

Foley
Slaming on table
Tapping table

Retribution on Whitechapel

By

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1 BLACK

Flash

Checker Liar Pictures and Warlords Productions present

FLASH

2 INT. DARK BASEMENT

Hands putting on latex gloves.

NICHOLS (V.O.)

The victim had been attacked in a
number of ways.

FLASH

3 INT. GARAGE

A left hand selects a baseball bat from a shelf.

CHAPMAN (V.O.)

Yeah, somebody really had a field
day with him.

FLASH

4 INT. DARK KITCHEN

A left hand carefully selects a knife from a knife block.

EDDOWES (V.O.)

(sarcastically)
Couldn't happened to a nicer
person.

FLASH

5 INT. CAR

A hand puts a key into the ignition.

KELLY (V.O.)

(defensively)
Hey, Jack Viscariot was no hero,
but he dedicated his life to law
enforcement. What gives YOU the
right to spit on his grave?

2.

FLASH

6 INT. TABLE

A left hand opens a box of bullets.

STRIDE (V.O.)
(uncharacteristically
commanding)
Officer! Your honor. Stop it.
(trying to calm tempers)
We need to backtrack. What do we
know for sure?

FLASH

7 BLACK

Man GROANS.

Baseball bat CONNECTS with something.

Knife STAB.

Gunshot

Tires SCREECH.

8 INT. POTTER'S FIELD- THE NIGHT BEFORE THE ELECTION

FLASH

1 man taking a picture of 5 girls. Menu on the table
says THE POTTER'S FIELD.

The camera winds its way through the restaurant, picking up
pieces of the conversations.

MAN 1
...and this was in early November
of 1888 when they found the last
one...

MAN 2
(at different table)
Well that didn't work, so he started
sending letters.

MAN 3
(at different table)
No, no! I didn't mean it like that.

WOMAN 1
(at same table)
Prostitutes! How dare you...

Over her shoulder, a black sedan pulls up to the curb outside the restaurant.

At a table near the back corner is JACK VISCARIOT. The sheriff. He's sitting with someone, but we never see who.

VISCARIOT
...Shame? Not at all. Not at all. I mean, sure we lost a state's witness, but a killer's off the streets right?

VISCARIOT takes a bite of his steak and a drink from his glass of wine.

VISCARIOT
Honestly though, Ted, I needed this. What with the election tomorrow, and my campaign manager and miss See-You-Next-Tuesday at home, I never get the chance to relax. Know what I mean?

He nods like he knows what his guest's answer will be.

VISCARIOT
The thing is though...

VISCARIOT sees Peter TABRAM over his companion's shoulder

VISCARIOT (CONT.)
Peter!

VISCARIOT gets up. He goes and greets TABRAM. They talk for a few seconds.

TABRAM motions that he has to go. VISCARIOT tries to convince him to stay. TABRAM really must go. VISCARIOT shrugs and makes his way back to the table.

VISCARIOT
There's a hopeless case.

NICHOLS
(unseen)
Tabram?

VISCARIOT
Yep, And he could have been so much. Mayor, Sheriff, even Governor. But he fell in with that hooker. That is a nasty business, I don't need to tell you. You take a drink from that cup...

VISCARIOT makes a movement with his hand like he's slitting his throat. VISCARIOT raises his glass and drinks. He starts coughing. He upsets the table and stumbles from the room.

9 EXT. POTTER'S FIELD- THE NIGHT BEFORE THE ELECTION

VISCARIOT stumbles through the door. The image is blurry and jumpy. He stumbles around the corner and leans up against the wall, coughing the whole time. His hands hold his stomach & he is sweating profusely.

Out of nowhere, something hits him over the head from behind. He falls to the ground. Footsteps are heard running. But they are heard running both away and toward VISCARIOT.

VISCARIOT staggers to his feet. There is blood coming out of his ears. He tries to stumble away down the alley, but a silhouette appears at the far end. Steam from a manhole shrouds him, the silhouette's arm moves, a gunshot rings out. and VISCARIOT, hit in the stomach, doubles over. The silhouette suddenly vanishes.

