

RUN KINGSBURY RUN

a play inspired by real events

By Tyler JC Whidden

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CAST

Lieutenant Wells – 40s/50s, Head Homicide Detective for Cleveland Police Department.

Detective Lemory – Late 20s, rookie Homicide Detective.

Sergeant Musil – 40s/50s, veteran beat cop.

Sweeney – 40s/50s, doctor of surgery.

SETTING

August, 1938.
Cleveland, Ohio.

Revelations 21:8 – *“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”*

SCENE ONE: A tunnel along the Kingsbury Run river way: dark, musty, maybe a little fog. At center is a sheet over a body. Standing on either side of the sheet is WELLS and MUSIL.

They stare at it for a few moments.

MUSIL

... Jimmy? ... Jimmy ... Lieutenant?

WELLS

... Yeah ...

MUSIL

Are you gonna ...?

WELLS

... just give me a minute ...

MUSIL

You want I should ...?

WELLS

No ... you can stay here ...

MUSIL

... if you're not up to it, we can maybe –

WELLS

– Who said I wasn't up to it?

MUSIL

I didn't mean –

WELLS

– I'm here aren't I?

MUSIL

Yeah, it's just –

WELLS

– It's just what?

MUSIL

It's nothing.

Beat.

MUSIL

You're pale.

WELLS

What do we know, Sergeant?

MUSIL

Sir?

WELLS

About the scene. What do we know?

MUSIL

We know the kid got the call, found the ... deceased ... put the sheet over her and called me to help rope it off.

WELLS

Where is he now?

MUSIL

I dunno. Said he was gonna secure the area.

WELLS

How long's that take?

MUSIL

Well, considering the two last week were within 100 feet of each other, I'm guessing he's gonna take his time.

WELLS

Does he think this is ...

MUSIL

Well ... of course, I mean it's obvious, right? –

WELLS

– I don't believe in jumping to conclusion.

MUSIL

How's that?

WELLS

This may not have anything to do with the others.

MUSIL

Um ... okay ... if you say so, Lieutenant.

WELLS

I do.

MUSIL

Okay ... it's just ...
this is eerily similar to the two bodies last week –

WELLS

– What I just say –

MUSIL

– what with how she's ... –

WELLS

– I just said this has nothing to do with –

MUSIL

– You're right. Sorry. No conclusions ... well, I guess we pull the sheet up and look, then ... Lieutenant?

WELLS

Yes?

MUSIL

Aren't you gonna wanna look under?

WELLS

... I'm just ...
... what about her ... the rest of her ...

MUSIL

... well, to be perfectly honest – and I know you don't wanna hear this, but –

WELLS

– I don't –

MUSIL

– this whole scene is like all the others –

WELLS

– it's not all the others.

MUSIL

I'm not saying it *is* the others – I'm saying it's *like* the others.

WELLS

It's a little early to be making comparisons that have no business being made.
Stick to the truth.

MUSIL

Right ... the truth ... well ... he said she appears to be about five-foot-one, maybe 130 pounds – I dunno, I didn't try lifting her ... been here one, maybe two days, could be three or longer ...

WELLS

Was she working?

MUSIL

I don't know. I haven't looked at her yet – check for tattoos or scars or anything ... my guess is she was a whore – most of em were. I can tell you more once we simply lift up the sheet and take a look ...

WELLS

Not yet.

MUSIL

Whatever you say ... The basket's over there ... in case you wanna ... well, it's over there ...

WELLS

And the rest?

MUSIL

Not yet, but I haven't seen the kid. My guess is he'll let us know should he come across it ... somewhere in the rest of the tunnels.

WELLS

If this is who you think it is ... it won't be far.

MUSIL

Yessir ... soon, we'll have more help on this.

WELLS

Has he put the call in?

MUSIL

Not sure. He will soon, though, we can't keep this wrapped up too long, right?

WELLS

Yeah.

MUSIL

So what do you think? What is this?

WELLS

I don't know ...

MUSIL

... last week ... and, now this ...

WELLS

I know what you're thinking – but our job isn't to assume anything until we know everything.

MUSIL

Okay ...

... I mean we have a corpse here ... I'm guessing – I wouldn't know because we haven't looked under the sheet, but –

WELLS

Are you a detective now, Richard?

MUSIL

Am I? –

WELLS

– Because you seem pretty damn eager to put on a detective badge and work this scene like a detective. Are you a detective now? Did you get a new badge while I was gone? –

MUSIL

– No, I didn't –

WELLS

– Did you apply to get a new badge? ... Go to the new academy that I keep reading about? –

MUSIL

Okay, well, sorry ... I guess I thought we were past rank and all the bullshit –

WELLS

– All the what? –

MUSIL

– Considering the twenty years we spent –

WELLS

– You know my rules –

MUSIL

– down here keeping these people safe not to mention –

WELLS

– I don't care how long I been gone, my rules are the same –

MUSIL

– the four years we spent together trying to put the Mad Butcher fucker away –

WELLS

– And I don't like swearing in my crime scenes –

MUSIL

– well, guess what – these ain't your fucking crime scenes no more.

