

In Memory Of...
(Sample)

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EXT. GRAVEYARD - MORNING

1

We pass over a well-manicured lawn to reveal a picnic blanket, picnic basket and several small items of food. A chiller holds a bottle of champagne. KATE MUREIN, 29, an attractive, well kempt woman, sits with her back against a gravestone. She holds in her right hand an empty bottle of sleeping pills. She falls unconscious and slides down the stone.

FADE TO BLACK.

DET. SIMPSON (V.O.)

Ms. Murien? I'm Detective Simpson, and this is my partner, Detective Gill. We met before at the hospital. Do you remember?

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - 5 MONTHS LATER

2

KATE awakes in a hospital bed. Her eyes slowly open. She looks around to take in her surroundings. She is confused. Her eyes close slowly.

FADE TO BLACK.

KATE (V.O.)

I'm afraid I don't. I don't remember much of anything.

DET. SIMPSON (V.O.)

Hm. Doctor Vanroy told us you were experiencing trouble with your memory since you woke up. We were hoping that maybe we could talk to you for a moment to see if anything comes back.

DET. GILL (V.O.)

Ms. Murien, we apologize for the timing. But you see, we really need your help ...

INT. KATE'S HOME - 2 DAYS AFTER RELEASE FROM HOSPITAL - NIGHT

3

We open in the living room of KATE'S home. The house looks to have been built in the 1940s or '50s. Dark hardwood floors soak in the deep moonlight piercing through the windows. Two single lamps illuminate the room as KATE sits in a robe and pajamas sipping hot cocoa from a mug. DET.

(CONTINUED)

SIMPSON, 36, a well-groomed good-looking man, sits across from KATE holding a small note pad in his hands. Next to him DET. GILL, 34, a little more rough-looking, unshaven man, sits with his eyes glued to KATE.

DET. GILL (CONT'D)

The man whose grave you were found on was Allan Scheffield. Does that name mean anything?

DET. GILL hands KATE a black-and-white photo of a handsome young man. In the photo, he is seen with a beautiful woman. The couple appears to be attending a gala event. KATE stares at the photo blankly.

DET. GILL

His wife, Heather. A friend of yours maybe?

DET. GILL gets no response.

DET. GILL

He, and his wife, had been murdered two weeks before -- two weeks before we found you. The case file, well ...

KATE'S eyes widen.

DET. SIMPSON

A water main burst in the building next to our offices. Our case room was flooded, and unfortunately we lost everything before the lab could process it.

DET. GILL

So, we had to start from scratch. Right now, you're all we've got. Now, there's got to be some connection between you and Mr. Scheffield. And by helping us, you may be able to help yourself. Please ... do you remember anything?

KATE sets her cup down on the end table. She has a quick flashback.

EXT. CITY STREET - SIDEWALK - 11 MONTHS AGO 4

KATE walks down the sidewalk and her eyes meet with ALLAN SCHEFFIELD, 27, a well dressed young businessman. Their eyes meet, and they share a moment as they pass.

INT. KATE'S HOME - CURRENT TIME 5

KATE
You don't think that I might have
...

DET. GILL and SIMPSON chuckle.

DET. SIMPSON
No, Ms. Murien. We're not here to
arrest you. You can rest easy.

DET. GILL
If it helps stir something up, we
did some checking. You were in Los
Angeles at the time of the murder.
No, we were just hoping that you
might be able to tell us anything
about Mr. Scheffield.

DET. SIMPSON
You know ... Did he have any
enemies? Was he acting strangely
before he died? (Pause) Was he
having an affair?

KATE stares at her cup of cocoa and has another flashback.

INT. RESTAURANT - EVENING 6

KATE and ALLAN sit at an intimate dinner table covered in a white cloth. They share a bottle of wine and a nice dessert. They laugh as they hold their drinks next to one another.

INT. KATE'S HOME - CURRENT TIME 7

KATE looks at the detectives and then back to her cup.

KATE
I'm sorry. I just don't remember.

KATE'S sister LEANNE, 25, a tall, slender, attractive woman dressed in jeans and a T-shirt, walks out of the kitchen. She holds a tray with a cup of coffee and two bottles of medicine.

(CONTINUED)

LEANNE

Okay gentlemen, I'm going to have to ask you to pick this up later. Kate needs to take her medication and get some rest.

LEANNE walks to KATE'S side, placing the bottles of medicine on the end table. She then places her own cup of coffee down and turns to face the detectives. DET. GILL picks up one of the bottles of medication.

DET. GILL

This is some heavy stuff.

KATE

It's for my kidneys. The overdose, it, you know ...

KATE seems to want to explain but trails off.

DET. SIMPSON

Of course.

