

CSI: NEW YORK

"Child's Play"

TEASER

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

MUSIC IN

EXT. HABANA CABANA CLUB - NIGHT

[WALLA]

[A CROWD LINES UP TO ENTER THE CLUB. ESSEX PALMER EASILY GAINS ENTRANCE PAST THE BOUNCERS. A SECOND MAN, BENJAMIN SUTOR, IS DENIED ENTRANCE.]

INT. HABANA CABANA CLUB - NIGHT

ESSEX PALMER

Louis Tre.

BARTENDER

Two-twenty a pop, Essex? Must be feeling festive.

ESSEX PALMER

Think I just closed the biggest deal of my life.

BARTENDER

Well, in that case, let's start a tab.

ESSEX PALMER

What's she drinking?

BARTENDER

Margarita rocks.

ESSEX PALMER

Next one's on me.

[BARTENDER MIXES THE DRINK. AS SHE
TURNS AWAY, ESSEX DROPS AN ITEM INTO
THE GLASS.]

MARIO GALANTI
Hey, need a light?

ESSEX PALMER
Thanks.

[HOTTIE LOOKS INTO HER DRINK AND
SCREAMS]

[SCREAMS]

[ESSEX'S CIGAR EXPLODES]

[EXPLOSION]

LATER -

MUSIC OUT

[ESSEX'S MOUTH AND LOWER PART OF HIS
FACE IS BLOWN OFF]

[WALLA]

STELLA BONASERA
Who are we looking at, Flack?

DETECTIVE DON FLACK
Essex Palmer, or what's left of him.
Twenty-nine-year-old Internet
entrepreneur. According to witnesses,
one minute he lit up, next minute he
blew up.

STELLA BONASERA
Exploding cigar?

DETECTIVE DON FLACK
Apparently, the guy was a regular with
a twisted sense of humor and a history
of pulling practical jokes.

LINDSAY MONROE

On himself?

STELLA BONASERA

He's a young guy, suffering a painful death in a public place? I don't think he was in on this joke.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

No. [MUSIC IN] Talk about going out with a bang.

[FLASHBACK]

[TO OPENING SEQUENCES]

THEME MUSIC IN

SHOW TITLE - OPENING SEQUENCES

OPENING CREDITS

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - DAY

MUSIC IN

INT. HABANA CABANA CLUB - DAY

MUSIC OUT

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Our vic made a fortune buying and selling high-end comic books online. Then he stepped up to buying and selling comic stores. Word is, the kid was loaded and his wallet seems to agree. Guy in the line outside picked it up after somebody else dropped it.

[FLASHBACK]

[WALLA/SCREAMS]

[BACK TO SCENE]

LINDSAY MONROE

Pickpocket?

STELLA BONASERA

Well, the blast couldn't have blown it all the way out the front door.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Well, the cash and the cards are still there.

STELLA BONASERA

Maybe he dropped it.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Well, if you guys can lift some prints, hopefully I can run down the rest of the story.

STELLA BONASERA

Did you get anything else from the patrons?

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Everybody reports the same loud explosion and then after that, it was panic at the disco.

STELLA BONASERA

And he did come alone.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Yes. Bartender says he was here celebrating some new business venture. Evidently he chose to celebrate by slipping [MUSIC IN] something into a lady's drink.

STELLA BONASERA

A roofie?

[ZOOM INTO ECS OF FAKE ICE CUBE WITH A BUG INSIDE]

LINDSAY MONROE

Well, it sure ain't a Spanish Fly.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - DAY

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS - DAY

[WALLA]

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - DAY

MUSIC OUT

RUBEN SANDOVAL

[KNOCKING] You in there? We're gonna be late. You awake in there?

DANNY MESSER

Ruben. It's 7:30 in the morning.

RUBEN SANDOVAL

Today is the day for the Blessing of the Bikes. We have to be there. You promised.

DANNY MESSER

The Blessing of the Bikes. Okay, okay. Right, right.

RUBEN SANDOVAL

You forgot.

DANNY MESSER

No. No, I did not forget about it.

RUBEN SANDOVAL

The line's gonna be long, so we have to hurry. [TO RIKKI SANDOVAL] Mom, we're leaving now.

RIKKI SANDOVAL

He's been up since 5:30.

DANNY MESSER

Yeah. I went to bed at 5:30.

RIKKI SANDOVAL

[LAUGHS] Do you want a cup of coffee?

RUBEN SANDOVAL

No. We gotta go.

RIKKI SANDOVAL

Okay. Sorry. You guys have fun.

DANNY MESSER

All right.

RUBEN SANDOVAL

Grab a shirt, we're leaving.

DANNY MESSER

All right.

EXT. CATHEDRAL - DAY

REV. JOHN MCKLOWSKI (V.O.)

And when the living creatures went, the wheels went--

INT. CATHEDRAL - DAY

REV. JOHN MCKLOWSKI (CONTINUED)

--by them. And when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. Wherever the spirit went, they went. And the wheels were lifted up over against them. For the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. May the almighty and merciful Lord be our companion on our many journeys and bring us back to our homes in peace, health and happiness. This bicycle is blessed by the sprinkling of this Holy Water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This bicycle is blessed by the sprinkling of this Holy Water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This bicycle is blessed by the sprinkling of this Holy Water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

[CLOSE ON HOLY WATER DRIPPING OFF OF THE BIKE'S LICENSE PLATE LABELED, "RUBEN"]

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - DAY

RUBEN SANDOVAL

Think my mom will let me ride my bike by myself?

DANNY MESSER

Oh, is that what this was all about?

RUBEN SANDOVAL

I'm ten years old. [DANNY'S CELL PHONE RINGS] Hey, time me to the corner. Ready, set, go!

