**BRIGAND:**

**“The Suicide”**

**Episode Four of a Spinoff from:**

**“The Platinum Heist Cross-up”**

**(A 2-hour TV Miniseries Episode)**

**Story and Screenplay**

**by:**

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 **The Story (Treatment):**

**Otto Guzman, while going to trial for murder in Los Angeles County, makes a miraculous escape from the courthouse with the help of his friend, Chico Tellez. His court appointed attorney, Ronald J. LeMieux, had brought him a suit to wear for his court appearance. Wearing his new suit and a pair of sunglasses that Otto had insisted LeMieux purchase for him, Otto was handcuffed to a chain along with other prisoners with court dates and sent marching through a tunnel to the court’s holding cell. Reaching the other end of the tunnel, however, there was no sign of Otto Guzman, only his open handcuffs dangling from the chain.**

**Driving towards the Interstate 5 Freeway, in their stolen vehicle, Chico hands over Otto’s new identity documents - a driver’s license and credit card; together with a .38 revolver. “From now on you are Claus Kruger,” Chico informs him. “What did all of this cost?” Otto inquires. “The driver’s license and credit card ran $5,500 and the untraceable gun a thousand,” Chico replies. “How much money do you have on you,” Otto continues. “Approximately $3,500,” Chico answers. “Christ, your share was close to $370,000. What the hell did you do with the rest of it?” demands Otto. “Left it with my family. They’re using it to move from Chiapas to Manzanillo and start a business,” Chico states.**

**“Head for Vegas,” demands Otto. On the Interstate 15 to Las Vegas, Otto explains. “While awaiting trial, my cellmate, likely to do 20 years, told me of a perfect setup in Vegas. A heist the two of us can pull off by ourselves. Caper should net us as much as a hundred grand.”**

**Approaching Primm, Nevada, Otto tells Chico to pull into the resort area where they check into the Primm Valley Resort & Casino (formerly the Primadonna Resort & Casino). Unlike the other two resorts and casinos in Primm (Whiskey Pete’s & Buffalo Bill’s), the rooms of the Primm Valley Resort are laid out more like a motel and can be accessed without entering the main lobby and taking an elevator.**

**In their room, Otto lays out the Vegas heist plan to Chico. “There’s a courier that picks up the deposits from three wire service gambling facilities just outside Vegas and places them in the night deposit box of a particular Vegas bank. Just after closing, he uses the night deposit box because, that way, he cannot be indentified or associated with the wire service parlors.” “How will we identify him?” Chico naturally asks. “I’m told to look for a 275 pound Chi-nese, about 5’ 10” carrying three large manila envelopes, which he will deposit, and who has a penchant for wearing Stetson cowboy hats. “So all we have to do is wait by the deposit box for our victim to show up.”**

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**Meanwhile over at the LAPD Cold Case Unit, civilian contractor Curtis Eliason, a former homicide lieutenant, is approached and asked to look at the court’s holding cell scene and figure out how Guzman managed to shake off his handcuffs. The other prisoners cuffed to the chain either didn’t know or weren’t saying how Otto made his escape. First Eliason takes a look at the cuffs. Then he takes a walk through the tunnel. Halfway through the tunnel, he notices the broken sunglasses on the floor. Examining the lenses housed in black plastic, he notes they are non prescription. Then he examines the plastic stems and notices that one of the stems is severely chewed up. Pointing out the chewed up plastic stem, Eliason points out “Here’s the key to the cuffs. Although they corrected the default in later handcuff models, the still widely used cuffs securing Guzman were susceptible to being unlocked by forcing the plastic stem from a pair of glasses into the keyhole and twisting. It’s not easy and takes a lot of practice”**

**It’s still daylight outside the Las Vegas bank as the bank guard locks the bank’s front door and posts the *closed* sign. Chico, behind the wheel, and Otto in the passenger seat, are parked near the bank’s deposit box - which is located next to the entrance. Inside the bank, Della exits the vault room carrying a dark colored briefcase. She is greeted by David Black, who escorts her to the front door and watches as the guard unlocks the door and lets her out. Once outside, she walks up the street a ways and patiently waits for Blaise King to pull up in the car and pick her up.**

**Sitting in their stolen car, the plates having been exchanged with a vehicle of the same model and make, Otto and Chico spot the over-weight Chinaman wearing a black Stetson cowboy hat and carrying three large manila envelopes. Gun in hand, Otto climbs out of the car and quickly approaches the Chinaman from behind.**

**Sticking the .38 revolver in the small of the Chinaman’s back, Otto relieves the *cowboy* of the three manila envelopes. Then he raises the revolver over his head and brings it down hard on the Chinaman’s skull, then starts running for the stolen car with its switched plates.**

**It’s at this point that Blaise pulls the Ford Mustang to the curve and takes the only empty parking spot, just in front of Otto’s and Chico’s vehicle. Blaise and Otto stare at each other as the latter races for his car.**

**The Chinaman wasn’t the klutz Otto took him for. Sensing the blow coming down on his skull, he moves his head just enough so the full force of the blow lands on his shoulder, although it does consider-able damage to his ear. Quick as a flash he has his own .38 special out from its shoulder holster and is pumping slugs in the direction**

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**of the fleeing Otto.**

**Ducking lead, which is slamming into the vehicle, and carrying the manila envelopes, Otto jumps into the passenger side and orders Chico to pour on the gas. As the car pulls into the street, Otto fires three quick shots at the courier, fatally hitting him twice as the car rushes away.**

**Blaise King spots Della Campbell fifteen yards up the sidewalk and he pulls out. He drives up the street where he double parks while she climbs into the Mustang, still clutching the briefcase. He then drives off in the direction of the Freeway. “Sounded like gunshots, what was that all about?” Della exclaims. “Looked like a robbery, nothing we want to get involved with,” replies Blaise.**

**Guzman notices the blood oozing from the driver’s chest. “Chico, you’ve been hit,” he exclaims. “Pull over, I’ll do the driving.” Chico pulls the car to the curb wherein Otto jumps out, coming around to the driver’s side.**

**At this point Blaise, driving Della’s Mustang, passes the pulled over car containing the wounded Chico and enters the freeway.**

**Otto helps Chico make the transition from the driver’s seat to the passenger seat then finally climbs in behind the wheel, fires up the engine and heads for the freeway entrance.**

**On the I-15, no longer heading south but west, Otto notices that Chico doesn’t look so good. “Hang in there buddy, I’ll take care of your wound once we get back to the hotel.” “I need a doctor,” Chico exclaims. “You know that isn’t possible,” Otto retorts. “Then dump me in front of a hospital,” demands Chico. “Don’t worry, I’ll take care of you,” states Otto.**

**In the Mustang, Blaise asks, “How much money do you suppose you have there?” indicating the briefcase. “I would say within the neighbor-hood of a few thousand dollars, one way or the other, of half a mil-lion,” replies Della. “Nice neighborhood,” Blaise responds. Approaching Primm, Nevada, Della suggests, “Why don’t we stay the night in Primm? We’re both exhausted and it’s nearly a four hour drive from here to Santa Clarita.” “Sounds good to me,” is Blaise’s response. He pulls off the I-15 and enters Primm heading for the Primm Valley Resort & Casino.**

**Otto Guzman’s stolen vehicle pulls off the I-15 at Primm, Nevada, 40 miles west of Las Vegas and heads for the Primm Valley Resort & Casino. Chico appears to be unconscious.**

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**Using one of the two card keys, Della and Blaise open the door to their room and Della enters. “I’ll get our luggage from the car,” Blaise says. He heads for the Mustang parked next to one of the many parking lot entrances to the resort. Blaise is gathering the suitcases from the back of the car when he notices a familiar figure apparently helping a drunk make it to his motel room. Only this drunk has blood oozing from a wound in his chest. Otto Guzman glances in his direction, but Blaise isn’t sure that he was spotted. Nevertheless, Blaise remains frozen until Otto and the wounded Chico are inside the entrance to their room.**

**Blaise watches the outside windows of the nearby rooms. It’s just dark enough to notice the lights coming on in one of the rooms; the room next to that assigned to him and Della. Cautiously, he rushes to his room and explains the situation to Della. “We’ve got to get out of here and fast,” he exclaims. Asked to explain, the words rush out. “The man who was shot outside the bank? Well, the person who shot him got a good look at me and the bastard is in the room next to ours. We’re not safe here. Grab the money and let’s go.”**

**Meanwhile, at McCarran International Airport, in Las Vegas, an Aero- méxico flight touches down on the runway and rolls out. At the gate, Richard Leslie AKA Brigand or the bandit – Brig for short - is greeted by his sister, Sylvia Leslie. “Why did I fly into Vegas instead of LAX?” he asks his sister. “I wanted you to drive my car back to San Marino. I’m taking the tour bus with Laura Wilson back to Los Angeles,” Sylvia replies. “Reggaeton Renée is in town?” asks Brig. “She’s appearing at the Orleans Resort & Casino.” says Sylvia. I’d love to see her again, except I cannot Stand Reggaeton Hip Hop,” says Brig.**