(to KATE but facing LEANNE and winking)

Kate, you're lucky to have a sister like Leanne to take care of you. I might give her a call the next time I'm sick.

LEANNE

(ignoring the remark)

I'm sure that if you leave your card, she'll call you when she remembers anything important. Okay? Good night.

DET. GILL

All right. Good night. Thank you Kate.

(slaps SIMPSON on the shoulder)

C'mon.

LEANNE returns the tray to the kitchen. The detectives get up and move to the door. KATE remains seated and watches as they go. When they reach the door, DET. SIMPSON pulls a card from his suit jacket and places it on a small table. They both stand for a moment, looking at KATE.

DET. SIMPSON

If you remember anything, I mean anything ... Call me. Day or night, it doesn't matter. I'll be here in no time. Okay?

(CONTINUED)

DET. GILL steps through the door. DET. SIMPSON remains in the door, staring at KATE.

DET. SIMPSON
And you know what can help to clear
the mind: a nice walk in the park.
If you need me to ...

DET. GILL grabs DET. SIMPSON by the arm and pulls him out the door.

DET. SIMPSON
Good night!

KATE smiles at the light flirting from DET. SIMPSON.

EXT. STEPS TO KATE'S HOME - SAME TIME

8

DET. SIMPSON and GILL walk to their car.

DET. GILL
I can't believe you! She just came
out of a coma and you're askin' her
out ...

DET. SIMPSON
What? You telling me you weren't
lookin' at her? You were like a St.
Bernard eyeing a big bowl of Gravy
Train! You'd need a mop to wipe up
that drool.

DET. GILL pushes SIMPSON out of his way and moves to the driver's side of the car.

DET. GILL
You must be seeing things. There's
no way I'm letting you drive.
You're delirious. C'mon - give me
the keys.

DET. SIMPSON
Oh yeah. You can dish it out but
you can't take it.

DET. SIMPSON throws the police car keys to GILL. They leave, bitching at each other.

INT. KATE'S HOME - LIVING ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

9

LEANNE returns from the kitchen carrying a muffin. She sits on the far side of the couch and faces KATE. KATE is immersed in her cocoa. LEANNE looks intently at KATE. KATE notices.

KATE

What?

LEANNE finishes her muffin and sets the paper wrapper on the table. She turns to face KATE.

LEANNE

So, Mom and Dad are coming early.
They're excited to see you after so
many years.

A slight smile creeps onto KATE'S face.

KATE

Are they staying through the
holidays?

LEANNE

Of course. Mom's got a whole list
of things she wants us to do
together. Dad's even taken an extra
week off from work. You know that
never ...

KATE seems uncomfortable.

LEANNE

They're going to have questions,
you know. (pause) I mean, you
practically disappeared when you
moved out. It's been six years and
maybe a card at Christmas and ...

KATE grabs her cup and gets up to avoid the conversation.
LEANNE stops her.

LEANNE

Look, I get it. You don't want to
talk.

KATE

No, Lee. I do want to talk. But I
don't know what to say. I don't
remember all of the things you do.
I don't remember moving out. I
don't remember those Christmas

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

KATE (cont'd)
 cards. Mom and Dad might have
 questions, but I won't remember the
 answers!

LEANNE
 I'm sorry. I guess I don't know how
 hard this is.

KATE just stands, frozen. She winces and holds her side.

LEANNE
 Kate, you're my sister, no matter
 what. I'll help you get through
 this.

LEANNE reaches out and takes KATE'S hand. KATE grips her
 hand tightly and closes her eyes.

LEANNE
 I'm not going to leave you.

KATE'S eyes open for three more flashbacks.

INT. HOTEL BEDROOM - OVER SIX MONTHS AGO - MORNING 10

KATE lies on her stomach, holding her head with her hands.
 She watches ALLAN as he gets ready to leave. We see sadness
 run across her face as he puts on his wedding ring. She
 rolls over, frustrated.

EXT. CITY PARK - OVER SIX MONTHS AGO - AFTERNOON 11

KATE watches from a safe distance in her car as ALLAN and
 HEATHER play with their child.

INT. KATE'S HOME - HOME OFFICE - OVER SIX MONTHS AGO - LATE
 NIGHT 12

KATE sits in front of a computer monitor. We see her typing.
 Tears run down her cheeks.

INT. KATE'S HOME - CURRENT TIME 13

KATE drops LEANNE'S hand.

KATE

He was married. I remember. He ...
He had a family. Oh God, Lee, he
had a family.

LEANNE stands and holds KATE as she cries.

LEANNE

It's okay, Kate. It's okay. Just
let it come back.

KATE

He had a family and now he's dead.
And I don't even know *why* I know
who he is. Or why I ...

LEANNE holds KATE until she composes herself.

LEANNE

You know, it doesn't matter where
you have been or what you have
done. You're alive, and we have you
back. That's all that matters.

