

- PRE-LAPSE: An aggressive KNOCK on a door.

INT/EXT. MRS. SHOAL'S FRONT DOOR - DAY

A door unlocks and opens to reveal GIL (late 20's, baby-faced, hard-eyed) standing uncomfortably close to the entryway.

GIL

I'd like to inform you that this conversation is being recorded. Is this the residence of a Mrs. Melanie Shoal?

MELANIE (60's, permanently tired) is visibly offended by GIL's presence.

MELANIE

Who are you?

GIL cranes his neck to see past MELANIE.

MELANIE closes the gap in the doorway.

GIL

Gil Phipps, I'm an investigator with PUFF shipping.

MELANIE

Oh.

GIL

You reported a package missing?

MELANIE

You people don't call?

GIL laughs, then turns behind him, revealing MERRY (20's, embarrassed.)

GIL turns back to MELANIE.

GIL

Can you tell me a little bit more about what happened?

MELANIE

I didn't get package.

GIL

Details, please.

MELANIE

I got a text that said the delivery had been made. But I'd been looking out the window all day, and nobody came.

GIL writes on a little black notepad.

GIL

All day?

MELANIE

It's been hard to pass the time since my husband--

GIL

What time was this?

MELANIE

Monday around 10 AM.

GIL writes.

GIL

If I were to ask around the neighborhood, do you think I'd get the same story?

MELANIE

I don't really talk to my neighbors.

GIL lifts up a digital camera.

GIL

Convenient.

He snaps a picture of MELANIE.

MELANIE

Excuse me?

GIL

Mrs. Shoal, are you aware that insurance fraud is punishable by up to five years in prison?

MELANIE

Insurance fraud?

GIL reaches past MELANIE and snaps a picture of the inside of her home.

MELANIE (CONT'D)

Hold on a minute!

MELANIE grabs at his camera.

GIL dodges it.

He's impressed with himself.

GIL

Ma'am.

MELANIE

Give me that!

MELANIE grabs again, GIL dodges again.

MERRY

Oh, I think I found it!

The two stop to look over at MERRY.

MERRY pulls a package out from under a shrub.

She reaches past GIL to hand it to MELANIE.

MELANIE inspects it.

GIL tries to look at it, too.

MELANIE turns to go inside.

GIL

I need to inspect--

She slams the door.

TITLE: PARCEL RECOVERY

EXT. MERRY'S CAR (PARKED) - DAY

GIL pulls a black duffle bag out from the back seat.

He shuts the door on the seatbelt.

GIL starts walking.

MERRY rolls her eyes and opens the back door, fixing it.

EXT. CITY SIDEWALK - DAY

GIL and MERRY are walking down a sidewalk.

GIL

I wish you'd given me the chance to get some photos of that package before you *moved* it. For evidence?

MERRY

Why? It was her package.

GIL

Have you seen Law and Order?

MERRY

Yeah.

GIL

Do they ever find and return a murder weapon just because the it belongs to a murderer?

MERRY

Should we maybe have called her first, before showing up at her house?

GIL

And lose the element of surprise? Absolutely not.

MERRY

Okay.

GIL

In-person investigation. People are shameless on the phone.

GIL stops and takes MERRY in.

GIL (CONT'D)

I asked her to find me someone good. Just try and learn something today.

MERRY

(Sarcastic)

Will do.

GIL

This is serious work. A commitment. To justice. Not everybody is up for it.

MERRY nods.

GIL (CONT'D)

My old partner, Arnie, couldn't
handle the pressure.
Now he's in Africa, of all places.
Working on the Amazon.

MERRY

You mean South America?

GIL

No.

Beat.

MERRY

How often are people actually
guilty?

GIL

Always. Suspectum de omnibus.
That's latin, actually. Be
suspicious of everything.

MERRY

Got it.

They stop in front of a shabby building.

GIL

And we're home.

INT. THE STATION - DAY

A tiny office. There is a sprawling corner desk covered in
paperwork, an outdated computer, a week's worth of coffee
cups, and a few collectible toys.

In the opposite corner of the room is a wee little desk from
the side of the road. Behind it is a cork board, covered in
pictures, post its, and red yarn.

GIL and MERRY stand facing DIANE (40's/50's, dry eyed, messy)
who sits in a swivel chair that's wearing 5 cardigans.

DIANE

Another customer gone with the
wind, Gil.

GIL

We found the package.

DIANE
 Apparently just in time. Thanks to
 Merry.
 (To Merry)
 I think you're gonna be a breath of
 fresh air around here.

GIL
 Actually//

DIANE
 //No. Give me the camera.

GIL looks at her hard. He doesn't want to be embarrassed in
 front of MERRY.

DIANE holds her hand outstretched.