**It’s nighttime on the westbound I-15, just west of Primm, when Otto pulls the stolen car to the side of the road. He removes the silencer from the .38, sticks it in the pocket of his jacket, then backs his car to a spot overlooking a deep culvert. There, he climbs out of the stolen vehicle and tosses the .38 into the culvert. Climbing back into the car, he drives off.**

**About this time, Brig is driving his sister’s Lincoln Navigator SUV along the same stretch of road. He passes Primm, Nevada, crossing into California. Brig’s cell phone rings and after checking the caller ID, he answers. It’s his sister, Sylvia, who is backstage at the Orleans Resort and Casino with Reggaeton Renée who wants to say hi to the *Bandit*. They briefly discus their time in Cancun then say their goodbyes.**

**Suddenly, Brig’s headlights pick up the image of a beautiful young woman climbing onto the side of the highway from a culvert. Brig**

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**slows down as the woman sticks out the thumb of her right hand. Della Campbell is dressed only in bra and panties. Brig’s Lincoln Navigator comes to a stop about fifty yards past Della. He throws the gear in reverse and backs up the SUV until he’s parked on the side of the road in front of the mostly nude Della. He rolls down the passenger side window. “Our car ran off the road,” explains Della. I think my boyfriend is dead.”**

**Brig jumps out of the SUV and comes around to join Della. He looks down into the culvert and spots the Ford Mustang. Joined by Della, he climbs down the hill and approaches the wrecked Mustang. Blaise King is slumped over the steering wheel. He places his fingers against the carotid artery feeling for a pulse. Finding none, he turns to Della. “He’s dead, all right. How did it happen?”**

**“I was asleep when the Mustang seemed to suddenly fly off the road, landing in this culvert where it is invisible from the highway,” she explains.**

**Then Brig spots the clothes lying on top of the black briefcase. “And your clothes?” he asks. “At least 20 cars passed me by while I was standing on the side of the highway. So I decided to take matters**

**into my own hands. Worked, didn’t it? You stopped.” “Probably feared they were being set up for a possible carjacking. Get dressed, we’ve got to notify the police.” Della starts putting on her clothes but isn’t in favor of notifying the police, at least not yet. She pleads her case. “Look. I’m tired...I need some rest before being confronted by the police. Let’s get a motel room in Primm. We’ll call the police in the morning.” “You’re one strange girl, but very well, Primm it is,” Brig chocks. Della grabs her luggage and the black briefcase and starts up the hill with Brig beside her.**

**“Where would you like to stay, Whiskey Pete’s, Buffalo Bills or Primm Valley,” Brig asks as they drive into the Resort area. “Primm Valley,” Della replies.**

**Approaching the registration desk, Della leans into Brig and an-nounces, “Register us as husband and wife.” Brig is a little taken aback by the request, but clutching the black briefcase, Della con-tinues, “Please, I’ll explain later.” At the desk, Brig hands over his credit card and says, “We’ve no reservation, but would like a room.” The registration clerk glances at the name on the card then swipes it into her computer. “I think we can accommodate you, *Mr. Goodis*.” Then Della asks, “Are there any rooms available near number 87?” The clerk checks and then answers, “Number 85 is available.” Della smiles.**

**Brig is carrying the two suitcases and Della her black briefcase as they enter room number 85, just adjacent to the room Blaise and Della**

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**were previously checked into, 87, facing the dry lake. Brig turns on the light to reveal a fairly large interior with two queen-size beds, desk, mini fridge and several stuffed chairs. Della puts the black briefcase on one of the queen-size beds and claims the bed for herself. Brig places her suitcase next to the briefcase.**

**“Now, young lady, I need some answers. What the hell actually hap-pened and why is it you refuse to call in the police? And the Mustang? To whom is it registered?” asks Brig. “Oh, the Mustang,” she cries out. “I forgot about the car. It’s registered to my late husband, David Campbell.” “It’s got California plates,” Brig adds. “I live in Santa Clarita,” Della explains. Brig is intrigued. “Santa Clarita, you say. Remember that jewel robbery that occurred nearly a year ago?” “Do I,” is Della’s answer. “One of the robbers died in my car while attempting a getaway.” “The person who died in your car was the one who shot the guard. Fortunately, the guard lived,” recalls Brig. “Ironic that now a second person has died in that very Mustang.” Della counters, “We’ve got a lot to catch up on and I’m hungry. Why don’t we have dinner before everything closes? There’s a good restaurant right here next to the hotel. It’s called GP’s. Bit pricy but the food and wines are said to be excellent. Besides, I’ll buy. ...You get cleaned up first,” Della suggests, indicating the bathroom.**

**While Brig is in the bathroom, Della opens her briefcase and extracts a few hundred in cash. Then she places the briefcase under her bed. Brig comes out of the bathroom and Della goes in, shutting the door and reapplies what little makeup she uses. Meanwhile, Brig notices the briefcase missing from atop the bed and looks around for it. He finds it where Della had hid it – under the bed. He pulls it out and opens it. The briefcase is stuffed with mostly $100 bills, and a few $20s. “My, my, what do we have here?” he mutters to himself. He closes the case and re-hides it under the bed.**

**Brig and Della step into the hallway and head for the casino area. The CAMERA PANS over to reveal the door of room 86, which faces the**

**parking lot. Inside room 86, Chico is barely conscious. Otto has just finished counting the cash found in the three manila envelopes. He tells the nearly unconscious Chico the amount. “Hey, Chico, one hundred seven thousand five hundred dollars. Not bad, is it.” Instead of answering, Chico pleads, “Please...just get me to a hospital.” Otto Guzman has had enough. He picks up a pillow from his own bed and moves to the bed of his supposed friend, Chico Tellez.**

**Seated at their table at GP’s Steakhouse, Della and *the Bandit* have a lot to discuss. Brig orders the prime rib while Della goes for the veal chop. The wine ordered is a California Cabernet Sauvignon. “But right now, I’d like a Gentlemen Jack on the rocks,” Brig adds.**

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 **“And I’ll have a Bacardi Pina Colada,” Della adds.**

**Outside, Otto Guzman finally finds what he’s looking for – the gar-dener’s tool shed. Finding it unlocked, he enters. Grabbing a rake and shovel he exits.**

**Meanwhile, at GP’s Steakhouse, Brig is making the case for reporting the accident immediately. “They’re sure to spot the skid marks in the morning and discover the Mustang – which is registered to you. Leaving the scene and not reporting the accident could raise the possibility in the mind of law enforcement that perhaps it wasn’t an accident, after all,” insists Brig. “How dare you! ...What would make them think that?” asks Della. Brig continues, “When they find the money you’re carrying around in that black brief case, what else are they to think?” A shocked Della fights to control her anger, “How did you know about that?” “While you were in the bathroom, I looked,” Brig replies.**

**The police will assume that you did away with your boyfriend in order to avoid sharing the loot,” Brig continues. “The *loot*,” Della exclaims? “I assume it to have come from the cash resulting from fencing the jewels from the Santa Clarita jewel robbery. And if I can figure that out, so can the police,” says Brig. Della finally breaks down and confesses, “The *loot*, as you call it, was the *fence’s* share, which, somehow I managed to misappropriate and stash in a Vegas bank.”**

**“How much of it was to go to your boyfriend?” Brig asks. “Offici-ally, nothing,” Della says, “Although I planned to give him half.”**

**On the dry lake some distance behind and to the west of the Primm Valley Resort & Casino, Otto Guzman is digging in the claylike soil. Beside him is the body of Chico Tellez wrapped in the bed sheets from Chico’s bed. He’s careful to spread out most of the dug up soil so as not to leave a mound when placing Chico and the bedding into the makeshift grave.**

**Brig and Della are still sipping their cocktails when the prime rib and veal chop arrive, together with the wine.**

**Acquiescing, Della acknowledges that the police should be notified. “Will you do it for me? I don’t think I’m up to it,” she pleads. After careful thought, Brig agrees, “I’ll make the call soon as we return to our room.”**

**On the dry lake, with Primm Valley in the distant east, Otto is raking away any foot prints that might be detected in the loose soil. The grave is perfect as it blends into the dry lake bed with no telltale mound. He needn’t worry about footprints in areas where he**

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**did not dig as the claylike soil is relatively hard.**

**At GP’s, Della and Brig turn down dessert, as they enjoy the last of the claret. “I’m not sure why I let you talk me into rescuing you without calling the police but I assure you it was not because of your nearly naked body, lovely and desirable as it is,” says Brig.**