Beat.

MUSIL

I'm sorry ... I didn't mean ...

WELLS

So, this kid is really taking over?

MUSIL

Yeah. I mean ... last week and now this.
He's the one getting the calls now.

WELLS

Hmm ...

MUSIL

I mean ... That's three bodies in a week we found.
I'd say he's taken over fully.

WELLS

Okay ...

MUSIL

You been gone a while.

WELLS

Yeah.

MUSIL

What'd the Director say?

WELLS

About what?

MUSIL

About you coming back.

WELLS

... He said he was thrilled to have such an experienced officer back on the job.

Beat.

MUSIL

I'm glad he let you back.

WELLS

Why wouldn't he let me back?

MUSIL

I'm just saying with everything in the past week – it's good to have you here.

WELLS

Where we at with those?

MUSIL

Ugh ... the kid's working it hard. Been going around to all the people in the Run asking questions. I'm surprised ain't nobody dragged him into a shack and put a bullet in him yet.

WELLS

Nothing happens to a badge down here.

MUSIL

I know, but I think these folks were just getting comfortable again. Bad enough you got Ness talking about getting rid of the Run –

WELLS

– Who said anything about getting rid of the Run? –

MUSIL

– I'm saying that's what I'm hearing ... I mean you been gone –

WELLS

– He can't just get rid of the Run, the Run is here –

MUSIL

– You’re telling me –

WELLS

– There are people down here – living down here –

MUSIL

– not to mention the families – kids and what have you –

WELLS

– He can’t just get rid of the Run –

MUSIL

– These are my people –

WELLS

– These are my people.

Beat.

MUSIL

At any rate ... these folks down here – I mean they know the people got their backs, but now the Mad Butcher’s at it again and don’t nobody feel safe again.

WELLS

They ID those other bodies yet?

MUSIL

Not that I know of. Of course don’t nobody tell me nothing. The kid’s got info tightly wrapped around his little pecker. He’ll just send me on my way once he’s got it all secured and roped off.

WELLS

You should be a part of this.

MUSIL

Word is the Director won’t let him say a word to no one. Goddamn papers have been having a parade with the whole thing.

WELLS

I’ve been reading.

MUSIL

Say Ness is too busy dealing with the campaign.

WELLS

I’ve read.

MUSIL

Word is, some of the newspaper peckerwoods are asking where Sweeney is; if we even know his whereabouts.

Beat.

MUSIL

Of course ... some are also saying this can't be Sweeney ...

WELLS

Some who?

MUSIL

Just ... some people is all ...

WELLS

What people?

MUSIL

People people ...

WELLS

Peckerwoods?

MUSIL

Them ...

WELLS

Who else? ... the kid?

MUSIL

It's just ... Sweeney's away right? I mean he ain't away away, but he's gone, so ...

WELLS

So because Sweeney's hiding in some hospital he can check himself in and out of, you all are saying I was wrong.

MUSIL

It's not about you, Lieutenant.

WELLS

No?

MUSIL

No, I just mean ... you know – this, this here, is the work of the Mad Butcher –

WELLS

– we don't know that yet –

MUSIL

– I mean, we do – and if all this time we're going after Sweeney as the Mad Butcher and he's gone

WELLS

He's not gone.

MUSIL

Right, but it's not like he's living in the Run anymore.

WELLS

He never lived in the Run.

MUSIL

No, I know, I just mean ... it's not like he's *around*.

WELLS

So, you're beginning to see things differently – is that it?

MUSIL

... No ...

WELLS

Well ... things have really changed around here, haven't they?

MUSIL

It's not like that ...

WELLS

No? ... I'm guessing Ness hasn't put any heat on Sweeney after last week, right?

MUSIL

Again, I don't know.

WELLS

You don't know ...

MUSIL

No.

WELLS

Anyone question Sweeney after they found the bodies last week?

MUSIL

I don't –

WELLS

– Richard. Anyone question Sweeney last week?

MUSIL

No.

WELLS

No.

And I'm guessing with the election coming up our brave and powerful Safety Director decided it wasn't worth the bad press ... seeing as how he let him go the last time ...

MUSIL

Could be, or ...

WELLS

Or what?

MUSIL

Or, maybe he's beginning to wonder whether it was Sweeney to begin with ...

WELLS

Yeah ... things sure have changed in such a short while ...

Beat.

MUSIL

You still ... he still sending you stuff?

WELLS

Yeah.

Beat.

MUSIL

Look ... Lieutenant I'm glad you're back – I'm sure we all are ... but this ... with everything and, you know ... maybe this isn't the best time ... given the circumstances.