GIL retrieves the digital camera from the duffel bag.

DIANE (CONT'D)
 He's just excited and showing off
 because he's been stuck in the
 office too long.

GIL hands DIANE the camera.

He discretely flashes a second digital camera in his bag at
 MERRY.

He smiles.

MERRY
 Are you two related?

DIANE
 (Offended)
 No.
 (Calmer)
 No.

GIL
 Next case...

DIANE gives GIL a hard look.

She turns around and gets on her computer.

MERRY takes out her phone.

GIL turns to the bulletin board.

He moves some pins and string around.

MERRY'S phone opens to a text message from VANESSA.
 She has two little heart emoji's on both sides of her name.
 CHYRONS showing the texts appear above MERRY.

VANESSA (TEXT)
 How's the first day?

MERRY types.

MERRY (TEXT)
 Weird. I guess I'm a postal crime
 investigator

VANESSA (TEXT)
 Hahahaha

MERRY (TEXT)
 So I was thinking... What if I came
 with you?

Beat.

VANESSA starts typing.

The three little dots disappear.

MERRY notices that GIL is looking at her.

GIL
 You shouldn't be on your phone.

DIANE
 Why don't you show her around the
 office.

INT. THE STATION - MOMENTS LATER

GIL and MERRY stand in front of the tiny little desk.

GIL
 The investigation station.

MERRY nods.

GIL (CONT'D)
 This is where we do paperwork,
 discuss leads, pin up evidence.
 Crack down on crime.

MERRY examines the cork board.

There is a large sign that says BE SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYTHING above it.

GIL (CONT'D)
Don't move a thing.

MERRY looks at a picture of a man in the center of the board.

MERRY
Who's that?

GIL
Scary Dave.
Career case.

DIANE
(Facing computer)
Dave is a normal guy. We are lucky
he still delivers for us.

GIL shakes his head at MERRY.

DIANE (CONT'D)
Where are you from, Merry?

MERRY
I grew up two towns over, in Eaton.

DIANE
Ooh! Fancy.

MERRY
Eh.

DIANE
So you grew up in Eaton, got your
college degree in Connecticut//

GIL
//Guess I'll show you the
interrogation room now.

DIANE
Don't, Gill-

INT. INTERROGATION CLOSET - MOMENTS LATER

ROY (30's, hunched, long hair) wearing a jumpsuit, wheels a janitorial cleaning cart out of a dingy doorway.

ROY
Can you disclose any details?

GIL
 (Dismissive)
 Not at this time, Roy.

GIL walks in and pulls a string attached to the ceiling.

A hanging light illuminates a small, dirty, tiled room. It is empty apart from a shelf of cleaning chemicals and toilet paper. There is a drain in the floor.

GIL raises his eyebrows looking for a reaction from MERRY.

INT. THE STATION - LATER

GIL stands at the evidence board.

DIANE is eating a sandwich at her desk.

MERRY checks her phone.

Nothing.

DIANE turns around.

DIANE
 Okay... Missing package.

GIL turns around sharp.

GIL
 Look alive people!

GIL whips out his little black notepad.

GIL (CONT'D)
 What do we got?

DIANE
 Uhh... Grenaline Gardner at 63
 Elder St. Package is missing but
 it's confirmed delivered on our
 side.

GIL
 Scary Dave?

DIANE
 Gil//

GIL
 //I'm bringing him into the
 station.

GIL heads to the door.

DIANE
(Under her breath)
For the love of god.

GIL
(To MERRY)
Dig up everything on this package.

GIL bursts out the door.

MERRY looks to DIANE.

DIANE shrugs.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

GIL is jumping up and down.

He shakes his hands out and takes a deep breath.

GIL takes a small recording device out of his pocket and presses the button.

GIL puts his phone to his ear.

SCARY DAVE (OVER THE PHONE)
Hello?

GIL puts on a deeper voice.

GIL
You need to come to the station
now.

SCARY DAVE (OVER THE PHONE)
What's up, Gil?

GIL
Oh, I think you know what's up. Be
here in 20 minutes.

SCARY DAVE
No.

GIL's voice returns to normal.

GIL
But I'm running an investigation.

SCARY DAVE
I'm on a delivery, doing my job.
Tell me what you need.

GIL
No. I need you to come into the
station!

SCARY DAVE exhales.

GIL (CONT'D)
You have to do what I say!

SCARY DAVE
I don't.

GIL punches the air.

SCARY DAVE (CONT'D)
Okay, I'm hanging up.

GIL collects himself.

GIL
63 Elder St.

SCARY DAVE
What?

GIL
You tell me.

SCARY DAVE
I don't have time for this spell it
out for me.

GIL
Did you or did you not deliver a
package to 63 Elder St?