DANNY MESSER

All right. Don't hit anybody, okay? [INTO CELL PHONE] Yeah, it's Messer. [TO RUBEN] Hey, don't go, don't go past the corner, buddy. Hey! [INTO CELL PHONE] All right. Let me call you back.

[SCREAMS]

[GUNSHOT]

MUSIC IN

EXT. BODEGA - CITY STREET - MORNING

[DANNY ROUNDS THE CORNER, SEES A MAN RUNNING INTO TRAFFIC]

DANNY MESSER (CONTINUED)

Ruben! Ruben, go straight home! Right now, Ruben!

[RUBEN RIDES HIS BIKE INTO AN ALLEY]

LUCY SCOTT

Help! Somebody help! [SOBS]

DANNY MESSER

[INTO CELL PHONE] I need an ambulance at 459 West 75th. I got a suspect, Caucasian male, fleeing the scene of a shooting. He's armed. Now, he went down the 76th Street subway entrance. Brown jacket, approximately six feet. [TO LUCY] All right. All right, all right. Are you shot?

LUCY SHOT

No.

EXT. BODEGA - MORNING

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Notify the ER I'll be at the hospital within the hour. [MUSIC OUT] I need to swab and photograph the wound before it's stitched. [TO JUSTIN] You're gonna be fine, Justin.

JUSTIN SCOTT

Check on my sister, huh?

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Definitely.

DANNY MESSER

So, our victim, Justin Scott. All right, he said the shooter came in alone, told him to empty the register--

[FLASHBACK]

MUSIC IN

DANNY MESSER (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

--at gunpoint.

ND THIEF

Open the register!

MUSIC OUT

[BACK TO SCENE]

DANNY MESSER (CONTINUED)

Took two additional hits to the face. He said the perp had something heavy--

[FLASHBACK]

MUSIC IN

DANNY MESSER (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

--or maybe hard up his sleeve.

MUSIC OUT

[BACK TO SCENE]

MAC TAYLOR

And the female witness?

DANNY MESSER

Justin's sister, Lucy. And she came out from the back, saw the shooter fleeing, said he turned back and shot at her, then ran across the street to the subway entrance.

MAC TAYLOR

Did you see enough to I.D. him in a line-up?

DANNY MESSER

I saw him from the back. Uh, both Justin and Lucy remember that the whites of the perp's eyes were blue.

MUSIC IN

[MONTAGE SEQUENCE OF DANNY AND HAWKES PROCESSING INSIDE BODEGA. MAC TAKES PHOTOS AND DOES A SEARCH OUTSIDE. HE FINDS AN ORANGE.]

MUSIC OUT

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Haven't found a bullet or an impact mark.

MAC TAYLOR

Well, it appears that the bullet passed through this orange. Or entered here, exited here.

[NY CSI SHOT]

[BACK TO SCENE]

MUSIC IN

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - DAY

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - WASH ROOM/AUTOPSY ROOM - DAY

[MONTAGE SEQUENCE OF DR. SID HAMMERBACK
REMOVING THEN BAGGING PALMER'S CLOTHES.
HE FINDS A PART OF THE CIGAR DOWN
PALMER'S THROAT.]

INT. NEW YORK CRIME LAB - LAYOUT ROOM - DAY

[LINDSAY PROCESSES PALMER'S CLOTHES AND
WALLET]

[FLASHBACK]

[RETURN TO SCENE]

MUSIC OUT

INT. SEEDY MOTEL ROOM - DAY

[MARIO GALANTI STARES AT THE TV AS
FLACK AND ND UNIFORMS BURST THROUGH HIS
DOOR]

[TV WALLA]

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Mario Galanti! [KNOCKING] Mario
Galanti, NYPD. Hey. You hearing me?
Hey!

MARIO GALANTI

[GASPS] Hey! Hey! I was, I'm sorry!
I, I can't hear anything!

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

I need you to come with--.

[FLACK HOLDS UP HANDCUFFS, MOTIONS
MARIO TO TURN AROUND]

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - DAY

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - CORRIDOR /AUTOPSY ROOM - DAY

LINDSAY MONROE

Turns out Mario Galanti was dumb enough to nab our vic's wallet and he's also been completely deaf since the blast.

STELLA BONASERA

Acoustic trauma. It's caused by a loud noise or explosion near the ears.

[FLASHBACK]

MARIO GALANTI

You need a light?

ESSEX PALMER

Thanks.

[EXPLOSION]

STELLA BONASERA (V.O.)

That's why he dropped the wallet outside the club.

[BACK TO SCENE]

LINDSAY MONROE

Right. But Flack said he has no trouble talking. And he says he swears that all he did was rip Essex off.

STELLA BONASERA

Well, if he didn't cause the explosion, who did?

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

Well, I can't tell you who, but I can tell you what.

LINDSAY MONROE

The cigar, right?

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

More specifically, the mouth end of a Gran Cahill cigar. I found it blown halfway down the vic's trachea. And C.O.D. was massive internal hemorrhaging caused by the concussive force of an explosion at close proximity.

[FLASHBACK/NEW YORK CSI SHOT]

[BACK TO SCENE]

[DR. HAMMERBACK SCRATCHES HIS NECK]

DR. SID HAMMERBACK (CONTINUED)

I sent a sample of the tobacco out for detailed isotopic analysis. But from my collegiate experience smoking stogies, I'd say it was, uh, fresh, likely hand-rolled with a few unnatural additives, of course.

LINDSAY MONROE

Like smokeless gunpowder? I found heavy traces of that on the vic's clothing when I ran 'em through XRF.

STELLA BONASERA

Which is usually used in high explosives.