WELLS

There are no circumstances.

MUSIL

Come on, Lieutenant.

WELLS

There is a procedure to follow, Sergeant. A protocol –

MUSIL

– I know the protocol, sir.

WELLS

And the last thing I need, quite frankly, is for a patrol officer to question my ability to do my job.

MUSIL

Excuse me, Lieutenant, but I'm not just some fucking rookie kid cop here. Kingsbury is my beat and I've had your back on every one of these –

WELLS

– And now here you are telling me what's what –

MUSIL

– You wanna stand there and tell me who this was and wasn't, that's fine. But don't talk to me like I'm not invested in this. Not down here. Not when it comes to the Run. I'm as tired of this as the next –

WELLS

– We found him, Sergeant.

MUSIL

Okay, Lieutenant –

WELLS

– you need to remember why this is going on – it ain't because of us.

MUSIL

Jesus Christ, Jimmy, where have you been?

WELLS

It doesn't matter. I'm here now.

MUSIL

You know what I mean –

WELLS

– are you through, Sergeant Musil? –

MUSIL

– Ain't nobody heard from you.

WELLS

I said are you through, Sergeant Musil?

MUSIL

I'm just saying shit is different now – stuff, stuff is different now – and I was kinda thinkin after your medical leave –

WELLS

– It was voluntary –

MUSIL

– No, I know ... your voluntary “leave” or whatever –

WELLS

– I took some time –

MUSIL

– That you'd stay on leave. Like just getaway from all this.

WELLS

I'm a badge and will stay a badge –

MUSIL

– Maybe you and Irene ... you can move somewhere away from here. Somewhere warm.

WELLS

Yeah.

MUSIL

I bet she's ready for you to put the badge away.

WELLS

Yeah.

MUSIL

She's a good woman. Strong. You two have been through a lot.
Maybe this is a sign ... maybe now's a good time for you to finally walk aw –

WELLS

– I'm not walking away –

MUSIL

– No I don't mean, like walk away walk away ... I just mean ... maybe it's time for some ... young blood.

WELLS

I haven't been gone that long, Sergeant.

MUSIL

Maybe it's best for you to hang up the badge, and get your pension – your honorable retirement – and live the rest of your life. You and Irene. Away from all this. I'm sure she'd appreciate that.

WELLS

Now you're getting rid of me. You called *me* remember?

MUSIL

I do remember, but I also remember a time when you weren't afraid to lift up a sheet.

Beat.

WELLS

What was that girl's name?

MUSIL

What girl?

WELLS

The one with the shoes – the red shoes – what was her name?

MUSIL

Margaret.

WELLS

Margaret.

MUSIL

Margaret.

WELLS

She wasn't but 12 years old, right?

Not even a teenager and to have to go through all that ... she'd a been in her 30's now ...

MUSIL

... yeah ...

WELLS

I went home that night – I ever tell you this? – that night I went home, broken up, you know? You and me, we went over to that bar – what was that bar?

MUSIL

Hooper's.

WELLS

Hooper's ... Jesus ... anyway I went home that night. Irene had heard about the whole thing – wives calling on each other and everything. And, I don't know, maybe she could see the look in my eyes. Maybe she could see it in me – that it took something out of me – killed something I had in me. I went to Dorothy's room – she was sound asleep – and I stopped dead at the door. Just stood at her door wanting to open it, but I couldn't. I couldn't open it. Every night since she was born, I would open her door and watch her sleep for a few moments – hours sometimes – but this night I couldn't. After a dozen years of checking in on her, that night ...

MUSIL

It was difficult on everybody. No one got over that.

WELLS

Irene saw me. She watched me in the hallway waiting for me to go in – maybe to see how I would handle it, or hoping I would find peace with our daughter ... but, not after that. Not ever again. Not after what we'd seen that night.

Margaret.

MUSIL

Margaret.

WELLS

It's like she followed me everywhere no matter how much I tried to shake it, but ... those red shoes ... "men like the color red" – that's what her mother said to me when I had her in the room – "men like the color red."

Margaret.

MUSIL

You can't plague yourself with the open files.

WELLS

I can't believe I nearly forgot her name ... Margaret ... You can get immune to things, you know? After a while, one guy with a hole in his head just becomes all the others, every body on a track might as well be a stray dog and, the more you look into the Devil's eyes, the more comfortable you get standing with the sinners... but there's always one that sticks with you ... there's always one that lives in your shadow.

Margaret.

MUSIL

Lieutenant, I understand if you're not up for this ...

WELLS

Last week ... when I heard, I just knew ... I just knew what it was. I pulled my badge out of my dresser, cleaned out my issue, and called Ness. Told him I wanted back ... Irene ... well, she was in the kitchen cooking – she was wearing her favorite apron, this solid green one she'd had for years – and talking about the smell of fall in the air. She hadn't heard about the bodies yet – I hadn't told her, even – what happens out here stays away from our homes. Away from our families. And you do what you can to ensure that.

