

CHRISTINE
SCENE 1

~~TERRY KAMINSKI (V.O.)~~

~~I have written over thirty letters
to the Innocence Project in the
hope that someone, someday, will
believe my innocence...~~

START

INT. CLARK RYLANCE OFFICE - MORNING.

CLARK RYLANCE - Lawyer, Law Professor, early forties, good looking, reliable, honest, secret crush on Christine - is working in his office, eating Indian food, reading a file.

Christine enters and drops the *TERRY KAMINSKI FILE* on his desk.

CLARK

Again? How many times do we have to go over this?

CHRISTINE

Wait...Clark, just let me...

CLARK

(standing up)
Christine, I told you, we can't do anything with this.

CHRISTINE

(overlaps)

Please. Just listen. Sit.

(Clark is about to speak)

SIT!

Clark obeys. Christine opens the file and explains:

CHRISTINE

OK. Terry Kaminski wrote letters every year since he was imprisoned. And we couldn't take the case--

CLARK

Because his semen was found in Emily Butler's body. DNA proved he raped her. She was 16...

CHRISTINE

Wait. I know. Wait. Now, in almost every letter he explains his arrest. But some early letters are more detailed than others. In a few of them, he mentions that after Jenny Butler ID'd him at the police station, he was photographed by a police photographer.

She opens the file page to *NUDE PHOTOS* of *TERRY KAMINSKI* at 19 years old. Clark reacts to the male nude photos;

CLARK

WOAH! Little early in the day for me, Christine.

CHRISTINE

There were no marks on his body.

CLARK

Again, his DNA was semen. Blood DNA proved Jared Bankowski committed the murders.

CHRISTINE

WILL YOU SHUT UP!

(Clark is surprised)

Sorry. Sorry. I haven't slept. OK. Now I thought, "Well if they took police photos of Terry Kaminski they must have taken photos of Jared Bankowski". Figures, right?

CLARK

I am now afraid to disagree with you so keep going.

CHRISTINE

There's no mention of police photos of Jared Bankowski either in the Defense discovery documents or on any DA's evidence list before trial. No photos of Bankowski after his arrest were used at trial. Which I thought was weird because of this--

She opens to a *GRUESOME PHOTO OF VICTIM FRANCES BUTLER'S BLOODIED HANDS AND FINGERS, SOME OF HER NAILS RIPPED OFF*. Clark, eating Indian food, reacts to the graphic images;

CLARK

Jesus!

CHRISTINE

Now, the DA's DNA case against Jared Bankowski was all about Frances and Emily Butler's fingernails - his DNA found under their nails because they both fought hard, his blood and skin samples under their nails meant they cut him. I tracked down the police photographer. Guy named Barbotti. Retired. Lives in Lock Haven. Everything he's shot he's transferred to digital files.

Christine shows him *POLICE PHOTOS OF A NUDE JARED BANKOWSKI*.

CLARK

(jokes)

OK, now you're doing it on purpose!

CHRISTINE

There's not a mark on him, Clark.

Seriously, Clark examines the pictures. Jared Bankowski has no scratches or marks indicating a struggle.

CHRISTINE

Trial transcripts say the murders happened between 4:30 and 5:30 PM. Jared was arrested between 2:30 and 3 AM that night. The crime scene blood samples they had on Bankowski were substantial. Only vampires heal that fast. Why didn't the Defense find these in discovery and use them at trial? Why didn't the DA's office have them on their evidence list?

(Clark is about to answer)

I'll tell you why. Because no one asked for them.

CLARK

Well, Prosecution had positive DNA results...

(Christine about to speak)

--AND Bankowski was ID'd by an eye witness.

CHRISTINE

A 12 year old girl with the flu hiding under a couch who just watched her family murdered.

Beat. OK, something's not right. They both feel it.

CLARK

The Court of Appeals decision was announced. Clemency was denied. They're scheduling Bankowski's execution date for next month.

Christine registers this news. But Clark is disturbed by something in what Christine is presenting. Cautiously:

CLARK

Start over.

STOP

END OF ACT ONE.

~~Jared is surprised and curious.~~

INT. DEATH ROW VISITORS ROOM - ROCKVIEW - MORNING

Jared is escorted into the prisoners side of the visitors room. He is curious to see who is visiting him. He finds:

START

Christine, dressed up like a white trash ex-wife, playing a part; low cut, tight mini, lots of make-up. She's anxious about Jared's reaction.