**Instead, it was likely because I’m wanted by the police myself and didn’t want to have to answer a lot of questions and possibly be fingerprinted,” Brig continues. “But, if you call the police now, won’t that put you in harm’s way?” Della asks. “Could be,” Brig acknowledges, “But I like you and for you there is no other way but to report the accident.” “I like you as well, Mr. Goodis,” Della answers. Brig proceeds, “Since we’re in this together, you might as well know that my real name is Richard Leslie, but I prefer going by the name Brigand.” “Brigand? You mean the *bandit,*” is Della’s reply. “Brig for short. “Just call me Brig,” Richard Leslie commands.**

**Meanwhile, Guzman finds the linen room and enters. He grabs fresh sheets and towels before exiting.**

**The door to Brig and Della’s room opens and the two enter. “Although the accident happened in California, we’re now in Clark County, Neva-da. Best I call the Clark County Sheriff’s Department in Vegas. Use your iPhone to get me the number.” Brig pulls out his cell phone, a model so strange looking that Della has to comment. “What’s that?” she asks. Brig explains, “It’s an untraceable, prepaid phone some-times referred to as a *burn* phone. It can be traced to a cell tower but not to the individual caller.” Della comes up with the number and Brig dials it on his burn phone.**

**Brig is finally able to reach Detective Sergeant Ann Sparks of the Clark County Sheriff’s Department. After explaining the nature of the call, Brig gives the sergeant their present location. The ser-geant reminds Brig not to check out until she’s had a chance to in-terview them - first thing in the morning. She then let’s Brig know that she will notify the California Highway Patrol where to look for the Mustang.**

**Hanging up, Brig turns to Della. “Now that the police are officially involved, I want to hear the full story...and I mean the *full* story. Why are we here in this specific room in this specific motel?”**

**Della spills what she knows. She tells of Blaise being at the bank when the courier was shot and killed. Later, they decided to stay the night in Primm rather than drive through to Santa Clarita. They**

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**were checked into room 87 when Blaise went out to the Mustang to gather the luggage. “A little while later he came rushing into the room saying we had to get out of here immediately,” Della explains.**

**“When I asked him why, Blaise said that the person who shot the courier was booked into room 86, just across the hallway. “The shooter got a good look at Blaise while making his escape from the bank,” Della adds.**

**Brig has a skeptical look on his face as he looks into Della’s eyes. Noticing the look, Della asks, “Don’t you believe me?” “You have to admit that it’s one hell of a coincidence that the both of you should end up at the same motel, let alone rooms across the hall from one another,” Brig answers. “How do you explain that?” Brig adds.**

**It’s morning in Primm, Nevada, when there is a knock on the door of room 85. Wearing only his boxer shorts, Brig climbs out of his bed, throws on his robe, and opens the door. He is greeted by the at-tractive plain clothes Detective-Sergeant Ann Sparks. “I’m Detec-tive-Sergeant Sparks of the Clark County Sheriff’s Department. I’m here to get a statement concerning last night’s accident involving a**

**Ford Mustang belonging to David Campbell who, prior to his murder, was married to one Della Campbell.” “Come in, sergeant. We’ve been expecting you,” is Brig’s measured response. Sergeant Sparks enters the room as Della climbs out of her bed and puts on her robe to cover her near nude body. “Why don’t you two get dressed while I return to my patrol car and gather the revolver suspected as being used to shoot one Blaise King?” To Della, Sergeant Sparks adds, “To see if you recognize the weapon.” Della is stunned while Brig remains skeptical.**

**When SGT Sparks returns, everyone is comfortably seated facing one another in one of the stuffed chairs. The detective-sergeant pulls out a revolver sealed in a plastic bag and shows it to Della. “Ever see this before?” she asks. Staring at the revolver, Della shakes her head. “This gun was found less than five yards from your Mus-tang,” the detective-sergeant informs Della. Brig pipes up, “And whose fingerprints were found on the revolver, detective?” “None. ..the revolver was wiped clean,” is Sparks answer. “Strange,” is the**

***bandit’s* only comment.**

**“Ballistics indicates this weapon was used to gun down a citizen in front of a Vegas bank. , that citizen, Martin Sheiner, was known to be carrying a large sum of money for placement in the night deposit box,” Sparks continues. “The money never reached the deposit box,”**

**the detective sergeant adds.**

**“And you wish to know if I were anywhere near the bank in question when the heist took place?” is Della’s question. Sparks nods. “Both**

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**Blaise and I were there at the time of the shooting,” Della confes-ses. “And the money?” Sparks continues. “Where’s the money?” SGT Sparks watches as Della’s eyes dart to her queen-size bed. Sparks climbs to her feet and moves over to the bed. Finding nothing on the surface of bed, Sparks looks underneath where she pulls out the black briefcase and places it on Della’s bed.**

**The Clark County Deputy Sheriff then opens the case. She doesn’t seem surprised to find it filled with cash. Turning to Della she pulls out her handcuffs and announces, “Della Campbell, you’re under arrest for the murder of Blaise King and suspicion of involvement in the murder of *Martin Sheiner* and the theft of a large amount of cash which Mr. Sheiner was known to be carrying.” Once again, Brig pipes up, “Does ballistics match the gun to the death of Blaise King?” “We won’t know that until later today, but there’s enough circumstantial evidence to hold Mrs. Campbell,” Sparks replies.**

**Della looks to Brig for guidance. The *Bandit* nods that she should submit to the arrest. After being cuffed, the deputy sheriff turns to Brig. “Mr. Goodis, you are not to leave Clark County until I’ve**

**had a chance to question you and get your statement...perhaps some-time tomorrow?” Brig smiles, “I look forward to our next visit, whenever.” It’s apparent there’s an attraction between Richard Leslie and the deputy.**

 ***End: First 45-50 pages of the 120 page script.***

**Soon as the deputy leaves with Della in cuffs, Brig pulls out his *burn* phone and dials a number. Over an establishing shot of the Venetian Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, an iPhone rings. In one of the Venetian suites, Brig’s sister answers. Brig asks Sylvia to post bail for Della and brings her up to speed on why he’s unable to leave Clark County at the moment. “Do you want me to come to Primm?” she asks. “What good would that do?” Brig asks. “Have more faith in me, big brother. After all I’m the one who tracked down our brother Wade in Santa Clarita, remember,” Sylvia counters. “That you did, little sister. That you did,” is Brig’s weak reply.**

**Morning finds Brig and the attractive deputy sheriff having breakfast at Primm’s IHOP Restaurant, located in Whiskey Pete’s Hotel and Casino, across the I-15 from Buffalo Bill’s and the Primm Valley Resort & Casino. Brig is telling the Clark County Deputy Sheriff what was told to him by Della prior to her arrest. “She told me that her boyfriend was convinced that the man in room 86 was the shooter in the robbery that took place in front of the bank, and that he was helping a seriously injured man to room 86,” Brig reveals. “If that’s the case there should be blood evidence,” SGT Sparks notes. “Exactly,” Brig agrees. “So why don’t we determine who is checked**

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**into room 86 and then check out the room,” is Brig’s suggestion?**

**At the check-in-check-out counters near the casino, Detective Sergeant Ann Sparks flashes her badge and demands to know who is checked into room 86. “The room is occupied by a Mr. Claus Von Kruger,” the receptionist replies. “I need to get a look at the room,” Sergeant Sparks continues. “It’s official?” the clerk asks.**

**“It’s official,” Sparks states.**

**In the hallway outside room 86, with Brig and Sergeant Sparks standing behind him, a security officer knocks on the door and calls out. “Security, Mr. Von Kruger. Please open up,” the security**

**officer demands. The officer repeats the demand one more time then, with his master card key, opens the door. The room is empty. Brig and SGT Sparks check out the bed and carpet, looking for any trace of blood and finding none. Sparks shoots Brig a look of skepticism. “Looks like the boyfriend may have made the whole thing up,” is the sergeant’s only remark. “If the man with him was as wounded as the boyfriend claims, he couldn’t have left the room on his own. He must be close by,” Brig insists. Considering the whole exercise a colossal waste of time, Sparks quips. “You find him, give me a call. In the meantime, don’t leave Clark County.” With that she walks to the parking lot, gets behind the wheel of her patrol car and drives off. As SGT Sparks enters the I-5, Della Campbell exits in her new rental. She drives directly to the motel entrance of the Primm Valley Resort, closest to Room 85.**

**Brig is resting on one of the two queen-size beds, when there is a knock at the door. But before he can get up the door opens and Della enters, her card key in hand. Della thanks Brig for bailing her out but then tries to clarify his motives. “I don’t know why you’re so kind to me,” she states. “I long ago dismissed that it might have been for the obvious reason – getting into my pants. It’s something else, isn’t it?” she surmises. “Although getting into your pants paints a delightful picture in my mind, my interest in you has to do with your involvement in the Santa Clarita jewelry store robbery,” Brig admits. “Tell me what you want to know. I will keep no secrets from you,” Della says. “My brother was involved in the heist. I guess I just want assurance that he wasn’t involved in shooting the guard... that he was not packing a gun,” says Brig. “Like I told you before, the only one packing a gun was the one the guard shot and who, although severely wounded, climbed into my Mustang where he later died,” Della answers. “So what’s our next move?” Della asks. “Have a serious talk with Mr. Claus Von Kruger, once he returns,” Brig advises. “Meanwhile it would be helpful to learn what happened to his wounded partner,” Brig continues. “If the partner succumbed to his wound, where would Claus Von Kruger hide the body? It’s not**