She was talking about how she thought Ness was gonna do in the election – she was gonna vote for him, she said. She's talking about how the very dress she was wearing – under her apron – this goddamn blue dress – she bought it for that night when he was introduced. The gala. Remember that night?

MUSIL

Of course –

WELLS

– yeah. If we only knew then, right? If we only knew what him coming here would eventually lead to.

Anyway, she was wearing this goddamn dress – and I hate this thing – and this night, I hate it even more – she's gonna vote for him, she says – and it still had some of its color – bright blue with big white flowers – it was a little faded and I said what are you wearing that dress for? I don't want to see you wearing that dress – it's got Ness all over it. And she said don't be ridiculous, it still fits and she likes it and it's okay to get dressed up every now and then and why don't I try it once in a while and I told her I *was* getting dressed in fact, because I'm going down to the Run.

Well, she shot me this look. What do you mean you're going down there? I said they need me. They found two more – it's him and they need me.

She said I promised, but I don't remember promising anything.

And she left. Right then. Right there. She just walked out the door.

MUSIL

Left? Left where?

WELLS

Said she was going to her sister's, then stormed out.

MUSIL

Are you sure she left left? Maybe she just needed a break or something.

WELLS

She was still wearing her apron ...

MUSIL

... she was in a real hurry, eh? ... yeah, that's not a good sign.
Her sister's in Shaker, so call over there.

WELLS

Nah. They moved. Moved back to Georgia two years ago.

MUSIL

She went all the way back to Georgia?

WELLS

Yeah. Took a bus or something.

MUSIL

You call her?

WELLS

No. No I haven't.

MUSIL

Jimmy, you gotta call her –

WELLS

If I call her, Richard, then it will mean she's really gone. It will mean it's real and I don't have time to deal with it right now.

MUSIL

I'm just saying a quick call –

WELLS

– I'll open that door when I'm ready.

Beat.

MUSIL

It's not easy being married to a badge. Thirty years she did it – that's rare.
I'm sure she just has some things to work out.

WELLS

This is my chance to put Kingsbury behind me. Fix things I did wrong.

MUSIL

Maybe it's time you turn your back on all this.

WELLS

I don't care if Ness is running for mayor or President or what ... I am not leaving this file open.

MUSIL

We'll get him, Lieutenant. We'll get him.

You go on home ... get out of here ... call Irene. Maybe drive to Georgia – stay there a while. Or, just stay there. Permanently. Take care of what you need to take care of with your home life. Start a new life... outside of all this. Maybe you don't belong here no more.

WELLS

You really think you're going to keep me away from this, Richard? After all I've lost?

No answer.

Beat.

WELLS

We have a job to do.

MUSIL

Yessir.

WELLS

And we're going to do it ... this scene – which we will investigate to the fullest intent of procedure and protocol as to ensure it's lawful conclusion – will provide for us the tools we need to determine a suspect.

MUSIL

Yessir.

WELLS

And, should that suspect also be involved in similar crime scenes within Kingsbury Run, we shall bring that suspect to justice and the truth from the gutters.

MUSIL

Sure. Just like last time.

WELLS

I'm sorry, what was that?

MUSIL

This mean we're going to open this door now?

WELLS

There is a chain of command here, Sergeant.

MUSIL

Yessir, Lieutenant. Sir.

WELLS

We'll get him, Richard. We'll get him because no one else can.
But, we'll do it by the books. That's the only way. We'll take our time – you and me –
together, and we'll do this right. And, if this is the one that finally makes it impossible for
Ness to ignore, then we'll put those chains on Sweeney.
You and me. No one else. You hear me?

MUSIL

Yes, sir.

WELLS

No one else, Sergeant.

MUSIL

No one else, sir.

WELLS

I promise you that.

From off-stage, we hear LEMORY.

LEMORY (*off-stage*)

Hello!? Hello!?

WELLS

Is that him?

MUSIL

I hope so.

LEMORY (*off-stage*)

Musil is that you? You down here?

MUSIL

Over here, Detective.

LEMORY enters.

LEMORY

These goddamn tunnels. They should just burn this place down, do the world a favor.
I couldn't find nothing.
The Cleveland Press is going to blow their load over this.
Why's the sheet still on her?

LEMORY sees WELLS.

LEMORY

Jesus Fucking Christ – you again? What the fuck is he doing here!?

MUSIL

This is Lieutenant Wells.

LEMORY

I know who the fuck it is, Musil.
You wanna tell me just what the fuck he's doing down here.

MUSIL

I called him ... since he's been on point with these –

LEMORY

– “On point”? Just what the fuck does that mean?

MUSIL

It means, he's been lead detective on the Torso Murders –

LEMORY

– And who am I then? Just some asshole off the street?

