

Shoot Straight

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FADE IN:

INT. PUBLIC PARKING GARAGE - NIGHT

NICKY MILLER waits beneath a stairwell. From one end of the parking garage a figure staggers into the light.

NICKY

I know you.

MEGAN SWEET, clearly drunk, makes her way toward a car. From behind Nicky a nervous DRUG BUYER approaches.

DRUG BUYER

Hey, you her?

NICKY

Huh? Oh, yeah.

The Drug Buyer pulls out a wad of bills.

NICKY

Alright, let's make this fast.

She pulls drugs from her coat, and makes the exchange. GWYNETH, DANNY, and TAMMY walk into the garage.

GWYNETH

I just wanted to thank you two so much for coming out with me tonight.

TAMMY

It's okay, Grandma. It's been rough since Mom died.

DANNY

Yeah, Grams. I'm just glad you're able to have dinner with us again.

TAMMY

We missed this, Grandma. When you went into the hospital. It scared me.

GWYNETH

I'm so sorry I put you and Danny through all that.

Megan stumbles into Gwyneth who drops her glasses.

MEGAN
 (drunkenly)
 Sorry...

Danny starts to follow Megan.

GWYNETH
 Let it be, Danny. Don't let her
 spoil our evening.

Nicky lingers as the Drug Buyer leaves. A car door SLAMS,
 and an engine ROARS to life. Gwyneth and the kids reach
 their car, and she searches her purse for her glasses.

GWYNETH
 I must have dropped my glasses.
 (beat)
 There they are.

She goes to retrieve them. Tires squeal. Danny and Tammy
 scream. There's a crash. Nicky grabs her phone and snaps
 several photos before fleeing the scene.

INT. COMMONS ROOM POLICE STATION - MORNING

REBECCA REDFIELD sits on a bench reviewing several
 documents. From behind her BARRY WEST approaches.

BARRY
 What'cha got there, Redfield?

Barry catches a glimpse before Rebecca can hide them.

REBECCA
 Nothing, just prepping a case.

BARRY
 The Sargent's exam? Again? You're
 too young, Rebecca.

REBECCA
 Thanks for the vote of confidence.
 Hey, West, it's only ten AM.
 Shouldn't you be sleeping one off?

BARRY
 Nice. Nah, been trying to get a
 hold of Megan all morning.

Rebecca's phone rings.

REBECCA
It's dispatch.

Rebecca takes the call. Barry gets a message on his phone and checks it, then puts it away quickly.

BARRY
Everything okay?

REBECCA
Just an update on a hit and run I
picked up last night. Gotta head
out.

BARRY
Same here. An old CI has some info
I need to check out.

They say their goodbyes, and leave in separate directions.

INT. HALLWAY - DAY

Barry pushes through the heavy swinging doors. After a moment Nicky comes into view.

BARRY
Got your text. Whadda'ya want,
Nicky?

Nicky saunters down the stairs, a wry smile on her face.

NICKY
You haven't called me in months,
and this is how you say "hi"? I'm
feeling a little unappreciated
here.

BARRY
You have ten seconds.

NICKY
I thought you might want to know
about a hit and run I caught the
highlights of last night.

BARRY
A hit and run? I don't fucking
care. File a statement at the
precinct.

NICKY
(chuckling)
I think you'll care.

Nicky pulls a phone from her jacket. On the screen is a PICTURE of Megan FLEEING the scene of the accident.

NICKY

You talk with Megan this morning?

Barry rams Nicky into the wall and jams his gun into her temple.

BARRY

Give me one reason I shouldn't kill you right now.

NICKY

Do you think I came here alone?

Barry pauses, and backs up. He tosses the phone to Nicky.

BARRY

What's the price?

NICKY

What's the going rate for leads on a case these days? Five grand? Ten?

BARRY

Fuck you.

Nicky holds the photo on the screen tauntingly.

NICKY

I'm not heartless. Let's call it seven-five, and I forget about this whole thing.

Barry hangs his head and lets out a long sigh.

BARRY

Seven-five.

NICKY

I'm glad we could see eye to eye.

BARRY

If I ever see you again. I'll kill you.

Barry storms out. Nicky laughs and looks at the photo of Megan.

INT. MEGAN'S APARTMENT - DAY

Megan sits on her couch crying. Barry paces around the room.

MEGAN

I don't understand. Why shouldn't I
go to the cops? You're a cop,
Barry!

BARRY

You fled the scene! They don't go
easy on people who do that, Megan!

MEGAN

But I killed that old lady!

BARRY

Is that worse than rotting in
prison for the rest of your life?

Barry takes a deep breath then kneels by Megan's side.

BARRY

Look, Megan. You have to trust me.

MEGAN

But that poor woman-

BARRY

Is dead. Nothing's going to change
that. Prison isn't justice.

Megan lifts her head to look at Barry.

BARRY

I'm going to make this go away.

MEGAN

What am I supposed to do?

BARRY

Don't do anything out of the
ordinary.

MEGAN

Why are you doing this?

BARRY

Because I love you.

MEGAN

You love me?

BARRY

Of course I do. I'll see you soon.

Barry gets up and leaves; looking back at her as he exits.

INT. CHIEF OF DETECTIVES OFFICE - DAY

Danny and Tammy pace around the office of CHIEF DOBBINS.

