stock Expected To Plummet At Open."**

THELONIOUS
Correct.

Lomax barks over to Bump and Corner.

LOMAX
Let's get a warrant for Ike Rose's
computer and office.

As Lomax stands and writes down a new name on the board under
Ike's...

LOMAX
Danny Egg.

THELONIOUS
(reading off his computer)
Okay Danny Egg, forty-eight years
old, works off and on for the city
as a water treatment operator. He
did three years at Camarillo State
Mental Hospital starting in 1982.

Lomax nods.

LOMAX
And when did Lars Egg leave Lamaar?

Thelonious types for a beat, then...

THELONIOUS
1981.

BIGGS
Makes sense. Lamaar screws Danny's
father over, Danny tries to run
Lamaar over and gets three years in
the nut house for it.

Lomax shouts over to Bump and Corner...

LOMAX
Do we have Egg yet?

BUMP AND CORNER
Not yet. We have a black and white
waiting for him at his home.

Lomax looks at the board... at those two names.

The whole office looks on as Lomax slowly moves to the board
and writes numbers next to each name... he then writes
"Field" under Danny Egg's name.

The board now looks like this...

Ike Rose 2-1

Danny Egg 3-1

Field 4-1

And Biggs announces...

BIGGS
Give me ten bucks on Danny Egg.

Lomax nods and writes it down.

THELONIOUS
I'll take Rose for twenty.

Lomax takes note of that.

BUMP AND CORNER
Can I get in this?

Lomax and Biggs share a look...

LOMAX
Why not?

BUMP AND CORNER
I want the field. Five bucks.

And then... asking Lomax

BUMP AND CORNER
How come you don't bet?

As he goes...

LOMAX
Because I like to know what I don't know.

INT. LOMAX'S REDONDO BEACH HOME - NIGHT

Lomax brings in an armful of DVDs from Lamaar and lays them in a pile on the floor. He then sits on his couch in silence.

And three things are laid out before him. That bottle of Macallan whiskey, that letter from Joannie and that slip of paper with Diana's phone number on it.

Lomax focuses on the letter for a long moment then angrily brushes it off the table. He then looks at Diana's number for a moment then sends it onto the floor with the letter.

And as Mike Lomax reaches for the that bottle of Macallans...

DARKNESS

Until a phone rings... a light goes on and we find ourselves with Terry Biggs in bed with his wife MARILYN.

He fumbles for the phone...

BIGGS
Hello...

INTERCUT WITH LOMAX

Still on couch... now a bit drunk...

LOMAX
It has to be Egg.

BIGGS
Mike, it's midnight.

LOMAX
I'm sorry. I still think of you as-

Looking over to sleeping wife and quietly getting out of bed.

BIGGS
A single man... I get it.

Taking the cordless phone with him into the bathroom...

BIGGS
I remember when I used to wake you
and Joannie up... when it was me
who was two sheets to the wind with
some crazy theory on a case...

LOMAX
I loved those calls.

Whispering...

BIGGS
Now I get to love them.
(and then)
Why Egg?

LOMAX
Rose has a financial motive and I
get that, but...

Taking a moment to gather his thought...

LOMAX
Whoever's doing this has a lot of
hate inside of them.
(beat)
Killing innocent people... those
flip books and the choice of murder
weapons.

BIGGS
It's true.

LOMAX
I think I'm gonna owe you thirty
bucks.

BIGGS
They bring in Egg yet?

LOMAX
Bump and Corner said not yet
There's a beat of silence, then...

LOMAX
I'm sorry I woke you guys up.

BIGGS
Don't worry about it.

LOMAX
Good night--

INT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/PRECINT - DAY
Lomax heads in to find Biggs waiting for him.

BIGGS
You don't owe me thirty bucks.

LOMAX
Why not?

BIGGS
Danny Egg's been an in-patient in
Four Winds Hospital in Albany for
the last month.

LOMAX
That's a mental hospital.

BIGGS
Bingo. He's still nuts. But he
ain't our guy.

As he throws \$10 in the desk...

BIGGS
I called up there and there's no
way he's been orchestrating these
murders. As they put it he's in
the middle of an aggressive
"electro-therapeutic" program and
hasn't been in contact with anyone
for three weeks.

Lomax nods. They sit in silence, until...

BIGGS
Wanna come over for dinner tonight?
Marilyn's making her chili.

LOMAX
Can't.

BIGGS
Big Jim's.

LOMAX
No. I have a date.