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**is his room,” Brig states. Della thinks about it for a moment then answers, “Primm sits on the eastern edge of a large dry lake. That’s where I’d bury the body and I’d do it late at night when it would be impossible to see me doing it.”**

**Walking westward about 40 yards apart, Brig and Della are seen searching the dry lake about 250 yards west of their Primm Valley room. Suddenly they come onto an area of the dry lake bed that has recently been disturbed. They merge on the area. “This would seem**

**to confirm your theory that the partner is dead and buried,” Brig comments to Della. “Better get SGT Sparks out here with a forensic team,” Brig continues. “In the meantime, let’s see if we can’t find and confront Mr. Von Kruger,” Brig adds.**

**That night, outside the entrance to the rooms closest to that of 85, 86, and 87, Della and Brig are sitting in Sylvia’s SUV watching the comings and goings of those entering or exiting the area. “Be helpful if we had an idea of what Mr. Claus Von Kruger looked like,” Della comments. “Just watch for the lights in room 86 to come on,” Brig reminds her.**

**Suddenly, Brig stiffens as he watches a man enter the building. A moment later, he grabs his cell phone as the lights come on in room 86. Meanwhile the phone rings in LA Detective-Sergeant Dorn’s Panorama City police station. SGT Doran answers and when learning that it’s Richard Leslie on the other end of the call is all ears.**

**“What can you tell me about the whereabouts of Otto Guzman?” Brig asks. “A few days ago, he escaped from a Los Angeles courthouse and is a fugitive,” Doran replies “I know exactly where he is and I suggest you get hold of Clark County Detective-Sergeant Sparks and have her quickly get her ass to room 86 of the Primm Valley Resort and Casino – and to bring plenty of support.**

**A highly confused Della looks to *the Bandit* for an explanation. “Our Claus Von Kruger is none other than escaped convict Otto Guzman, who murdered an innocent woman named Patrice Miles,” Brig explains. “Was he involved in the Santa Clarita jewel heist,” Della asks. “It’s doubtful,” Brig answers, “But he was involved with my brother in Patrice Miles’ murder.”**

**Once again the casino security guard is knocking on the door of Otto’s Guzman’s Primm Valley room number 86. Behind him are SGT Sparks and two Clark County deputy sheriffs. Noticeable absent are Della and Brig. The door opens and SGT Sparks enters, her 9mm Glock drawn. Guzman is handcuffed and read his rights.**

**Meanwhile out on the dry lake, three Clark County deputy sheriffs are poking and digging in the area of the disturbed lake bottom dirt. As**

 **Page Thirteen**

**Guzman, hands cuffed in front of him and wearing sunglasses, is being led to the area by SGT Sparks and her two deputies, the team digging in the lake bed soil finally comes up with a body. With Guzman looking on, the body is pulled from the soil and dusted off. Brig immediately recognizes the body as that of Chico Tellez. Brig turns to Guzman and demands, “Did Tellez die in your room as a result of his wound, or did you have a part in his demise?” A flashback shows**

**Guzman holding a pillow over Chico’s face and then pressing down, forcing the life from his wounded body. “And, by the way, how much money was that courier you shot carrying?” Brig adds. Guzman remains silent and is dragged away by the sheriff’s deputies. SGT Sparks turns to Della and Brig and demands, “I want to see both of you in my office tomorrow 10 am sharp!”**

**The next morning both Della Campbell and Richard Leslie AKA Brig are in the office of Detective-Sergeant Sparks of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department located at 400 So. Martin Luther King Blvd., Las Vegas.**

**SGT Sparks turns her attention to Della. “You had half a million dollars in your briefcase. The courier, Martin Sheiner, who was shot and killed, is known never to carry more than approximately $100,000. Secondly, the slug we took out of Mr. Tellez came from the gun belonging to Mr. Sheiner. Finally, the slugs removed from Sheiner match the slug that killed your boyfriend and the gun found at the scene of your crashed Mustang.” “Let’s cut to the chase, Sergeant. What does all this mean for Mrs. Campbell?” demands Brig. “It means she’s practically a free woman,” Sparks says.**

***“Practically?”* Brig questions. “There’s the matter of the half million,” Sparks interjects. “You’re saying that you’re confiscating that money?” Della asks. “That’s exactly what I’m saying,” is Sparks answer. “You’re welcome to it. It was a mistake that it fell into my hands. I’m glad to get rid of it,” Della insists. “I believe you, Mrs. Campbell, but we’ll need the district attorney’s office to sign off on the charges before you’re a free woman,” Sparks adds.**

**Then Detective-Sergeant Sparks turns her attention to Brig. “This is that hardest thing I’ve ever been asked to do,” she states. “But I need you to stand with your hands behind your back, while I put the cuffs on you,” Sparks demands. Brig complies. As the handcuffs are secured to his wrists, Brig gently asks, “And the charge is?” “The murder of your grandfather,” the Sergeant replies. “You’ll be extradited to Los Angeles for trial.” Sparks smiles, adding, “I’ll be there as a character witness.” she adds. Brig returns the smile.**

***End: Second 45-50 pages the 120 page script. Approximate page count at this point is 96 pages of a 117 – 120 page screenplay.***

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**The Trial:**

**Voluntarily extradited back to California where he is arraigned and released on bail posted by Sylvia, Brig meets with his defense attorney, who is none other than the colorful real life Ronald J. LeMieux. “In California, under certain conditions, euthanasia or assisted suicide is not illegal. If you assisted in the death of your father as a direct result of his desire, suicide note or not, you’re likely to be home free. If you killed him for monetary gain, well that is another matter,” LeMieux informs Richard Leslie. “The sticky part is your role in assisting in your father’s death. Did you merely assist or initiate?”**

**The court proceedings are presided over by Judge Judy Foster, an attractive black female in her late 30s or early 40s. The prosecutor, Leonard Cockrill outlines the state’s case against Richard Leslie AKA the Brigand or Brig, for short.**

**“Ladies and gentlemen of the jury and Judge Foster, the State contends that instead of assisting in his father’s death, that the youngest son, Richard Leslie, initiated the death for financial gain by firing a bullet into his father’s head; an act the defendant has yet to deny,” prosecutor Cockrill pontificates. “We will prove beyond a reasonable doubt that it was not his father’s wish to be euthanized, especially in this manner. He was shot in the head by his prize possession, an authentic Colt .44 Peacemaker requiring black powder cartridges, something the son had to go out of his way to obtain, proving premeditation – and thus first degree murder,” he adds.**

**It’s LeMieux’s turn before the jury. “Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the defense will prove beyond a reasonable doubt that while Richard Leslie shot his father it was at his suffering father’s request and while his actions were not exactly within the framework of an assisted suicide, it was nevertheless within the guidelines of the California statute pertaining to such assisted suicides.”**

**The prosecutor calls his first witness, prisoner Wade Leslie. Sans his prison garb and wearing a well tailored suit, Wade is sworn in and takes the stand.**

**The prosecutor runs through Wade’s current status for the jury; the fact he’s awaiting trial for a Santa Clarity jewel heist as well has the heist of an armored car in North Hollywood. Finally, Cockrill asks Wade to tell the jury what happened, from his perspective, on the afternoon that his father died.**

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**Wade tells the story, from his perspective. Wade’s descriptions are recorded by the CAMERA as his VOICEOVER is HEARD.**

**“My father’s nurse, my sister Sylvia, and I were gathered around the kitchen table making ourselves sandwiches when we suddenly heard the report of a gunshot. We all rushed for the upper floor and father’s bedroom. Once in father’s bedroom, we found father on the bed, dead from a gunshot wound to the head, clutching a leather folder. The gun, an antique Colt .44 Peacemaker, and prize possession, was by his right hand. No one else was in the room. I was curious about the contents of the folder so I removed it from his hands and took a look,” Wade relates. “And what was in the folder?” Cockrill asks. “It appeared to be a new holographic will. One in which I was cut out. My share going to my little brother, Richard,” Wade continues. “Naturally, I turned the folder over to the police,” Wade adds.**