SCARY DAVE
Uhh... I'm checking. Yes, I had a
package delivered to 63 Elder St.

GIL
Hmm, funny, because they reported
it missing. Times up, Sca- Dave.

SCARY DAVE
I'm looking at my report right now,
I definitely delivered it. I
remember delivering it.

GIL writes in his notepad.

SCARY DAVE (CONT'D)

I'll stop by on my route and see if I can find it.

GIL

No you won't.

SCARY DAVE

It's no issue.

GIL

Under no circumstances are you to go back to the scene. Do you copy?

SCARY DAVE

Gil, It's part of my job-

GIL hangs up.

INT. THE STATION - SAME TIME

DIANE is showing MERRY the computer system.

MERRY

Rat Bones Now?

DIANE

It's probably some sex thing- Sorry. Anyway, that's where you find accounts and any info they put in when they bought the shipping label.

MERRY

Could I actually talk to you about something?

DIANE

Girl, I know. He's a lot. I promise he'll warm up to you. Sometimes he can actually be sweet.

MERRY

Well, I just//

DIANE

// His dad and one of the founders go way back, so when his dad passed a couple years ago, he was given this job as a sort of... homage. He might be crazy, but surprisingly Gil loses us less money than you'd think.

MERRY

Mhm//

DIANE

// And they won't fire him, for whatever reason. So I put up with his... isms.

MERRY

Right//

DIANE

// Arnie, who used to work here was great, he kinda served as his... handler? Don't tell him I told you any of this, but, you know, at the end of the day, that's why you're here.

MERRY

I didn't realize//

DIANE

// He needs to be brought out of the office daily, or he gets stir crazy, which is difficult because he doesn't drive. And he takes this so seriously. I do my best to keep him in line, though, so don't worry about that. I think you're doing so great already.

MERRY

I'm not really cut//

GIL bursts into the office.

GIL

// Pack up, new girl, we're going to 63 Elder St. ASAP.

DIANE

Manners, Gil.

GIL

Scary Dave completely disrespects the system on a regular basis. These delivery drivers need to be wearing body cams.

(To MERRY)

Were you even able to get anything on the package?

DIANE

The company is *Rat Bones Now*,
whatever that means. We've got a
phone number and a return address,
but nothing else.

GIL

Rat Bones Now?

EXT. 63 ELDER ST. - DAY

GIL and MERRY exit the car.

GIL

Take notes.

MERRY nods "okay."

GIL goes to the front door.

MERRY checks her phone.

No response.

As MERRY types, CHYRONS appear above her.

MERRY (TEXT)

I think I'm just a narcissist's
chauffeur.

No response.

- PRE-LAPSE: An aggressive KNOCKING on a door.

EXT. 63 ELDER ST. - FRONT DOOR - SAME TIME

A doorway opens to reveal GIL, once again too close to the
opening.

GIL

I'd like to inform you that this
conversation is being recorded. Are
you a Mrs. Grenaline Gardner?

DYLAN (30's, unshaven, a bit hungover) stands in the doorway
in his pajamas.

DYLAN

What? No.

GIL

May I speak with her?

DYLAN
Nobody by that name lives here.

GIL turns to MERRY.

Then back to DYLAN.

GIL
This is 63 Elder St?

DYLAN
Yep.

GIL
You're sure Grenaline doesn't live here? She doesn't go by any other names?

DYLAN
Yeah, I'm sure.

GIL
I'll cut to the chase...

GIL gestures for DYLAN to tell him his name.

DYLAN
Dylan.

GIL
Dylan. A package was delivered to your address on Monday. If it wasn't for you, we need it back.

DYLAN
Sorry, I think you have the wrong house.

DYLAN starts to shut the door.

GIL holds it open with his hand.

GIL
Rat Bones Now?

DYLAN looks very confused.

GIL stares through squinted eyes at him.

He rips a piece of paper out of his notepad.

He hands it DYLAN.

GIL (CONT'D)

My email. If something comes to you, reach out. Also, you're going to surrender any security footage you have of the premises between 8//

DYLAN

//Are you the police or something?

GIL

My name is Gil Phipps, I'm an investigator with PUFF deliveries.

DYLAN

Okay, listen, I don't know what you're talking about, but I think you should leave.

GIL

I'm talking about mail theft, Dan.

DYLAN

Dylan//

GIL

//Dylan. And it's punishable by up to five years in a federal prison.

GIL takes a photo of DYLAN with his camera.

DYLAN

Yo, dude?

DYLAN shuts the door.

INT/EXT. MERRY'S CAR - DAY

MERRY sits in the driver's seat of the car.

Past her, GIL is taking photos of DYLAN'S house.

He looks under bushes, stepping all through the garden.

MERRY types out a text on her phone.