And before Biggs can say anything... Thelonious heads in and slumps into his seat.

THELONIOUS
Not good.

LOMAX
What?

THELONIOUS
Ike Rose's computer. Before any of the killings, he was finishing a contract extension with Lamaar, it wasn't public information.

BIGGS
So?

THELONIOUS
So, Lamaar's in the process of giving him the keys to the kingdom.

As he throws \$20 on Lomax's desk...

THELONIOUS
Full autonomy and a boat load of money... all in stock options. Makes the Camelot deal look like nonprofit.

BIGGS
Everything he wanted.

LOMAX
And there goes his motive.

And they all just sit there defeated... they're back to square one and they know it.

Until the silence is broken by...

BUMP AND CORNER
Guess the field is looking a little better now.

BIGGS
Shut up.

INT. LOMAX'S REDONDO BEACH HOME - MORNING

Holding his morning coffee, Lomax sits down on the couch.

He looks at a picture on the mantle Joannie then sharply looks away to the pile of DVDs from Lamaar on the floor.

As he throws in one of the DVDs and watches...

On the screen pops Dean Lamaar standing next to Rambunctious Rabbit on the studio lot.

DEAN LAMAAR (FOOTAGE)
 Hey Rambunctious, you want to
 introduce the Lamaar movie of the
 week for those nice folks at CBS?

The rabbit shakes no.

DEAN LAMAAR (FOOTAGE)
 I guess it's up to me then.

And Lomax continues to watch.

INT. LOMAX'S REDONDO BEACH HOME - LATER

It's the footage we saw before. Dean Lamaar sitting at the
 desk... holding a pen...

LOMAX
 (to the tv)
 Holding that pen in your left
 hand... huh Deanie?

Time stamp reading... May 5th 2004.

DEAN LAMAAR (FOOTAGE)
 Now that I've stayed around to help
 our Japanese friends with their
 transition it's time to say goodbye
 to the studio I built and called
 home for the last fifty-four--

Suddenly on the footage, everything shakes violently. Dean
 reacts.

DEAN (FOOTAGE)
 What the hell is going on?

And Teddy Barth... off camera...

TEDDY BRAND (FOOTAGE) (O.S.)
 Earthquake, Deanie! Get under the
 desk.

Lomax pauses the footage and stares at the time stamp... mind
 churning.

And Mike Lomax picks up the phone...

INTERCUT WITH

Big Jim... tending his garden... answering his phone.

BIG JIM
 Yeah...

LOMAX
 Remember when you scored tickets
 for the Laker Finals game the night
 before Joannie's graduation from
 art school?

BIG JIM

Sure.

LOMAX

And we were all set to go to the game but it was postponed a day due to an earthquake?

BIG JIM

How could I forget? It was total crap because art school isn't really like college. It's something adults do when they're bored, it's not like she was graduating from Stanford or something.

LOMAX

That's what my feeling was.

BIG JIM

And that was the year we had Gary Payton and Karl Malone--

LOMAX

So you remember it.

BIG JIM

Like yesterday. My daughter vs. Laker Finals, no contest.

LOMAX

My wife vs. Laker finals, same result.
(and then)
Okay, big question Jim... what year was that?

BIG JIM

That's easy, 2004. They lost to the Pistons in five.

LOMAX

And when are the NBA finals?

BIG JIM

Last week of May.

With sudden excitement...

LOMAX

Exactly!

EXT. TEDDY BARTH'S HOME - DAY

As ten POLICE CARS screech to the halt. They storm the house... the Dean Lamaar Estate in the distance.

INT. TEDDY BARTH'S HOME - DAY

As the police, led by Lomax and Biggs, storm inside and arrest Teddy Barth and Andrew.

And Lomax turns to Teddy who's being handcuffed...

LOMAX

You should've been an actor in the good old days, Teddy, not a secretary... that was a hell of an act at dementia you gave me.

Teddy just looks down to his feet as Lomax checks out a computer blueprint of the house that Thelonious just printed out for him.

LOMAX

Dean was paranoid. He built an escape tunnel and panic room in between his house and Teddy's.

And they head down the stairs.

INT. TEDDY BARTH'S BASEMENT - SAME

Lomax checks the blue prints and points to a boiler.

LOMAX

It's behind there.

They approach the boiler and Biggs feels it.

BIGGS

It's a fake.

LOMAX

I just couldn't get my mind around who could hate this man so much that they would kill two innocent people years after his death.

(beat)

But the only person with all that hate is that man himself. And it's not years after his death...