MUSIL

Well, we were just discussing –

LEMORY

– No. You weren't. You weren't discussing nothing.
You wanna know why you two weren't discussing this case, Musil? Because James Wells isn't here right now. Because if James Wells were here right now, he would be trespassing on a crime scene and would, therefore, be arrested for such.

WELLS

I guess thirty years of being a badge doesn't count for anything.

LEMORY

Oh, I'm sorry, are you under the impression that being the “Hero of Kingsbury” means you can just traipse anywhere you wish? You think because the press is all up in your ass that gives you a free fucking pass?
And you, Sergeant, can you please explain to me why you called him?

MUSIL

He's back, so I just felt I should let him know what you came across.

LEMORY

Back? Back where? Where you back to, Wells?

MUSIL

I mean, his vacation is over, right?

LEMORY

Is that what it was?

WELLS

I certainly feel like a new man.

LEMORY

Well, you look pale as shit. But, six months psych leave will do that to a person.

MUSIL

Psych leave?

LEMORY

You thought he was on vacation, Musil? Jesus Christ, no wonder you been a fucking beat cop for twenty years.

MUSIL

I thought you had physical exhaustion.

LEMORY

Yeah, he was exhausted all right. Exhausted from tracking that fucking doctor guy across Sandusky.

MUSIL

Jimmy?

WELLS

It was nothing.

Ness was looking to get rid of me because I was on him about Sweeney.

LEMORY

So, you were or were not keeping tabs on this Sweeney guy even though Ness told you, to your face, to let it go?

WELLS

I don't have to explain how I do my job to you.

LEMORY

Your job? You don't have a job, asshole. You're a civilian. And the longer you stay down here, the closer you are to becoming an *incarcerated* civilian.

WELLS

You gonna arrest me now?

LEMORY

As a matter of fact, our astute Director, personally, gave me full authority to do whatever was necessary to keep you away from Kingsbury Run, should you ever be dumb enough to show your fucking face down here again.

WELLS

Poor Ness is too scared to face me himself. Figures – Ness should know, there's no room for cowards in Kingsbury Run.

LEMORY

Guess what – down here, I *am* Ness.

WELLS

And I'm the enemy, is that it?

LEMORY

I guess trying to force yourself into last week's scene was a little more than Mr. Ness could take from you.

MUSIL

You were at the scene last week?

LEMORY

Oh, yeah ... trying to flash his badge and everything.

Remember that, dick-fuck?

You threw it in my face. But, don't worry – I picked up your now-useless fucking tin and I put it in a nice frame for Mr. Ness. He has it hanging next to a campaign poster.

WELLS

I'm sure Ness appreciates having an errand boy like you to fetch him toys.

LEMORY

I'm no boy.

WELLS

No? You're no boy – you his pet? Eh, dog?

LEMORY

I ain't nobody's boy, pet, or dog.

WELLS

You've got fleas, boy.

LEMORY

I'm warning you.

WELLS

Why can't Ness come down here and warn me himself? – he needs his little boy.

LEMORY

Maybe he's busy. And fuck you.

WELLS

Right, busy. I forgot – he's got a campaign to run.

LEMORY

That's right and he don't need some washed-up, burnt-out, fuck-stick like you pretending you're still a cop.

WELLS

Let me ask you a question – for being in charge of police, why is Ness more concerned with being mayor?

LEMORY

Guy's making a difference – what do you care?

WELLS

I care because I'm a badge, first and foremost – and I don't take orders from politicians. Maybe you should start seeing things the same way.

LEMORY

Maybe Eliot fucking Ness doesn't give two shits about you.

WELLS

Maybe he's scared to come down here.

LEMORY

Yeah, that's probably what it is.

WELLS

The astute Director thinks the old Indians cursed the Run by burying their dead here.

LEMORY

Oh right, all you old-timers have a saying – what's that saying?

WELLS

“There are ghosts in Kingsbury Run.”

LEMORY

Yeah – we gonna start seeing ghosts now?

WELLS

It's not the ghosts that spook you, you should be worried about; it's the ones that haunt you.

LEMORY

I know what you mean – I'm looking at a ghost right now.

MUSIL

Lieutenant really did a lot of work on these cases – I'm sure if he were like an advisor or something for us –

LEMORY

– An advisor?

MUSIL

I mean he caught the guy.

LEMORY

Caught the guy? I think I've got a body here that would like to argue your point.

MUSIL

You know what I mean.

LEMORY

The papers are still calling you the “Hero of Kingsbury” – ain't that something? Even though the guy you “caught” never went no where and, clearly, is either at it again or ... not the fucking guy.

WELLS

Maybe this isn't the Mad Butcher.

LEMORY

While you're here contaminating my fucking crime scene, I gather you looked under the sheet. Got a nice glimpse of the mangled corpse.