MERRY (TEXT)

Hey mom, got a job. Maybe we can talk about

MERRY deletes the text.

INT. THE STATION - EVENING

GIL stands in front of the evidence board bouncing a pen off his lip.

Most of the red lines lead to an ID photo of SCARY DAVE.

DIANE is playing a match three game on her computer.

MERRY

Why do you call him Scary Dave?

GIL

Because he's scary//

DIANE

//Gil calls him that. And I'll remind you that Scary Dave- that Dave has never stolen anything.

GIL

He's never been *proven* to have stolen anything.

DIANE smiles apologetically to MERRY.

GIL (CONT'D)

(To MERRY)

Now what?

MERRY

Huh?

GIL

What's our next step?

MERRY

Oh. I, uhm. I don't know. What is it?

GIL exhales.

GIL

(To DIANE RE; MERRY)

Are you joking with this?

DIANE

Tell us the next step, Gil.

GIL

We go to Rat Bones Now.

MERRY

Can we call?

DIANE gestures for MERRY to let it go.

GIL points to a handmade sign on the bulletin board.

It reads "In-person Investigation"

GIL

It's only an hour and a half away.

MERRY

For real? That's way too far, it's like basically 5.

DIANE gets up.

DIANE

Shoot, you're right, why don't we call it a night?

GIL

(To DIANE)

But the first 48 hours?

DIANE

(Sharply)

No.

INT. MERRY'S CAR (PARKED) - NIGHT

MERRY sits in her car.

She's looking at her texts with VANESSA, who still has not responded.

MERRY exhales and looks at the roof.

She opens her phone to the contact for MOM.

She calls.

It goes to voicemail.

MERRY'S MOM (ON PHONE)

Hello. You've reached Helene. Leave your information and I will reach back out. Goodbye.

BEEP.

MERRY

Hi Mom. I uhm, well. I got a Job. So. I did it. And it's perfect.

(MORE)

MERRY (CONT'D)

I'm already actually ahead of the
guy who's been here a couple years,
in a way. So... Okay... maybe
things can go back to normal now?
Call me back. Bye.

MERRY hangs up.

INT. MERRY'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY

MERRY is driving.

She is not happy about it.

GIL picks at the siding of the door.

GIL

Clothes?

MERRY

Maybe.

(Passive aggressive)

Wow, I was at a full tank when we
left.

GIL

Rat... Bones Now... Like a calcium
supplement for rats?

MERRY

3/4 of a tank already... Long
drive.

GIL

Yeah. Trust me, there's so much
more to learn being there in
person.

MERRY

If you say so.

GIL

I know so. People on the phone can
be ruthless. They've got no ruth at
all.

MERRY

Hey, where did you go for school?

GIL

I didn't.

MERRY

Oh.

GIL

You know, college degree's don't actually mean anything? You know that?

MERRY

I don't.

GIL

People don't actually, it doesn't actually matter.

MERRY

I had no idea.

GIL

Whole thing is actually a big scam.

MERRY

Are you going to take them down.

GIL

That's not my jurisdiction.

MERRY

Cool.

INT. MERRY'S CAR - DAY

The car pulls into the parking lot of a little post office.

GIL and MERRY look at the tiny building.

MERRY laughs.

GIL

You have mail to deliver? Why are we here?

MERRY

450 Main St.

GIL

No, post office.

The address is clearly marked on the front of the building.

GIL (CONT'D)

You must have the address wrong.

MERRY

You gave it to me.

Beat.

GIL gets out of the car. He stretches.

He takes a picture of the post office.

GIL goes inside.

MERRY'S phone buzzes.

She looks at it.

It's from "Mom".

MERRY'S MOM (TEXT)

Glad you got a job. It's about
keeping it, though.
Give it a couple months, then we'll
talk about money.

MERRY leans back in the seat.

She's pissed.

MERRY breathes.

GIL can be seen through the window of the post office
speaking with the attendant.

She opens her texts with VANESSA, who still hasn't responded.

MERRY types.

MERRY (TEXT)

Hello?

VANESSA (TEXT)

Hey, sorry.

MERRY (TEXT)

It's cool.

MERRY (TEXT) (CONT'D)

So?

VANESSA (TEXT)

Can't the narcissist drive himself?

MERRY

Apparently there's some deep trauma
there.

(MORE)

MERRY (CONT'D)

What do you think about me moving
with you?

Beat.

VANESSA (TEXT)

Didn't you just get a job?

MERRY locks her phone and tosses it in her lap.

EXT. POST OFFICE - DAY

GIL, satisfied, walks out of the post office.

He opens the car door.

INT. MERRY'S CAR (PARKED) - SAME TIME

GIL

Free lolypop-

MERRY puts a finger in front of her mouth.

GIL (CONT'D)

Oh.