LINDSAY MONROE

Right. I did find something else. On the--

[FLASHBACK]

LINDSAY MONROE (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

--victim's tie I found a stain. It turned out--

[BACK TO SCENE]

LINDSAY MONROE (CONTINUED)
--to be mineral water with a twist.
Contained DNA from the saliva of this
guy.

STELLA BONASERA
Lawrence Gelachter?

LINDSAY MONROE
Yeah, he was in CODIS for priors for
tax evasion.

STELLA BONASERA
Right. I wonder what his relationship
is to Essex Palmer?

LINDSAY MONROE
Well, judging from the size and impact
of the stain, couldn't have been too
friendly. He spit on the guy.

STELLA BONASERA
Do we have a current address on Mr.
Gelachter?

LINDSAY MONROE
Yeah, Flack's meeting us there right
after this.

STELLA BONASERA
Okay.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK
All right then, ladies. Unless there's
something else.

STELLA BONASERA
There is one more thing, Sid. Mucuna
Pruriens. In India they're also known
as, uh, velvet bean, cow itch. But
here in the United States we usually
call it itching powder.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK
Oh. No. Oh. No.

STELLA BONASERA

Looks like he stuck it in his pocket
and then after the blast--

[FLASHBACK]

STELLA BONASERA (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

--it wound up dispersed on his clothes.

[BACK TO SCENE]

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

W-W-Why aren't you, uh--?

STELLA BONASERA

The long-sleeved lab coat. Both
stylish and functional.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

[SIGHS] Uh, well, exploding cigars,
you know, insect ice cubes, itching
powder. What kind of a clown are we
after?

LINDSAY MONROE

No way. [MUSIC IN] Lawrence
Gelachter... it's Laughing Larry!

MUSIC IN

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - DAY

INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

[MONTAGE OF DR. HAWKES REMOVING FIBERS
FROM JUSTIN SCOTT'S FACIAL CUTS, TAKING
PHOTOS]

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - AUTOPSY ROOM - DAY

[DRS. HAWKES AND HAMMERBACK REVIEW
PHOTOS OF JUSTIN'S INJURIES]

MUSIC OUT

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

We were able to raise the sub-dermal bruising on Justin Scott's face. You can see he got slammed pretty hard. Your bodega thief's weapon of choice is a revolver.

[FLASHBACK]

THIEF

Open the register!

[BACK TO SCENE]

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

GSR I collected from Justin Scott's head wound didn't give us any compatible hits in the database. I did find traces of fiberglass in the laceration of the cheek bone, which you can see here, was crushed.

DANNY MESSER

I found traces of fiberglass on the register.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

Well, I-I might have a theory for why the whites of the suspects eyes were blue. Sclera, uh, the whites of the eyes, can have a purple or blue tint if someone is suffering from Osteogenesis Imperfecta.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

And individuals with O.I., their bones do fracture easily.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

Exactly. Which is why I hypothesized your thief could be wearing a fiberglass cast.

DANNY MESSER

That would explain the crushing of Justin Scott's cheek bone. And why he thought the perp had something up his sleeve. This osteo--, uh, thing? Uh, can, uh, we track it?

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Well, if our robber knows he has it, if he's seen a doctor about it, then we might even be able to get photos of possible suspects from physicians.

DANNY MESSER

Boom. So we show these photos to Justin and Lucy. They I.D. our guy--

[DANNY LOOKS DOWN TO SEE RUBEN'S BODY BEING WHEELED IN ON A GURNEY]

DANNY MESSER (CONTINUED)

--and we are...

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

[DISTORTED] D-Danny, what?

DANNY MESSER

No. No. Sid, where, where, where'd you find him?

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Hey, Danny, what's going on?

DANNY MESSER

Oh, God, I don't know.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

[OVERLAPPING] An alley off 75th Street. It says here there was a bicycle found that said Ruben on it.

DANNY MESSER

[SOBS] Oh-oh, Ruben. No! No!

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Danny, now, you know this kid?

DR. SID HAMMERBACK
Hey, hey. Come on, get him outta here!
No, don't touch the body, man.

[OVERLAPPING DIALOGUE]

DR. SHELDON HAWKES
Okay, okay.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK
Sheldon, get him outta here.

DANNY MESSER
No, no, no, no. Wait, wait. Wait,
wait. No, he--. No, no, I watched him
take the shortcut home.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES
[OVERLAPPING] Danny, come on, man.
Come on, let's go. Come on, man.
Let's go. Come, no, no, no. Let's go.
Let-- Come on.

DANNY MESSER
Wait, wait, wait.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES
Come on, man. Let's go.

MUSIC OUT

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

MUSIC IN

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - WASH ROOM - NIGHT

DANNY MESSER

I saw him. I saw him. He was fine. I saw him. He rode the bike right away from me. I shouldn't have stopped. I shouldn't have stopped. Why did I stop!? I should've made sure the kid got home safe.

MAC TAYLOR

Ruben was a block and a half from your apartment building. There was a man down bleeding. Justin Scott needed your help. You acted on instinct, Danny.

DANNY MESSER

Oh, man, I wish I hadn't. I wish I hadn't. Oh, I wish I hadn't! He just got his bicycle blessed this morning.

LINDSAY MONROE

Danny. [DANNY WALKS AWAY] [TO MAC]
Oh, I just heard.

MAC TAYLOR

This is a tough one.

LINDSAY MONROE

Oh, I'm not very good at this kind of thing. What should I say to him?

MAC TAYLOR

Just tell him you're not very good at this kind of thing.

[LINDSAY GOES AFTER DANNY. MAC WATCHES AS RUBEN'S BODY IS WASHED.]

