

Officer Down
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FADE IN:

EXT. BEACON HILL, BOSTON - NIGHT

The residential area is completely deserted. The brownstones lining the streets are dark. Wind blows leaves across the sidewalks and pavement.

Down the street, headlights appear as a police car pulls up.

INT. POLICE CAR

DAVID MCDONNELL, 30, drives, as his partner, KEVIN HARRISON, 30, sits in the passenger seat sipping a cup of coffee.

DAVID takes his eyes off the road for a moment to check the clock on the dashboard; it reads 2:00 AM.

DAVID

One more hour of this bullshit.

KEVIN

Thank God.

(Beat)

Remind me to hit Williams for calling in sick again. I swear if we have to fill in for that son of a bitch again...

DAVID

Calm down. We're almost done.

EXT. BEACON HILL, BOSTON

The cruiser comes to the end of the block and turns onto the next street.

INT. POLICE CAR

Keeping his eyes on the road, DAVID points to the cupholder.

DAVID
Mind passing that?

KEVIN takes another cup from the holder and passes it to DAVID. Suddenly, the police radio comes to life with a burst of static. KEVIN jumps, spilling the coffee all over DAVID.

DAVID
Fuck!

DAVID slams on the breaks as he attempts to save his lap from the scalding beverage.

RADIO
Unit 180 come in.

As KEVIN reaches for the radio, he tosses napkins to DAVID.

KEVIN
Yeah.

RADIO
You guys still around Beacon Hill?

KEVIN
Yep.

RADIO
We just got a call reporting suspicious activity on Beacon Street.

KEVIN scoffs.

KEVIN
What does that mean?

RADIO
A woman reported seeing an unmarked van pull up across the street from her home about ten minutes ago. Says two masked men got out.

KEVIN
What's the address?

RADIO

30 Beacon.

JO

We're on our way.

He hangs up the receiver.

KEVIN

Fucking wonderful. Always on our shift.

(Beat)

Should we turn on the blue and reds?

DAVID tosses a pile of wet napkins onto the floor.

DAVID

And risk waking up one of these fine citizens?

EXT. BEACON HILL, BOSTON

The cruiser accelerates and turns onto Beacon Street. Up ahead, a loud alarm sounds from a brownstone on the left, number 30. A white van sits in front of the house.

The door to the building opens, and two BURGLARS wearing black ski masks walk out, carrying bags. Seeing the BURGLARS, DAVID stops the car.

It is too late. BURGLAR 1 pulls out a gun and begins to fire at the car.

INT. POLICE CAR

The two OFFICERS quickly remove their guns from the holsters. KEVIN reaches for the radio.

KEVIN

Dispatch, this is unit 180 requesting backup. We are under fire from two armed suspects.

EXT. BEACON HILL, BOSTON

As BURGLAR 2 runs to the van with the bags, BURGLAR 1 continues firing at the car until the magazine is empty. BURGLAR 2 pulls out a small gun, and begins firing.

A bullet hits near the police car's gas tank.

INT. POLICE CAR

KEVIN

We've got to get out of here. Come on!

KEVIN pulls on DAVID and quickly unbuckles his seat belt. He throws open the car door.

EXT. BEACON HILL, BOSTON

KEVIN stumbles out of the car. Bullets whiz past his head. He dives onto the ground and begins to fire back, taking cover behind a parked car.

BURGLAR 2 aims his gun at a puddle of gasoline forming under the police car and fires. The bullet strikes the puddle. The cruise is now on fire.

KEVIN

(To DAVID)

Get out of the car!

DAVID (O.S.)

I can't! My seat belt is stuck!

KEVIN moves from behind the car with his gun out. He fires at the two burglars and hits BURGLAR 1 in the chest.

A bullet strikes KEVIN in the left shoulder. The impact throws him against the car. He drops to the ground.

INT. KEVIN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - DAY

KEVIN jolts up in bed, covered in sweat. He looks around the small hospital room. There is only one bed in the room. A clock on the dresser reads 7:00 PM, December 20 2006. A door in the corner of the room leads to a small bathroom.