A voice speaks over the car speakers.

HANNAH (OVER THE PHONE)

You've got Hannah.

MERRY

Hi Hannah, I was wondering where
your store is located?

HANNAH (OVER THE PHONE)

Phone orders only.

MERRY

Gotcha, thank you. What exactly do
you sell?

HANNAH (OVER THE PHONE)

Rat bones.

GIL gives MERRY a death stare.

MERRY

Rat bones?

HANNAH (OVER THE PHONE)

Yep.

GIL rummages through his duffel bag in the back seat.
He retrieves a recording device.

MERRY
Like, the bones of rats?

HANNAH (OVER THE PHONE)
How can I help you?

MERRY
I'm actually following up from PUFF
shipping//

HANNAH
//The idiots who lost my shipment?

GIL
Hi Hannah, this is Gil speaking,
lead investigator.

HANNAH
Hi.

GIL
To be clear, at this time it's
unclear who is at fault. We were
hoping to actually speak with you
in person.

HANNAH
I think it's pretty clear.

GIL
Well, I've personally checked at 63
Elder St, and//

HANNAH
//63 1/2 Elder St.

GIL
63 Elder St.

HANNAH
Not the address.

GIL
Okay, so that's what it says on the
package. You seemingly put a typo
in.

HANNAH
You think I'm stupid?

GIL
Before we go into detail, I'm going
to need you to come down to the
station in the city.

HANNAH
No.

GIL
Okay. You did put 63 Elder St.

HANNAH
I paid extra for the insurance...
Now I have to refund a customer
\$500 because you're stupid system
is broken.

MERRY
\$500?

HANNAH
Yep.

MERRY
Why?

HANNAH
Try dying and drying \$500 of rat
bones.

MERRY
Why?

HANNAH
Bitch, that's none of your
business.

GIL
Yeah, Merry, come on.

HANNAH
I expect to receive compensation
for my losses. I won't be shipping
with you again. Goodbye.

HANNAH hangs up.

GIL stops his recorder.

MERRY
That seems a little ridiculous.
\$500 of rat bones?

GIL is frustrated.

GIL
Well, if you don't want to dry them
yourself.

MERRY starts the car.

INT. MERRY'S CAR (MOVING) - EVENING

MERRY is driving.

GIL looks out the window.

Silence.

GIL
I told you. People are ruthless on
the phone.

MERRY
Don't like witches use them to cast
spells or tell fortunes?

GIL
What?

MERRY
Bones?
Like in movies?

GIL
Oh, in movies.

MERRY
Yeah.

GIL
Witches aren't real.

MERRY
Right.

GIL
Yeah, maybe... Who knows.

MERRY
What was the recipients name again?

GIL
Grenaline Gardner.

MERRY

Yikes. That's gotta be the
witchiest name I've ever heard, I
think she might be a witch.

GIL

Enough about witches! We need to
focus.

INT. MERRY'S CAR (PARKED) - NIGHT

MERRY pulls the car up to a small, out of repair, house.

There is trash in the yard.

GIL reaches into the back and pulls his duffle bag up to the
front.

GIL

This is me.

GIL opens his door and steps out.

GIL (CONT'D)

Thanks for the ride!

MERRY

Sure.

GIL runs into his house.

EXT. GAS STATION - NIGHT

MERRY stops the gas tank at \$20.

She exhales.

MERRY takes her phone out and calls.

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)

Hey.

MERRY

Hey.

Beat.

MERRY (CONT'D)

What are you doing tonight? I miss
you.

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)
Probably gonna watch The Office and
fall asleep.

MERRY
Nice. Want some company?

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)
It's been a long day, I don't think
I'd be any fun. Maybe tomorrow.

MERRY
Right, yeah, me too. I spent the
whole day driving. I'm gonna quit
tomorrow. This sucks.

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)
Really? Woah. Already?

MERRY
It's whatever. But anyways, I'm
totally down to move to Oregon with
you.

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)
Oh.

MERRY
Yeah.

Beat.

MERRY (CONT'D)
What do you think about that?

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)
Like moving in together? Across
country? I'll definitely think
about it.

MERRY
Right, totally. Take as much time
as you need. I'm just saying, if
you thought I had any hang ups
about it or any ties holding me
down here... I don't. Just so you
know. Just so you don't think that
I do.

Beat.

MERRY (CONT'D)
But it's nice to hear your voice, I
miss you.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

A townie coffee shop.

GIL and MERRY walk in and get in line.

GIL
Law and Order SVU. It's why I do
what I do. You?

MERRY
Uhh... I don't think I have a show
that inspires me. What exactly does
Law and Order have to do with
anything?

GIL sees someone he knows waiting in the pickup area.