Suddenly, the boiler and whole wall it's on... slides open to reveal...

A BEDROOM

Where stands... waiting for them...

DEAN LAMAAR

Gentlemen.

INT. LA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT/HALLWAY - DAY

LOMAX (V.O. POST LAP)

... because he didn't die at all.

Lomax heads down the hall. Biggs finds his side.

BIGGS
 Thelonious got the motherload from Andrew's computer. He hired the killer out of Chicago. Chicago PD and FBI are on it now.

Lomax nods.

BIGGS
 Also, Amy Cheever called and wanted to thank you.

LOMAX
 Noted.

BIGGS
 In person. She offered up a fancy dinner on Lamaar.

Lomax smiles...

LOMAX
 I appreciate it... but tell her a card will more than suffice.

As Lomax takes that in while heading into the interrogation room...

INT. LA COUNTY SHERRIF'S DEPARTMENT/INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Lomax heads in. Dean Lamaar sits there. Bump and Corner finishes setting up the camera then looks excitedly over to Lomax... who hands him a \$20 bill.

LOMAX
 Congrats. Welcome to the team.

Bump and Corner pockets his winnings with a smile as he goes.

And we now get...

FOOTAGE OF DEAN'S LAMAAR CONFESSION

DEAN LAMAAR
 My father wasn't a good man. I'm not going to lie, he was sadistic. He would often throw me in the cellar when he got angry or when he drank.

AND BIG JIM

Sitting at his dinner table... laughing...

He's sitting across from Lomax and Diana. They're here for dinner again.

As Big Jim finishing his story and the table bursts out in laughter...

BACK TO THE FOOTAGE OF DEAN LAMAAR'S CONFESSION

DEAN LAMAAR

One time I found this lump of coal
and began to draw on the cellar
wall to keep from going crazy. I
wrote characters... animals. But
they spoke. And then they built me
an empire. Those animals were the
true loves of my life.

Lomax's voice could he heard from behind the camera...

LOMAX (O.S.)

Then why'd you sell it?

DEAN LAMAAR

They told me they'd preserve the
brand... preserve the vision.

AND A PRESS CONFERENCE

Where Ike Rose shares a podium with Amy Cheever, THE GOVERNOR
and MAYOR and LT KILCULLEN. He happily announces the re-
opening of all Lamaar Studio facilities.

As he shakes Lt Kilcullen's hand...

AND BACK TO FOOTAGE OF DEAN LAMAAR'S CONFESSION

As Dean grows angry...

DEAN LAMAAR

But they didn't. The violence,
profanity, infidelity, nudity,
deals with Las Vegas mobsters!
(beat)
It's my name on this studio!!!

AND "MARK" FROM HOMELESS SHELTER

The man we remember beating Ronny Lucas to death with a
baseball bat. As he leaves a pub on a snowy night.

We're in Chicago. Suddenly, out of nowhere, LOCAL POLICE
OFFICERS converge on him.

As they slam him to the ground and cuff him...

AND BACK TO FOOTAGE OF DEAN LAMAAR'S CONFESSION

LOMAX (O.S.)

Why fake your own death?

DEAN LAMAAR

Because I knew I'd be the primary
suspect otherwise.

AND TERRY BIGGS

As he walks the streets of Lamaar Studio's Familyland with Marilyn and her FOUR DAUGHTERS... who are now his four daughters. They're here gratis of Ike Rose and they're having a great time.

They all stop at the Familyland theater who's marquee is broadcasting "Rambunctious Rabbit's Musical Adventure"

As the girls drag Terry Biggs into the theater...

AND BACK TO FOOTAGE OF DEAN LAMAAR'S CONFESSION

DEAN LAMAAR
My life, my company, everything...
was destroyed.

As he sucks in a deep breath then looks right at the camera...

DEAN LAMAAR
I really only had one thing to keep
me going.

LOMAX
Which was?

DEAN LAMAAR
Revenge.

AND DETECTIVE MIKE LOMAX

Wearing a robe, walks out of his small house and down his driveway. He picks up the newspaper and looks at the headline... "Lamaar Stages Death Then Reigns Terror On His Own Studio" It's important to also note the day on the newspaper... Monday.

LOMAX (V.O.)
There are other things that could
keep someone going when all is
lost.

Lomax opens his mailbox and sifts through his mail...

DEAN LAMAAR (V.O.)
Yeah... like what?

And as Detective Mike Lomax lands on a new letter from Joannie, we...

FADE OUT

END OF THE PILOT