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

INT. NEW YORK CRIME LAB - A/V LAB- NIGHT

[MAC PROCESSES THE BULLET REMOVED FROM
RUBEN'S BODY

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - HALLWAY - NIGHT

MUSIC OUT

RIKKI SANDOVAL

[KNOCKING] It's about time you guys
got back. I was starting to get a
little worried, Messer. How long was
the line? Where's Ruben?

DANNY MESSER

Rikki.

RIKKI SANDOVAL

Where's Ruben, Danny?

DANNY MESSER

Rikki, we, um, I'm sorry. We, uh, we,
we were on our back, we were on our way
back and then, uh, he, uh, there was a
robbery at a bodega.

RIKKI SANDOVAL

No, no. Just tell me where he is. You
tell me where I can find him. Just,
just say that he's okay. [MUSIC IN]
Oh, just tell me that he's okay.
[CRYING] Tell me he's okay.

DANNY MESSER

I can't tell you that he's okay. I
can't tell you that he's okay.

RIKKI SANDOVAL

[SOBS] No, no. Oh, no. [SOBS]

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT TO DAY

MUSIC OUT

INT. NEW YORK CRIME LAB - CORRIDOR - DAY

MAC TAYLOR

Process what was collected at the bodega. Whatever Danny started, finish. I want answers, not guesses.

ADAM ROSS

Got it.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Mac, I got your message.

MAC TAYLOR

The bodega robbery is connected to the shooting of Ruben Sandoval. I found citric acid on the bullet Sid extracted from Ruben.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

More than likely it's the bullet that traveled through the orange.

MAC TAYLOR

Yeah, and the reason why you didn't find it at the scene, it entered Ruben just under his arm here.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Axillary region. It's common that someone could be shot there and not immediately know it.

MAC TAYLOR

I imagine Ruben was traveling on his bike, he heard the gunshot, was scared. Adrenalin pumping. Doesn't feel the initial pain. Does what Danny tells him to, heads for home. Doesn't make it.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Did the bullet get a match in IBIS?

MAC TAYLOR

Nope. Even stranger, the caliber of the bullet is inconsistent with a revolver.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Does that mean we have two shooters?

MAC TAYLOR

Danny only heard one shot.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS - DAY

EXT. LAUGHING LARRY'S LAFFATORIUM - SIDEWALK - DAY

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Laughing Larry? You gotta be kidding me. Do you have any idea how much of my childhood was cruelly destroyed by this moron?

LINDSAY MONROE

Trust me. I feel your pain.

STELLA BONASERA

You two wanna enlighten me here?

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

I was into comic books as a kid, right?

STELLA BONASERA

Yep.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

And this guy had a full-page ad in the back of each and every one of 'em selling things like Dribble Glasses, Onion Gum, Hypno-Coins, Whoopee cushions.

LINDSAY MONROE

Plastic vomit, rubber dog doo.

STELLA BONASERA

Hmm. Sounds great.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Oh, yeah. And it all looked great. And I'd do whatever it took. I would scrimp, I would save, I would mow every last lawn in the neighborhood to get my hands on Sneezing Salts or a hundred-piece Battle Fleet. And then, I go to the mailbox, and right there before my innocent young eyes would be disappointment in a cardboard box.

LINDSAY MONROE

I once spent my entire summer allowance on this Hovercraft that Laughing Larry said would take me and my friends riding on a carpet of thin air. Hover crap.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

How 'bout the X-ray Specs I bought in middle school to see through girls' clothes? Yeah. The only thing I ever saw through those was a nun coming at me with a yardstick.

LINDSAY MONROE

Unbelievable.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Right?

STELLA BONASERA

I bought Sea Monkeys.

LINDSAY MONROE/DETECTIVE DON FLACK (IN UNISON)

Ohhhh.

STELLA BONASERA

But that was then and this is now. So, come on. We have a man to see about a cigar.

INT. LAUGHING LARRY'S LAFFATORIUM - DAY

[LARRY BLOWS ACME SIREN WHISTLE WHICH IS HANGING ON A CHAIN AROUND HIS NECK]

LAUGHING LARRY

Welcome to Laughing Larry's Laffatorium. Where you get more yucks for less bucks. Well, now, hey, don't you look spiffy? Do you mind if I take your picture? [HE SHOOTS A CAMERA/WATER GUN AT FLACK] [LAUGHS]

[FLASHBACK]

LINDSAY MONROE (V.O.)

On the victim's tie I found a stain. It turned out to be mineral water with a twist. It contained DNA from Laughing Larry's saliva.

[BACK TO SCENE]

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Laugh it up, Lare. You pull another gag like that and I'm gonna add assaulting an officer to your murder charge.

LAUGHING LARRY

Wait a minute. You guys are cops? Who died?

STELLA BONASERA

Essex Palmer. That's what we'd like to talk to you about, Larry.

LAUGHING LARRY

Whoa, whoa, you mean somebody killed him?

LINDSAY MONROE

So you two did know each other?

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Yeah, what happened? You decide to fool your friend with an exploding cigar?

LAUGHING LARRY

Wh-What are you talking about?

STELLA BONASERA

That's how he died, Larry.

LAUGHING LARRY

Well, just a hot-damn minute now. You guys think that, that I had something to do with his death, you're bigger stooges than I thought.

LINDSAY MONROE

So how did you two meet?

LAUGHING LARRY

He walked in here, he said he was a big fan. He said he loved my stuff and he offered to buy the whole thing and ten years of back stock. He said he wanted to turn it into some kind of, I don't know, e-e-commerce venture, uh, Laffatorium.com. Me? I don't know the Internet from intercourse. But I can tell you, after 40 years of raising rubber chickens, he was bailing me out of a damn deep hole.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

You got any paperwork to prove it?