GIL
Oh my god! Arnie? Arnie! Hey!

ARNIE (30's, tall, reluctant) wearing an Amazon delivery
outfit, waves to GIL.

GIL (CONT'D)
What are you doing back from
Africa?

ARNIE
Hey Gil.

GIL waits for a response to his question.

MERRY clocks what's going on.

ARNIE (CONT'D)
Africa?

GIL
I mean South America.
(To MERRY)
This is the guy I told you about,
my old partner.

GIL slaps him on the shoulder.

GIL (CONT'D)
I hope this isn't too awkward for
you... she's your replacement.

MERRY gives an awkward wave.

ARNIE
Nice to meet you!

GIL
(To MERRY)
He gets really bad reception out there.

(To ARNIE)
My mom was saying you should try Elon Musk's satellite thing, works all over the world, I bet it would work in the Amazon.

ARNIE points to the logo on his shirt.

ARNIE
No, Gil, Amazon.

GIL is confused.

ARNIE (CONT'D)
Like the company.

GIL
You work for Amazon now?

ARNIE
Yeah.

GIL
What the hell?

ARNIE
I know right? They made me an offer I couldn't refuse.

BARISTA
(Off screen)
Arnie!

ARNIE
It's so good to see you, dude! I miss our adventures! I got a new phone number, I'll text you. We should do something soon!
(To Merry)
Nice to meet you.

MERRY gives him a nod.

ARNIE grabs his drink and leaves.

GIL is still confused.

INT/EXT. MERRY'S CAR (PARKED)

GIL looks through binoculars.

He's clearly distressed.

A large dark house with pointed eaves and rotting old shingles looms over the street across from the car.

MERRY checks her phone.

GIL is suspended in growing horror, staring at the house.

It reads 63 1/2 Elder St in rusted lettering.

NEIGHBOR KID 1
You looking at the witch house?

GIL jumps, knocking himself with the binoculars.

Two kids on bikes have stopped in front of GIL's window.

GIL looks to MERRY.

GIL
Um. No, we're just//

NEIGHBOR KID 2
//She's a witch who lives there.

MERRY realizes she called it.

NEIGHBOR KID 1
Yeah, she turned some kid into something, or made him disappear?
Or... Right?

NEIGHBOR KID 1 looks to NEIGHBOR KID 2 to confirm.

NEIGHBOR KID 2 shrugs.

NEIGHBOR KID 2
I don't know.

They start to bike away.

NEIGHBOR KID 1 (O.S.)
She hexed James.

NEIGHBOR KID 2 (O.S.)
Oh she definitely hexed James.

MERRY
What did I say?

GIL
All right, we're good here.

MERRY
Don't we have to 'investigate'?

GIL
I'm good. I mean, we got what we needed.

MERRY
What?

GIL
I really think we're going to find she's a perfectly normal woman, and there isn't anything suspicious here.

MERRY
I thought we were supposed to be suspicious of everything?

GIL
Right. We are. I am. I'm suspicious of Scary Dave.

EXT. GRENALINE'S FRONT STEPS - DAY

GIL knocks on the door.

He immediately backs down to the bottom of the stoop.

GIL
She's not home.

The door opens.

GRENALINE
Hello.

GRENALINE GARDNER (60's, frail, hunched) stands in the doorway to her home. She is spooky looking. The inside of her home is dimly lit.

GIL
Hi.

GRENALINE
Can I help you?

GIL
Uhh... No. Well, yes. We're just
here from PUFF deliveries on an
inv//

GRENALINE
Do you have my package?

GIL
(Nervous)
No. We were actually just doing a//

GRENALINE
So you're here with my refund?

GIL
What? No, actually, we//

GRENALINE
//Then what the hell are you doing
here?

GIL
In- um, investigating.

GRENALINE
I paid for the highest level of
shipping.

GIL
Which is why we are doing a full
investigation//

GRENALINE
//I don't want a full
investigation, I want my package,
or I want my damn refund.

GIL
Well, we have to conduct an
investigation in order to//

GRENALINE
It seems like we know what
happened. Your dumb ass delivery
driver delivered the package to 63
Elder St, not 63 1/2 Elder St, even
though I clearly put 63 and a half
Elder St.

GIL
On the package itself it said 63//

GRENALINE starts mumbling under her breath.

She stares directly at GIL.

GIL stares back.

He goes silent.

The mumbling gets more intense.

GIL sweats.

He starts hyperventilating.

MERRY looks back and forth between them.

Mumbling continues.

GIL starts vocalizing with moans.

He goes to his knees.

Grenaline's mumbles get grittier.

GIL screams.

INT. MERRY'S CAR (MOVING) - DAY

MERRY silently drives.

GIL is sitting in the back, leaned up against the rear window.