Jared is amused and curious as he sits before on the opposite side of the bullet proof glass. The cubicle dividers are deep, so there is some privacy from the Guards at the doors, but not from the video surveillance.

JARED

Sweetheart. I hardly recognize you.

CHRISTINE

(whispers)

Thanks. My name is...

JARED

Show me your tits.

Beat. Christine hides anger, ignoring his request.

CHRISTINE

My name is Christine Rosa. I work for the Innocence Project. Sort of. I'm an intern. I'm taking my bar exam next month.

Jared stands. Christine tries to stop him by saying:

CHRISTINE

My father was on Death Row. He was executed.

He turns to go when Christine calls out:

CHRISTINE

Wait!

Jared turns back to see; Christine is unbuttoning her blouse. Jared can't believe she's doing it. He sits back down. Christine slowly unbuttons her blouse as she speaks.

CHRISTINE

Why won't you let them take a new blood sample? -concealed

Jared just stares. Christine opens her blouse. Beat.

JARED

All I see is a bra.

Christine, pissed off, begins to open her bra from the front.

QUICK CUT TO:

INT. VIDEO MONITOR PANEL/DEATH ROW - CONTINUOUS

The Guard stares, checking that no one sees him watching.

INT. DEATH ROW VISITORS ROOM - CONTINUOUS - MORNING

Jared watches, like a kid at Xmas. But Christine knows she has Jared under her control now, so she times the opening of her bra with her next statement to get the full effect;

CHRISTINE

I met with your mother.

This changes Jared's attitude immediately. Christine opens her bra she is no longer sexy. Now Jared's all business.

JARED

Why!? What did she say to you?

CHRISTINE

I guess foreplay's over.

Christine buttons up her bra and blouse as she continues;

CHRISTINE

She says it's your decision...
When they arrested you, did you
remember the police taking photos:

Christine presses Jared's nude police photo to the glass. Jared looks confused, listening, a slow burn in him;

CHRISTINE

When they picked you up later that
night, you were with a...

(reads)

Loretta Strauss. A week later,
Loretta Strauss disappeared. Like
she never existed. She's still a
Missing Person.

Jared betrays no recognition of the name...

CHRISTINE

Before she disappeared, Loretta
Strauss was arrested on a DUI.

CHRISTINE

Because she had a record, she was put in county. Her bail was paid for by a man ...

(reads)

...Louie Antonik.

At the mention of Antonik, Jared looks worried.

CHRISTINE

Antonik was part of the Port Richmond Kielbasa Posse. He died of an aneurysm six months after Loretta disappeared. Except I can't find a coroner's report or death certificate anywhere to prove it.

JARED EXPLODES, hitting the glass, startling Christine;

JARED

GET OUT OF HERE! Stay out of this. And stay away from my mother.

GUARD IN ROOM

(OVERLAP SHOUTS)

BANKOWSKI!

Jared regains his cool. Christine is genuinely shaken.

CHRISTINE

It's a blood sample. It'll take less than 20 seconds.

JARED

What do you care?

CHRISTINE

Something about your case isn't what it looks like. And nobody believes me. I don't know you at all - maybe you're an absolute shit. I don't care. And if you want to die, that's your right. But I don't like it when the Law gets manipulated by people who think they matter more than other people. Like my father. Like you. I hate their arrogance. I hate them feeling safe. I hate they feel entitled to feel safe. I want to make them sweat, even if they win. Don't you?

Jared, for the first time, likes what he hears. Christine is finished. Jared studies her before he replies:

JARED

Can you guarantee me something?
No matter what happens, you make
sure my blood is tested.

CHRISTINE

(confused)

Of course. That's why I'm --

JARED

No, I mean no matter what happens -
can you guarantee me that?

CHRISTINE

I guarantee the test will happen.

Jared nods. He rises. Christine can't believe he's agreed.

JARED

If you run with this, little girl,
be prepared to run real fast.

Jared stands by the door, knocks, The Guard opens it, Jared
exits. Christine is left alone, exhilarated and unnerved.

STOP

STOP

EXT. STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE - ROCKVIEW - NIGHT

Christine walks to her car. She seems to be in control. She
tries to unlock her door but drops her keys. She tries again
but she's shaking. Suddenly, she begins to break down and
cry. The experience with Jared, her past rushing in on her
(as we will discover)...

Christine leans against the car, sinking to the ground,
hiding herself as she cries. Alone and vulnerable, like a
little girl.

END OF ACT THREE