The door to his room opens. Standing in the doorway is LINDA, 20, KEVIN's nurse. She holds a dinner tray and smiles at him before walking inside. KEVIN sits up and reaches for the tray with his right arm.

KEVIN

Here, let me take that from you.

She resists.

LINDA

No, it's okay. I got it.

KEVIN nods as LINDA pulls the table attached to KEVIN's bed closer to him. She places the dinner tray down.

LINDA

How are you feeling today?

KEVIN

(Smiling)

Fine.

The smile disappears from LINDA's face. She stares at KEVIN. Recognizing this look, KEVIN stops smiling too.

LINDA

Then why are you pale?

KEVIN

I had the dream again.

As KEVIN begins to eat LINDA sits down at the edge of the bed.

LINDA

Which one?

KEVIN

Lately I've just been having
flashbacks of that night. It's so
real though. I can see his face
clearly, screaming and clawing at
the seat belt. I can feel the heat
of the fire.

She glances at an empty cup sitting on the dresser. LINDA
looks down into the garbage can by her feet. She sighs.

LINDA

Well, maybe you should...

KEVIN

What?

KEVIN sits up again. He suddenly shouts out in pain and
grabs his left shoulder.

LINDA

What is it? What's wrong?

KEVIN

My arm!

LINDA

Your arm?

He begins to pull he shirt sleeve up, but LINDA stops him.

LINDA

Don't. I'll take care of it.

She stands up.

LINDA

I'll go get you some painkillers
for that.

As LINDA begins to exit, KEVIN grabs her arm.

KEVIN

Don't worry. It'll go away in a
second.

LINDA

I want you to get better.

She pulls away from his grip and leaves the room. The door closes. A few seconds later, the door opens and LINDA returns, holding a cup of water and two small white pills. She hands them to KEVIN.

He smiles, puts the pills into his mouth, and takes a drink of water. She returns the smile as KEVIN hands her the empty cup.

LINDA

Good boy. I have to feed my other patients, but I'll come and check on you when I'm done.

KEVIN nods and LINDA walks out. Before she can close the door, a hand falls on her shoulder. LINDA jumps.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

LINDA turns around to face DR. SAMUEL WARNOCK, 60, KEVIN's physician.

LINDA

Oh, you scared me.

DR. WARNOCK

(Smiles)

I'm sorry. I've been looking for you. I wanted to ask you about our friend Mr. Harrison. How's he doing?

LINDA

(Whispering)

I don't think he's been taking his medication.

LINDA glances back into the room.

DR. WARNOCK
What makes you say that?

INT. KEVIN'S HOSPITAL ROOM

Hearing the conversation, KEVIN looks up. He sees LINDA and DR. WARNOCK talking. They occasionally glance up at him. When DR. WARNOCK realizes that KEVIN has noticed them, he shuts the door.

KEVIN removes a napkin from the tray; he spits into it. On the napkin are now the two pills KEVIN "swallowed" earlier. He is about to dump the napkin into the garbage, but stops.

He looks down into the trash. There are several other pills spread throughout. Carefully, he stands and enters the bathroom. The toilet flushes.

KEVIN reenters his room and walks to the window. Opening the curtains, he looks outside at the sunny parking lot. Scanning outside, KEVIN'S eyes shift around. They stop at a man walking towards the hospital.

As the man nears, KEVIN recognizes him; it is DAVID. As if on cue, DAVID stops walking and looks up. DAVID'S hand raises and points at KEVIN. KEVIN smiles and waves.

Suddenly, the door to KEVIN'S room swings open. KEVIN lets out a yelp and steps back. He turns around to see DR. WARNOCK standing in the doorway.

DR. WARNOCK
Something wrong?

KEVIN
No, not at all. I just saw someone
in the parking lot?

DR. WARNOCK
Outside?

KEVIN nods. DR. WARNOCK removes a clipboard from his coat and starts writing on it.

DR. WARNOCK
Everything all right?

KEVIN
Everything's fine.

DR. WARNOCK
I saw Linda outside...

KEVIN raises an eyebrow.

