

Here's How I See It

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Story By

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1 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

First Shot: Confession Camera POV: A straight shot at TERRIAN'S eye level.

A klaxon blares.

We fade in to an interrogation room. The walls are bleak and cold. There is a single table in the middle of the room.

Seated at one end is TERRIAN BLACKGATE. He wears jeans and a bloody white t-shirt. There is a black jacket on the back of his chair. There is dried blood on his face. His hands are cuffed in front of him and he rests them on the table.

On his face is the look of a man playing a character long forgotten. A part he wanted never to revisit, but is now forced to at a time when all his mind is elsewhere.

MALCOLM (O.S.)
She was quite a trophy wasn't she?

TERRIAN looks up. Leaning against the door, with no indication that he entered, is MALCOLM SPECTRE.

MALCOLM is dressed in a casual suit. He wears a white dress shirt and a tie that doesn't match his suit. He seems to be made of roughly contained emotion. With every line he says, there is a sense that he has a volcano inside him trying to erupt.

MALCOLM
You're Terrian Blackgate?

TERRIAN
Yes.

MALCOLM smiles and walks over to the table. He places a few files on the table. He opens the top one to show a list of crimes and dates with TERRIAN'S name at the top.

MALCOLM
(looking at his notes)
Do me a favour, Terrian. Look into that camera and say your name.

Confession Camera POV:

TERRIAN
My name is Terrian Blackgate

MALCOLM

Excellent. Now say: and I murdered my wife.

Confession Camera POV: TERRIAN says nothing. He lowers his head to the floor. After a few seconds, he looks up at MALCOLM with contempt on his face.

MALCOLM sits on the table looking at TERRIAN.

MALCOLM

Ok, well. If this job was that easy...I'd still probably be getting minimum wage for it. I'm District Attorney Malcolm Spectre, and I'm going to take up a few minutes of your time.

TERRIAN

Go for it. What do you want to know?

MALCOLM stands up and starts pacing the room. Like Sherlock Holmes explaining how he solved his case.

MALCOLM

I know quite a lot actually. More than I care to admit, is in regards to you. I know you've spent about half your life in small windowless rooms. I also know you haven't been in one for... going on eight years now. I know that blood on your shirt isn't yours. I know the knife came from your kitchen and I know the door wasn't forced. So, I'm kind of ruling out home invasion if you see what I mean. No, no. This was personal. It takes a special kind of man to stab something that beautiful that many times.

TERRIAN

I wouldn't know.

MALCOLM

Sure you would.

TERRIAN

What is that supposed to mean?

MALCOLM
It means, I just came from her
autopsy.
(impressed whistle)
Damn. She is something else. It's
like burning a DaVinci, man. How do
you do that?

TERRIAN
You're asking me hypothetically.

MALCOLM
No. I'm asking you personally,
Terrian. How could you do it?

TERRIAN
Alright. You want to know what
happened?

MALCOLM
I already do, but I'd be fascinated
to hear how you see it.

Confession Camera POV:

TERRIAN starts talking. He speaks mostly to the camera. As
he talks we see silent flashbacks of he and LAURA.

TERRIAN
We had a fight. Don't bother
calling that motive, it's not what
it is. Laura and I fought all the
time. It's what passionate people
do.

2 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

TERRIAN and LAURA silently yell at each other.

3 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

TERRIAN continues.

TERRIAN
I took a walk to clear my head.

4 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

TERRIAN walks out the front door and closes it behind him.

5 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

TERRIAN
When I returned, I heard something
break upstairs.

6 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

TERRIAN walks back into the building. When sounds of glass shattering are heard, he looks around.

7 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

TERRIAN
I didn't think anything of it. The
walls are thin and there are
constantly college parties going
on. As I walked back up to our
apartment, someone in a mask
sprinted past me on the stairs.

8 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

TERRIAN, walking up the stairs, is almost knocked down by a man in a mask sprinting past him

9 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

TERRIAN
I didn't think anything of him.
Then I saw my door was open.

10 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

Shot on the door to TERRIAN & LAURA'S apartment. It is slightly open.

11 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

TERRIAN
I ran inside. I found her. I think
I called for help. I don't know.

12 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

LAURA'S body lies in the foreground. TERRIAN runs in and sees her. He goes to her and tries to save her. He holds her to his chest and screams silently. He kisses her face and holds her to him.

13 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

TERRIAN has finished his story. He is crying. The dried blood on his face mixes with his tears and he buries his face in his hands.

MALCOLM looks on with bemusement. He applauds.

MALCOLM
Bravo. Now, may I tell you how it
really happened?

TERRIAN looks up at MALCOLM.

MALCOLM
Here's how I see it.

As MALCOLM talks, we see flashbacks of the crime. But where TERRIAN'S focused on the people in the scene, MALCOLM'S focus on objects.

MALCOLM
You two had a fight. My guess, she
was leaving you. That's the typical
motive isn't it? You took off.