VISCARIOT, trying to stem the river of blood coming from his abdomen, staggers up and tries to move away, but a knife comes down and stabs him in the back. A car's ignition is heard and the killer with the knife takes it and runs. VISCARIOT collapses to his knees and after a few seconds tries to crawl away.

He falls into the street, but as he tries to cross, the black sedan from outside the restaurant speeds down the street and runs VISCARIOT over. VISCARIOT lies, spread eagled, face up on the road.

As the camera zooms out and moves back, we see that the street name is painted on the pavement. VISCARIOT's body lies at the corner of "cross street" and "whitechapel court". VISCARIOT's body is positioned so that it lies right above the word "WHITECHAPEL".

10 FLASH

Everything but the word "WHITECHAPEL" becomes black, and the words "RETRIBUTION ON" appear in red above it.

RETRIBUTION ON WHITECHAPEL

The tile glows for a second.

FLASH

11 INT. MAJOR COURTHOUSE-NIGHT

KELLY sits in his office behind his desk. He is deep in thought.

KELLY (V.O.)

I'm calling a case meeting. You, Me, Captain CHAPMAN, Dr. NICHOLS and the first officer on the scene. If anyone knows anything...we're the ones running the case, we're the ones to report to. If we pool our information, we might at least walk away with some clear answers.

12 EXT. MAJOR COURTHOUSE-NIGHT

NICHOLS gets out of a car and walks up the steps to the courthouse.

NICHOLS (V.O.)

No usable evidence. As if this case wasn't unsolvable enough.

13 INT. MAJOR COURTHOUSE-NIGHT

STRIDE walks down a hallway. He has a briefcase in his hand.

STRIDE (V.O.)

One man, basically five murders, Whitechapel. It's Jack the Ripper all over again.

In a different hallway, CHAPMAN & EDDOWES walk side by side.

CHAPMAN (V.O.)

I examined the body. Hell of a way to die.

EDDOWES (V.O.)
Matches how he lived.

They turn off at the end of the hall and enter-

14 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS

EDDOWES & CHAPMAN take the last 2 seats. KELLY, STRIDE & NICHOLS are already present.

Silence. Each of the five waiting for another.

Officer Timothy EDDOWES. The first officer on the scene of JACK VISCARIOT's murder. The people in this room all outrank him by at least 2 promotions, but that also limits their ability to see clearly. EDDOWES is dramatic and speaks his mind regardless of who's listening.

Judge Charles KELLY. The reason for this meeting. With the murder of Sheriff VISCARIOT, the press has been going crazy and targeting him in particular. They want answers. After 2 days and no breaks in the case, KELLY called this meeting to consolidate evidence. He wants everyone focused and everything to go smoothly.

Captain John CHAPMAN. Chief of police and the second officer on the scene. It's been a while since he really got "hands on" with a case. CHAPMAN, while agreeing with EDDOWES on most things, is not as loud mouthed as his officer and will preface any inflammatory statements with "no disrespect...". He wants this case solved.

Dr. Ted NICHOLS. Leader of the crime lab. A man so engrossed in his work, that it's the only language he now speaks fluently. He is exact and is much more comfortable speaking about solid evidence than to real people. There is a well-hidden timidity to him. As if saying something other than facts might reveal an unauthorized emotion.

District Attorney Jeffrey STRIDE. The youngest man at the table. A whiz who breezed through law school and got a job as a district attorney at age 23.

Each man (except EDDOWES) has a folder of evidence in front of them. Various photos of JACK VISCARIOT'S body are spread out across the surface.

CHAPMAN
Where to begin?

KELLY

I suggest we start with the victim.

STRIDE

I agree.

CHAPMAN

OK, Dr. Nichols, you have the floor.

NICHOLS opens his folder

NICHOLS

The victim had been attacked in a number of ways.

EDDOWES rolls his eyes at the use of the word "victim"

CHAPMAN

Yeah, somebody really had a field day with him.