KATE

I don't know what to tell Mom and
Dad ...

LEANNE

Don't tell them anything. They'll
just be happy they know where you
live ... and that you're doing
well. I mean, look at this house
...

LEANNE lets go of KATE and takes in the room.

LEANNE

You own a chain of restaurants!
You've got a personal assistant who
runs everything! I can't believe
it. You've done well. And you're
going to be all right.

She laughs.

LEANNE

You know, in high school you were
voted most likely to end up in
jail.

KATE

I was?

LEANNE

Yeah.

They both laugh. LEANNE grabs her throw blanket off of the couch and picks up her coffee cup. KATE takes the cup from LEANNE's hand.

KATE

Here, let me. You came six hundred miles to take care of me. The least I can do is the dishes.

LEANNE

Well okay. But get some sleep. I have a great breakfast planned for you.

LEANNE moves to the stairs.

LEANNE

You never know, you might want my recipe for your restaurant.

KATE watches her leave.

KATE

(to herself)

Good night.

INT. POLICE STATION - LATER THAT NIGHT

14

DET. SIMPSON and DET. GILL sit at their desks. GILL works feverishly on the computer while SIMPSON sits back in his chair, finishing a sandwich. SIMPSON crumples the sandwich wrapper and flings it at GILL, who dodges it without skipping a beat. SIMPSON smiles.

DET. SIMPSON

You never miss a thing, do you?

DET. GILL

That's why they made us partners. They knew you'd need me to keep you alive.

SIMPSON grabs the bag that his fast food came in and quickly crumples it and throws it, hitting GILL square in the face.

(CONTINUED)

DET. SIMPSON

In four years, how many times have
I saved your ass?

GILL pushes the bag off his keyboard and leans in to the
screen.

DET. GILL

Speaking of ass ... Your new ex
seems nice and clean.

DET. SIMPSON moves to GILL'S desk to see the computer
screen.

DET. GILL

I ran Kate Murien through every
database I know. No traffic
tickets, no outstanding debt.
Nothing. Nothing comes up.

DET. SIMPSON returns to his chair and fiddles with something
on his desk.

DET. SIMPSON

Well I told you before, I ran her
through the ringer. She's legit.

DET. GILL

Yeah, that makes me wonder why
you're interested. Good girls
aren't your thing.

DET. SIMPSON

Oh, I don't buy this Miss
Goodie-Goodie thing. She's got a
dark side. I can feel it.

DET. GILL

Oh yeah?

DET. SIMPSON

I looked up her trip to Los
Angeles. Turns out she was at a
restaurant convention, some
industry thing. Her bar tab was
two-hundred and fifty dollars for
Friday night alone!

DET. GILL whistles in amazement.

DET. SIMPSON

Yeah, she's a party girl all right.

(CONTINUED)

DET. GILL

So you don't buy the amnesia story?

DET. SIMPSON

Let's see -- well-to-do business owner decides to off herself on the grave of Alto County's premier celebrity weeks after he and his wife are murdered execution style? She knows *something*. But it's buried.

DET. GILL

So you *do* buy it.

DET. SIMPSON

"Buy" is such a strong word.

Two more detectives enter, carrying a box of case files. The box is stained by water.

DETECTIVE #1

Hey boys! Pucker up, 'cause you're gonna kiss me after you see *this*.

DET. GILL

Well, he'll kiss you even if he doesn't see what ...

DET. SIMPSON

Shut the fuck up. What've you got?

The detectives walk to GILL'S desk and place the box in front of them. DETECTIVE #1 leans on the box.

DETECTIVE #2

You guys sent a complaint about missing some case files from the flood, right? Well it turns out that Ernie helped mop up and stuck 'em in with the cold case files.

DETECTIVE #1

You've been crying for months, and they were in the room down the hall all the time. Here - it just came back from processing.

GILL immediately starts rummaging through the files. SIMPSON pulls out his wallet and grabs a coupon for a fast food sandwich. He hands it to one of the detectives and pushes him out of the way.

(CONTINUED)

DET. SIMPSON

Crying, my ass. No one was crying.
Now go hassle the gang-bangers at
McDonald's. Let us get back to the
big-boy work.

The detectives leave, pretending to be excited about the sandwich coupon. DET. SIMPSON looks over DET. GILL'S shoulder. GILL pulls out a large file and an internal computer hard drive. SIMPSON'S eyes widen.

DET. GILL

Well, lookie here.

DET. SIMPSON

Hm?

DET. GILL

It's the hard drive from
Scheffield's computer.

DET. SIMPSON starts clearing space on GILL'S desk. GILL moves the box to make room.

DET. SIMPSON

Well all right! Get it hooked up.
Let's see what we got.