KEVIN
Oh? What did guys talk about?

DR. WARNOCK
She said you had another dream.

KEVIN
(Nodding)
Nothing too bad. Just shook me up.

DR. WARNOCK
Why?

KEVIN looks strangely at the doctor.

KEVIN
It was about the night I got shot.

DR. WARNOCK nods and writes. KEVIN stares at the clipboard.

KEVIN
What are you writing?

DR. WARNOCK
Some notes on your progress.
(Beat)
Linda also said you've been having
pain in your shoulder?

KEVIN
It comes and goes.

DR. WARNOCK

Well, have you been taking your medication?

KEVIN

Sometimes. I don't like how it makes me feel. The pain usually goes away after a minute or so.

DR. WARNOCK writes more notes and then looks at his watch.

DR. WARNOCK

It's almost eight. Why don't you try and make it an early night?

KEVIN nods and looks at the clock on the wall. DR. WARNOCK starts to leave the room.

KEVIN

Yeah, maybe after David leaves.

DR. WARNOCK turns and stares at KEVIN.

DR. WARNOCK

David is here now?

KEVIN

Yes. I saw him in the parking lot.

The DOCTOR sighs.

DR. WARNOCK

I'm here all night, so call if you need me. Otherwise, I'll come and check on you in the morning.

DR. WARNOCK gives a half-smile and leaves, closing the door behind him. KEVIN gets into bed. His eyes grow heavy and close.

KEVIN's eyes open to see DAVID standing at the foot of his bed, smiling and pointing.

KEVIN

Hey buddy.

INT. KEVIN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - LATER

The dinner tray is empty. KEVIN picks up his coffee cup and tries to drink, but there is nothing inside.

KEVIN reaches over to press the call button on the side of his bed. As he stretches his left arm, he winces and rubs his shoulder. He presses the button, but nothing happens.

KEVIN

Damn.

He stands and walks to the door, holding the cup in his hand. KEVIN reaches for the knob and turns it, but it won't move. KEVIN jiggles the knob again. Nothing.

KEVIN

What the?

He bangs on the door.

KEVIN

Hello!

The door opens and LINDA is standing outside.

LINDA

What's going on in here?

KEVIN

I wanted another cup of coffee but my door was locked from the outside.

She takes the cup from KEVIN's hand.

KEVIN

Why was my door locked?

LINDA

Hold on. I'll go get you coffee.

She walks away and returns a moment later with the cup and a clipboard. Handing KEVIN the coffee, she leads him back into his room.

KEVIN

When did David leave? I must have
fallen asleep?

LINDA

You had a visitor? I didn't even
see.

She writes on the clipboard as KEVIN watches intently

LINDA

Go back to sleep. We'll talk about
it tomorrow.

KEVIN doesn't move.

KEVIN

I just need the bathroom.

LINDA begins to leave. KEVIN grabs the door.

KEVIN

(Smiling)

I got it.

LINDA nods and exits. Slowly, KEVIN closes the door, stopping right before it locks. He places a doorstop underneath to prevent the door from fully closing.

INT. KEVIN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

The room is completely dark and silent. KEVIN flips on the light on his dresser, and looks at the clock; it says 12:00 AM, DECEMBER 21 2006. KEVIN gets out of bed.

He slowly walks to the door and pulls it open. He grips the edge of the door, looking outside. The hallway is dark and empty.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

KEVIN peers into the nurse's station across the hall. Inside, BILLY, 20, a young orderly sits at a desk, reading a magazine. After a few minutes, BILLY stands and leaves the room.

INT. NURSE'S STATION

Entering, KEVIN finds a file cabinet labeled CURRENT PATIENTS. He opens it and sifts through until he finds his chart. Opening the folder, KEVIN is about to read the contents when suddenly, BILLY's footsteps approach from the hallway.

Quietly, KEVIN shuts the file drawer and leaves the station, reentering the hallway.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

Down the corridor, KEVIN hears a woman crying. Tucking the folder under his arm, he tiptoes down the hall getting nearer to the crying.

KEVIN sees a light on under the door of the source of the crying. He knocks.