He clearly had been crying. He is exhausted.

INT. THE STATION - NIGHT

MERRY walks into the office.

MERRY

Oh!

DIANE pulls herself back in from an open window.

She coughs and blows all the air out of her lungs.

She shuts the window.

DIANE stifles a few more coughs.

GIL sulks into the room.

He drops his duffle bag on the investigation table.

He looks to DIANE.

GIL

I.

He breathes back a cry.

GIL (CONT'D)

Got hexed.

DIANE

What?

GIL

I GOT HEXED!

A cry bursts out of him.

He storms out of the office.

DIANE laughs.

DIANE

What the hell happened?

MERRY

He got... Hexed. I don't know.

DIANE

Hexed?

MERRY

By the witch? Look, I'm not cut out for this.

(Refers to the door)

For that.

DIANE looks at her phone.

DIANE

And... it's five. You want some of this?

DIANE reveals half a joint.

INT. THE STATION - NIGHT

DIANE and MERRY lean out the window.

MERRY blows out smoke.

She passes the joint to DIANE.

DIANE
That's not even the craziest thing
Gil has done this month.

MERRY laughs.

Beat.

DIANE (CONT'D)
I like you, Merry.

MERRY
Thanks.

DIANE
Let's say you quit.

MERRY
Okay.

DIANE
Is there some dream you're
following? Singer? Stand up
comedian?

MERRY
Well, the truth is, I'm probably
moving across country with my
girlfriend next week.

DIANE
Oh.

MERRY
Yeah.

DIANE
Then why did you get this job?

MERRY
I mean I only got the job because
my mom stopped paying my rent.

DIANE
Ah.

MERRY
I have to do everything the way she
lays it out, and when I don't or
can't she stops speaking to me.

DIANE flicks the joint out the window.

DIANE
How long have you and the
girlfriend been together?

MERRY
Four months. I mean, four weeks. 1
month. Today actually. 1 month
today.

DIANE laughs before she can stop herself.

DIANE
A month?

MERRY
Yeah.

DIANE
Hm.

MERRY
What?

DIANE
Nothing.

MERRY
What's the problem?

DIANE
Might it be a bit too soon to move
in with this girl?

MERRY
We have a real connection.

GIL walks back in.

GIL
I know you've been talking about
how I reacted, and I don't want to
hear it. I really was hexed. There
are a number of things I can no
longer do that I've already noticed
since it happened.
(Breaking down)
And even now, everything smells
like skunks.

INT. THE STATION - NIGHT

GIL sits at the desk.

He writes his name with a pen.

He picks up a pencil.

He tries, but can't write anything.

He puts his head in his hands.

DIANE sits at her computer.

DIANE
Are we calling this one?

GIL
Yes.

MERRY
Really?

GIL
Really.

GIL sits facing the corner, arms crossed.

MERRY
Seems kinda weird to give up now,
after all that driving. And gas
money. And time.

DIANE
When Gil isn't looking I usually
just take the 'customer is always
right' approach.

GIL turns and gives DIANE a look of disgust.

MERRY
Well, I've got a crazy theory.

DIANE
Oh good.

MERRY
What if Grenaline is actually
Hannah from Rat Bones Now, and she
knew about some glitch in the
system with things not delivering
to her address. So, then she waited
for delivery confirmation to 63,
collected the package, then went
back home and filed a complaint to
collect on the insurance?

DIANE

Hm.

MERRY

Rat Bones Now doesn't have a website or a store front. Hannah refused to come meet with us, Grenaline was talking about insurance money, and they both sounded very similar.

GIL

You mean like witches? Because they're both witches.

MERRY

They're not.

GIL

I can't write with pencil anymore. And it's your fault. What if I make mistakes? You can't erase pen.

MERRY

Alright.

GIL

We're looking in the wrong places, Scary Dave!

MERRY

(To DIANE)

What do you think?

DIANE

It's a stretch, but it's possible.

GIL

What's possible is that Scary Dave hoards packages. End of story. He's probably picking his teeth with rat bones right now.

MERRY

You know what, I'm done. I quit. I'm sorry.

(To DIANE)

Thank you for, you know.

MERRY walks out the door.

DIANE

Oh, Gil.

GIL

What?

DIANE takes a deep breath.

INT. MERRY'S CAR (PARKED) - NIGHT

MERRY sits in the parked car.

She holds her phone to her head.

MERRY

I did it!

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)

You did what?

MERRY

I quit.

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)

Oh.

MERRY

Yeah. So, you know. We can do this.
I mean, I can come with you.

VANESSA

Yeah. Uhm. About that.

INT. THE STATION - NIGHT

DIANE

I don't want to hear any more about
the hex, Gil.

GIL

Fine.