**The witness is turned over to LeMieux for cross. “Did not the folder also contain a suicide note?” LeMieux asks. “It did not,” Wade answers. LeMieux continues, “Wouldn’t the fact that Carter Leslie’s favorite six shooter was the suicide weapon indicate that Carter Leslie might have pulled the trigger himself?” “Objection,” Cockrill cries out, “No foundation for suicide has been established.” “Sustained,” announces Judge Foster. LeMieux addresses the judge, “your Honor, Carter Leslie’s demise was either the result of suicide or murder. In the best interests of my client, I have the right to pursue the suicide angle.” The judge reverses herself, “The defense shall have the right to pursue suicide as the cause of death.” LeMieux continues, “Now, I ask you, Wade Leslie, under penalty of perjury, do you know anything about a supposed suicide note?” “No, in my opinion, no such note ever existed,” Wade answers.**

**Meanwhile at the Federal minimum prison facilities at Otisville, New York, William “Jett” Benedict is being released. Several people are there to pick him up. Among them are: Actress Karen Vaughn, Seth and Diane Meriwether, together with Jett’s daughter, Margaret Benedict. It’s Karen Vaughn who fills the group in on what’s happened to Richard Leslie, AKA Brig.**

**Back at the Los Angeles courthouse, the prosecution rests and the defense takes over. Taking a big chance, LeMieux calls his client, Richard Leslie, to the stand. “Richard, were you in the room occupied by your father at the time of his demise?” “I was,” Brig relies. “Tell us, from your perspective, what happened in that room prior to your father’s death?” is LeMieux’s next question. Once again the CAMERA records and shows us everything described by Brig (Stock footage from a previous episode).**

**“My father, Carter Leslie, had sent for me. I entered his room to find his nurse feeding him as though feeding a small child. Father**

 **Page Sixteen**

**waved the nurse away so that he could talk to me alone. With that, the nurse gathered her food tray and left the room. Father, weak as he was, had a difficult time speaking,” Brig relates. “In the drawer**

**of my desk is a leather folder. Please get it,” father said. I walked over to the desk and retrieved the folder.” “Read it,” my father demanded. “I settled into a chair next to the bed and began reading. I was appalled by what I was reading. Enclosed was a new will and a suicide note asking me to assist in ending his life by holding his favorite gun to his head and helping him pull the trigger.” “And what was your reaction to this request?” LeMieux asks. “I voiced my objection.” “And your father’s reaction,” LeMieux asks? “Struggling to speak, he told me that he wrote both the new will and suicide note while he could still move. He said he had changed his will because my brother Wade had been stealing from him for years,” Brig recalls. “He admitted that he had known about it for years but had let it slide in hopes that Wade would turn his life around...instead he’s only gotten worse, my father told me” Brig relates.**

**“Tell me what you know about your father’s Colt .44 Peacemaker,” LwMieux next asks. “My father kept it in the drawer of the nightstand. He asked me to take it out because he didn’t have the strength to lift it. Then he informed me that it was loaded and that he wanted me to pull the trigger – to just make it look like he was the one that actually fired the weapon, as per the suicide note,” Brig testifies. “And, again, what was your reaction to your father’s request,” LeMieux asks. “I told him I couldn’t do it,” Brig reveals. “And your father’s reaction?” “He said ‘*please*. Must I ask your sister’?”**

**Later, in attorney LeMieux’s conference room, we are reintroduced to several people from Brig’s recent past. They include: Bill Benedict, Margaret Benedict, Seth and Diane Meriwether, and FBI Special Agent Jesse Corallo. “Jett” Benedict makes the introductions to attorney Ronald J. LeMieuix. Then Benedict turns to LeMieux and announces that they are all there as character witnesses. LeMieux is impressed. He addresses the group. “Monday morning Len Cockrill is going to cross examine Richard Leslie. After that I will put each of you on the stand to briefly testify what you know firsthand about the character of one Richard Leslie, good or bad...after which the defense will rest,” LeMieux states. “What do you think are his chances?” Benedict asks. “Frankly, I don’t know. Without the suicide note, it all comes down to greed; who has the most to gain from the new will, and lack of the note, Richard Leslie or his brother, Wade. Right now I’d say our chances are 50-50 at best.” The dejected look on the faces of those gathered in the conference room says it all.**

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**Detective-Sergeant Ann Sparks enters the office of Clark County Sheriff Doug Gillespie. “You sent for me, sir?” Sheriff Gillespie**

**greets SGT Sparks warmly. “Yes, Sergeant, it has to do with Otto Guzman. He’s being extradited to Los Angeles County to stand trial for the murder of Patrice Miles.” “And that involves me...how?” Sparks asks.**

**As Sheriff Gillespie describes what he wants Sparks to do, the CAMERA records the scene. “Along with three other prisoners, he’s going to be driven to Las Angeles. I want you in charge of the escort team, which will include the driver of the shuttle bus, you, and Deputy Stuart Baird. Of the four prisoners, he’s by far the most dangerous, so be careful,” the sheriff warns.**

**It’s late at night when the prison shuttle nears Barstow and when one of the prisoners begins suffering chest pains and cries out. Seated behind the driver are Deputy Baird (in one of the two left aisle seats) and SGT Sparks (in one of the two right hand seats). Behind them is a virtually locked cage holding the prisoners. Otto Guzman is typical of the four shuttle prisoners, his hands handcuffed in front of him. The only difference is that Guzman is wearing sunglasses with plastic frames. Per policy, Sheriff Deputy Baird removes his gun belt and lays it over the seat directly behind the driver, then unlocks the door to the cage.**

**Unarmed, except for his baton, Deputy Baird enters the cage and quickly moves to the ailing prisoner, Gomez. He’s bent over taking his pulse when suddenly he is attacked from behind. With both his sunglasses and cuffs missing, Otto Guzman grabs the baton and sends it crashing into the deputy’s head, with the body falling into the lap of the supposed ailing prisoner Gomez. Like a flash, Otto is at the entrance to the cage where he takes possession of Deputy Baird’s weapon before Sergeant Sparks has a chance to react. Meanwhile in the cage, Gomez gets his hands on Deputy Baird’s handcuff key and after removing his own cuffs passes the key to the others.**

**Up front, Guzman points the weapon at Sparks and demands that she surrender her weapon, which she steadfastly refuses to do. Guzman then brings Baird’s gun crashing down on her head, rendering her unconscious, if not dead. Then Guzman demands that the driver pull to the side of the road. When the driver also refuses to do as instructed, Guzman attempts to take control. During the struggle the shuttle slams into the side of a rental bus traveling in the adjacent lane. Printed on the side of the bus is: REGGAETON RENÉE & LATIN HIP HOP. The shuttle, now no longer drivable, Guzman exits and rushes to the rental bus where he points Baird’s weapon at the driver and orders him to open the door. The bus driver complies and Guzman enters.**

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**Guzman orders the bus driver to drive on. With a gun to his head, the driver naturally complies. As the bus leaves the scene, the remaining three prisoners rush out of the prison shuttle, their handcuffs removed. It’s now Gomez who starts giving orders. “Get the driver out here,” he shouts. The injured driver, who can barely stand, is dragged out of the shuttle to face Gomez, who removes the driver’s gun and hands it to one of the other two prisoners. “Get your ass out there and flag down a car,” Gomez yells at the driver. “Any false moves and you get a slug in your spine,” he adds.**

**Meanwhile, in the shuttle Detective-Sergeant Sparks is regaining consciousness. She checks and is surprised to find her weapon in its holster. Drawing the weapon, she manages to get to her feet. She then stumbles out of the shuttle and shouts to the three prisoners, “Hands in the air and drop to your knees.” Gomez and the prisoner holding the driver’s gun then open fire on Sparks. Sparks returns fire. Gomez is critically wounded and the prisoner packing the driver’s gun severely wounded also. The third prisoner throws up his hands, wanting nothing to do with Detective-Sergeant Sparks.**

**On the Reggaeton Renée bus, Guzman thinks he has it made when he points his gun at the band members who make up the bus’s passengers. The musician’s leader, Laura Wilson (AKA Reggaeton Renée) is seated next to Sylvia Leslie, Brig sister. Outraged at having a gun pointed at her band, Laura jumps to her feet, confronting the armed Otto Guzman. At first they stare at one another in the dark. Slowly recognition sets in. Guzman blinks his eyes. It can’t be!! The prostitute from Cancun; surely it’s some terrible mistake. Positive identification comes much quicker for Laura. She knows immediately who she’s dealing with, and prepares. “You,” Guzman finally cries out. With that Otto points his gun directly at Laura’s head and prepares to fire.**

**But before he can do so, Laura throws up her hands in surrender and approaches. “Otto,” she says, “If your destination is Los Angeles, we’ve a long ways to go. In the meantime, I’m your captive; subject to your every whim, including rape. Guzman has a hard time discerning Laura’s words but it’s likely the word *rape* sticks in his mind. Laura takes advantage of the change in momentum when the bus changes lanes to purposely allow her to fall into the empty seat to her right. She’s careful to land on her back; her skirt hiked enough to expose her skimpy, black panties. As she guesses, the scene is too much for Guzman to pass up. He moves the gun to his left hand and with his right he reaches down and grabs Laura’s panties and rips them from her body. Then he bends over to kiss his victim. This is what Laura was hoping for. As their lips meet, Laura makes her move. She knees Otto in the groin and makes a grab for his gun. In the struggle, the gun is at one time pointed at Laura’s chest. Then the**

