

THE UNDERPASS

Written by

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Version (1.2)
04.10.2019

INT. 1ST INTERROGATION ROOM

CCTV style footage: A darkened basement-type room. We see the back of PETER sitting at a desk some distance away - he looks alone and isolated.

A door opens behind him and DCI MAREK and DCI NILA step inside - two police detectives. They look at PETER with suspicion. They walk over, carrying several documents, and eventually sit in front of him.

CUT TO:

We see PETER's face for the first time now - he is noticeably worried. DCI MAREK and DCI NILA adjust their positions, until they're both comfortable.

DCI MAREK presents a document to PETER who looks down at it, not sure what it is. DCI MAREK turns the front cover over and presents PETER with several mug-shot photographs.

DCI MAREK

Do you recognise any of these men?

PETER spots someone immediately and points to him.

PETER

I think that's him.

DCI MAREK

How sure are you?

PETER

(unsure)

Umm. Pretty sure. Yeah-

CUT TO:

EXT. UNDERPASS - NIGHT

We see PETER walking towards an underpass - he is wearing headphones, and otherwise looks untroubled. A university student. He carries a bag, and several books.

DCI MAREK (V.O)

Pretty sure isn't much to go on.

PETER (V.O.)

Okay, I'm positive. It was him!
Definitely.

We see a man and a woman arguing in the underpass - PETER half stops, worried. He doesn't want to get involved. The man is shouting at her very aggressively.

DCI MAREK (V.O.)
Okay, and tell us what you saw him do.

PETER (V.O.)
He, err-

The man pushes the woman hard against the underpass wall.

PETER (V.O.)
Well, they were arguing, and err-

DCI MAREK (V.O.)
Did you see him hit her?

The man then lands a hard, right hook across her face, and the woman falls to the floor.

PETER is shocked.

PETER (V.O.)
(reluctant)
...Yes.

DCI MAREK (V.O.)
And why didn't you do anything?

PETER (V.O.)
I- I...

PETER is now frozen - scared. He backs away.

PETER (V.O.)
(disappointed)
I couldn't. I couldn't do anything.

DCI MAREK (V.O.)
You didn't call out or go get help?

PETER (V.O.)
I didn't know what to do!

CUT BACK TO:

INT. 1ST INTERROGATION ROOM

PETER looks directly into camera

PETER
I was scared.

INT. 2ND INTERROGATION ROOM

DCI NILA is now holding the folder, she pushes it in front of her and pulls over the first page.

DCI NILA
Do you recognise any of these men?

We see RICK sat there - it is the same guy PETER has identified as the man committing the act of violence. He has a small cut to the top righthand side of his forehead.

He looks more unsure than PETER, and so takes his time. He picks up one photo, which is of someone else.

RICK
I can't be too sure. It was dark,
you know? It could have been any of
these guys.

DCI NILA
Take your time. See if you
recognise any of them.

At that moment DCI NILA pushes forward PETER's photo, and RICK notices - a look of recognition washes across his face.

RICK
(to himself)
Yeah, yeah- this was the guy, I
think.

DCI NILA shoots DCI MAREK a glance.

DCI NILA
(to RICK)
Can you please confirm which photo
you are now identifying?

RICK picks up PETER's photo and presents it to DCI NILA and DCI MAREK.

RICK
This is the guy who did it.

CUT TO:

EXT. UNDERPASS - NIGHT

We see RICK and his girlfriend walking arm in arm towards the underpass - they're laughing and having a good time.

RICK (V.O.)
(stuttering)
We were just minding our own
business, you know? I didn't want
any trouble. But this guy... This
guy. He wasn't having any of it.

We see PETER leaning up against the underpass - messing around with lighting a cigarette. He notices RICK and his girlfriend walking towards him - they try to carry on, but RICK is keeping one eye on PETER.

DCI NILA (V.O.)
So you and your girlfriend were
walking through the underpass. Why?

RICK (V.O.)
Why?

DCI NILA (V.O.)
(impatient)
Yes, why? Where were you going?

CUT BACK TO:

INT. 2ND INTERROGATION ROOM

RICK sits at the table with his hands open - he looks confused.

RICK
To the other side. Where else?

DCI NILA
Well, Mr Cross, we have your
address as...

DCI NILA looks through a document.

DCI NILA (CONT'D)
Living a few miles away from that
underpass. Why were you there at
that time of night?

RICK
Wait, am I under investigation too?
Because I haven't done anything
wrong! He was the one who-

DCI NILA
Calm down, Mr Cross-

RICK
This is making me feel very
uncomfortable.

DCI NILA
We're just trying to gather the
facts, that's all.

RICK
I've told you this already-

CUT TO:

EXT. UNDERPASS - NIGHT

RICK and his girlfriend walk past PETER who immediately says something to grab their attention - RICK turns around and politely declines the offer, but PETER is not taking no for an answer.

RICK (V.O.)
He wanted my watch, and I told him
no.

We see PETER point to RICK's watch.

DCI NILA (V.O.)
And then what?

RICK (V.O.)
He attacked us.

DCI NILA (V.O.)
Both of you?

RICK (V.O.)
Yes.

DCI NILA (V.O.)
(unsure)
At the same time?

RICK
Yes! He had a hammer. I was really
scared.