LAUGHING LARRY

Ah, it was all on a handshake.

STELLA BONASERA

Yeah? He get the joy buzzer too?

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Bet he didn't know what kind of guy he was getting into business with until the whole thing blew up in his face.

LAUGHING LARRY

I've been selling exploding cigars and cigarettes for 35 years and the only thing they ever hurt was people's pride.

LINDSAY MONROE

Tell that to Essex Palmer.

LAUGHING LARRY

I'm telling you, it wasn't mine.

STELLA BONASERA

Did you give Essex Palmer a cigar?

LAUGHING LARRY

Yeah, but it, it wa--.

STELLA BONASERA

[OVERLAPPING] If it wasn't yours, then where did you get it?

LAUGHING LARRY

I don't know. People give me cigars all the time. Uh, it's part of my shtick. What?

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Well, how about I shtick you in lock-up.

LAUGHING LARRY

All right, I, I don't know. N-N-N-I don't even remember who gave it to me. Uh, wait a minute. That's right. There was this guy. He was a new father. He gave it to me.

[FLASHBACK]

MAN

I just had a baby girl.

LAUGHING LARRY

(V.O.) He just came up to me and gave it to me. (ON CAMERA) Hey, thanks. Congratulations.

[BACK TO SCENE]

LAUGHING LARRY (CONTINUED)
All right, okay? He was, uh, uh,
medium build, light hair, about your
age, only a lot better looking.

STELLA BONASERA
All right, all right. So you passed on
his cigar to Essex.

LAUGHING LARRY
Didn't cost me anything.

LINDSAY MONROE
Well, it cost him plenty.

MUSIC IN

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREET - DAY

INT. NEW YORK CRIME LAB - LAYOUT ROOM - DAY

[MONTAGE SEQUENCE OF LINDSAY TESTING
TRICK CIGARS]

MUSIC OUT

INT. NEW YORK CRIME LAB - CORRIDOR - DAY

LINDSAY MONROE
The only combustible agent in Laughing
Larry's exploding cigars is lead azide.
No smokeless gun powder at all. So, as
much as I hate to admit it, he's right.
They're annoying but they're not gonna
kill you.

STELLA BONASERA
What about the tobacco?

LINDSAY MONROE
I'm still waiting for isotopic analysis
on the--

[FLASHBACK]

LINDSAY MONROE (V.O.) (CONTINUED)
--Essex Palmer's handled cigar. But I did scope a visual comparison between the two. And our laughing friend's smokes--

[BACK TO SCENE]

LINDSAY MONROE (CONTINUED)
--are strictly low-grade. Small leaf, paper fillers and enough preservatives to fill a tox report.

STELLA BONASERA
Consistent with Larry's story as well.

LINDSAY MONROE
Cheap and tasteless.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK
Well, I found a kink in Laughing Larry's tale. Kim Wey Imports. According to the New York State Tax Board, they're a Chinatown novelty distributor who have filed no less than seven liens against Laughing Larry in the past three years. Looks like he owes 'em quite a bit of coin at this point.

STELLA BONASERA
Good reason to want Laughing Larry dead.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK
Ready for this? Unpaid receipt of Class C fireworks including party poppers, snapping caps and exploding cigars.

LINDSAY MONROE
So maybe when Larry couldn't cough up the cash, they decided to deliver their message loud and clear.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS/CHINATOWN - NIGHT

MUSIC IN

EXT. KIM WEY IMPORTS - BACK LOADING ENTRANCE - NIGHT

INT. KIM WEY IMPORTS - NIGHT

STELLA BONASERA

Wow, we're not just talking party poppers. This place is more like a powder keg.

LINDSAY MONROE

Aren't fireworks illegal in the state of New York?

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Yep. So is murder.

[CHINESE WALLA]

[TWO MEN WALK AROUND A CORNER TOWARD FLACK]

DETECTIVE DON FLACK (CONTINUED)

Hey, folks. NYPD. [MUSIC IN] Time to close up shop!

[FROM ATOP A CATWALK, KIM WEY YELLS AT THE TWO MEN]

KIM WEY

[SPEAKS IN CHINESE - TRANSLATION "Damn it, the police are here! Run!"]

STELLA BONASERA

Whoa, whoa, whoa! Hey! Stop, freeze!

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Hold it right there. Hold it right there!

KIM WEY

I'd rather let it go.

[KIM THROWS A LIT OBJECT ONTO THE BOXES
OF FIREWORKS BELOW]

[FIREWORK EXPLOSION]

DETECTIVE DON FLACK
Stella, Lindsay, get out!

STELLA BONASERA
Hey we're outta here, Lindsay. Let's
go!

[FIREWORKS EXPLODE AS STELLA AND
LINDSAY CUFF THE TWO MEN AND FLACK
CHASES AFTER KIM WEY]

[WALLA, WHILE RUNNING]

EXT. KIM WEY IMPORTS - ROOFTOP TO ALLEY - NIGHT

[FLACK JUMPS ON TOP OF KIM WEY]

DETECTIVE DON FLACK
Stop, drop and roll, you son of a
bitch.

MUSIC OUT

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT

MUSIC IN

INT. KIM WEY IMPORTS - NIGHT

[FIREFIGHTERS COMPLETE EXTINGUISHING
THE FIRE]

MUSIC OUT

KIM WEY

He's the reason I had to sell black
market fireworks in the first place.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Let me guess. You're gonna blame your
illegal immigration status on Laughing
Larry too.

KIM WEY

[LAUGHS] You think I care about being
deported? He owes me a hundred grand.
I gotta make a living.