14 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

TERRIAN'S hand grabs the doorknob, opens the door and he storms out.

15 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

MALCOLM
You came back.

16 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

From the floor level, TERRIAN opens the door and his feet enter the apartment.

17 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

MALCOLM
You weren't going to let her get away from you. It was you or no one. You took a knife from the kitchen.

18 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

A large kitchen knife is taken from a drawer.

19 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

MALCOLM
You went into your bedroom where she was reading. She screamed.

20 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

Over TERRIAN'S shoulder, LAURA, sitting on their bed, screams.

MALCOLM (V.O.)
She tried to run.

LAURA tries to run past TERRIAN, but he grabs her and throws her to the floor

21 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

MALCOLM
You stopped her. And you stabbed her 27 times.

22 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

Camera on the floor. With a final scream, LAURA'S left hand falls into the shot. In the background and very out of focus, TERRIAN stands over his kill. He is panting.

23 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

MALCOLM

You, Terrian. You killed her.

TERRIAN

I loved her!

MALCOLM

You weren't worthy of her! You didn't come back to find her dead. There was no one else on those stairs. You knew it was only a matter of time before she left you for someone respectable. Hell, I'd bet she already had someone else on the side. Someone better than you. You came back. You attacked her. You stabbed her 27 times so where's her ring?

Silence

24 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

Same as scene 22. The assailant's hand reaches in and removes LAURA'S engagement ring.

25 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

MALCOLM

(calm)

It's the only piece of evidence we haven't found. We've got the knife with her blood on it. We even have your lip prints on her cheek where you kissed her.

26 FLASHBACK: TERRIAN & LAURA'S APARTMENT

Close on LAURA'S cheek. Her assailant bends low and kisses her dead cheek.

27 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

Confession Camera POV: MALCOLM passes in front of the camera a time or two, but he is always cut off at the chest.

TERRIAN's expression changes to shock.

TERRIAN

Wha?

MALCOLM

Only someone personally involved
would take that kind of trophy.
Tell me where it is. You have
nothing left. Tell me where Laura's
ring is and I'll see what I can do
for you.

TERRIAN

You son of a...

TERRIAN leaps to his feet and attacks MALCOLM. He tries to throw the District Attorney against the wall, but MALCOLM fights back and drives his knee into TERRIAN'S stomach. TERRIAN doubles over and MALCOLM slams him onto the table.

Confession Camera POV

MALCOLM

I'll take that as a confession.
Thanks for your time, Terrian.

The door bursts open and two police officers come in. They restrain TERRIAN and re-cuff his hands behind his back. TERRIAN is dragged from the room.

MALCOLM sits on the table and lets out a long deep breath.

FADE OUT

28 INT. PRISON INTERROGATION ROOM

After a few seconds, we fade back in. TERRIAN is still sitting in the chair. MALCOLM is speaking.

This is shown from a different angle than we originally saw it. We never cut to the Confession Camera here.

MALCOLM

It's the only piece of evidence we haven't found. We've got the knife with her blood on it. We even have your lip prints on her cheek where you kissed her.

TERRIAN's expression changes to shock.

TERRIAN

Wha?

MALCOLM

Only someone personally involved would take that kind of trophy.

MALCOLM reaches into the pocket of his pants and pulls out LAURA'S ring. He smiles at TERRIAN as he twirls it through his fingers.

MALCOLM (CONT)

Tell me where it is. You have nothing left. Tell me where Laura's ring is and I'll see what I can do for you.

TERRIAN

You son of a...

TERRIAN leaps to his feet and attacks MALCOLM. He tries to throw the District Attorney against the wall, but MALCOLM fights back and drives his knee into TERRIAN'S stomach. TERRIAN doubles over and MALCOLM slams him onto the table.

MALCOLM

I'll take that as a confession.
Thanks for your time, Terrian.

The door bursts open and two police officers come in. They restrain TERRIAN and re-cuff his hands behind his back. TERRIAN is dragged from the room.

MALCOLM sits on the table and lets out a long deep breath. He pulls the ring from his pocket again and kisses it.

After a moment, he gathers himself and exits the room.

29 BLACK

A phone (caller's POV) rings. A voice mail picks up. MALCOLM'S voice is very different than anything we've heard. He sounds happy and relaxed. He sounds like a father.

MALCOLM (VO)

Hey, this is Malcolm. Really sorry I wasn't around to take your call, but if you leave me a message, I'll do everything I can to get back to you.

Beep

30 CREDITS

As the credits begin, we hear LAURA'S voice. She has clearly been crying recently and has built herself up to this speech. She takes several deep breaths.

LAURA (V.O.)

Malcolm, It's Laura. I don't know what else I can say. I can't do this any more. The way I see it, you are not the man I want to run off with. In another life maybe, but... I don't know what else to say. I love you. Goodbye.

The phone call cuts off and a hollow silence finishes the credits.