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**gun goes off, once...then twice. At this point the musicians are pulling the dead body off of Laura.**

**Monday morning, in Judge Foster’s court, Len Cockrill prepares to cross examine Richard Leslie. Taking the stand, Brig is reminded by the judge that he’s still sworn in. “It would seem that your innocence or guilt comes down to the alleged suicide note,” Cockrill opines. “If there were such a note, can you explain what happened to it?” Cockrill continues. “Yes, I can,” testifies Brig. Cockrill is obviously taken aback by Brig’s forceful announcement. “How is that?” Cockrill croaks. “My brother, Wade, misappropriated the suicide note and I can prove it,” Brig blurts out. Cockrill is beside himself over his blunder. LeMieux jumps to his feet, ”Your Honor, I don’t know about you, but I’m anxious to hear this so-called proof.”**

**“So am I,” the Judge announces. “Objection,” Cockrill cries out. “Approach,” the Judge calls the attorneys to the bench. The Judge asks LeMieux, “Are you aware of this alleged proof?” “I am, your honor,” LeMieux answers. “In court is FBI Special Agent Jesse Corallo, who is prepared to testify.” “I know it’s a bit unorthodox, but I’d like permission to call Agent Corallo out of order as a defense witness.” “Permission granted,” the Judge orders. Cockrill slinks back to the prosecution table, the look of defeat on his face.**

**FBI Agent Corallo is sworn in and takes the stand. After indentifying himself for the record, Corallo is prepared to take questions from LeMieux. “Special Agent Corallo, am I correct in assuming that this ‘proof’ is in the form of a recording,” LeMieux asks. “You are,” Corallo replies. “Would you tell the court the circumstances under which the recording was made?” Agent Corallo then goes on to reveal the parties to the recording and how he came into possession of the tape. Then, the Judge grants the defense permission to play the tape. The tape, surreptitiously recorded by Sylvia Leslie at a Santa Clarita nightclub, is of her brother, Wade, all but admitting that he misappropriated the suicide note in order to invalidate his father’s new will by blaming his younger brother for the father’s murder.**

**“Objection,” Cockrill cries out. “I object to this tape being entered into evidence on the grounds that we can’t be sure that’s really the voice of Wade Leslie,” Cockrill adds. “Your honor,” LeMieux pleads, “I intend to have Wade testify as to whether that’s his voice and exact, unedited words on the take.” “Objection overruled,” the Judge rules, “subject to Wade Leslie’s being recalled to the stand.” Wade is then called to the stand.**

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**Wade Leslie dressed in his immaculate, designer suit enters the court from the prisoner holding area. The Judge reminds Wade that he is still under oath and then Wade takes the stand.**

**LeMieux stands and begins his questioning of Wade Leslie. “Mr. Wade Leslie, please tell the court what you know of the recording just placed into evidence by the defense. First, is that you on the recording?” “It is,” Wade testifies. Even Ronald J. LeMieux is somewhat taken aback by this forthright answer. He anticipated it would take a lot more to illicit such a confession. Nevertheless, he proceeds. “What can you tell the court about this alleged suicide note,” LeMieux demands? “Why don’t you read it for yourself,” Wade asks. “I have it right here,” Wade confesses. With that Wade pulls the suicide note from the inside pocket of his jacket and offers it to anyone who will accept it. It’s the bailiff who finally takes possession.**

**Everyone is gathered in a special dining room at Lawry’s the Prime Rib Restaurant in Beverly Hills. The mood is celebratory. Gathered are: Reggaeton Renée, Della Campbell, Detective-Sergeant Ann Sparks, Sylvia Leslie, Ronald J. LeMieux, William “Jett” Benedict, Margaret Benedict, Seth Meriwether, Diane Meriwether, Special Agent Jesse Corallo and, of course Richard Leslie AKA “Brig,” short for Brigand. While the thick prime ribs are being cut and great wines and the usual cocktails served, Ronald LeMieux stands and taps his wine glass with a knife to get everyone’s attention. “Ladies and Gentlemen, fortunately, your character witness testimonies were not needed. But I can’t tell you how much I appreciate your being in court in the event that they were. Now our friend, Richard wants to make a toast.” Brig climbs to his feet and raises his wine glass. “A toast to our group...to this merry band; friends forever, enemies never, may we cut through the bullshit always together.” This, of course, gets a round of applause from all present.**

**Next it’s William “Jett” Benedict who stands and raises his wine glass. “There are good ships, and there are wood ships, the ships that sail the sea. But the best ships are friendships, and may they always be,” says Jett. This gets a rousing cheer from all present, including the carver of the prime rib.**

 ***SUPERIMPOSE: The Brigand will return in “Murder at Midnight.”***

 ***End of 117 – 120 page script.***

 **Page Twenty-One**

**Main Characters:**

 **Richard Leslie (the *Bandit*)**

 **AKA David Goodis BRIG**

 **Ronald J. LeMieux, attorney LEMIEUX**

 **Judge Judy Foster JUDGE**

 **Prosecutor Len Cockrill PROSECUTOR**

 **Otto Guzman (AKA Claus Von**

**Kruger) GUZMAN**

 **Della Campbell DELLA**

**Sheriff, Detective**

**Sergeant Ann Sparks SGT SPARKS**

 **Sylvia Leslie SYLVIA**

 **Curtis Eliason ELIASON**

 **Supporting Characters:**

 **Chico Tellez CHICO**

 **Blaise King BLAISE**

 **Martin Shein (the courier) SHEIN**

 **Laura Wilson (professional**

**name Reggaeton Renée) LAURA WILSON**

 **David Black (bank employee) DAVID**

 **Curtis Eliason ELIASON**

**William “Jett” Benedict BENEDICT**

 **Seth Meriwether SETH**

 **Diane Meriwether DIANE**

 **FBI Special Agent Jesse**

**Corallo CORALLO**

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 **Prison shuttle driver SHUTTLE DRIVER**

 **Deputy Stuart Baird (part**

**of escort team DEPUTY BAIRD**

 **Prisoner Gomez GOMEZ**

 **001**

 **001 EXT. LOS ANGELES COUNTY COURTHOUSE – DOWNTOWN L.A. - DAY 001**

 **Establish.**

 **002 INT. UNLOADING DOCK – COUNTY COURTHOUSE – DAY 002**

**The 15 prisoners are unloaded from the prison van and prepared for the march through the tunnel to the courtroom holding cells.**

**Tailored suit in hand, attorney RONALD J. LEMIEUX is there to greet his client, OTTO GUZMAN.**

 **LEMIEUX**

 **Change into this suit for your**

**court appearance.**

 **GUZMAN**

 **And the sunglasses I asked for?**

**LeMieux produces a pair of sunglasses, the lenses encased in plastic.**

 **LEMIEUX**

**If you’re planning to wear these**

**in court, forget it. The judge**

**would never permit it.**

**As Guzman finishes climbing into his suit, he checks the sun-glasses and nods his approval.**

 **GUZMAN**

 **I never intended to wear them in**

**court.**

 **003 ANOTHER ANGLE 003**

 **The prisoners are handcuffed to a chain around the waist of**

**the lead prisoner and ending with the last prisoner in line.**

 **The march through the tunnel begins.**

 **004 INT. MAIN HOLDING CELL – COURTHOUSE – DAY 004**

**As the prisoners march into the court’s main holding cell, one prisoner is missing; this being Otto Guzman.**

**Guzman’s open handcuffs are dangling from the chain, but Guz-man’s wrists are not in them. Deputies are stunned.**

 **002**

 **005 INT/EXT. STOLEN CAR – 101 FREEWAY SO. BOUND – L.A. – DAY 005**

**Approaching the interchange to the eastbound I-10, CHICO TELLEZ is driving. Otto Guzman is in the passenger seat, dressed in his immaculate suit.**

 **GUZMAN**

 **Did you switch the plates when you**

**stole this vehicle.**

 **CHICO**

 **Boss, give me some credit. Of**

**course I did. ...I switched then**

**with an automobile of the same make**

**and model. We’ve got nothing to**

**worry about.**

 **GUZMAN**

 **What about my new identity?**

**Chico reaches into his inside jacket pocket extracts an enve-lope and hands it over to Guzman, who examines the contents.**

