

CAPTIVE

Written by

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FADE IN:

INT. APARTMENT - NIGHT

A run-down, dimly lit area. There's the low sound of a tv program in progress and the light from the television flutters against the wall as a cockroach crawls along.

A man, LEO, is splayed across the floor. There's a small gash high across his temple and tiny scratches all over his face. He stirs and awakens slowly, grimacing as he holds his head.

Leo goes to sit up and BANGS his shoulder against something. He looks and sees that he's caged in a corner. A dozen or so iron bars are crudely set within the floor all the way to the ceiling. He frowns and tests them. They hold.

He gets up, flustered now. Scared. He looks around and sees the dirty, sparsely furnished apartment. There's a sofa with its back to him and a large, high back chair facing him but it's too dark to see.

Leo frowns as he takes it all in.

LEO

What the hell's this?

(pauses; louder)

What the hell is this??!! Hello?!

Can anyone hear me?! Hey!!

Suddenly, the chair stirs and Leo freezes as he realizes that someone is sitting in it. A hand reaches over and turns a lamp on. A male police officer, GRIMES, sits in his police uniform, minus the hat. He looks worn and angry.

Grimes grabs an apple out of a bag on the table next to him and takes a bite. He walks over and faces Leo.

GRIMES

You don't get food. You're gonna die nice and slow right there in that cell.

LEO

What- What're you talking about?

What am I doing here? Listen, officer, I didn't-

GRIMES

What's the last thing you remember, Leo?

LEO

How do you know my name?

GRIMES

I'm a cop, you nutsack. I know a lot of scum.

LEO

It's been awhile since I been picked up, man. Even then, it was just petty stuff. No drugs. No assault. I didn't do anyth-

GRIMES

(aggravated)

What do you remember?

Leo looks at the bars, incredulous.

LEO

What're you doing with this? How did you do this? Why are you doing this to m-

GRIMES

(yelling)

What do you remember, Leo??!!!

LEO

I- I was with some woman in a parked car and the windshield just exploded and-

GRIMES

"Some woman"??

LEO

Well, yeah. I didn't know her name. I-

GRIMES

You slept with a woman and you didn't even know her name??

LEO

Man, I-

GRIMES

You should've made it a point to know her name, Leo.

Leo just stares.

GRIMES

(continuing)

You should've also made it a point to know who she was.

LEO
What're you talking about?

Grimes LUNGES forward, reaches through the bars, grabs Leo by the hair and YANKS him forward, banging his head against the bars. Leo staggers back.

GRIMES
(yelling)
"That woman" was my wife!!!

LEO
What??!!! Oh man, look I-

Grimes starts to pace.

GRIMES
Oh, but you didn't just sleep with her, did you?

LEO
(confused)
What?

GRIMES
You raped her!!!!

LEO
Whoa!! Wait a minute!! I didn't...she came to m-

GRIMES
Don't you fuckin' lie to me, you punk!!!

LEO
She came on to me, man!!!

GRIMES
What???!!!!

Grimes pulls his gun and aims it at Leo, who immediately backs away.

GRIMES
(continuing)
You could die for saying that.

LEO
Easy. I'm sorry. I was mistak-

GRIMES
You could easily die for lying like that.

LEO
Okay. Okay. Easy.

After a long, tense moment, Grimes lowers the gun, slumps in the chair and looks near tears. He reaches over to the end table, picks up a framed photograph and looks at it.

Leo strains to see and notices that it's the woman he was with in a wedding dress and Grimes next to her. Leo reacts.

LEO
(continuing;
whispering)
Oh, man.

Grimes is suddenly on his feet. He walks over to Leo, holding the photo in one hand as he puts the gun through the bars and promptly SHOOTS Leo in the leg.

Leo SCREAMS.

LEO
(continuing)
God...damnit!! Aaahh, fuck!
Please!!

Tears stream down Grimes's face as he stands there, suddenly stoic.

GRIMES
Is that what my wife sounded like
when you were forcing her?

LEO
You have to listen to me! Please!
I didn't know! I didn't know she
was your wife!

GRIMES
She wouldn't have much time to
tell you, now would she??!!! Not
with you violating her!!!

LEO
Wait! Listen! Just gimme a second!
Please!
(pauses)
What does your wife do? For a
living?

GRIMES
She's a teacher.

LEO

GRIMES
What're you talking about?

LEO
The woman that picked me up...she,
well, she was a hooker.