KEVIN

Ma'am? Is everything okay?

The crying stops. He knocks again. Still no answer.

KEVIN

It's all right. I'm a police officer.

He pushes the door open and sees a room similar to his own.

INT. OLD WOMAN'S ROOM

An OLD WOMAN sits on the bed with her face in her hands. She begins crying again. KEVIN steps toward the OLD WOMAN.

KEVIN

Ma'am?

Slowly the OLD WOMAN looks up and holds out her arms for KEVIN to see. KEVIN squints and sees that the OLD WOMAN has cuts all over her arms; blood drips from the wounds.

OLD WOMAN

Look what you've made me do Henry!

KEVIN's eyes widen in horror. His mouth drops open.

OLD WOMAN

What will the children say Henry?

As the OLD WOMAN begins to stand, KEVIN runs out of the room.

INT. HOSPITAL HALLWAY

KEVIN slams the door and turns back toward his room, breaking into a run. He has almost reached the corner when BILLY steps out. He conceals something in within his pockets and smiles.

BILLY

Hey buddy, how'd you get out?

BILLY reaches out his hand and helps KEVIN to his feet. He places his hand on KEVIN's left shoulder. KEVIN screams and slams against the wall. His medical chart falls.

BILLY

What's wrong

When BILLY spots the medical chart on the ground, his smile disappears.

BILLY

Where'd you get that? You sneaky
son of a bitch!

BILLY reaches down to pick up the folder, but KEVIN shouts. He begins clawing at the orderly. BILLY manages to snatch the chart and steps closer to KEVIN. He pulls a pair of handcuffs from his pocket and dangles them in front of KEVIN.

KEVIN

What the fuck? I'm the cop here!

BILLY

(Laughing)

Well Officer, you're under arrest.

KEVIN pushes BILLY, but BILLY doesn't move; he has KEVIN cornered against the wall.

BILLY

Don't worry. Everything will be
okay.

KEVIN punches BILLY in the face. BILLY falls onto the floor with a sickening thud. He lay unconscious. KEVIN retrieves his chart from BILLY's grip.

KEVIN runs. The hallway leading to is too dark and KEVIN cannot find his room. Feeling along the walls, KEVIN finally finds a door, opens it and steps inside.

INT. BALD MAN'S HOSPITAL ROOM

The room is dark. KEVIN flips on the light switch, and sees it is empty.

He closes the door and blocks it with a chair. He gets into the bed, when suddenly the bathroom door opens. A BALD MAN, 50, walks out; his face is badly scarred. He looks up at KEVIN and laughs. KEVIN hops out of the bed.

The BALD MAN chases KEVIN around the room with his arms out. KEVIN ducks. The BALD MAN misses him.

KEVIN gets up, grabs the BALD MAN by the shoulders and throws him against the bed. The BALD MAN hits his head on the frame and drops to the ground. KEVIN sighs.

He looks around the room. The room is exactly like his, except this room has a TV on the wall. KEVIN turns back to the BALD MAN. He bends down and looks the man over.

Suddenly, the TV turns on. KEVIN looks at it. Onscreen, a police car is parked in front of a house. Two BURGLARS are firing guns at the car.

KEVIN

Huh?

He jumps up and scans the room for the TV remote. It is nowhere to be found. He attempts to turn off the TV or change the channel, but nothing happens.

He stops as DAVID appears onscreen. DAVID turns to KEVIN, smiles, and points at the medical chart in KEVIN's hand.

Opening the folder, KEVIN begins to read. The medical chart says: KEVIN PATRICK HARRISON, D.O.B. 3/20/1976. DATE ADMITTED: 10/10/2003.

He turns to the clock on the dresser, which reads: 12:14 AM, DECEMBER 21 2006. His eyes wide open in surprise, KEVIN sits down on the bed. He looks back at the chart. The letterhead at the top reads PINE VIEW MENTAL HOSPITAL.

His eyes scan over the words DATE ADMITTED: 10/10/2003.

KEVIN

What does this mean? I've been
here three years?