 **CHICO**

 **From now on, you’re Claus Kruger.**

 **Guzman does a quick inventory:**

 **GUZMAN**

 **Driver’s license, passport, credit**

**card. Very good. ...How much did**

**this set us back?**

 **CHICO**

 **The usual, going rate, $5,500.**

 **006 EXT. STOLEN CAR - 101 SOUTHBOUND FREEWAY – DAY 006**

 **The stolen car is approaching the I-10.**

 **GUZMAN (V.O.)**

 **Head for Las Vegas.**

 **The stolen car transitions to the eastbound I-10.**

 **007 BACK TO SCENE – INSIDE STOLEN CAR 007**

 **GUZMAN**

 **What about the gun?**

 **003**

**Chico pulls out a box from underneath the driver’s seat and hands it to Guzman, who opens it to find a .380 revolver,**

**which Guzman carefully examines.**

 **GUZMAN**

 **Serial number intact. You sure**

**it’s clean.**

 **CHICO**

 **Positive boss. It’s registered to**

**a retired and now deceased police**

**officer whose family has no idea**

**it’s missing.**

 **(beat)**

 **Why are we headed for Las Vegas?**

 **GUZMAN**

 **How much cash do you have?**

 **CHICO**

 **About $3,500.**

 **GUZMAN**

 **(shouting)**

 **$3,500?? ...What the hell did you do**

**with your share of the armored car**

**heist money?!!**

 **CHICO**

 **Left it with my family. ... They’re**

**using it to move from Chiapas to Man-**

**zanillo and start a business.**

 **GUZMAN**

 **(calming down)**

 **Smart move.**

 **(beat)**

 **We’re heading for Vegas because**

**while in jail my roommate told me of**

**a perfect set-up. We’ll spend the**

**night in Primm, Nevada, where I’ll**

**fill you in.**

 **008 EXT. SERIES OF SHOTS - STOLEN CAR EASTBOUND ON I-15 – DAY 008**

**The stolen car is seen at several recognizable locations along the I-15, including the cutoff to Barstow. It is nearing dark when the car nears the off ramp to Primm, Nevada, 40 miles west of Las Vegas.**

 **004**

 **009 INT/EXT. STOLEN CAR – DUSK 009**

 **The stolen car pulls off the I-15 at Primm, Nevada.**

 **CHICO**

 **Where do you want to stay? Whiskey**

**Pete’s, Buffalo Bill’s or the old**

**Primadonna, which I believe is now**

**called the Primm Valley Resort and**

**Casino?**

 **GUZMAN**

 **The old Primadonna. It’s more like**

**a motel. We can reach our room with-**

**out passing through a lobby. And**

**better yet, we can park practically**

**outside the room.**

 **Chico drives towards the Primm Valley Resort & Casino.**

 **010 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE ROOM 86 – PRIM VALLEY RESORT – NIGHT 010**

**Using his card key, Chico opens the door and he and Guzman**

**enter the room.**

 **011 INT. ROOM 86 OF THE PRIMM VALLEY RESORT – NIGHT 011**

**First thing Guzman does is get on the phone and order up a bottle of scotch and some finger food. Then, he sits down and explains the upcoming Vegas caper to Chico.**

 **GUZMAN**

 **My source tells me that there is a**

**courier, a highfalutin term for a**

**numbers runner, who picks up the de-**

**posits from three wire service gam-**

**bling facilities just outside Vegas**

**and places them in the night deposit**

**box of a particular Vegas bank.**

 **(beat)**

 **He uses the night deposit because**

**that way he cannot be identified or**

**associated with the wire service**

**parlors. ...He’s said to carry some**

**$100,000 in cash.**

 **CHICO**

 **How do we identify him?**

 **005**

 **GUZMAN**

**I’m told to look for a 275 pound**

**Chinese, about 5’ 10” carrying three**

**large manila envelopes, which he**

**will deposit, and who has a penchant**

**for wearing Stetson cowboy hats.**

 **CHICO**

 **(nodding)**

**So all we have to do is wait by the**

**deposit box for our victim to show**

**up.**

 **Guzman returns the nod.**

 **GUZMAN**

 **Your cell. Is it a *burn* phone?**

 **CHICO**

 **If by *burn*, you mean prepaid and un-**

**traceable, yes.**

 **GUZMAN**

**Good.**

 **012 EXT. PARKER CENTER – DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES - DAY 012**

 **To establish the city’s police headquarters.**

 **013 INT. COLD CASE DIVISION – PARKER CENTER – DAY 013**

**A CAPTAIN enters the room housing the cold case LAPD Homicide Division.**

**The captain is seen, but not heard, conferring with plain clothes civilian contractor, CURTIS ELIASON, obviously a**

**member of the unit.**

 **014 INT. UNLOADING DOCK – COUNTY COURTHOUSE – DAY 014**

**The LAPD Captain explains the presence of Eliason to the DUTY OFFICER.**

 **LAPD CAPTAIN**

 **I’ve asked former Lieutenant Eliason**

**to look over the scene. As a civil-**

**ian contractor with the department,**

**when it comes to homicides, he’s one**

**of the most experienced we have.**

 **006**

**First, Eliason takes a look at the cuffs Guzman was wearing. Then he begins to walk through the tunnel leading to the**

**court’s holding cells.**

 **015 INT. TUNNEL – LOS ANGELES COURTHOUSE – DAY 015**

**Halfway through the tunnel, Eliason comes across a mangled**

**pair of sunglasses on the concrete floor. He picks up and examines the glasses. One of the stems is severely chewed up.**

 **ELIASON**

 **Here’s the key to the cuffs.**

 **(explaining)**

**Although they corrected the default**

**in later handcuff models, the still**

**widely used cuffs securing Guzman**

**were susceptible to being unlocked**

**by forcing the plastic stem from a**

**pair of glasses into the keyhole and**

**twisting.**

 **(beat)**

**It’s not easy and takes a lot of**

**practice. ...Fortunately the new**

**double lock cuffs eliminate the**

**problem.**

 **016 INT. LAS VEGAS BANK – DAY 016**

**It’s still daylight outside. The Bank Guard locks the front door and posts the *closed* sign.**

**DELLA CAMPBELL emerges from the vault room carrying a black briefcase. She is greeted by DAVID BLACK, who escorts her to the front door and watches as the Guard unlocks the door and lets her out.**

**017 EXT. STREET – OUTSIDE VEGAS BANK – DAY 017**

**Once on the sidewalk, Della waits for boyfriend, driving her Mustang, to pick her up. She strolls up the street where there are still some empty parking places.**

**018 ANOTHER ANGLE 018**

**Chico, behind the wheel of their stolen car – and Otto in the passenger seat – are parked near the bank’s deposit box, which is located next to the entrance.**

**Finally, Otto and Chico spot the over-weight Chinaman, MARTIN**

 **007**

**SHEIN, wearing a black Stetson cowboy hat and carrying three large manila envelopes. Gun in hand, Otto climbs out of the**

**car and quickly approaches the Chinaman from behind.**

**Sticking the .38 revolver in the small of the Chinaman’s back, Otto relieves him of the three manila envelopes.**

 **019 TIGHTER ANGLE 019**

**Then Otto raises the revolver over his head and brings it down hard on Shein’s skull. But sensing the coming blow, Shein moves his head just enough so that the full force of the blow lands on his shoulder, although it does considerable damage to his left ear.**

 **020 BACK TO SCENE 020**

**Otto then starts running for the stolen car.**

**021 ANOTHER ANGLE 021**

**It’s at this point that the boyfriend, BLAISE KING pulls Della’s Mustang to the curb just in front of Otto’s and Chico’s vehicle. Blaise and Otto stare at each other as the latter reaches the stolen car and climbs in just as Chico roars off.**

**Quick as a flash, Shein has his own .38 special out from its shoulder holster and is pumping slugs in the direction of the fleeing, stolen car.**

 **022 INT/EXT. FLEEING AUTOMOBILE – DAY 022**

**As bullets are slamming into the fleeing vehicle Otto, carrying the manila envelopes, returns fire, fatally hitting the Chinese courier twice.**

 **023 ANOTHER ANGLE 023**

**Blaise spots Della fifteen yards up the sidewalk and pulls out. He drives up the street where he double parks while she climbs in, still clutching the briefcase. He then drives off.**

 **024 INT/EXT. MUSTANG – DAY 024**

**Della looks at Blaise, inquiringly.**

 **DELLA**

 **Sounded like gunshots, what was that**

**all about?**

 **008**

 **BLAISE**

**Looked like a robbery, nothing we**

**want to get involved with.**

 **The Mustang heads for the I-15 freeway.**

 **025 INT/EXT. STOLEN AUTOMOBILE – Las VEGAS STREET – DAY 025**

**With the stolen car also heading for the freeway, Guzman**

**notices the blood oozing from the Chico’s chest.**

 **GUZMAN**

**Chico, you’ve been hit. Pull over,**

**I’ll do the driving.**

**Chico pulls the car to the curb wherein Otto jumps out, coming around to the driver’s side.**

**026 EXT. STREET – ENTRANCE TO I-15 FREEWAY – DAY 026**

**Blaise, driving Della’s Mustang, passes the pulled over,**

**stolen car containing the wounded Chico, and enters the**

**freeway.**

**027 BACK TO SCENE 027**

**Otto helps Chico make the transition from the driver’s to the passenger seat then finally fires up the engine and heads for the freeway entrance.**