WELLS

Not yet.

LEMORY

Not yet.

What's the matter? Been away too long?

If you'd like to start off slow, her limbs are in that basket over there.

You know, like all the other women the Mad Butcher killed.

WELLS

It's a little early to lump this in with the Torso Murders.

LEMORY

And why is that?

Oh right, because the guy you tried to convince us all was the Mad Butcher has been on his own sort of psyche leave making it impossible for him to commit anything more than shit in his pants.

WELLS

I bet you think you've got it all figured out, eh, Detective?

LEMORY

No. You do.

WELLS

I been working this town since before you were born.

LEMORY

And here I am, all caught up to you.

WELLS

I wouldn't get ahead of yourself just yet.

LEMORY

No, you're right – I probably am getting ahead of myself. I suppose when I got the calls about bodies in the tunnels – hacked in half, limbs missing – I just figured, “fucking Mad Butcher.”

It's easy for me to get ahead of myself – having only followed the Torso Murders, like everyone else in Cleveland, for the past four years (including three on the beat) and studied it backwards & forwards for eight months while becoming a detective in the Academy.

Not to mention last week, seeing a young woman's body hacked in half, not far from a young man's body – also cut in half.

But, no, I guess I can see where you could be right. This could just be some sicko asshole doing the *exact* same murders in the exact same area by just stupid fucking chance.

WELLS

Homicide Division is no place for postulations.

LEMORY

Wow. Big word. You must be impressive.

Does it mean “pervert who fucks dead bodies”?

Musil, check this bitch's face for fuck marks. Oh, wait, there's no head.

Now, who else left no heads? ... oh, right – the Mad fucking Butcher.

But, it's probably not him. Because you're so put together.

WELLS

You swear too much.

LEMORY

Get the fuck out of here.

MUSIL

Gentlemen, maybe we can be civil – we all want the same thing –

LEMORY

You brought this old fuck here, so you're on thin fucking ice as it is, Musil.

WELLS

You should watch how you talk to your superiors, boy.

LEMORY

Superiors? Are you fucking kidding me, Wells? This idiot here would shoot his own balls off if he were to carry a piece and you're one fucking phone call away from Ness making your "vacation" a permanent dishonorable discharge. And guess what, asshole, I got an operator standing by.

All your fucking years servin this town is about to end up in the same sewer as these poor bums living in Kingsbury. Maybe your pension can live in a hut like the rest of these fucking leeches down here.

WELLS

Maybe Ness should step away from a microphone and learn how to do real police work.

LEMORY

You're right, Jimmy. I mean, he's just Eliot Fucking Ness, right? Eliot Ness brought down that fat fuck guinea in Chicago. Eliot Ness got the mob in this town scared shitless. Eliot Ness kicked the crooks off this force. Eliot Ness is a few months from being fucking Mayor – but, you know more than him, probably.

WELLS

I am Lieutenant James Wells, Head of Homicide – what makes you think you can talk to me like that?

LEMORY

I guess because fuck you, you old fuck. You ain't head of shit. Not no more.

This crime scene is for police only.

I have a badge. Sergeant, do you have a badge?

MUSIL

... Detective ...

LEMORY

See? Musil has a badge. Do you have ... a badge? Jimmy?

Pause.

LEMORY

Tell you what – since I respect the work you done so much, I’ll allow you to get one good look at a fucking corpse cut in half with no limbs, no tits, and no head – you know, for old times’ sake. Let you take that home with you and mull it over for the rest of your pathetic, never-did-shit fucking life.

Probably the head being hacked off that killed her – screaming and crying. I can almost ... hear her ... “where’s the Hero of Kingsbury now? ...” Can you hear that? Help yourself – just pull back the sheet ...

WELLS doesn’t move.

LEMORY

No? Don’t wanna take a look?
I heard about this ... old vets like you too scared to face the truth.
It’s probably a bit much for civilian eyes anyway.

WELLS

These eyes can see the difference between a real detective and another man’s dog.

LEMORY

Well, this dog’s about to take a huge fucking bite out of the Mad Butcher and put his ass away – something your bullshit, old-school detective work couldn’t come close to doing.

A moment.

WELLS

You motherfucker!

WELLS goes after LEMORY.

WELLS

You wanna see who I am!?
Come here, I’ll string your ass up!

MUSIL

Woah! Woah!, Lieutenant! Hold up!
Lieutenant, hold on! Not here!

MUSIL holds WELLS back
and tries to back him off while
staying between him and Lemory.

WELLS

You think just because you’re Ness’ pet, you can talk to me like that?

LEMORY

Ness is having to put new blood on your old cases, Wells.
All of them. A fresh set of eyes.
A set of eyes that don't need to "step away from the stress of the job" for several months.
Your little meltdown almost put the entire department in jeopardy.