DANNY

It's been three days! We bury her the day after tomorrow. Who killed my grandmother?

TAMMY

Please, so we can have some peace, we have to know.

DOBBINS

I've got all of the best people on this. Go home. We'll be in contact.

Danny and Tammy exit the Chief's office. Just outside the door, Rebecca and Barry approach. Rebecca notices them.

REBECCA

(to Barry)

Go ahead, I'll be there in a second.

Barry continues into Dobbin's office. Rebecca gets the kids' attention, pulls out a business card, and hands it to Tammy.

REBECCA

I'm Detective Redfield. If you remember anything, give me a call.

TAMMY

Thanks.

Danny leads his sister away. Rebecca heads into the office.

DOBBINS

How did two kids get into my office to harass me about a case I know nothing about?

Barry looks at Rebecca, who raises her hands in surrender.

REBECCA

Sorry, Chief. I told them to come in for a statement.

DOBBINS
Fix this, Redfield. You're on this
full time until it's done!

BARRY
Is that really worth Rebecca's
time, Chief?

DOBBINS
Are you telling me how to do my
job?

BARRY
No, it's just...I mean, aren't
there more important cases?

DOBBINS
Someone mowed down a bystander and
fled the scene. That seems pretty
important to me. Now get out of my
office.

Rebecca and Barry exit Dobbins's office.

REBECCA
What the hell was that about? Why'd
you tell Dobbins my case doesn't
matter?

BARRY
How often do we really solve these
things, right? A cold case isn't
going to look good when they're
considering you for a promotion.

REBECCA
Jesus, Barry. What's gotten into
you?

BARRY
I'm just saying...is this really
worth it?

REBECCA
Yes. It's worth it.

Rebecca walks off without saying another word.

INT. CHURCH, GWYNETH'S WAKE - DAY

Tammy and Danny are the only people left. They stand near her coffin. Megan sits in the last pew. She looks tired. Barry storms in through the double doors behind Megan.

BARRY

Why did you send me that text? What are you doing here? I told you to keep a low profile!

MEGAN

I know, I'm sorry. I tried for days, but it's just too hard! I had to say I'm sorry.

BARRY

Come on, we're getting out of here.

Barry grabs Megan by the arm, and hauls her out of the pew.

MEGAN

Barry, please...

From the front of the church, Tammy and Danny see the commotion. Barry doesn't notice as Tammy pulls out her phone.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - MOMENTS LATER

Barry drags Megan with him. Nicky arrives as they walk toward the side of the building.

NICKY

I never took you as a Jesus freak.

BARRY

You're following me?

NICKY

Just checking up on my investment.

Nicky looks Megan up and down.

NICKY

You'd be a fine piece of ass on the inside, honey. I should know. You're boyfriend helped me learn that lesson.

Barry, pushes past Nicky, dragging Megan with him.

BARRY
Is this really what this is about,
Nicky? Revenge? You broke the law!

NICKY
I was your friend!

EXT. CHURCH PARKING SIDE LOT - CONTINUOUS

They make their way around the side of the church.

BARRY
This ends now, you bitch.

NICKY
What did you say to me?

Nicky grabs Barry's shoulder, spins him, and sees the GUN pointed at her. Barry FIRES. Nicky collapses onto the ground. Megan SCREAMS.

MEGAN
You killed her!

BARRY
She was going to turn you in,
Megan. I did it for you.

MEGAN
This was never about me! You
weren't trying to protect me. You
were only protecting yourself.

Megan leaves. Barry grabs her arm, and she shakes him free.

MEGAN
Don't touch me. I'm going to do
what I should have done days ago.

Barry grabs Megan again.

MEGAN
Leave me alone!

Megan knees Barry in the gut, and runs toward the front parking lot. Barry crumples over to recover his breath.

EXT. CHURCH PARKING LOT - CONTINUOUS

Megan flees around the corner of the church. Tammy and Danny wave down Rebecca as she drives onto the lot. Megan sees Rebecca get out of the car and flees to her.

MEGAN

Please you have to help me! He just
killed someone!

Rebecca's hand goes to her holster. Megan points back in the direction of the side lot. Barry stumbles around the corner.

BARRY

Megan, wait!

He sees Megan and runs to her, but stops as he notices Rebecca.

REBECCA

West? What's going on here?

BARRY

I've got it under control.

REBECCA

The hell you do. I want an
explanation. Now!

MEGAN

He killed her. He killed that
woman!

BARRY

Shut up, Megan!
(to Rebecca)
You don't understand. She didn't
mean to do it.

REBECCA

Do what?!

Megan bursts into tears and falls to her knees.

MEGAN

I did it! I killed that old lady.
It's all my fault.

REBECCA

(to Barry)
You were trying to cover this up!

BARRY

No! You don't understand!

REBECCA

You're under arrest. Put your hands
where I can see them.

Barry remembers his gun and raises it on Rebecca.

REBECCA

Don't do this, Barry. It doesn't
have to be like this.

BARRY

I don't have a choice.

Rebecca fires first. Barry collapses, holding his gut. Megan
screams in horror and rushes to his side.

BARRY

I...wanted to...save you. I
wanted...to be one of...the good
guys.

Barry dies. Rebecca approaches and HANDCUFFS Megan.

REBECCA

You have the right to remain
silent. Anything you say, can and
will be used against you...

FADE OUT