PETER now appears to be holding a hammer, and he's swinging it wildly at both RICK and his girlfriend.

CUT BACK TO:

INT. 2ND INTERROGATION ROOM

RICK looks directly at the camera - he looks genuine.

RICK

This scumbag put my girlfriend in hospital! We're lucky to be alive.

INT. 1ST INTERROGATION ROOM

We see the back of PETER's head - DCI NILA and DCI MAREK look at him intently.

DCI MAREK

So after you runaway, you eventually decide to call the police?

PETER

Yes.

DCI MAREK

Why the sudden change of heart?

PETER

What do you mean?

DCI MAREK

Why wait to call the police? Why not do it straight away?

INT. PHONE BOX - NIGHT

We see PETER walking up to a phone box and opening the door.

PETER (V.O.)

I **didn't** have my phone on me, so I couldn't.

DCI MAREK (V.O.)

That's a little... *convenient*, wouldn't you agree?

PETER (V.O.)

No, not really.

DCI MAREK (V.O.)

Because one of our colleagues found a phone in a bush not far from the underpass. How do you explain that?

CUT TO:

INT. WALKWAY NEAR UNDERPASS - NIGHT

We see PETER hiding his phone in a bush.

PETER (V.O.)
It can't be my phone! I didn't have
it with me.

EXT. 1ST INTERROGATION ROOM - BASEMENT

PETER is on the verge of tears - he looks petrified. DCI
MAREK smirks. His little lie didn't work.

DCI MAREK
Fair enough, Peter. If you want to
lie-

PETER
(aggressive)
I'm not lying! I haven't done
anything wrong.

DCI NILA
That's not what this guy is telling
us.

DCI NILA points at the photo of RICK - PETER is confused.

PETER
(confused)
What's he telling you?

DCI NILA leans forward.

DCI NILA
He's telling us that you attacked
him and his partner with a hammer.

PETER
...What? Why would he say that?

DCI NILA
Can you explain how he ended up
with a cut to his forehead?

CUT TO:

EXT. UNDERPASS - NIGHT

We see that RICK's girlfriend is now laying on the floor of
the underpass, and PETER has RICK pushes up against the wall.

RICK (V.O.)
He was choking me, and demanded
that I take off my watch and give
him my phone.

DCI MAREK (V.O)
(surprised)
He wanted your phone as well?

RICK (V.O.)
Yeah, did I not mention that bit?

DCI MAREK (V.O.)
No.

RICK (V.O.)
Anyway, yeah. He took my watch and
phone and then I begged him to let
us go, but before he did he cracked
the bottom of it against my head-

CUT TO:

INT. 2ND INTERROGATION ROOM

RICK is sat with his hands clasped together looking
confident.

RICK
And then I fell to the ground
unconscious. Sometime later, you
lot arrived and saved the day.
Thank god.

RICK gives an appreciative smile

DCI NILA
(sarcastic)
You're very welcome.

DCI MAREK
Listen, Rick. Your story doesn't
match up with what he's telling us-

RICK
Well, he's lying! It's obvious
isn't it? This guy robbed us, and
nearly killed me and my girlfriend!

INT. 3RD INTERROGATION ROOM - OFFICE.

KAY slowly walks into the room - she has a noticeable limp, and every steps seems to cause her great pain. She eventually reaches the table, with a helping hand from DCI NILA, and sits down. We see her face, and she looks battered and heavily bruised.

DCI MAREK

We really appreciate you doing this for us. As you'll understand, it's important we get this story straight now to better ascertain what happened a few hours ago.

KAY

(groggy)

I'm not sure how much help I'll be. I can't really remember what happened. When can I go back to hospital? My head is *pounding*.

DCI NILA

(reassuring)

Soon, okay? We just want you to try your best and remember what happened, and if it gets too hard we can stop. Alright?

KAY gently nods.

DCI NILA shoots DCI MAREK a glance, who in turn pushes over a folder and opens the front cover.

DCI MAREK

Do you recognise any of these men?

KAY takes her time to take a look.

KAY

(unsure)

No... I don't. Sorry.

DCI NILA

That's okay, there's no need to-

KAY sees PETER's face and immediately she stops dead - her breathing stops. He eyes well up, and a look of fear comes across her face.

DCI NILA (CONT'D)

Kay, are you alright?

KAY
(stuttering)
It was *him!* He did it.

DCI MAREK
What did he do?

KAY looks up at both DCI MAREK and DCI NILA with a new found assuredness.

KAY
He attacked me and my boyfriend.

DCI NILA
How sure are you?

KAY
100%.

INT. 1ST INTERROGATION ROOM

PETER is again sat alone - his head rests against the table. A door opens.

DCI NILA
Mr Clark?

PETER sits up and turns around to see DCI NILA and DCI MAREK walking towards him.

DCI NILA (CONT'D)
I am arresting you on suspicion of GBH and theft.

PETER
(shocked)
What? No, I-

DCI NILA
You don't have to say anything, but it may harm your defence if you not mention when questioned...

DCI MAREK picks PETER up and handcuffs him.

EXT. OUTSIDE POLICE STATION - DAY

RICK is leaning against his car with a smug look on his face - KAY is walking towards him, but cannot bring herself to look at him. She looks guilty and sad. It's obvious she lied. RICK smiles and gets into the car. KAY soon follows.