Grimes SHOOTS Leo in the arm. Leo SCREAMS again.

LEO
(continuing)
Jesus!!!! Fuck!!! I swear to God!!!

Grimes aims the gun at Leo's forehead.

LEO
(continuing)
WAIT!!!!!! Okay!! Okay!!!

Grimes lowers the gun.

LEO
(continuing)
Where is she? Just ask her.
Please, just ask her. Bring her
here. Or just follow her.

GRIMES
Are you suggesting that I not
trust my wife?

LEO
No!!! No!! Just...just to be sure.
She doesn't have to know you're
following her. Just to be sure. If
you don't...find out anything, you
can always come back here...and
shoot me.

Grimes considers this. He suddenly drops the photo and walks out the door, slamming it behind him.

Leo slumps and begins to sob, holding his wounds. He composes himself. He takes his shirt off, tears off his sleeves and ties them around his leg and arm.

He notices the photo on the floor just outside his makeshift cage. He crawls over to it, whimpering. He reaches through the bars and takes it. He sits back and looks at it, closely.

The photograph is a wedding picture of the woman but the picture of Grimes is from a separate torn photo stuck over the second half of the photograph.

The woman wears a wedding gown, but Grimes wears shorts and a t-shirt, holding a barbecue fork and apron.

Leo scowls and pulls the photo of Grimes off to reveal a handsome man in a tux with his arm around the woman.

Leo reacts.

LEO
(continuing)
...'the fuck?

Suddenly, a door opens in the apartment and an ELDERLY WOMAN in a housecoat, slowly walks out and past Leo, without even noticing him.

Leo stares in shock as she goes by. The elderly woman sees a throw pillow in her path. She picks it up and carefully places it back on the sofa.

He looks to the open door she came out of and he can see into the room. On the bed, the woman from the photo, the woman that he was with, is BOUND to the bed and GAGGED. Her make-up is horribly smudged from the tears streaming down her face.

Leo is horrified by his realization.

The woman SOBS aloud as she sees Leo, as if pleading with him. Leo tears the original photo and puts the half with the man in his pocket. He replaces Grimes's photo and drops the framed picture outside the cage.

Leo forces himself up and begins tugging at the bars with his good arm.

He looks to the elderly woman as she comes back walking along slowly, holding a cup of tea.

LEO
(continuing)
Hey! Hey, lady! Call the cops! You
have to call the cops! Can you
hear me?!!

Her mind is obviously gone. This time, she notices the photo in her path. She picks it up, wipes it on her housecoat and carefully places it back on the end table. She goes back into the room and closes the door. Leo is at a loss.

LEO
(continuing)
Oh, Jesus.

Suddenly, the door opens and Grimes walks back in and toward a closet.

GRIMES

I forgot my hat. I can't do police work without my hat.

Grimes opens the closet and a DEAD MAN smothered in blood, is slumped against the wall inside. He's wearing underwear, a tank top, dress socks and a police officer's cap on his head.

Leo heaves and covers his mouth.

Grimes calmly takes the cap off the dead man and places it meticulously on his own head. He heads for the door, glancing at Leo.

GRIMES

(continuing)

You'd better pray you're right, punk. I'll be back in five minutes.

Grimes slams the door behind him. Leo leans against the bars in horror. He tries each of the bars carefully. Not one is even the slightest bit loose.

Leo looks around and spots a phone, maybe seven feet away. He looks around outside the cage, then inside. He pats his pockets then looks down at his high top boots.

Leo sits down and removes his boots. He pulls the shoe laces out and ties them together. Then he ties the end of one lace to a boot. He holds one end of the lace and tosses the boot at the phone. It lands just shy.

He reaches through the bars farther and throws it again. The boot knocks the receiver off the cradle.

He reels the boot in and throws it again. It lands across the extended cord. He pulls the boot and it catches on the cord. He slowly reels the boot in and the phone falls off the end table as it gets dragged with it.

Just as he gets it outside the cage, the boot slips.

The elderly woman comes out again and walks slowly across the cage. Leo reaches for the phone but the woman sees it in her path, picks it up before he can get it and places it back on the table.

LEO

GODDAMNIT!!! WHAT THE FUCK'RE YOU DOING, YOU DUMB BITCH????!!!

Leo grabs his hair in frustration as she goes back to the kitchen again, completely oblivious to him. Leo looks to the open door and sees the woman again. She's terrified.

