

Role: **BRYAN** (M-30s / 40s) CoSTAR

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START →

HIGGINS

Aloha, I'm Juliet, this is Ella.
We're looking into the Akana
murders from five years ago. You
mind answering a few questions?

Higgins clocks it as Bryan shifts his stance, looks away --

BRYAN

I uh... don't have any information.

A beat as Higgins sizes him up, suddenly suspicious.

*

HIGGINS

Ella, wait by the car, please?

ELLA

Why do I have to--

Higgins' stare shuts that down. As Ella slinks away --

BRYAN

(cocks his head)
Is something wrong?

Tense. We wonder if Higgins is face to face with the killer.

HIGGINS

Yes. You shifted your stance,
averted your gaze, and just cocked
your head. All signs that you're
hiding something--

BRYAN

I don't know what you mean--

That's when he runs his left hand through his hair to REVEAL:
an INK-STAIN ON THE LEFT EDGE OF HIS HAND. She realizes:

HIGGINS

You wrote the letter, didn't you?

This isn't our killer, it's our left-handed tipster. Higgins
flashes a photo of the letter, on her phone. Bryan, shocked --

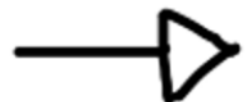
BRYAN

How did you... get that?

Ella chimes in from directly behind Higgins:

ELLA

Detective Vaughn was my mother. You
sent her that right before she died.



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HIGGINS

Ella, I told you to go to the car.

ELLA

And after the vending machine, you still thought that would work?

Higgins suppresses a grin. Cat out of the bag, Bryan relents:

BRYAN

Maybe you should come in.

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INT. BRYAN'S HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER (D1)

18

Higgins and Ella sit across from Bryan who finally opens up --

BRYAN

I'm sober 4 years now, but back then I was a mess. The night the Akanas were killed, I got drunk at a local bar, decided to walk home. On my way, I saw something weird--

HIGGINS

What was that?

BRYAN

Person in a hoodie walked up to a dumpster, looked around, then ditched a bag and ran.

HIGGINS

Curiosity get the better of you?

BRYAN

Yeah. Bag was full of valuables: silver, electronics, jewelry.
(ashamed)

The drinking cost me my job, so I took it home... Wasn't 'til I sobered up that I saw the gun inside. By then I heard what happened to the Akanas and realized I probably had the murder weapon.

HIGGINS

So you panicked, feared if you came forward you'd get pinned for it.

BRYAN

Yeah. I prayed HPD would solve it on their own.

(MORE)



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CONT.

BRYAN (CONT'D)

But the more time went by, the harder it would've been for me to come up with a story. So when everyone moved on, I just... let them.

HIGGINS

How'd you know Detective Vaughn was still investigating?

BRYAN

Couple years ago, I found a flier in my mailbox. She was looking for information. That's when my guilt won out. I wrote the letter... and hoped that'd be the end of it.

(beat, then)

I made a lotta bad decisions back then, but I turned my life around. Whatever you do next, can you please keep me out of it?

HIGGINS

I'll try. Thanks for your help.

←END

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EXT. AKANA NEIGHBORHOOD - LATER (D1)

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As Higgins and Ella come off Bryan's porch --

HIGGINS

You know what this means, right?

ELLA

Another dead end. All he said was the robber was wearing a hoodie.

HIGGINS

Actually, he said there was no robbery at all.

(off Ella's confusion)

The stolen loot was ditched right away because it was never the point. The theft was staged to make it look connected to the others.

ELLA

If the Akana murders weren't about robbery, then what were they about?

MAN (O.S.)

The hell do you think you're doing?

Higgins turns to find an ANGRY MAN (40s) approaching. She's confused and about to respond, until Ella says --

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Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access

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Sides by Breakdown Services - Actors Access