EDDOWES

(sarcastically)

Couldn't happened to a nicer person.

KELLY

(defensively)

Hey, he was no hero, but he dedicated his life to law enforcement. What right do you have to spit on his grave?

EDDOWES

Really? That's what we're starting with? Law enforcement? Yeah Judge, he dedicated his life alright, but it wasn't to protect & serve!

KELLY

- Deep Breaths

Officer, I realise you're not used to the intellectual side of police work, but...

STRIDE

(uncharacteristically commanding)

Officer! Your honour. Stop it.

(trying to calm tempers)

We need to backtrack. What do we know for sure?

Energy

CHAPMAN

We know that Jack Viscariot ~~went~~ to dinner three nights ago at The Potter's Field restaurant on Whitechapel Court. He was found dead later that night in the road out front.

proper English

STRIDE

The forensics shows that he had been poisoned, beaten, shot, stabbed and run over.

(disbelieving)

But you were unable to establish a definitive cause of death, Dr. Nichols?

NICHOLS

That is correct, Mr. Stride. The coroner determined that he died of blood loss, both internal and external. Any of the methods used would have had that effect.

STRIDE

Can he determine which happened first?

NICHOLS

He was only able to examine the body for a short period. There was only time for an abbreviated autopsy.

STRIDE

(realizing he is questioning a superior)

How come?

KELLY

Jack Viscariot was a very public individual, Mr. Stride. He was running for re-election and would have won. The press is hounding my office for answers about his death. That's why this case is a rush and that's why we are sitting here today.

KELLY pauses to let his words sink in to everyone in the room. EDDOWES is looking elsewhere.

KELLY

What else do you know, Dr. Nichols?

NICHOLS

The coroner was able to determine that all the events happened in a five minute time frame, ~~but there~~ is no immediate way to say which happened in what order.

KELLY

(moving right along)

Fine, do we have any leads on the suspects?

EDDOWES

Suspects? What makes you say it was more than one?

KELLY

(he's thought about this)

I wouldn't expect you to realize this, Officer Eddowes, but five causes of death suggests five killers.

murders

Nichols Realizes #1

FLASH

15 INT. CAR

A ~~left~~ hand shifts from Park to Drive.

FLASH

16 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS

As before

EDDOWES

(accusingly)

Mr. Kelly, your judge's bench has isolated you from the rest of us. You have no idea how people will behave.

FLASH

17 INT. DARK KITCHEN

A left hand sharpens the knife.

FLASH

18 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS

As before

KELLY

You're telling me, Officer, that a murderer would poison a man, only ~~to~~ then stab him, shoot him, beat him over the head, and then get into his car and run him over? No. This murder had many perpetrators.

suggest CHAPMAN - *Covering for Eddowes?*

No disrespect, your honour, but at this stage, ~~I~~ prefer to focus on facts of the case, instead of ... speculation. Dr. Nichols, the poison was administered orally?

NICHOLS

Yes, Captain Chapman, 20ml of an anticoagulant rodenticide was found in the chest cavity.

FLASH

19 INT. DARK BASEMENT

A left hand pours a small amount of poison into a vial.

FLASH

20 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS

As before

NICHOLS (CONT'D)

The bullet punctured the stomach and the poison leaked out into the surrounding area.

wait

CHAPMAN

Hang on a second, that tells us ~~something~~. We know he was poisoned **before** he was shot.

11.

FLASH

21 INT. TABLE

A left hand loads a .22 Revolver.

FLASH

22 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS

As before

STRIDE

~~Yeah~~, and we also know that the hit
and run happened last.

FLASH

23 INT. CAR

A foot presses down on the accelerator.

FLASH

24 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS

As before

CHAPMAN

How do we know that the hit and run
was intentional?

NICHOLS

The catalytic converter didn't burn
the body.

KELLY

(questioning)
Which tells us...

NICHOLS

The car hadn't been driven
recently. It was lying in wait.

STRIDE

But that doesn't prove--

KNOCK at the door. FREDERICK ABBERLINE enters-he is the
video technician in the crime lab.