WELLS

He's not gonna find anybody who can do the work I do.

LEMORY

No shit – we're gonna actually find the killer.

WELLS

You're out of your league.

LEMORY

Times are changing, Wells – police work is changing.
And your sorry-ass is getting left behind.

WELLS

I busted my hump for this city for over thirty years.

LEMORY

Thanks for your service, but you're a dying breed. The fact is, us new-school kids are going to be using science, and technology, and progressive thinking to do the work guys like you couldn't finish.

WELLS

That a fact? –

MUSIL

– Come on, Lieutenant –

LEMORY

– Yes. That is, actually, a fact.

WELLS

Detectives are not in the business of facts – we're in the business of truth.
And, you better goddamn well believe that truth is much harder to come by.

LEMORY

Truth doesn't mean shit if you don't have the evidence – and I'd say finding evidence to put a killer away is a pretty big fucking job for a detective.

WELLS

I got my man! You damn well better believe I got my man.

LEMORY

Okay.

WELLS

And none of Ness' little Academy lap dogs can say any different.

LEMORY

Yeah, meanwhile, your man's living the lap of luxury in a fucking hospital.

WELLS

I'm the only officer in this city who got so much as a sniff of him.

LEMORY

You're not a badge anymore, Wells. And that guy has been sniffing freedom for the past year.

WELLS

And whose fault is that?

MUSIL

Listen, Detective ... let's just let him look around, see if he sees anything. Whether you want to believe it or not, he's got a lot to offer.

WELLS

I'm not offering him a thing. And you can tell Ness I said so.

LEMORY

I'm sure he gives a shit what you think.

MUSIL

Just let me speak to him. Alone.

LEMORY

No.

Get him out of here, or I'm going to make sure you both have plenty of alone time to discuss all your past failures.

MUSIL

Just for a few minutes. If I can get him to see something or tell me anything that will help, what difference does it make?

LEMORY

It makes a difference to me, Sergeant. Now you and this guy are old buddies, fine. So, what'll it be? Stay here and do your job with me, or pack your shit and rot in a gutter with him?

MUSIL

... Sweeney contacts him.

Pause.

LEMORY

Contacts him? Contacts him how?

MUSIL

I dunno. Letters, I guess. He might know something. Sweeney might have told him something. He can help you – just throw him a bone.

LEMORY

A bone? I'll throw him a fucking –

MUSIL

– If he can lead this investigation towards our common goal, and you get this guy, it'll be your name on the record. It'll still be your chest Ness puts the ribbon on.

LEMORY

I ain't chasing this fool's ghosts for him.

MUSIL

This has been his life. For thirty years. You know about him. You know what he's sacrificed for this city. Let him help you. Let him take you to Sweeney.

WELLS

I'm not taking him anywhere.

MUSIL

Lieutenant, you heard Lemory – he's got the authority now, there's no use fighting it. This is his case. He brings in Sweeney, think about the position that's gonna put Ness in when it comes to handling you? You'll be the Hero of Kingsbury again.

LEMORY

You think I'm going to help him get blowjobs from the press?

MUSIL

He gets you to Sweeney – it'll be you putting the chains on him. You'll do the one thing even the "Hero of Kingsbury" couldn't do – put the Mad Butcher behind actual bars.

LEMORY thinks.

LEMORY

You know where he is?

WELLS

What's that? My old ears ain't hearing so good.

MUSIL

I mean ... you said he was suspended for it, right?

LEMORY

He's been *fired* for it.

MUSIL

He'll talk to me.

LEMORY

I'm gonna stand right here and have a smoke.
You get him to tell you where Sweeney is.

MUSIL

Alright.

WELLS

You shouldn't smoke in a crime scene.

LEMORY

Jesus Christ –

MUSIL

– Jimmy! That's enough.
Walk over there.

MUSIL and WELLS separate from
LEMORY.

MUSIL

Jesus Christ, Jimmy, what the hell was that all about?

WELLS

This is who's running things now?

MUSIL

He's not running anything, he's just taking over this case is all.
Why didn't you tell me you were kicked off the force?

WELLS

... This place ... down here ... what happened?

MUSIL

I dunno. Everything changes, I guess.

WELLS

Not like this. Not this fast.

Thirty years I been on this force, twenty of them down here. You and me both. This isn't how it was supposed to end.

MUSIL

You're still a hero to these people, Jimmy. That's something you can hang your hat on.

WELLS

Some hero. This is still going on.

MUSIL

This ain't on you.

WELLS

What is on me is, twenty years ago this place was safe. Even after the crash, when the Run started busting at the seams with folks from all over the country, we kept them safe. They knew they could come to Cleveland and the city would have their back.

MUSIL

It can get back to that. This here, the ones last week – I dunno – but we can protect these people again.

WELLS

Not me. Not anymore. This ... this was supposed to be my legacy ... the truth behind the Torso Murders.