STELLA BONASERA

Even if it meant killing him with an
explosive cigar?

KIM WEY

If I wanted to kill that idiot, I'd
strangle him with my bare hands. And
believe me, I thought about it. But I
held off when it looked like he was
finally about to sell. I even, uh,
paid him a little visit to make sure he
remembered his debts.

[FLASHBACK]

KIM WEY

Sign it.

[BACK TO SCENE]

KIM WEY

See for yourself. The deal's in my pocket. He offered me a hundred grand plus another fifty K in interest.

LINDSAY MONROE

Well, it doesn't look he signed it to me, Mr. Wey.

KIM WEY

It's his disappearing ink. He thinks he's funny. But I know where to find him.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

Good. 'Cause maybe you can send him a postcard from Shanghai.

[STELLA USES A BLACK LIGHT TO ILLUMINATE LAUGHING LARRY'S INVISIBLE INK SIGNATURE]

STELLA BONASERA

There it is.

LINDSAY MONROE

I don't get it. If Larry had no reason to want Essex dead, this guy has no reason to want Larry dead. All either one of 'em wanted was money.

STELLA BONASERA

Means that our real killer is still invisible.

EXT. CENTRAL PARK/NEW YORK CITY STREET - NIGHT

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - COLD STORAGE ROOM - NIGHT

ADAM ROSS

Hey, Sid.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

Mr. Ross. What brings you down here?

ADAM ROSS

Uh, one question. How often are you wrong? Uh, I, I, I mean, it's, your, your theory that the bodega robber suffered from osteogenesis imperfecta is just that. A, a theory, right?

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

I hope you haven't come down here to question my many years as a pathologist without some evidentiary ammunition.

ADAM ROSS

Well the perp's blue eyes. I, I, I ki-
-, I kinda have a theory of my own.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

Bring it.

ADAM ROSS

Hawkes found three specialists in the field of osteogenesis imperfecta and subpoenaed their records. Justin and Lucy couldn't make a positive I.D. to any of the photos. In the meantime, the fiberglass that Danny--

[FLASHBACK]

ADAM ROSS (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

--found at the scene, I found--

[BACK TO SCENE]

ADAM ROSS (CONTINUED)

--trace levels of caffeine and aspartame.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

Description of a diet soda, which contains carbon dioxide.

ADAM ROSS

Which, if someone suffered from O.I., they'd be instructed to avoid because carbon dioxide can dissolve calcium in bone tissue.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

Well, not many patients actually follow their doctor's instructions, Adam.

ADAM ROSS

Yeah, I, I thought of that. But it still did leave a small window of doubt in your diagnosis. Okay. So, I started thinking. What if the fiberglass cast was a coincidence? That our perp simply had a broken arm. Which led me to discover a possible alternative to what caused the whites of the perp's eyes to be blue.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

I see. So you really came down here to run your theory by me so you could report to Mac and say that I have your back.

ADAM ROSS

I guess so.

DR. SID HAMMERBACK

Okay. Why are the whites of our perp's eyes blue?

ADAM ROSS

Eyeball tattooing.

INT. NEW YORK CRIME LAB - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

What?

MAC TAYLOR

Somewhere in this conversation you're gonna have to start making sense.

ADAM ROSS

I checked with Sid. Our perp doesn't necessarily have osteogenesis imperfecta. Danny found a hair--

[FLASHBACK]

MUSIC IN

ADAM ROSS (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

--a clipped dog's hair at the scene.

MUSIC OUT

[BACK TO SCENE]

ADAM ROSS (CONTINUED)

It had traces of dye, but not just any dye, all right? A dye used for tattooing.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

On a dog.

MAC TAYLOR

Well, some veterinarians tattoo the lighter areas on the dog's nose. The ink works as protection against skin cancer.

ADAM ROSS

They also tattoo pets' ears for identification and in most cases, they clip the hair.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Okay. But I'm not seeing a connection to blue eyes or our bodega suspect.

ADAM ROSS

Veterinarians send the pets to tattoo artists, places that you and I go. I mean, well, I would go--. I mean, uh--. Uh, anyways, I located several establishments. And one place in particular offered me a special on eyeball tattooing.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY STREETS - NIGHT

MUSIC IN

INT. BODY INK, INC. - NIGHT

SADIE KEVITCH

We're the only ones who do it. It's one of the oldest forms of tattooing. We inject color pigment under the top layer of the eye. Your brown eyes would really pop with a little bit of green. I can give you a discount.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Actually, Sadie, no. Um, I'm looking for someone. Someone who might have these eye tattoos.

SADIE KEVITCH

Counting her? Only four people I know who have it.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

I'm gonna need those names.

MUSIC OUT

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - NIGHT TO DAY

INT. NYPD - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

OLLIE BARNES

I'm telling you, I didn't do anything, all right? You don't know what you're talking about.

MAC TAYLOR

The whites of your eyes are blue, Ollie. It's kinda hard to miss that. You were in that bodega.

[FLASHBACK]

MAC TAYLOR (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

You slammed your gun into Justin Scott's face. You crushed his cheek bone with your cast. You stole the money from the register and fled into the subway. We have two eyewitnesses.

[BACK TO SCENE]

MAC TAYLOR (CONTINUED)

What you don't know, is that a kid took a bullet and died.

OLLIE BARNES

What? Look, I never fired my gun.

MAC TAYLOR

There was a crime scene investigator around the corner from the bodega. He heard a gunshot.

OLLIE BARNES

That's because the bodega owner fired at me.

MAC TAYLOR

You saw Justin Scott fire a gun?

OLLIE BARNES

Well, who else could it be? I didn't do it.

MAC TAYLOR

There was no gun in the bodega, Ollie.