 **028 INT/EXT. STOLEN AUTOMOBILE – WESTBOUND I-15 – DAY 028**

 **Otto notices that Chico doesn’t look so good.**

 **GUZMAN**

**Hang in there buddy, I’ll take care**

**of your wound once we get back to the**

**hotel.**

 **CHICO**

**I need a doctor.**

 **GUZMAN**

**You know that isn’t possible.**

 **CHICO**

**Then dump me in front of a hospital.**

 **009**

 **GUZMAN**

**Don’t worry, I’ll take care of you.**

 **229 INT/EXT. MUSTANG – WESTNOUND ON I-15 – DAY 229**

 **Still behind the wheel, Blaise turns to Della.**

 **BLAISE**

 **(indicating**

 **briefcase)**

**How much money do you suppose you**

**have there?**

 **DELLA**

**I would say within the neighborhood**

**of a few thousand dollars, one way**

**or the other, of half a million.**

 **BLAISE**

**Nice neighborhood.**

 **DELLA**

 **We’re approaching Primm. Why don’t**

**we stay the night. We’re both ex-**

**hausted and it’s neatly a four hour**

**drive from here to Santa Clarita.**

 **BLAISE**

 **Sounds good to me.**

 **The Mustang pulls off the I-15 and enters Primm, Nevada.**

 **230 EXT. PRIMM, NEVADA – EVENING 230**

 **The Mustang heads for the Primm Valley Resort and Casino.**

 **231 EXT. STOLEN CAR – I-15 AT PRIMM – EVENING 231**

**Otto and Chico’s vehicle also takes the Primm off-ramp from the I-15 and heads for the Primm Valley Resort & Casino.**

 **232 INT/EXT. STOLEN CAR – EVENING**

 **Chico appears to be unconscious.**

**233 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE ROOM 87 – NIGHT 233**

 **Using his card key, Blaise opens the door and Della enters.**

 **Blaise hesitates.**

 **010**

 **BLAISE**

**I’ll get our luggage from the Mus-**

**tang.**

**He heads for the Mustang parked next to one of the many parking lot entrances to the resort.**

 **234 EXT. PARKING LOT – PRIMM VALLEY RESORT – NIGHT 234**

**Blaise is gathering the suitcases from the trunk of the Mus-**

**tang when he notices a familiar figure apparently helping a drunk make it to his motel room. Only this drunk has blood oozing from a wound in his chest. Otto Guzman glances in his direction, but Blaise isn’t sure that he was spotted. Never-theless, Blaise remains frozen until Otto and the unconscious Chico are inside the entrance to their room.**

**Blaise watches the outside windows of the nearby rooms. It’s just dark enough to notice the lights coming on in one of the rooms; the room next to that assigned to him and Della.**

**235 INT. ROOM 87 – PRIMM VALLEY RESORT – NIGHT 235**

 **Blaise bursts into the room and confronts Della.**

 **BLAISE**

 **We’ve got to get out of here!!**

 **DELLA**

 **(alarmed)**

 **Why? ...What’s happened?!**

 **BLAISE**

 **The man who was shot outside the**

**bank? Well, the person who shot**

**him got a good look at me and the**

**bastard is in the room next to ours.**

**We’re not safe here. ...Grab the**

**money and let’s go.**

 **236 EXT. MCCRREN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT – NIGHT 236**

 **An Aeromexico flight touches down on the runway and rolls out.**

 **237 INT. GATE – AEROMEXICO – NIGHT 237**

**At the gate, Richard Leslie, AKA Brigand – or the bandit – BRIG for short, is greeted by his sister, SYLVIA LESLIE**

 **011**

 **After the traditional hug, Brig asks:**

 **BRIG**

 **Why did I fly into Vegas instead of**

**LAX?**

 **SYLVIA**

**I wanted you to drive my car back to**

**San Marino. I’m taking the tour bus**

**with Laura back to Los Angeles.**

 **BRIG**

**Reggaeton Renée is in Vegas?**

 **SYLVIA**

**She and her Latin hip hop musicians**

**are appearing at the Orleans Resort**

**& Casino.**

 **BRIG**

**I’d love to see her again, except I**

**cannot stand Reggaeton Hip Hop.**

 **238 EXT. LINCOLN NAVIGATOR WESTBOUND ON INTERSTATE 15 – NIGHT 238**

**Sylvia’s Navigator, with Brig behind the wheel, passes the**

**Primm off-ramp and crosses into California.**

**239 INT/EXT. LINCOLN NAVIGATOR – WESTBOUND ON I-15 – NIGHT 239**

**Brig’s cell phone RINGS. After checking the caller ID, he answers.**

 **BRIG**

 **(into cell)**

 **Hello, Sis. What’s up?**

 **INTEERCUT WITH:**

**240 INT. BACKSTAGE – ORLEANS RESORT & CASINO – NIGHT 240**

 **SYLVIA**

 **I’m back stage at the Orleans with**

**Reggaeton Renée who wants to say hi**

**to the *Bandit*.**

 **BRIG**

 **Hello, Laura. ...Good to hear your**

**voice.**

 **012**

 **LAURA WILSON**

 **Good to hear yours. What brings you**

**all the way from Costa Rica?**

 **BRIG**

 **Tired of being on the run. ...Decided**

**it’s time to face the music, so to**

**speak.**

 **LAURA WILSON**

 **In that case...good luck.**

 **BRIG**

 **Thanks.**

 **Brig disconnects.**

**241 INT/EXT. STOLEN CAR – WSTBOUND ON I-15 – NIGHT 241**

**On the I-15, just west of Primm, Otto pulls the stolen car to the side of the road. He removes the silencer from the .38 and sticks it in the pocket of his jacket. Then he backs his car to a spot overlooking a deep culvert.**

 **242 EXT. COLVERT – SHOULDER OF ROAD – I-15 FREEWAY - NIGHT 242**

**Guzman climbs out of the car, walks around to the passenger side, then tosses the .38 revolver into the culvert.**

 **Then he climbs back in behind the wheel and drives off.**

 **243 EXT. LINCOLN NAVIGATOR – WESTBOUND ON I-15 – NIGHT 242**

**The Navigator is approaching the culvert, off the side of the freeway.**

**244 INT/EXT. LINCOLN NAVIGATOR – WESTBOUND ON I-15 – NIGHT 244**

**Suddenly, Brig’s headlights pick up the image of a beautiful young woman climbing onto the side of the highway from a culvert.**

**Dressed only in black panties and bra, Della sticks out the thumb of her right hand.**

**Brig manages to come to a stop about 50 yards beyond. He**

**throws the Navigator’s gear in reverse and backs up until he’s parked on the side of the road next to the mostly nude Della. Then he electronically rolls down the passenger side window.**

 **013**

 **DELLA**

**Our car ran off the road. ...I think**

**my boyfriend is dead.”**

 **245 EXT. SIDE WESTBPUND I-15 – NEXT TO CULVERT – NIGHT 245**

**Brig jumps out of the SUV and comes around to join Della. He looks down into the culvert and spots the Ford Mustang. Joined by Della, he climbs down the hill and approaches the wrecked vehicle.**

 **246 ANOTHER ANGLE 246**

**Blaise King is slumped over the Mustang’s steering wheel. Brig places his fingers against the carotid artery feeling for a pulse. Finding none, he turns to Della.**

 **BRIG**

**He’s dead, all right. How did it**

**happen?**

 **DELLA**

**I was asleep when the Mustang seemed**

**to suddenly fly off the road, land-**

**ing in this culvert where it is in-**

**visible from the highway.**

**Then Brig spots the clothes lying on top of the black briefcase.**

 **BRIG**

**And your clothes?**

 **DELLA**

**At least 20 cars passed me by while**

**I was standing on the side of the**

**highway. So I decided to take mat-**

**ters into my own hands.**

 **(beat)**

**Worked, didn’t it? You stopped.**

 **BRIG**

**Passerby’s probably feared they were**

**being set up for a possible carjack-**

**ing. ...Still, it was a very risky**

**thing to do. ...Get dressed, we’ve**

**got to notify the police.**

 **Della begins dressing.**

 **014**

 **DELLA**

 **Do we have to notify the police?**

**Look, I’m tired...I need some rest**

**before being confronted by the po-**

**lice. ...Let’s get a room in Primm.**

**We can call the police in the morn-**

**ing.**

 **BRIG**

**You’re one strange girl, but very**

**well, Primm it is.**

**Della grabs her luggage and the black briefcase and starts up the hill with Brig beside her.**

 ***MORE TO FOLLOW*:**

**END**