MUSIL

Did he say anything? Anything at all to make you think he would do this again?

WELLS

No. It's mostly just rambling. Bad poetry. His crazy thoughts written out.

MUSIL

You know where he is?

WELLS

Youngstown, Toledo, Sandusky still ... my life's falling apart and he's doing a tour of vet's hospitals in the Midwest.

MUSIL

Help us. Let's get this guy for once and for all.

WELLS

I can find Sweeney myself – I don't need to help him –

MUSIL

– Help me, then. You and I both know Sweeney is the guy. Ness ain't here to stop you –

WELLS

– No, but, his little boy is –

LEMORY

– I told you I'm no boy –

MUSIL

– Detective!

LEMORY

I can hear you – it's a brick fucking tunnel.

WELLS

I'll show my way out.

LEMORY

It true? What Musil said? He write you letters?

WELLS

Maybe.

LEMORY

You know where he is?

WELLS

You can't take my abilities, even if you took my badge.

LEMORY

Technically, you threw your badge at me.
Where is he?

WELLS

You're the lead detective now, you figure it out.

LEMORY

You really gonna be a hard-ass on this?

WELLS (*going to leave*)

Good luck, Detective.

LEMORY

You wanna be fired officially, or retire respectably?

WELLS

How's that?

LEMORY

Musil's dumb as shit, but he's right – I can help you.

WELLS

I don't need your help and I don't make deals.

LEMORY

No?

WELLS

Not with Ness and certainly not with his little dog.

LEMORY

Great. Well then you walk on out of here, Wells. And when I'm done here, I'm gonna have a little discussion with our soon-to-be mayor-elect and make sure he understands that the man who put his campaign in jeopardy and risked hundreds of cases being re-opened decided to crash our little party down here. And you know what he's gonna do? He's gonna send the real dogs after you. He's not only gonna strip you of your name and legacy – whatever's left of it – he's going to make sure the only light you see again will be the sunshine you blow up your own ass. The man has an election in two months and the last thing he needs is come crazy ex-cop mouthing off about surgeons and congressmen.

WELLS

I would think the last thing he needs is the public thinking he let a killer go free. Good luck finding him. I've got a few old friends at *The Cleveland Press* to call.

LEMORY

Maybe this is the Mad Butcher. Maybe it isn't. But if it is and you're right about Sweeney being him, then I'll put him away. You don't have to worry about Ness.

WELLS

Oh, but down here, you are Ness.

LEMORY

Sergeant, is there a head on the victim?

MUSIL

No.

LEMORY

Limbs?

MUSIL

Over there. In that basket.

LEMORY (*to Wells*)

You tell me right now – is this Sweeney? Yes or no?

WELLS

I don't know.

LEMORY

Do I need to pull the sheet back and give you a closer look?

WELLS

I was kicked out of the last scene, remember? And I just got here so I don't know shit.

LEMORY

Come on, Wells.

WELLS

I don't make a judgment till I know all the facts.

LEMORY

Now, all of a sudden you want facts.

Here are some facts for you to chew on:

1. Those two bodies last week were severed and laid just like the previous dozen.
2. Your buddy Sweeney ain't in Sandusky. Hasn't been for three months. They don't know where he went. We checked other hospitals in the area, ain't nobody heard o' him.
3. Ness is so wrapped up in this election, he could give a lumpy shit about what goes on down here. This is my case. You help me find him – you help me find Sweeney – bring him in, I'll give you back your legacy, Lieutenant. I'm not as concerned about Sweeney's political connections as Ness.

WELLS

And what's in it for you?

LEMORY

I just like to see justice served.

WELLS

We're in a sewer, kid. There's enough shit here already.

LEMORY

Let's just say putting my name on the arrest record for this shithead – should you prove correct – will only ensure my future within the ranks of the Cleveland Police Department.

WELLS

Careerist, huh?

LEMORY

I prefer to think of it as planning ahead.

WELLS

I take you to him, you arrest him?

LEMORY

I didn't say that. You bring me to him – tonight, right now – and if you're correct about him, I'll bring him in.

WELLS

And what about this? We can't just leave a crime scene unattended.

LEMORY

We won't ...

They both look at MUSIL.

MUSIL

What? ...

LEMORY

Sergeant, as lead detective on this case, I am ordering you to stand watch while Wells and I track a suspect.
Just make sure no one comes in.

MUSIL

You're just gonna leave me here!?

WELLS

We'll just be a few hours.

MUSIL

There are ghosts in Kingsbury Run.

LEMORY

Don't touch anything – you understand?

MUSIL

What am I gonna touch?

LEMORY

Nothing. You will touch nothing.

We'll be back before Sun-up.

After you ... Lieutenant.

END SCENE.

SCENE TWO: A hallway outside of a door. WELLS and LEMORY enter alone in the middle of conversation.