Leo hears the elderly woman coming back. This time, she's got a biscuit on a small plate with a kitchen knife and butter.

As she makes her way slowly across the cage again, he looks from the knife to the bound woman's cloth bonds and back.

LEO
(continuing; to
himself)
God forgive me.

Leo reaches through the bars and trips the elderly woman. She only drops to one knee but loses the biscuit and knife.

As she collects the biscuit, Leo quickly snatches the knife. She doesn't even notice as she searches the floor for the knife. Finally, she makes her way back to the kitchen quietly.

Leo watches her go, then turns to the open door. He holds the knife up for the bound woman to see. She frantically nods, understanding. She tries to reach for it already but her hands are bound to the mattress at the bedpost.

Leo carefully aims, reaching as far through the bars as he can. He slowly but firmly tosses the knife into the room and it pokes the woman in the leg but lands on the bed. She cries out.

Leo flinches.

LEO
(continuing)
Sorry.

The woman immediately begins to squirm on the bed, trying to move the knife toward her hand with her feet.

The elderly woman makes her way back again with a fresh knife. Leo watches her go this time. As she walks into the room, the bound woman stops fidgeting. The elderly woman closes the door behind her.

Leo readies the boot again but the front door jiggles as if being unlocked. Leo puts his boots on quickly and sits back.

Grimes enters and locks the door. He approaches Leo.

GRIMES
Well, she was in class, teaching,
punk. What do you have to say

Grimes pulls his gun and aims it at Leo.

LEO
Y-You said five minutes. You said
you'd be back in five minutes.

GRIMES
So??

LEO
So, I still have two minutes left.

Grimes looks at his watch.

GRIMES
What do you want? A last minute
cigarette?

LEO
O-Okay.

GRIMES
I'm not giving you shit.

LEO
Hey, I was ready to die after the
cigarette but you said you wanted
me to die slow, remember?

Grimes thinks.

GRIMES
Yeah, well, I don't have time to
let lung cancer get you, either.

Leo's mind is racing.

LEO
Y'know, there's a guy who's been
after your wife for a long time.

GRIMES
What?! Who?!

Leo goes into his pocket and shows him the photo of the man
in the tux. Grimes looks interested.

LEO
You should kill him first, before
he gets her alone.

Grimes turns and walks to the sofa.

GRIMES

I'm a cop, Leo. I'm one step ahead
of you.

LEO

(warily)

Wh-What do you mean?

Grimes reaches over the back of the sofa and pulls a blue and bloated dead body to a sitting position. It's the MAN IN THE PHOTO and Grimes grins, triumphantly.

GRIMES

I already took care of him. See?

Leo heaves and this time he vomits inside his cage. Grimes walks briskly over to Leo's cage and reaches in.

GRIMES

(continuing)

Nobody fucks my wife and gets to
live.

He pulls Leo to his feet and shoves the gun to his forehead.

GRIMES

(continuing)

Including you.

LEO

You said you wanted me to die slow.

GRIMES

I changed my mi-...!

Grimes coughs and blood DRIBBLES from his mouth. His eyes flutter as he lets Leo go and staggers back.

Grimes reaches up just as the bound woman lets go of the kitchen knife in his neck. Grimes turns and looks lovingly at her as she sobs in terror.

GRIMES

(continuing)

I...I loved...you.

BOUND WOMAN

I don't even know you,...you...
...sick fuck!!

Grimes shoots her dead. She drops.

He staggers again and drops the gun.

Grimes falls to the floor, sputtering blood, muttering incoherently.

Leo looks horrified as he watches them die. After a moment, they both stare into space.

Leo is wild-eyed as he puts his hands in his hair in a frenzy. He suddenly pulls at the bars, frantically.

LEO
SOMEBODY LET ME THE FUCK OUT OF
HERE!!!!

The elderly woman comes walking along with the empty plate. Leo watches her, still entranced by her obliviousness, even now.

She sees the gun in her path, stops and picks it up. She sees Grimes staring up and she shakes her head in disappointment.

ELDERLY WOMAN
He could never play the game
right. Not my son. Not like his
father.

Leo looks shocked that she's finally speaking.

ELDERLY WOMAN
(continuing)
I told him and I told him, "Play
nice, never make a mess and if you
start a game, always,
always....finish it.

She SHOOTS Leo in the chest. He falls, dead.

She places the gun carefully on the end table and slowly makes her way to the kitchen.

FADE OUT:

THE END