ABBERLINE

Boss?

NICHOLS

(suddenly slightly
uncomfortable)

Yes, Abberline?

ABBERLINE

I thought you'd want to know.
There's no security footage of the
murder, Boss. Inside or out.

STRIDE

(relieved?)

Really? A restaurant with no
surveillance?

ABBERLINE

No, Boss. They say the tapes of
~~that night~~ were wiped. Data's lost.
sorry.

NICHOLS

(after a deep breath)

Okay. Thank you, Abberline.

ABBERLINE

Yes, Boss.

ABBERLINE exits.

CHAPMAN

So...no way to see what happened.

NICHOLS

Apparently not.

STRIDE

And no other evidence?

NICHOLS

No. The poison was a store bought
rat poison, the tire tracks could
be from any ~~one~~ of a thousand cars,
the gun wasn't ~~registered~~, the
knife wound isn't unique and we
still don't know what hit him over
the head.

FLASH

25 EXT. SIDEWALK

A left leg walks down the road, the bat hidden at his side.

FLASH

26 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS

As before

Here NICHOLS (CONT'D)
No outstanding DNA, and any trace
evidence left on the body by one
killer was contaminated by the
next.

CHAPMAN
(laughs)
Irony isn't it. One killer helps
over's
Pause - another get away.

STRIDE chuckles softly, even NICHOLS cracks a smile. EDDOWES
mutters something to himself.

KELLY
(very irritated)
Gentlemen, I will ask you to have a
little more decorum here. A man
died. A colleague. I will ask you
to control--

EDDOWES
(fed up with the situation) *p:7 table*
Drop the charade, Judge! Can we all
please stop pretending to care
about this guy? Jack Viscariot
Sure wasn't some hero cop. He didn't
pull kittens out of trees. Jack
Viscariot was a prick. He was a
prick when he was a cop, a prick
when he was detective and he was a
prick until three days ago when he
like was the sheriff. None of us give a
damn about this guy, why are we
pretending to care? All he ever did
was rip things out from under us.

EDDOWES looks around at the curious faces in the room.
EDDOWES stands up. Since no one else wanted to say it, it
falls to him. He walks around the room like a detective
explaining the truth.

EDDOWES (CONT'D)

No one sitting at this table can say they weren't ripped off by him. We all were. Judge, that Anderson case: Viscariot changed the date on the search warrant, stormed into your courtroom, caused half the evidence to be inadmissible, embarrassed you in front of the press and got Nick Anderson OUT of jail for the murder of his boss. Captain, The Swanson child murder: Back when you two were detectives, YOU found the baseball bat that was used to kill Kevin Swanson, but VISCARIOT wrote HIS name on the evidence bag *put* and got a promotion for it. Doctor, The Godley homicide: Sheriff Viscariot took you off the case and transferred it to a forensic team that was so *that* backlogged, they rushed through things and contaminated evidence. Probably because Derek Godley was killed to cover up Viscariot's campaign bribes. Mr. Stride, that Warren hanging: you know as well as I do that Thomas Warren did not just stand there and watch his wife commit suicide but that's what Viscariot said when he took you off the prosecution and handled it himself. Jack Viscariot ripped every single one of us off and put murderers back on the streets to further his own career. Why should we feel sympathy?

There are slight nods of agreement from STRIDE and CHAPMAN. Even NICHOLS shows that what EDDOWES said resonates with him, but he quickly corrects that.

NICHOLS *-Pause*

How we may feel regarding the victim ~~real~~ has no bearing on the case.

- Kelly Nods?

EDDOWES

Sure it does. We're looking for motive, aren't we? Everyone in this room had more than enough reason to want Jack Viscariot dead. You want suspects? Start with me. Start with

(MORE)

EDDOWES

you. ~~Hell,~~ start with anyone on the force. Just stop acting like this guy was a fallen angel.

KELLY

Officer, despite your own personal biases, Dr. Nichols is right. A man was killed and it is our duty to investigate.