OLLIE BARNES

You got a lot to figure out 'cause I never fired my gun. That's what you do, right? You can prove that, right? Look, I dumped my gun, okay? It's in the third canister along the wall in the subway station. I am not going down for murder, man.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. NYPD - VIEWING ROOM - DAY

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Did you see him fire his gun?

DANNY MESSER

I never said he did it. I heard a gunshot. By the time I rounded the corner, Ollie Barnes was--

[FLASHBACK]

DANNY MESSER (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

--running away from me with a gun in his hand.

[BACK TO SCENE]

DANNY MESSER (CONTINUED)

Lucy Scott said he fired his gun.

[HAWKES TESTS OLLIE'S HANDS FOR GUNSHOT RESIDUE]

INT. SUBWAY STATION - DAY

[ND TECHS FIND THE GUN IN THE TRASH CAN]

INT. NEW YORK CRIME LAB - A/V LAB - DAY

[MAC LOOKS AT A CRIME SCENE RECONSTRUCTION ON THE LARGE TOUCH SCREEN MONITOR]

MUSIC OUT

MAC TAYLOR

Thought I told you to take some time off?

DANNY MESSER

Oh, yeah, you did. I just don't wanna go home. 'Cause when I go walking down that hallway now I'm s-- not gonna hear the kid laughing on the other side of the walls, you know. Crying when he doesn't wanna go to bed. I'm just afraid I'm gonna miss him.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Ollie's telling the truth. There were no traces of GSR on his hands and the gun retrieved from the garbage was not recently fired.

DANNY MESSER

And is it a revolver?

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Yes.

MAC TAYLOR

Which doesn't explain why the bullet Sid removed from Ruben was a nine millimeter. No match to a revolver.

DANNY MESSER

Justin Scott fired a weapon?

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

We didn't find a weapon on him or in the bodega.

MAC TAYLOR

But then again, we weren't looking for one. [MUSIC IN] This is our crime scene based on Lucy Scott's account of what happened. She said the shooter fired back from the street as she approached her brother. I found an--

[FLASHBACK]

MAC TAYLOR (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

--orange pierced by a bullet here.

[BACK TO SCENE]

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

Justin Scott's there, Lucy's right behind him. So the line of fire has to be in this area.

MAC TAYLOR

But Ollie Barnes is over six feet tall. If he fired back at Lucy, how did a bullet pierce an orange that was at least a foot below his sight of her?

DANNY MESSER

Yeah. That doesn't make sense. I mean, either he's a really bad shot or somebody else fired at her.

MAC TAYLOR

Yeah, well let's look at Ollie's theory. Someone shot at him. All right. If we change the spatial orientation of the orange, the path of the bullet changes.

DR. SHELDON HAWKES

The orange didn't come from the stand, closest to the street, it came from the boxes near the door. The bullet pierced the orange and entered Ruben Sandoval.

DANNY MESSER

But the kid was shot on the right side, the side closest to Ollie Barnes.

MAC TAYLOR

No, Danny. Ruben heard what you heard.

[FLASHBACK]

MAC TAYLOR (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

He turned toward the sound of Lucy and the gunshot.

LUCY SCOTT

Help! Somebody stop him!

[GUNSHOT]

[BACK TO SCENE]

MAC TAYLOR

And there's only one person who could
have been in the exact position to
shoot both the orange and Ruben
Sandoval.

[FLASHBACK]

MUSIC OUT

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - DAY

MUSIC IN

EXT. BODEGA - DAY

INT. BODEGA - DAY

[MONTAGE SEQUENCE OF HAWKES AND TECH
LOOKING FOR EVIDENCE. HAWKES FINDS A
DUSTY OUTLINE OF A GUN UNDERNEATH THE
COUNTER.]

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - DAY

INT. M.E.'S OFFICE - ANTEROOM - DAY

LUCY SCOTT

I don't understand, Detective. Is the
guy that robbed us dead?

MAC TAYLOR

No. We arrested Ollie Barnes this
afternoon for robbery and assault with
a deadly weapon. That's the young kid
you shot and killed. His name is Ruben
Sandoval.

LUCY SCOTT

I don't think--.

MAC TAYLOR

Yes, you do. Your intention was to
stop Ollie Barnes as he fled the
bodega.

[FLASHBACK]

MAC TAYLOR (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

You were kneeling down next to Justin--

[BACK TO SCENE]

MAC TAYLOR (CONTINUED)
--when you shot him. What'd you do
with the gun, Lucy?

[FLASHBACK]

LUCY SCOTT
Somebody stop him!

JUSTIN SCOTT
What are you doing?

LUCY SCOTT (V.O.)
It can't be true.

[BACK TO SCENE]

LUCY SCOTT (CONTINUED)
It can't be true. I didn't shoot that
kid. Did I?

MAC TAYLOR
Ruben was riding his bike past the
bodega when you pulled the trigger. It
was a split second in time.

LUCY SCOTT
[SOBS]

[FLASHBACK]

LUCY SCOTT
Help! Somebody stop him!

DANNY MESSER
Ruben, go straight home, Ruben! Go
straight home!

[BACK TO SCENE]

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - DAY

MUSIC OUT

INT. NEW YORK CRIME LAB - CORRIDOR TO LAYOUT ROOM
- DAY

STELLA BONASERA

Hey, Lindsay, what have we got?

LINDSAY MONROE

We finally got the isotopic results
back from the hand-rolled cigar
fragment--

[FLASHBACK]

LINDSAY MONROE (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

--that Sid found in Essex Palmer's
throat.

[BACK TO SCENE]

STELLA BONASERA

Oh, Pre-Embargo Cuban tobacco and a
wrapper leaf from Cameroon.