DIANE

That girl needs this job. And by
god I need her to keep you out of
this office. You've got to locate
your chill. Lock it down.

GIL

I have my chill.

DIANE

I get it, you were freaked out
today.

GIL
I was hexed//

DIANE
//But at this rate, everybody I
manage to hire, is going to quit
because you can't be a team player.
That's four now. Four people have
quit in two months. At least she
lasted longer than a day.

GIL
Because they didn't have what it
takes!

DIANE
Gil, you have a desk job.

GIL
You can't solve crime behind a
desk.

DIANE
But I pull a lot of strings for you
to be able to do your thing.
I need you to do this for me.

INT. MERRY'S CAR (PARKED) - NIGHT

MERRY
It's our one month anniversary.

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)
Right... so, it's just way too
soon.

MERRY
I'm confused, you just don't like
me enough? It's not too soon for
me.

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)
I do like you. But I was under the
impression that this was a sort of
short term, low key, fling type of
thing.

MERRY
Which is totally fine, why can't we
do that in Oregon?

Beat.

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)
I'm gonna go now, Merry.

MERRY
Oh, okay. Uhm.

VANESSA (OVER THE PHONE)
Goodbye.

MERRY drops the phone to her side.

She collapses into a cry.

There is a light KNOCK KNOCK on the car window.

This startles MERRY.

It's GIL. He's standing outside.

GIL
(Muffled through the
glass)
I just wanted to say I'm sorry.

MERRY
What?

GIL gestures for her to roll down the window.

MERRY rolls the window down. She tries to hide that she was crying.

GIL
I just wanted to say I'm sor- woah.
Are you okay?

MERRY
I'm good, what's up?

GIL
Were you crying because of me?

MERRY
I wasn't crying.

Beat.

GIL
May I enter your car?

MERRY
Uhg. Fine.

GIL goes around to the passenger side and gets in.

GIL
I'm sorry that I lost my chill
earlier. I've found it.

MERRY
It's okay.

GIL
I didn't mean to make you quit.

MERRY
You didn't.

GIL
Oh.

MERRY
Well, not entirely. I thought- For
some reason I thought my girlfriend
would want to move across country
with me.

GIL
You're moving across country?

MERRY
No.

GIL
Oh.

MERRY
She just broke up with me. Over the
phone.

GIL
People are ruthless over the phone.

MERRY
Yeah.

GIL
No shame at all. That's horrible.
How dare she.

MERRY
Yeah... I don't know. We weren't
together very long.

GIL
How long?

MERRY
Uhm. Four weeks.

GIL
Four weeks?

MERRY
Yeah.

GIL
That's longer than I've ever had a girlfriend. She should have done it in person.

MERRY
Thanks.

GIL
I think your theory about Grenaline and Hannah being the same person does actually make a lot of sense.

MERRY
Yeah?

GIL
Yeah. I just wanted this to be my big break with Scary Dave. I wanted to solve my big case.

MERRY
You'll... get him.

GIL
And I wasn't scared earlier.

MERRY
Okay.

GIL
Just saying. I was *surprised*. You may be a novice detective but you do have talent.

MERRY
Thank you, Gil.

GIL
I would like to formally invite you back onto the task force.

MERRY
The what?

GIL
The team. If you wanted to unquit. You can. I'd like you to.

INT. THE STATION - NIGHT

MERRY walks into the office.

GIL is behind her.

MERRY

I've got one condition, if that's okay?

DIANE turns around.

DIANE

What's that?

MERRY

I really need my gas paid for. Like a gas card, or something.

DIANE thinks for a moment.

DIANE

You won't move away?

MERRY

No.

DIANE

Alright. I'll see what I can do.

EXT. GRENALINE'S STREET - DAY

GIL and MERRY stand at the edge of GRENALINE's property at 63 1/2 Elder St.

GIL

I'm feeling like a presence. Like I can't get any closer. I think the hex is keeping me from going up to the door.

MERRY

Uh-huh.

GIL

Dang it.

MERRY

That's okay, hold the camera from here.

GIL

Okay.

MERRY rolls her eyes.

He stays behind as MERRY walks up towards the house.

EXT. GRENALINE'S FRONT STEPS - DAY

MERRY knocks on the door.

Beat.

The door opens.

GRENALINE

Do you have my package?

MERRY calls a number on her phone.

It rings.

HANNAH

You've got Hannah.

MERRY

Oh.

GRENALINE mumbles a hex at GIL across the street.

He screams.

CREDITS

TAG:

INT. BIRTHDAY PARTY - DAY

A dining room table surrounded by family and children.

A stack of presents in the middle.

A little girl unwraps a present.

She opens the box.

It's filled with rat bones.

She screams.

Everyone turns in disgust.

DYLAN from 63 Elder St. is shocked.

END.