EDDOWES

No. Judge, I hate to break it to you, but the real world is greyer than your ivory & ebony tower. Our duty is to make this city a better, safer place. As of three nights ago, a criminal is off the streets. Why do you want to punish someone for that?

KELLY

Because...

STRIDE

...because the press would eat you alive if you didn't.

KELLY looks aghast at his colleague.

STRIDE

Sorry Sir, but I agree with Eddowes. Viscariot's dead. The city will elect a better sheriff and we won't have him storming into courtrooms causing mistrials any more. I'm sorry, but I think we should walk away.

KELLY

And tell me, Jeffrey, what happens if we walk away?

CHAPMAN

The case is never solved. Maybe years from now, there'll be a break, but for now...

NICHOLS

Unless new evidence comes in, I can't do anything.

EDDOWES

There are no stellar witnesses.
People saw him stagger from the
restaurant, but that's it.

KELLY

So, we know he was poisoned inside
the restaurant. We have something!
Who was he eating with?

NICHOLS

We don't have the tapes. There's no
way to tell.

EDDOWES

And anyone could guess he was
poisoned first. It doesn't help us.
Face it judge. Today, this is the
right thing to do. *Point to door?/close folder?*

KELLY

(losing control)

*Losing
It*

No! We are all in law enforcement
because we believe in the ideals of
crime and punishment. We cannot in
good conscience allow a crime to go
unpunished. Not when there is
something we can do about it.

EDDOWES

Energy

What? What can we do? *Weak*

Silence

KELLY

...I don't know.

NICHOLS closes his folder and stands up.

NICHOLS

I've been over the evidence twenty
times. I don't think we have any
other choice.

FLASH

27

INT. POTTER'S FIELD

NICHOLS'S left hand slips the poison from the vial into
VISCARIOT'S drink.

FLASH

28 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS
Following NICHOLS'S example.

CHAPMAN
I've never walked away from a case
before. Figured it would haunt me.
I don't think I'll have that
problem here.

FLASH

29 EXT. DARK ALLEY
CHAPMAN (in shadows) hits VISCARIOT over the head with
baseball bat.

FLASH

30 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS
Following CHAPMAN.

STRIDE
My conscience is clear. A criminal
is dead. Case closed.

FLASH

31 EXT. DARK ALLEY
STRIDE (in shadows) shoots VISCARIOT.

FLASH

32 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS
Getting up.

EDDOWES
Agreed. Whoever killed him did the
world a favour. No point in going
on.

FLASH

33 EXT. DARK ALLEY

EDDOWES'S left hand (holding knife) stabs VISCARIOT in the back.

FLASH

34 INT. JUDGE KELLY'S CHAMBERS

After a pause, he joins his colleagues.

KELLY
You're right. Innocence is
relative. Evil's been punished.
Case closed.

FLASH

35 INT. CAR

KELLY'S car runs over VISCARIOT'S body as it lies in the road.

FLASH

36 INT. HALLWAY

One at a time, the five men leave the conference room.
NICHOLS first, then CHAPMAN, then STRIDE, then EDDOWES, and
finally KELLY.

They all head in different directions.

FLASH

37 CREDITS

38 INT. VIDEO LAB

ABBERLINE is sitting behind his desk browsing through a copy
of WATCHMEN.

FREDERICK leans his head in the room.

FREDERICK
Abberline!

ABBERLINE
Yeah, Fred, what's up?

FREDERICK
That video footage you wanted.
Restaurant just sent it over.

ABBERLINE
I thought the manager said the
tapes were wiped.

FREDERICK
Nah. That's what he thought. The
owner changed the security over to
digital last year. Manager didn't
know. System automatically backed
up the files. Here.

He hands ABBERLINE a handful of DVDs

ABBERLINE
Thanks, Fred.

FREDERICK exits. ABBERLINE looks at the first DVD. He begins
to open it. As soon as he makes a decision the screen cuts
to-

39 BLACK

The sounds of a DVD being placed in a DVD player are heard.