LINDSAY MONROE

A hundred bucks a pop. I mean, you--

[FLASHBACK]

LINDSAY MONROE (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

--couple it with this special, "It's a
Girl" label, there's only one place in
the city that sells them.

[BACK TO SCENE]

LINDSAY MONROE (CONTINUED)

Haynes House of Fine Tobacco. Has a
web-based in-house surveillance system.
And only one person bought those cigars
in the past week. The trouble is that
the video is really grainy and I've
just about tweaked it into oblivion.

STELLA BONASERA

Hm.

LINDSAY MONROE

I was thinking it's time for Plan B.

STELLA BONASERA

Biometrics?

LINDSAY MONROE

Bingo. [MUSIC IN] Now if we can define our guy's unique facial measurements, length of nose, width between the eyes, width of mouth. Maybe we can get a hit in PIMS.

STELLA BONASERA

And about half a dozen possible perps with priors. Looks like it's time to bring Laughing Larry in for a line-up.

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - DAY

INT. NYPD - VIEWING ROOM - DAY

MUSIC OUT

LAUGHING LARRY

Can they see me?

STELLA BONASERA

No.

LAUGHING LARRY

Poor saps don't know what they're missing.

LINDSAY MONROE

Mr. Gelachter, please. Just look through the window and see if you can see the man you picked out from the photo.

LAUGHING LARRY

Wait. There, that's him. Number three.

DETECTIVE DON FLACK

You sure that's the guy who gave you the cigar?

[FLASHBACK]

BENJAMIN SUTOR

I just had a baby girl.

LAUGHING LARRY

Hey, well congratulations. Thanks.

[BACK TO SCENE]

LAUGHING LARRY

Yeah, that's the happy father.

[ND UNIFORM ESCORTS THE OTHERS IN THE LINE-UP OUT OF THE ROOM. SUTOR STAYS BEHIND.]

LINDSAY MONROE

Benjamin Sutor. He's new to the system. He works for an ammo company. He just got booked three days ago for violating a restraining order filed by his ex-wife. Report says she was awarded full custody of their son. But he's a toddler. There's no mention of a newborn.

[BENJAMIN SUTOR WALKS UP TO THE GLASS]

BENJAMIN SUTOR

Is that you? Hmm? You recognize me, Laughing Larry?

LAUGHING LARRY

What? I, I thought you said he couldn't see me.

STELLA BONASERA

He can't.

INTERCUT WITH

INT. NYPD - LINE-UP ROOM - DAY

BENJAMIN SUTOR

Of course not. But I know who you are.
Yeah, you look the same as you did in
all the comic books I read when I was a
kid.

[FLASHBACK]

BENJAMIN SUTOR (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

You know, my best friend Sam and I, we
never missed one of your ads.

[BACK TO SCENE]

BENJAMIN SUTOR (CONTINUED)

You know what we wanted more than
anything in the entire world? The
Narwhal Nuclear Submarine.

[FLASHBACK]

BENJAMIN SUTOR (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

You said it was the most powerful
weapon to sail the seven seas. That it
would dive the deepest depths and that
we could search for sunken treasures
beyond our wildest dreams.

[BACK TO SCENE]

BENJAMIN SUTOR (CONTINUED)

Even though it was only 6.98, it was
more than either of us could afford on
our own. So, I came up with the
brilliant idea that if we saved up, we
could buy it together.

[FLASHBACK]

[WALLA]

BENJAMIN SUTOR (V.O.) (CONTINUED)

And I have to admit I was a little bit skeptical when it arrived in the mail and it was made out of cardboard. I was unsure that it would do all the things that you said that it could. But, uh, but Sam wasn't. Sam was sure that it would work. Sam knew that it would work because Laughing Larry had said it would, so why wouldn't it?

[BACK TO SCENE]

BENJAMIN SUTOR (CONTINUED)

You know what you forgot to tell us is that, um, is that Sam had to know how to swim. I lost my best friend and I swore that I would never read comic books again or let my own son read comic books or play with toys or play with other kids. So I kept him in the house around the clock. I was just too afraid that my little boy was gonna get hurt. So--.

[STELLA WALKS INTO THE LINE-UP ROOM
BEHIND SUTOR]

STELLA BONASERA

So your wife took your son and filed a protective order against you.

BENJAMIN SUTOR

It broke my heart when they went away. But I couldn't blame them. So I blamed him.

[FLASHBACK]

BENJAMIN SUTOR

I just had a baby girl.

LAUGHING LARRY

Hey. Congratulations.

BENJAMIN SUTOR (V.O.)

I'm sorry that an innocent person died.

LAUGHING LARRY

Here you go, Essex. Glad we're in
business together.

ESSEX PALMER

Thanks, Larry.

BENJAMIN SUTOR (V.O.)

That was not my intention. I tried to
stop it but it was too late.

[BACK TO SCENE]

BENJAMIN SUTOR (CONTINUED)

But I swear, for the rest of my life, I
will pray for one thing. And that is
that you, that you never laugh again.

STELLA BONASERA

Okay. Come on, let's go.

[FLASHBACK]

[BACK TO SCENE]

EXT. NEW YORK CITY SKYLINE - DUSK TO NIGHT

INT. CATHEDRAL - NIGHT

[DANNY WALKS IN, SITS IN A PEW BEHIND
RIKKI SANDOVAL]

TO BLACK

MUSIC OUT

SHOW TITLE

FADE OUT

THEME MUSIC IN

CLOSING CREDITS

MUSIC OUT

MAC TAYLOR (V.O.)
Stay tuned for scenes from our next
episode.

THE END - EPISODE #411

TRT - 43:53