Someone outside bangs loudly on the door. KEVIN turns to the door. He suddenly grabs his left shoulder in pain. He screams; tears drip from his eyes.

Loud voices are heard outside. The banging continues. KEVIN hides behind the bed. A loud crash is heard on the door, and a large dent appears in the wood.

KEVIN

Go away!

Another crash outside. The door is broken down. DR. WARNOCK and LINDA rush into the room. DR. WARNOCK runs over to KEVIN and helps him up.

DR. WARNOCK

What are you doing in here Kevin?

KEVIN holds up the medical chart.

KEVIN

(Whimpering)

What is this? Three years?!

DR. WARNOCK shakes KEVIN violently.

DR. WARNOCK

Yes, you've been here for three years.

KEVIN looks at the DOCTOR suspiciously.

KEVIN

For a bullet wound to the shoulder?

DR. WARNOCK

No, not for a bullet wound.

KEVIN

Then why? Why have you been keeping me here?

DR. WARNOCK

You've been having trouble distinguishing reality.

A MAN enters the room. It is too dark to make out his features. KEVIN squints at the man; it is DAVID.

KEVIN

(To DAVID)

Tell them the truth! Tell them I'm not crazy!

DAVID
(Smiling)
I can't help you.

KEVIN begins to cry again.
(MORE)

KEVIN
David, please!

DR. WARNOCK
Who are you talking to? David's
dead.

As KEVIN stares, DAVID's face becomes blurry. KEVIN shakes his head. DAVID is now BILLY, the orderly, holding an ice pack to his face.

KEVIN
But... But he came to visit me
today.

Putting his hands on KEVIN's shoulders, DR. WARNOCK moves KEVIN to the bed. They sit.

DR. WARNOCK
After David died, you started
blaming yourself. Saying you could
have saved him. Then the dreams
and the hallucinations started.
You started having dreams of the
night he died. Your family had you
committed here.

KEVIN
Committed?

DR. WARNOCK
Yes, this is a mental institution.
We thought we would be able to help
you, and at first the treatment was
working. We gave you medication to
stop the hallucinations.

DR. WARNOCK(cont'd)

We believed that you were getting better, but then you stopped taking the medication.

KEVIN

But I saw him outside...

KEVIN points to the window; it has disappeared.

KEVIN

... and on the TV!

He looks up to where the TV was, but it too is gone.

DR. WARNOCK

This is a mental hospital, not a vacation resort Kevin. We have no windows or televisions in the patients' rooms.

KEVIN

But what about the others I saw here.

He looks down and points at the unconscious BALD MAN.

DR. WARNOCK

Other patients. Sick people, like you. Your mind only made them seem worse than they are.

BILLY steps forward, cautiously reaching his hand to KEVIN. KEVIN resists. As DR. WARNOCK places his hand on KEVIN's left shoulder, KEVIN screams out.

DR. WARNOCK

It's okay Kevin, its all in your mind. Your shoulder healed over two years ago.

Carefully rolling up KEVIN's sleeve, DR. WARNOCK fingers the healed, but slightly scarred skin. BILLY opens his hand revealing a pill and cup of water. KEVIN shakes his head.

DR. WARNOCK
Please Kevin. They'll make the
pain and visions all go away.

Eyeing the pills for a moment, KEVIN finally reaches over and
takes them from the ORDERLY. He swallows them down.

DR. WARNOCK stands and turns to LINDA.

DR. WARNOCK
Will you help me take Kevin back to
his room please?

LINDA nods.

DR. WARNOCK
(To BILLY)
You can go home Billy. Mr.
Harrison has put you through enough
trouble tonight.

INT. KEVIN'S HOSPITAL ROOM - MINUTES LATER

KEVIN lie in his bed in a drugged state. LINDA stands in the
doorway.

LINDA
Goodnight Kevin.

KEVIN
Good... night.

She shuts the light and close the door.

As KEVIN drifts off to sleep, DAVID'S image slowly appears at
the foot of the bed again. KEVIN slowly sits up in bed and
stares at the ghost.

DAVID smiles and points at KEVIN.

FADE OUT.